

NORTH OF 50

A digest of events and submissions relating to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

Prepared by William J. Thompson Associates Ltd. for the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, and distributed by the Commission as a public service.

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INTRODUCTION TO NORTH OF 50

The Royal Commission the Northern Environment is holding a series of informal "information gathering" meetings in a number of communities near or north of 50° in November and December of 1977.

One purpose of these meetings is to gather information about the north, its people, its communities and resources by way of submissions from government departments, northern communities, northern residents and a wide range of organizations and enterprises with experience and knowledge of the north of Ontario. The Commission is also hearing submissions relating to the issues it should address, the roles it should play and the manner in which its inquiries should be conducted.

This newsletter, North of 50, is part of the public participation and education program sponsored by the Commission.

Three issues of North of 50, published in November and December, will provide a succinct digest of submissions presented and events which occurred during the initial meetings. This newsletter should help you understand the concerns and issues relating to the north.

Contained in this issue of North of 50 are abstracts of submissions heard at the public meetings in Sioux Lookout, Dryden, Red Lake and Ear Falls during the weeks of November 7 and November 14, 1977.

If you wish to read or consult the text of any of the submissions to the Commission, you will find listed on the back page of this issue the public libraries where submissions will be deposited as soon as possible for public reference.

SIoux LOOKOUT

November 7 & 8, 1977

OPENING CEREMONIES

An overcapacity crowd jammed the Knights of Columbus Hall in Sioux Lookout for the opening of the public meetings which are to be held across northern Ontario by the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

Following the welcome by the spiritual leader of the Indians of Grand Council Treaty #3 and the ceremonial offering of the peace pipe, Mr. Justice Hartt said this meeting represented the first of several opportunities for the people who have special knowledge of, or interest in, the North, to make their views on policies and procedures relating to northern development, known to the Commission.

The Commission's terms of reference are very broad, and include relationships between people, communities & resources north of the 50th parallel, combinations which are virtually limitless, he said. The terms of reference also instruct him to investigate the "social, cultural and economic conditions that influence the life of man or his community." "The Commission has been asked to look at everything", Justice Hartt said.

Although appointed by the Government of Ontario, the Commission differs from Government as it is not limited by responsibilities specific to one part of government, to any ministries or any policy fields, and is not centered by the need to administer policies on a day-to-day basis.

"The Commission is neutral in every sense of the word," he said.

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #9

The terms and conditions of Treaty #9 must be renegotiated with the federal and provincial governments before any further development proceed, Andy Rickard, President of Grand Council Treaty #9 told the Commission.

Mr. Rickard acknowledged the challenge the Commission faces is enormous, but said he nevertheless expected the inquiry would be thorough and complete. "Constraints of time and money must not be allowed to diminish the process, nor should the difficulties of travel in the north or the pressures from government and industry be allowed to impinge on the thoroughness of the investigation by the Commission". "We must insist that your Commission visit every native community in our area, taking the time to listen to our people who, we assure you, have a great deal to say".

Mr. Rickard was equally insistant that the Commissioner should hold hearings in southern Ontario as well as in the north.

"The people of Treaty #9 want these hearings, and will co-operate with the Commission. But equally, the Commission must make an effort to understand the position of Treaty #9 Indians as expressed in Nishnawbe-Aski, a statement of Indian identity, rights independence, and goals of spiritual, cultural and economic independence."

"Nishnawbe-Aski" he told the Commissioner, "is not a declaration of separatism, nor does it indicate an unwillingness to see further development in the north." The Treaty #9 Indians, he said, favour the kinds of development that allow men to participate as equals in the decision-making process, and which guarantee legally their participation. "Indians", he indicated "want to play a major role in determining where, when, and at what speed and, indeed, if development occurs and they will oppose uncontrolled development that diminishes people and views the environment as a problem to be solved, or as damages to be minimized in the relentless search for more and more non-renewable resources "

Mr. Wally McKay a district chief of Treaty #9, presented a case for the establishment of a tripartite committee to ensure that a broad and objective base of existing scientific knowledge is channelled into the inquiry.

The main purpose of such a scientific board would be to ensure that top-level scientific data is made available to the Commission separate from government and industry interests, and to determine the role of various academic resources.

Mr. McKay outlined a suggested timetable which would allow the Commission time to gather an inventory of available data relating to the north, prior to commencing formal hearings, and provided the Commission with an outline and agenda for formal hearing topics.

Chief Charlie Okeese concluded the main part of Treaty #9's presentation by suggesting the Commission examine in detail a variety of specific critical areas which he believes would be useful to the Commission. Among them, Chief Okeese cited the alleged economic boom and bust of the Pickle Lake development, the problems associated with tourism and recreational land use, transportation and communications systems in the north, forestry and water use, as well as mining and exploration.

A film entitled "The Land and The People" shot at Attawapiskat, Fort Hope and McDowell Lake formed part of the Treaty #9 presentation.



Andy Rickard, Chief of Grand Council Treaty #9 Speaking in Sioux Lookout

SLATE FALLS AIRWAYS

The air transport industry in Northwestern Ontario is suffering badly because of overservicing on some routes, too much competition, rising overheads, and adverse publicity relating to safety standards, according to Glen Clarke of Slate Falls Airways.

He urged Justice Hartt to look into the industry's problem in some detail, since air transport was essential to travel in most of the north. Most airstrips, he indicated, have poor or nonexistent air-to-ground communication systems, and many that do exist are staffed by untrained operators. Existing navigational aids, he suggested, are underpowered, and even relatively busy strips do not have adequate air traffic control systems.

"Northwestern Ontario," he said "is five years behind Manitoba in these regards."

YORK STUDY GROUP, Toronto

The Commission itself should both explore and evaluate alternative development forms for the north and not count upon either governments or large companies to do it for them said students from the Northern Studies Workshop of the faculty of Environmental Studies at York University.

The Workshop consists of both students and faculty members in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University who are concerned with issues in the North and who have had some kind of experience in the North.

"The whole concept of what constitutes a development with an impact which needs to be evaluated may itself have to be extended." "For example, programs in education, health, social services or welfare can affect the lives of more people than any construction project, yet they are rarely evaluated, beforehand or afterwards, to assess the extent and desirability of changes they can cause. The broader concept of northern development is needed and a broader framework developed to deal with it."

The group told Justice Hartt that in its view the Commission should retain its present broad mandate and not allow issues to become fragmented or artificially separated, but should explore how issues relate to and affect one another. They also urged the Commissioner to consider the impact of social development programs as well as project developments.

Since the present way of making decisions in the north seems to satisfy nobody, and can result in ludicrous and stupid actions being taken, the group urged the Commissioner to study the question of how northern goals and priorities are to be set, what areas of autonomy can be accorded to the Indian people and what should rest with government.

The group also stated that it was essential that everyone understand what the Commission was doing and how and urged the Commission to publish newsletters, media pieces, hold informal community meetings and hearings in the south & in the north to keep the public informed.

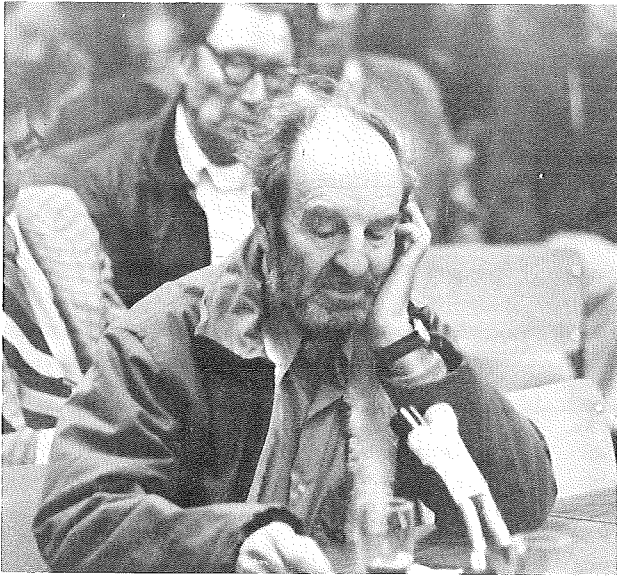
Noting that there was an absence of sufficient data to adequately deal with the north, the group suggested that the Commission should seek to determine the issues before attempting to collect the relevant data relating to them, and that if relevant data is not available should seek to generate that data itself.

LAURA SWITZER, Sioux Lookout

Laura Switzer told the Commission that plans to stop trans-continental railway service through Sioux Lookout would have a serious detrimental effect on the community.

As both her grandfathers had helped to build the CNR and her husband and four sons work on the CNR, she told the Commissioner she hoped he would intervene to make sure the service is not discontinued.

BEN GARRETT, Poplar Hill



Ben Garrett is a retired white citizen who lives in a Indian community 80 miles north of Red Lake.

"I am among my people in this room, no matter what their colour or what their background. We are all here because we are concerned about the people and a country that we love."

He told the Commissioner that conversation must replace confrontation, regardless of culture or history. "We must trust one another as human beings," he said.

"Until we can get in conversation and respect one another's humanity, it seems to me that the inquiry will end up in a number of confrontations between private interests".

RODNEY THOMPSON, Sioux Lookout

"Prospecting is dying due to the high costs and government red tape", Rodney Thompson a prospector from Sioux Lookout told the Commissioner.

He told the Commissioner that it took 200 days work and a survey which costs about \$800.00 to get a license to mine.

The total do-it-yourself costs of developing a claim, he said, were in the area of \$12,000 00.

He argued that government regulations be modified to make it easier for prospectors to develop claims and suggested that the government should institute an educational process to teach young people how to prospect.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Spokesmen for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources told the Commission in Sioux Lookout that resource management policies in the northwest part of the province were specifically tailored to meet the needs of the local residents, and differed from practices elsewhere in the province.

"While we may not always have fully understood the philosophy of the native peoples, we have certainly been aware that their existence depended to a large extent on the natural resources immediately available to them".

The spokesmen also indicated that the area north of 50° latitude has not yet been committed in any major way to resource development.

They suggested that this will allow for ample opportunity for the Commission to consider the impact on the environment of any future proposals for development before decisions are made.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, Sioux Lookout

The Commission was told by John Parry, speaking for the Children's Aid Society of the District of Kenora, that social service development has in many cases not adequately paralleled the physical and economic development of new centres.

"It would appear that in many cases planning for social services is left until the demands of local groups become so vocal that they can no longer be ignored," Parry said.

He also suggested that responsibility for services to Indian children and families should gradually be taken over either by the Reserve communities or by an organization parallel to the Kenora Children's Aid Society.

WILFRED WINGENROTH

Wilfred Wingenroth, a trapper who has lived in the bush for 15 years said, "trees are a renewable resource, but wilderness is not. You can never build up the wilderness again."

Mr. Wingenroth told the Commissioner that he had examined areas which were lumbered off 30 or 40 years ago. He said that he had noted that when the trees regenerate they do not "come in strong. Trees which were regenerated were mostly all branches and were not usable. The rest of the forest suffers."

He told the Commissioner that there is more to the forest than trees, citing mosses lichens and shrubs, and noted that the whole ecology of the forest is tied to the vegetation of the forest.

"If there are just one or two plants missing", he said, "there will be one or two animals missing".

He told the Commissioner that if the Reed proposal to cut 19,000 square miles goes ahead, "300 trapping grounds in that area will go down the drain."

GREAT LAKES PAPER COMPANY LIMITED

Warren Moore, President of Great Lakes Paper Co. Ltd., told the Commission in Sioux Lookout that since 1964 his company has spent over \$30 million dollars in environmental controls, and had received the U.S. National Environmental Industry Award for "outstanding achievement in water pollution control" and an award from Pollution Probe.

In outlining for the Commissioner details relating to the scope of the company's operations, Mr. Moore told the Commission that Great Lakes Paper Co. Ltd. employs 2,010 in mill manufacturing operations and 1,055 people in woodlands workforce. The 1976 expenditures for wages and salaries totalled \$50 million dollars and the company spent another \$75 million dollars on material and other non-capital expenditures, mostly in the Thunder Bay region.

Mr. Moore noted that the expense figures represent only 10 months, because of a strike in that year.

NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PARKS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA & THE COALITION FOR WILDERNESS

Professor David Bates, speaking for the National and Provincial Parks Association of Canada, told the Commissioner that although various groups may state that unused land is wasted land and that any use, is better than no use that he should consider their claims very carefully.

Prof. Bates, also speaking for the Coalition for Wilderness said "the best use often may be no use.

Wilderness, he suggested, is a valid land use, and wilderness protection decisions must be must be made very early.

"A major responsibility of this Commission" he said, "is to ensure that significant and large areas of this part of the province retain primitive and valuable characteristics. Failure to designate such protection promptly implies that wilderness is not accepted as having significant values and ensures its eventual disappearance, never to be recovered."

WESLEY HOUSTON, Sioux Lookout

Wesley Houston, the retired publisher of the Sioux Lookout Bulletin, told the Commission, citizens of the area, both native and non-native should see that the practices of the past are not repeated.

"We, in this area, have a clean environment when compared with the smog-filled atmosphere of the industrial areas to the south, and we would like to see it remain that way. We are not against progress in the establishment of industry in our area, but we are against pollution and the destruction of our present environment and way of life. Industrial expansion should be of a well-planned and controlled nature to see that it fits into the environment with the least possible detriment to the area and its inhabitants".

Mr. Houston has lived in the north for 50 years and has worked among native people since his days as an apprentice fur trapper. "Northern people, native and non-native, should be entitled to the right to defend their way of life, and to decide their own future, and called for a completely new approach to the present system of economic development in Canada's north," he said.

MICHAEL QUINCE

Michael Quince, an Architect working in northern Ontario, showed the Commission three photographs which depicted situations where he said "the Native people have become self reliant and have a sort of a dignity and pride".

He showed the Commissioner photographs of a coffee shop that the native people had built in Muskrat Dam, and a Indian project in Big Trout Lake, built in 1975 by native people using local materials.

He suggested to the Commissioner that this work should be perceived as a step towards development of their own expression, and said that "northern Ontario and the Indians have a great future if we can learn to respect Indian people and their culture, and let them develop the way they should."

ERNIE FALLANGER

Ernie Fallanger, the former manager of the last sawmill to operate in Sioux Lookout, recounted for the Commission the history of the timber industry in the Sioux Lookout area since 1918. Mr. Fallanger's father had come to the area as a result of the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and had stayed on to operate the Patricia Lumber Company in Sioux Lookout.

The company supplied many of the railway ties which were used in construction of later railways.

He told the Commissioner about the different uses of different kinds of woods and what they are currently used for in modern processing operations.

Talking of forest regeneration techniques, he explained to the Commissioner that clear cutting, a process by which an area which has been cut over is totally cleared of remaining trees, is a better regeneration technique than anything except a forest fire, which he said is about 100% successful.

He suggested that after clear cutting, some of the preferred soil in the area might be used for a crop other than trees.

"I feel," he said, "that the existing paper manufacturing industries that we now have should have more freedom in their wood operations, and I don't think they would abuse it as they are aware of the coming shortages".

PATRICIA AIR

R.J. Burnett, Secretary-Treasurer of Patricia Air, told the Commission that because six airlines compete for Unitol and passenger traffic in northwestern Ontario, his passenger flights are 70 - 75% empty, and the company is not even making its expenses.

He told the Commissioner that licensing bodies should take into consideration regional problems, and the contributions that Patricia Air has made to the area in considering future licensing.

His company currently has acquired the licenses to provide air services to the majority of communities in northwest Ontario.

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS, Local 654

William Coughlin, Chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Local 654, told the Commissioner that in recent years, there has been a downgrading in the number of passenger trains servicing northwest Ontario, and a decision by VIA rail to run fewer trains, would have serious impact on the people living in the area.

Since an express freight train can get to Winnipeg from Sioux Lookout at least an hour ahead of a passenger train, he argued that the area would be better served if VIA rail upgraded rather than downgraded passenger transportation.



*Spike Black, Treaty #3 Elder
Naicatchewenin Reserve*

SCOTT LANDIS

Mr. Scott Landis speaking on behalf of the trappers, prospectors and commercial fishermen who have little use for officials of any description, told the Commissioner that "quality of life is the issue, and I am afraid that as long as we continue to equate that with standard of living we are in for big trouble."

He told the Commissioner that he did not place much hope on the decisions put forth by a Government Commission. "After all", he said, "if we place all of our eggs in your basket and at the end of three years you say to Reed or Polar Gas 'it's no go for now' I'm not sure that that puts us in any better position to deal with further encroachments along the line".

The terms of reference, he suggested might be inappropriate. "The environment as well as its residents knows nothing of latitude; river systems or watersheds might be a more useful way of envisualizing the region, because we have to be constantly aware that what we put in at the top winds up at the bottom."

The small minority of people without power for whom he spokewould wish the Commissioner to know that "wild places and creatures are among the few things on this earth that thrive inversely to human contact. The less we touch them the better off they do".

IFKA FILIPOVICH

Ifka Filipovich, who has worked with the Treaty #9 and Treaty #3 Indians for nine years, urged the Commission to pay particular attention to the educational systems which are used in the north.

"The Euro-Canadian system", she said, "encourages competition, individual success and achievement particularly as measured by intellectual growth, and ignores physical social, spiritual, emotional and phycological development."

She suggested to the Commissioner that "a school curriculum assumes that a particular body of knowledge, that a particular set of skills will be passed on. " For the Indian children in these areas that choice has been made by people of an alien culture." she said.

"There is a vast difference between Euro-Canadians and North American Indian attitudes in child rearing, parental care and in the ways of teaching."

HELEN ACTON

*I am one with the earth
I am one with the sky
I am one with my brother
We are one you and I
When they walk upon the dust
That once was us
We are one
We are one, we are one*

*I am one with the rich man
and one with the poor,
I am one with those to come,
And those who've gone on before.*

*If we lay waste the earth
And we pollute the sky
If we destroy our brothers
We too with him will die
You and I
We will all die
For we are
One with the earth
We are one with the sky
We are one with our brother
We are one you and I
We are all one
With the earth
and the sky*

ROBERT E. BELL

Mr. Robert Bell who plans to retire in Sioux Lookout, said that he was concerned about the quality of the air and water in the area, with the need for energy conservation and about the possible dumping of nuclear wastes in northern Ontario.

Energy demands of the north were considerably higher than those in southern Ontario, because winters were colder and longer, yet fuel costs were substantially higher in northwestern Ontario than they are in southern Ontario.

Solar energy, is feasible, if only for heating hot water tanks, because of the long periods of sunshine during the summer months.

Addressing the question of nuclear waste dumping, Mr. Bell said "I can only speak for myself but I feel confident that others will back me in saying that we do not want our virgin countryside, lakes and rivers to become unavailable to us and others from the south because of radioactive material dumped there in the 1980's."

KENORA DISTRICT CAMPOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

Developments in the past several years have not been in the best interest of preserving the north for future generations, the Kenora District Camp Owners Association told the Commission.

Leo Colvin, Association President, said tourism can be maintained in Northwest Ontario only if strong protective measures are implemented.

He cited statistics that indicated that approximately 90% of the income from tourism is derived from outside Canada but that it remains in the area to purchase goods and services.

Mr. Colvin told the Commission that the timber industry has been able to operate virtually unrestricted since the Crown Timber Act was enacted decades ago when it was believed that the resources of the north were inexhaustable, and suggested that the few minor amendments implemented in 1962 would indicate that "there is not much change in this conception".

According to the industry brief, tourism has lost immeasurable revenue over the years as a result of the intrusion of roads, often cut needlessly, to remote lakes where a tourist outfitter has an outpost camp or in some cases a main-based fly-in resort. Operators are disturbed at these events because the fly-in outpost concept is unique to northern Ontario.

In the view of the Association "we are approaching the end of the natural exploitable forests of northern Ontario, and future development should not be dictated by the ground rules on one particular industry regardless of the effects to the environment of other user industries."



Chief Peter Kelly, Sabaskong Reserve, and Chief Ray Ningewance, Lac Seul Reserve, Treaty #3

NORTHWEST ONTARIO TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

Allan Holby, speaking for the Northwest Travel Association told the Commission that tourism and industrial development can co-exist in northern Ontario. Uncontrolled industrial development can have serious and negative impacts on tourism, Mr. Holby said. He suggested to the Commissioner that new roads and transportation services would increase to the vast northern wilderness areas, and that new facilities such as motels, hotels and restaurants would be constructed to meet the needs of a growing north. These facilities would be available for use by tourists and would improve the marketability of the region to tourists, he said.

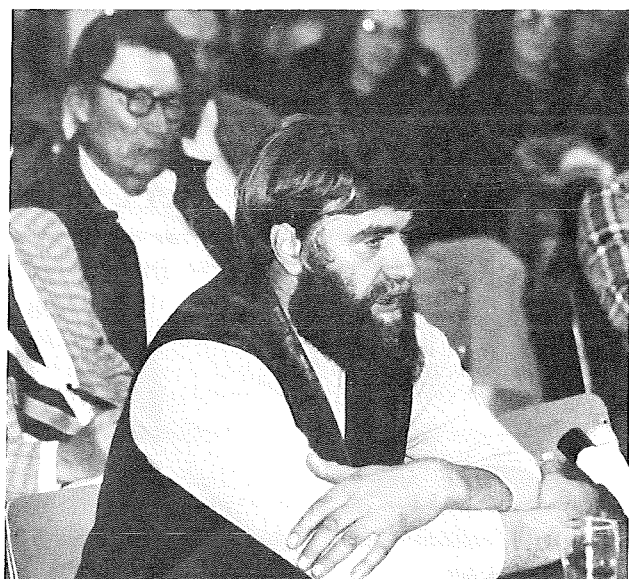
Of specific concern to the Association were the implications of development north of 50 on the existing tourist operations. The Association feels that the interest of tourist operators should be protected as much as humanly possible. They are also concerned about physical damage to the environment, fearing that environmental damage will have a negative impact on the tourist industry and should therefore be prevented at all cost.

Along with other groups they share a concern about the social impact of northern development and feel that planning the co-operation between all the affected groups is the key to ensuring that no parties are unduly harmed.

In a final segment of the Treaty #3 Submission, Dr. James R. Kramer, of McMaster University, was introduced to discuss an issue of immediate concern, told the Commission that the proposed power plant at Atikokan which is scheduled to be built by Ontario Hydro beginning in January of next year, may result in serious pollution in many of the lakes in Northwestern Ontario. Dr. Kramer indicated that although he had not specifically studied the Atikokan project, he had arrived at the tentative conclusion by extrapolating from other studies, that sulphur dioxide emissions from the stack at Atikokan would be dispersed throughout the air mass of Northwestern Ontario and ultimately precipitated into the lakes and rivers of the area.

The consequence of this, he said, would ultimately change the acid level in the water and add certain base metals to the waters, eventually killing off the fish stock in those lakes.

Peter Kelly, Chief of the Sabaskong Reserve, told the Commissioner that the government had decided no inquiry into the environmental impact of the development at Atikokan would be held, and he urged Justice Hartt to use whatever authority he could to have progress on the Atikokan development stopped until an environmental assessment of its impact could be made.



Wilfred Wingenroth, Trapper

ALEX WILSON

"The paper mills in Dryden, Fort Frances, and Kenora have brought great benefits to these and surrounding communities. Dryden, indeed the whole area, is much the better as a result of the benefits of the developments which have taken place," Mr. Alec Wilson, Publisher of the Dryden Observer, told the Commissioner in Dryden.

He recounted for the Commissioner the history of the town and of the company and how both had grown together.

He said that the town's population was 7,000 with another 7,000 people living nearby. Of these he indicated 1400 work for the Dryden paper mill.

Describing for the Commissioner how his newspaper had grown from a small operation to its present status, he indicated "too little focus has been directed towards the enormous benefits made possible by the development of our natural resources on which Canada's economy is based."

The Dryden Observer currently employs about 115 people, with a payroll of over \$1.25 million dollars annually.

Without the forest resources, he suggested, provisions of the jobs, goods and services necessary for our country's well being would not have been possible. Forest products are Canada's biggest export dollar earner.

He told the Commissioner that "many people especially those who live in cities, do not know, or they forget, that when timber limits are assigned, they are harvested, not destroyed, any more than a field is destroyed when the grain is cut."

"I have travelled over much of the companies limits, and flown over these limits. Except for clearings here and there, the forest lands within these limits have lost little of their beauty."

"This is partly because reforestation has been employed to help nature produce another crop for the next harvest, 70 or 80 years hence."

"If one were to think for one moment that we are living in a land that has been made barren, or is about to be made barren, as a result of tree harvesting, one would be very wrong indeed."

COCHENOUR WILLANS GOLDMINE
LIMITED

REED LIMITED

Mr. Edwin Fahlgren, President and General Manager of Cochenour Willans Goldmine Limited, told the Commission that "north-erners are not yet understood by our govern-ment and less understood by our brother Ontarians in highly populated areas of the south, where most all decisions are made. These major centres control the central news and are the point of origin of national newspapers and the television media."

Mr. Fahlgren was highly critical of the Government, Legislature, educational programs and the news media for their utter lack of research in the tremendous problems across the north in developing, researching, managing and controlling the vast natural resources that should be "of deep pride to all Ontarians".

He pointed out that it has been the responsi-bility of industry to provide initially, at least, the funding for most all services in recreational complexes, the portages, powerlines, housing, schools, hospitals, community halls, curling rinks, arenas and playgrounds.

He indicated that as the mining base of the area was depleting, he "looked forward to a new development in our midst."

"We believe the most exemplary forest complex can be developed today, with due respect for our present enterprises, the people and particularly our ecology. We recognize that technology is available to effectively control industrial pollution and emissions, and our environment can be protected."

"Any development", he said, "must be done with respect to native and white, with equal rights for both rather than each group behaving as masters of any part of it."

"We should be ready for changes in the way we perceive both growth and nature and be prepared to prohibit abuse to the land we live in".

In what appeared to be an indictment of all Canadians, he said, "it is hard to compre-hend how our country can assume to be concerned and give advice to Africa and others, when we have not begun to meet our own obligations and the needs of our own people." "We must set our own house in order."

Mr. Kenneth Greaves, Senior Vice-President of Reed Limited, painted a bleak picture of the forest products industry for the Com-mission in Red Lake.

"Given present conditions, we now believe that an integrated forest products complex such as we are studying, would not be financially viable if it were to be completed before the end of this decade, as envisaged at one earlier stage. Its viability beyond that period remains in question. At this point, there are a great many unknowns and our proposal must continue to be reassessed and reappraised in the light of developing trends in major world economies".

"We are not saying the proposal will never be justified. We plan to continue our interest in the proposal, conscious of the many benefits it would create, including benefits to the residents of this area and to the province."

The company is concerned that development should be able to proceed in Ontario in a regulatory environment that not only protects public interest in such matters as environmental impact but, also encourages the private sector to expand the necessary time and resources on development. Mr. Greaves stated that in the company's view it is essential that "whatever regulatory ground rules and development review and approval procedures are established, they not be unreasonably and unduly restrictive and that they not be subject to arbitrary and unilateral change."

While tabling a written brief for the Com-mission, Mr. Greaves observed that "trees are a crop which if not harvested will deteriorate and die."

"With proper management they will provide an economic industrial base in perpetuity. Productive forest land can be compared to a farm that, if managed properly, can yield an annual crop forever."

TRI-MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Stan Leschuk, representing the Tri-Municipal Committee of the Towns of Balmerston, Ear Falls and Red Lake, told the Commission that citizens in the area are concerned about the distances to the major centres, the cost of living in the area, the economic instability and lack of community services.

He reported that citizens would like to see growth and development "at a pace and size that would not destroy the way of life or the environment".

The Tri-Municipal Committee suggested to the Commission an exhaustive list of areas in which they would like to see further research conducted, including environmental protection, industrial and commercial development, the condition of the native community, the potential problems related to tourist development, the potential problems relating to expansion of the forest industries complex, and problems associated with the development of transportation facilities.

Also cited were problems relating to housing and urban development, social development, and a variety of issues relating to local government and its relationship to the Ontario Government.

In concluding its remarks, the Tri-Municipal Committee suggested that "the people of the north should participate in decisions that are made by the Government of Ontario and large corporations, separately or jointly, which are likely to have an impact on the social and economic conditions in which northerners live."

"No further decisions with regard to the north should be undertaken without full and open consultation with the people who must live with these decisions".

JAMES SEELEY

Mr. James Seeley, a funeral home operator in Dryden and Red Lake, told the Commission that small northern communities cannot support a full time funeral director.

Under the Funeral Services Act, funeral directors are required to reside in the community in which they operate.

He suggested to the Commissioner that the Funeral Services Act be changed to allow a funeral director the right to establish a funeral service in a remote community under license of his original funeral home.

CANADIAN PAPERWORKERS UNION

The Canadian Paperworkers Union, representing over 55,000 workers in the pulp, paper and converting industry, said the Ontario governments' decision to appoint a Royal Commission to determine the various effects that major enterprise may have "is a logical and sensible step, and one that is long overdue."

The Union suggested that the appointment of such a Commission breaks radically with the long tradition which "assumed that we would all be better off when major enterprises proceeded unimpeded and on the basis of the least cost to themselves. The side effects of this unilateral approach were enormous social costs, in the form of improvident use of raw material resources, serious damage to the physical environment and, often, adverse effects on the people of the communities."

The time was now opportune for them to explore ways the workers of the pulp and paper industry might participate in major decisions that vitally affect the firm and the employees, and indicated they would be investigating these matters and bringing their findings forward to the Commission in a later brief.

VINCE KELLER

Vince Keller, a student at Red Lake District High School told the Commissioner that "Ottawa and Toronto symbolize two parents neglecting one of their two children. While the southern one is close to home and well cared for, the northern one is pushed aside and forgotten."

He told the Commission that "our southern neighbours have too great an influence on our lives and we are suffering because of it. The fact that we lack most of the services of the southern sector adds to the confusion and frustration of northerners."

Mr. Keller argued that, without development of renewable resources, the area would ultimately die.

"It's up to us. If we do not make the decision in favour of development, eventually we will be forced to move."

**ONTARIO-MINNESOTA PULP AND PAPER
COMPANY LIMITED****DOUG MIRANDA**

Mr. Jim Williams, President of the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company Limited, told the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment that "we view intrusions into our licensed areas for single purpose recreational use, or for any purpose which restricts our wood harvesting potential for the present or the future, as a regressive and unfair reversal of the long-term governmental agreement."

Referring specifically to the proposal to develop a provincial park at Atikaki, Mr. Williams observed that the proposal, as it currently stands, would effectively eliminate one hundred thousand cords of the annual allowable cut for the company's mills in Kenora.

"We can categorically state that the loss of the equivalent of four months of wood supply for our Kenora mill would mean the eventual closure of that manufacturing facility. A paper mill is a highly capital intensive operation and it would be uneconomical to run a mill on an eight months a year basis."

Elsewhere in his presentation, Mr. Williams pointed out that in 1977, employment produced by the company was estimated at 1,273 persons in the paper mills, woodlands operations and the sawmill. The estimated gross payroll for 1977 was \$24 million dollars.

The company reports that their activity adds an excess of \$1.4 million annually to the Red Lake community and an estimated \$23 million dollars in goods and services in the Kenora area.

The company paid out \$917 thousand dollars in local taxes in 1976, the bulk of it to the Town of Kenora, he said.

"The time is not now for me to sit back and watch major companies strip and rape our forests, to dirty and soil our water, to steal our natural resources, or pollute the fresh air in the north," Doug Miranda told the Commission.

"To date there has not been a good record for development in the north."

In urging the Commissioner to ensure that the natural resources of the area will be protected, he said "it's sickening to think that I'm going to have to tell my children how life in northern Ontario was, rather than not have the chance to share it with them."

CHIEF BEN QUILL, Pikangikum Reserve

Chief Ben Quill of the Pikangikum Reserve, a reserve isolated from roads, told the Commissioner today, that "land animals will disappear from the area if the trees are cut." The Chief's reserve is located within the area proposed for development by Reed Limited.

The Chief said that he had been a trapper and fisherman for over 30 years and had extensive personal knowledge about the area. He told the Commissioner that animals need shelter from the sun in summertime and from the wind in the winter.

He noted that at one time a forest fire had gone through his area and the following winter, he had seen deer that had died from lack of protection from the elements.

He also told the Commissioner that the wilderness gives his people medicine from plants and roots, medicines which were better than those they got from the nursing station, and said that if the Reed proposal went ahead, the Indian community would lose its access to those medicines.

RED LAKE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Wayne Seller, speaking for the Red Lake Board of Education, told the Commission that "in his experiences, elected people at the second and third levels of government expect local people to be able to act and produce overnight those facilities required to carry out plans that have taken literally years to formulate."

"Before your Commission becomes inundated with the problems and concerns of numerous groups and individuals throughout the formal hearings next spring, we would ask that you be sensitive to the needs of the elected school board officials".



*Charlotte Montgomery, Toronto Star
and Myengen Ningewance, Lac Seul*

KEN McCLOUD, Red Lake Businessmen's Association

Mr. Ken McCloud, President of the Red Lake Businessmens Association, called upon the Ontario government to build a road link direct to Winnipeg via Warner Lake.

"To promote business in municipalities in our northwest," he said, "we must have people, and therefore in the initial planning stages, favourable access to and from these communities is essential to their progress."

The Red Lake/Balmertown area is more or less isolated, he said, noting that it is 108 miles from Red Lake to the Trans-Canada Highway and 310 miles from there to downtown Winnipeg.

"Since all of the business places here do 80% of their business with Winnipeg wholesale firms, we definitely need a direct road westward to Warner Lake and Winnipeg."

DAVID MEADOWS, Red Lake Businessmen's Association

Mr. David Meadows, a lawyer from Red Lake, called on the Commissioner to look into the implications of a provincial government ruling under the Mining Tax Act which he termed "the most pernicious piece of bureaucratic meddling that directly affects this area."

Under the ruling, mining corporations are no longer able to claim "social expenditures" as tax deductions.

"In these sparsely settled regions of northern Ontario," he said, "recreational facilities are in very short supply, as is housing. There is not a sufficient population base to enable local municipalities to assist in the same manner and to the same extent as would be true in more densely populated regions."

"The result of the ruling," he said, "would be to reduce available housing in northern Ontario, reduce corporate subsidization of recreational facilities, and eliminate corporate funds as a source for future recreational facilities."

"The regulation would also," he said, "eliminate the incentive for mining operations to upgrade or maintain existing homes and bunk houses."

"As a consequence," he said, "the regulation would result in a decrease in the attractiveness of certain areas of northern Ontario as places to live in and would assist in keeping the population of northern Ontario low and transient."

"The regulation would," he suggested, "operate as yet another impediment to the economic viability of opening new mines in northern Ontario, and operate as yet one more reason for marginal mines to close."

Mr. Meadows described northern Ontario as "a colony" and suggested that the region receives very low levels of priority from the provincial government.

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS ASSOCIATION

John Blair, President of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, paid tribute to Treaty #9 for calling for an end to resource and environmental abuse and told the Commissioner that in the view of the Association "despite lavish projections, we are going backwards".

"The provincial record of forest management has resulted in a serious depletion of the forest resource and the forest land base south of 50°. For this reason the Ontario Professional Foresters Association is opposed to the expansion of forest harvesting and land use operations north of 50° under existing forest policy, statutes, programs and practices."

He told the Commissioner that according to Ministry of Natural Resources information, 1/3 of the area south of 50° currently being used for forestry is estimated to regenerate itself naturally, 1/3 is being reforested with varying degrees of success, and 1/3 is being removed from forest production through lack of regeneration.

"In addition" he said, "the forest land base in Ontario has been further eroded by as much as 30% during the last decade exclusively for single use purposes."

"We need," he said, "a complete reassessment of forestry management policy," and suggested that "the federal government, because it gets most of the revenue from this industry, must share in the cost of making the industry viable."

"There is an apparent indifference to the needs for healthy growing forests by politicians, senior civil servants, industrial leaders and the public."

HUGH CARLSON

Mr. Hugh Carleson, a tourist operator, wild rice harvester and trapper, called for a moratorium on major development in northwestern Ontario until the work of the Commission is finished.

He also called for the development of a committee to act as an "ombudsman" to ensure that policies pertaining to development are strictly adhered to and that no irreversible damage is done to the environment.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A spokesman for the Ministry of Natural Resources told the Hartt Commission that some of the policies relating to the mining industry in northwestern Ontario were inappropriate for the area.

"Our concern is the fact that many of the policies that are affecting mining are formulated by people, in what we would refer to as 'the central agencies' in Toronto...and yet they are making fairly important decisions and recommendations in respect to taxation policies and other major concerns that affect the north."

"It certainly concerns those of us that sit up here in the Ministry of Natural Resources that in some way or another we have to get these people out into the real world and let them know what it is all about."

The Ministry provided details of the mineable mineral deposits in the area, and concluded by saying that given the right economic conditions, the potential for the mining industry north of 50° was significant.

The officials outlined for the Commissioner the process of mining exploration and development and the services it provides for the private sector.

There was, they said, unavoidable conflict between certain policies relating, for example, to the wish to protect natural resources while at the same time wishing to develop the resources. They indicated that they were fully aware of the conflicts and in the process of trying to sort them out.



*Ministry of Natural Resources,
R. Riley and J. Anderson*

NOTICE OF
INITIAL MEETINGS
IN TORONTO

In response to requests by both southern and northern groups and individuals, the Commission will be holding public meetings in Toronto to allow southern residents to express views to the Commission on matters relating to the Commission's terms of reference. These meetings will also provide the opportunity for opinions to be presented on the issues the Commission should address, the roles it should play, and the manner in which its inquiries should be conducted.

DATE - December 15,16, 1977.

LOCATION - North Auditorium, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 252 Bloor St. W., Toronto, Ontario.

TIME - 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

If you wish further information on the Commission or the scheduling of presentations, please contact the Commission.

If you have any comments about this issue of North of 50, or if you have any suggestions for future issues, we would like to know. Please write to: North of 50

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