

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO

22 College St.
2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5G-1K2
(416) 924-2553
TELEX 06-23877

joint indian association committee

August 25, 1978

The Honourable W.G. Davis
Premier of the Province of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr. Premier:

Re: Royal Commission on the
Northern Environment

Your government was indeed receptive to our concerns to establish the above inquiry. Ontario's positive attention to the issues affecting the Indian people of Ontario is a strong indication that this province is serious in its promotion of the socio-economic aspirations of all Ontarians. We welcome these positive changes with optimism and hope.

Unfortunately, there are certain people within your government who will continue to block this process of change that we are jointly pursuing in Ontario. Mr. Leo Bernier is continually interfering with our tripartite mechanism and the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. This interference must stop.

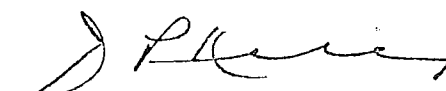
Based on these concerns, Grand Council Treaty #3 and Grand Council Treaty #9 are holding a press conference this morning at 11:00 a.m. to formalize the following positions:

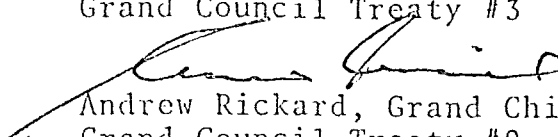
1. That the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment be terminated immediately based on the following reasons:

- a) This Commission has successfully identified the socio-economic problem areas that need to be addressed.
 - b) The Indian people's concerns will be adequately considered through the establishment of the Ontario Indian Commission under the tripartite process.
 - c) Other Northerners' concerns can be effectively addressed through the various ministries of the Ontario government.
 - d) Saving the taxpayers' money.
2. Justice Patrick Hartt did a fantastic job in concluding a difficult task. His agreement to facilitate the Ontario Indian Commission is indeed an excellent choice for the three parties who are meeting under the tripartite mechanism.
3. The Commissioner, Mr. E. Fahlgren and Leo Bernier have too close intimate and professional ties which will threaten the impartiality and impede the continuing success of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.
4. Mr. Bernier has continuously interfered with our discussions with your government, using childish political games that continue to insult our political intellect. The procrastination of Ontario's decision to utilize the mediation services of Leon Mitchell regarding the White Dog and Grassy Narrows Reserves is a current example of Leo Bernier's childish games.

In conclusion, we wish to reaffirm our support in our tripartite process. Rest assured we intend to work with your government in all areas of mutual concern.

Yours sincerely,


John Kelly, Grand Chief
Grand Council Treaty #3


Andrew Rickard, Grand Chief
Grand Council Treaty #9

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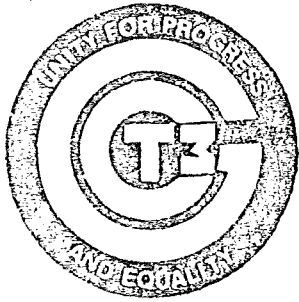
For Immediate Release:
August 25, 1978
11:00 a.m.

PRESS RELEASE:

The Grand Chiefs of Treaty #9 and Treaty #3, Andrew Rickard and John Kelly, through the support of the Chiefs of Ontario, have requested the immediate termination of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. In a letter delivered to Premier Davis, the Grand Chiefs praised the efforts of Justice Patrick Hartt in the manner he conducted the inquiry. The Chiefs welcomed the decision of the federal and provincial governments in having Justice Hartt facilitate the Indian Commission of Ontario. This Commission has been established under the tripartite mechanism. The decision to terminate the Royal Commission is based on the following:

1. This Commission has successfully identified the socio-economic problem areas that need to be addressed.

2. The Indian people's concerns will be adequately considered through the establishment of the Ontario Indian Commission under the tripartite process.
3. Other Northerners' concerns can be effectively addressed through the various Ministries of the Ontario government.
4. Saving the taxpayers' money.
5. Justice Patrick Hartt did a competent job in concluding a difficult task. His agreement to facilitate the Ontario Indian Commission is indeed an excellent choice for the three parties who are meeting under the tripartite mechanism.
6. The Commissioner, E. Fahlgren and Leo Bernier have too close intimate and professional ties which will threaten the impartiality and impede the continuing success of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.
7. Leo Bernier has continuously interfered with our discussions with the government, using childish political games that continue to insult our political intellect. The procrastination of



GRAND COUNCIL

TREATY NO. 3

P. O. BOX 1720
KENORA, ONTARIO
P9N 3X7
807-548-4214

P. O. BOX 812
FORT FRANCES, ONTARIO
P9A 3N1
807-274-9827

Your File

Our File

August 25, 1978

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

As Grand Chief of Grand Council Treaty #3, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the elected chiefs of 25 bands in the Treaty #3 area of Northwestern Ontario.

Long before the creation of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, the Treaty #3 Chiefs, together with the Treaty #9 Chiefs, pressed for creation of a full-scale public inquiry into northern development. Our efforts were rewarded when the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, headed by the Honourable Justice Patrick Hartt, was created.

Now, after a little more than a year, I am forced to say that we no longer need, nor support in any way, the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. We do not believe that under the new commissioner, Mr. John Edwin (Ed) Fahlgren, the commission can or will accomplish anything for the benefit of Northern people.

We believe that Mr. Fahlgren's background as a Progressive Conservative party official, as a full supporter of Northern Affairs Minister Leo Bernier, as Chairman of the Board of Minaki Lodge, and as a director of several mining companies, is in direct conflict with his new duties. Mr. Fahlgren is not the man for the job, and we extend no support to him.

The basic idea of the Commission was to provide a fresh and independent analysis of certain serious and persistent problems. Mr. Fahlgren has a history of being part of these problems. It is ridiculous to consider him as a man that can provide solutions.

Commissioner Fahlgren's public and private statements sound exactly like what the Ontario Government has been saying for years. The government always says that there are no serious problems in the North and that problems that do exist can be solved through ordinary channels. I know that the government is wrong, and dangerously wrong. Northern Ontario could erupt with confrontation and violence at any time.

Mr. Justice Hartt sensed the seriousness of the issues which came before him. He did not attempt to "whitewash" them or cast them aside with cliches about

development and prosperity.

We have decided to stick with Justice Hartt. He has elected to concentrate his energies on negotiations between the two levels of government and the Indian people. We believe the time to study and analyze is past. Now is the time to act and to implement the positive changes which are needed. We believe Mr. Patrick Hartt is now prepared to act, and to implement. On that basis we remain optimistic.

As for the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, we consider it to be redundant, at least for the present. We consider the appointment of Mr. Ed Fahlgren to be a temporary victory for the forces that are destroying the North, and we will therefore not support nor encourage him in any way.

MEMO: TO JOHN
FROM: ANN
RE: REED PROPOSAL
DATED: April 15/77

As you are aware, I met with John Laskin on Monday, April 11th

The following are his comments to your proposals:

With respect to your comment #1, John indicated that Hartt definitely intends to cover northern development of resources. He stated he would suggest that it be explicitly set out in the proposal.

#2, John also agreed that the public hearings would be held mainly in the north. ~~They~~ There would definitely be television coverage and translation into the native dialects. I think they have already arranged for the channel 19 on cable to cover the hearings.

#3. Your comment with respect to paragraph 1(c) was appreciated and he indicated that he would definitely attempt to have the word "use" changed in accordance with your

#4. John thought that your suggestion on paragraph 1(d) was a very good one and that they had not really considered the intangible costs however, obviously it was a very important element and should not be left out.

#5. John indicated that paragraph 3 on page 6 was only placed for window dressing and it does not in any way affect the rate at which the