

## **DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING: AFTER LAND CLAIMS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This special issue examines concerns relevant to land claims settlements in Canada, with a specific emphasis upon the twin topics of long range planning and economic development. This subject is particularly timely with the Agreements in Principle for the COPE and Yukon Indian Claims, and the new proposals for Indian government in Canada. Although there has been considerable emphasis in recent years upon the development of native social services agencies and political self-management, the key to both of these has long been recognized to be economic self-sufficiency where possible, and guaranteed economic viability where that is not possible. To that end, the long term effects of virtually every provision of every settlement become potentially critical in the lives of hundreds of thousands of Canadians. As well, economic development for native Canadians, as opposed to mere survival, has a major ripple effect upon all residents of the country. Thus the topic is important.

The papers contained herein represent a variety of interests, and also a progression of development and planning. Davidson reviews the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development information letter, *The Indian News*, for its concern with economic development. He is able to show a gradual change from an emphasis on natural resource harvesting on reserves and individual success stories off reserves in the 1950's to a time in the 1970's and 1980's when a focus developed around total community involvement with significant local control. It is not, perhaps, an accident that this progression includes a move from absolutely no criticism of DIAND, through mild reproach, to periodic, reasoned, Indian criticism of the bureaucracy. In a sense this paper presents a microcosm of development mirrored in the newsletter of DIAND.

Tanner discusses the history and subsequent plight of a people in between, the Naskapi of Labrador. Acknowledged inconsequentially by both the Canadian and Newfoundland governments - and thus effectively ignored by both - these people have suffered by a continual misunderstanding of their life style and the legal and constitutional limbo of federal-provincial negligence. Their case for recognition is also a case for survival and development. In all probability the latter two will depend to some extent upon the former.

Wertman reviews the James Bay Agreement, especially in terms of its implications for planning development. As this represents the first of the modern comprehensive claims settlements, it is a critical - and really the only significant - lesson for future agreements. As Wertman points out, the lessons here are hard ones. Whether or not government and organizations will learn from them is moot: only time will tell, but the implications of the shortcomings are frighten-

ing indeed.

Dacks looks to the future for us, in proposing corporate structures for Yukon Indians following a final agreement for that area. He has the benefit of the 1970's settlements in Quebec, of course, but also draws upon the Alaska Native Claims Settlement for lessons. The paper was written prior to the signing of an Agreement in Principle for the Yukon claim. Again it remains to be seen if Yukon people will accept part or all of these suggestions.

Bartlett is concerned with the question of mineral rights in Ontario, a subject of great concern in this mineral-rich and development-oriented province. There are literally hundreds of pending and potential claims in Ontario, and many do or may involve mineral rights. Of special concern are those cases where Bands seek the enlargement of their reserves, in cases where there appear to have been errors in the drafting of boundaries. The paper presents important arguments for our understanding of these issues.

In addition, we have a special paper, a presentation by M.G. Smith, who when invited to consider social development in western Canada chose instead to present a valuable model for the development of social services in another country characterized by a great range of wealth and considerable deprivation of available services for some people. This paper is prefaced with a separate introduction and will not be addressed further here.

Other areas of this issue continue our theme: the Native Studies section examines a business development program at Trent University, the Research section looks at an important archive containing much data related to political and economic development, the Policy section features a paper by Mr. Justice Berger on what can be done outside of formal claims settlements, and the Reviews include material relevant to development and planning covering a period of centuries.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Kristyna Sieciechowicz of the University of Toronto who helped to assemble many of the papers contained herein, and without whose assistance this issue would have been impossible.

Samuel W. Corrigan  
Editor/Directeur