

A PROPOSAL TO THE
ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

July 26, 1977

National Survival Institute
2175 Victoria Park Avenue
Scarborough, Ontario
M1R 1V6

National Survival Institute's long term involvement with the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment has two components: one a process of involving and assisting environmental, community and special interest groups in the Commission; and the other involving educators and students. Although each component requires a different approach (i.e., groups through public meetings and presentations and educators and students through their classes), interaction between them is of the utmost importance.

The thrust of this program is twofold: one, to make the Commission an issue of interest and concern in all regions of Ontario; and two, to involve citizens of all ages in understanding the issues and to assist them in voicing their concerns and recommendations for dealing with them.

National Survival Institute plans to co-operate with and utilize the programs of Grand Council Treaty Number 9 and the Canadian Association in Support of Native People. The proposal here-in covers only the period preceding and immediately following the Commission's preliminary hearings.

We feel that it is crucial to begin contacting and working with both a broad range of groups and educators at this time. August and September offer a fertile period for planting new concerns in re-assembled organizations.

Key Points in this proposal are as follow.

ACONFERENCE - a residential weekend where environmental, native and other special interest groups can begin to exchange information with the Commission and among themselves regarding expectations and ideas for public participation, procedure, research and the funding of intervenor groups.

A BOOKLET - a listing of resource materials and people to assist those groups and persons preparing submissions. The experiences of previous commissions, hearings and public participation programs will be drawn on to provide background information and advice on working with Commissions.

THE NATIONAL SURVIVAL INSTITUTE'S SUBMISSION TO THE PRELIMINARY HEARINGS - a co-ordinated program for public participation in the Commission. This submission will be the result of consultation with concerned and involved groups and educators both at the Conference and following it.

PROGRAM

For the public

For educators and students

CONTACT	environmental, community, and special interest groups and concerned individuals	teachers' and students' organizations, Ministry of Education, Boards of Education and concerned individuals
DETERMINE	expectations and ideas regarding public participation, procedure, research and the funding of intervenor groups	ways and means to incorporate Commissions concerns in educators and students' activities
DEVELOP	background information and advice for groups	listings of resource materials and resource people
ASSIST	in developing submissions for preliminary hearings	in developing materials where needed
PROMOTE	community involvement with educators and students	educators and students participation in community program

SCHEDULE

the public

educators and students

AUGUST 8 identify and contact

15 prepare booklet and
start Conference
planning

22

29

SEPTEMBER 5 distribute booklet

identify and contact

12 the conference
#1 draft submission

attend educators' meetings to
discuss ways and means

19 on the road - to assist
to liaise
to consult

develop resource listing

26

OCTOBER 3

determine need for materials

10

attend conferences, workshops,
Professional Development Days

17 Preliminary Hearings?

24

on the road - to report
to liaise

31

NOVEMBER 7

14

21



Public Participation and the National Survival Institute

NSI has a record of working with and bringing together environmental groups, community organizations and educators.

Rotary Youth Conferences, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, Directors of NSI were responsible for organizing weekends for students to learn about and react to provincial, national and global environmental issues.

United Nations Conference of Human Settlements, Vancouver, June 1976, NSI was involved in the initial planning for the NGO segment.

Human Settlements Ontario, 1976, a network of Ontario organizations actively involved in human settlement issues.

Rotary District Institute, October 1976, NSI staff and many of its directors encouraged Rotary officials from across Canada to consider environmental issues in their community service programs.

Man-Environment Impact Conference, Toronto, November 1976, NSI assisted the five provincial teachers' associations that organized this national event for 4300 teachers. NSI brought in environmental activists from across the country.

Understanding Canada Conference, Quebec City, May 1977, NSI created the first opportunity for the many "Unity" groups and concerned community leaders from coast to coast to meet and plan future co-operation.

NSI's response to critical issues includes briefs to the following.

Canada's Immigration and Population Study

Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto.

Ontario's Green Paper on Environmental Impact Assessment Legislation

Federal Cabinet concerning The Way Ahead and The Decontrol and Post-Control Issues discussion papers

MEMO

TO: JOHN

FROM: ANN

DATED: AUG. 5/77

I attempted to reach Prof. Douglas Pimlott at the University of Toronto in regard to your memo to me. However, Prof. Pimlott is away until the 22nd of August. I also attempted to speak with Kit Vincent of the Arctic Resources Committee in Ottawa. He was, however, out of the office. I have however forwarded a letter to him asking for this information.

AL:mm

August 8, 1977

Mr. Kit Vincent,
Canadian Arctic Resources Committee,
46 Elgin Street,
Room #11,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1P 5K6.

Dear Mr. Vincent:

The Canadian Environmental Law Association is presently discussing the upcoming Hartt Commission into the development of Ontario.

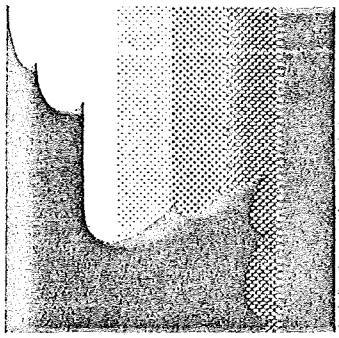
We would be very interested in determining how CARC organized the Northern Assessment Group and the Southern Support Group which were the umbrella groups covering all the environmentalists for the Berger Inquiry. We would be particularly interested in knowing how the Board of Directors and their Secretariat were organized, if indeed, they existed. We would also be interested in knowing how you obtained the money to hire a full-time counsel and how you chose this counsel.

Thank you very much for your kind co-operation.

Yours very truly,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Ann Lancaster,
Legal Counsel
AL:mm



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