

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Meeting No. 43

Tuesday, October 4, 2005

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development met *in camera* at 3:38 p.m. this day, in Room 308, West Block, the Chair, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, presiding.

Members of the Committee present: Hon. Sue Barnes, André Bellavance, Bernard Cleary, Jeremy Harrison, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, Gary Lunn, Pat Martin, Jim Prentice, Carol Skelton, David Smith, Lloyd St. Amand and Roger Valley.

Acting Members present: Serge Ménard for André Bellavance.

In attendance: Library of Parliament: Mary Hurley, Analyst; Marlisa Tiedemann, Analyst.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters related to Committee business.

It was agreed, — That on Bill C-54 the Committee hear from the Minister and Departmental Officials and the three (3) proponent First Nation Chiefs on Thursday, October 6; and, from the Officials of the Aboriginal Land and Legal Issues of the Government of Alberta, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Chief David General, Six Nations of the Grand River on Tuesday, October 18 .

It was agreed, — That the motion adopted on June 21, 2005 concerning the appearance of Mr. Thomas C. Hutchinson be rescinded.

Jim Prentice moved, — That the Committee immediately commences an investigation into the backlog of almost 1,000 First Nation "Specific Claims" in Canada and specifically that the Committee inquire into, and report upon the following:

- a. the number of specific claims that have been filed with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the status, history and Government response to each of those claims and the estimated cost of settling each such claim;
- b. The number of specific claims that are being reviewed, mediated, adjudicated, or considered by the Indian Specific Claims Commission of Canada and by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and the estimated costs of administration of the Commission and the Department;
- c. The current status of the Indian Specific Claims Commission itself, its legislative and administrative framework and the necessity for institutional and legislative reform to replace or alternatively, expand the jurisdiction of the said Commission;
- d. the position of the Assembly of First Nations, its affiliates, the Canadian Bar Association and the position of First Nations and other First Nation organizations on the subject of specific claims in Canada;

In the context of this inquiry the Committee may hear from any witness and examine the particular details of any specific claim that has been filed by a First Nation against the Government of Canada.

David Smith moved, — That the motion be amended by deleting paragraphs a & b.

After debate, the question was put on the amendment of David Smith and it was agreed to.

After debate, the question was put on the motion, as amended, and it was agreed to.

At 5:32 p.m., the Committee adjourned to the call of the Chair.

Roger Préfontaine
Clerk of the Committee

2005-10-05 11:21 a.m.

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