

INFORMATION

Ontario New Democrats **NDP** Nouveau Parti Démocratique

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Excerpts from a brief by Marion Bryden, MPP-Beaches-Woodbine and Jim Foulds, MPP-Port Arthur, presented at the Hartt Commission Hearing in Timmins, November 23, 1977.

Isolated, piecemeal development has never been and never will be a satisfactory answer for the North. Unco-ordinated development planned in isolation from those affected can only lead to confrontation and resistance between pro-development and anti-development factions.

Rather than assuming that development should take place and merely reacting to specific projects, the inquiry must take an active role in redefining our philosophy of development and in promoting alternatives to traditional forms of "growth" in the North. The Commission must, in consultation with residents and interest groups of the area, provide a social-cultural and economic blueprint for Northern Ontario, for the next 50 to 100 years.

Before embarking on this task, however, we want to make it clear that we reject the extreme positions that development for development's sake is a good thing and also that the Northern environment should not be modified in any manner. A suitable balance can be achieved.

It is our belief that the resources of the North should be developed for the maximum benefit of all the people of Ontario and not solely for profits for the resource industries. We would recommend that a portion of the funds generated from the development of the North should be used to promote diversification of the regional economy. As well, renewable resources must be managed on a sustained yield basis to promote the economic stability of resource communities and to ensure that future as well as present residents of Ontario will benefit from our resource heritage.

We ask that the inquiry look into alternatives to large scale multinational based resource developments. These kinds of developments make many communities vulnerable to forces beyond their control.