David C. Hawkes and Evelyn J. Peters

> Report on the Workshop Held on February 16-18, 1987

# Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

(Aboriginal peoples and constitutional reform.

Proceedings of a workshop held in Kingston, Ont.,

ISBN 0-88911-446-3 (set). - ISBN 0-88911-449-8.

1. Canada - Native races. 2. Indians of North

Feb. 16-18, 1987.

# V ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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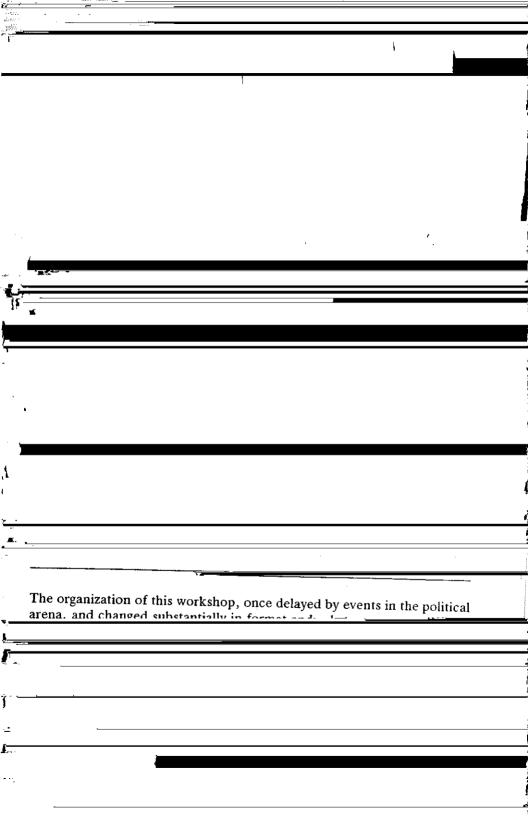
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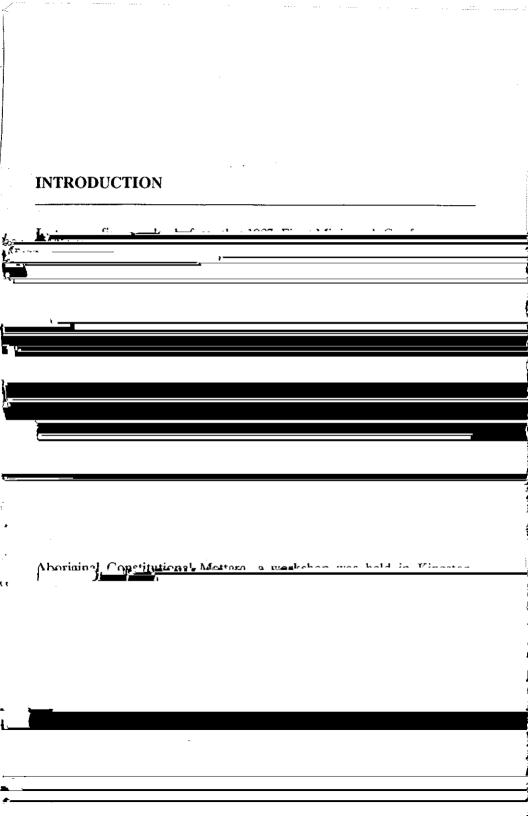
# INTRODUCTION PAPERS

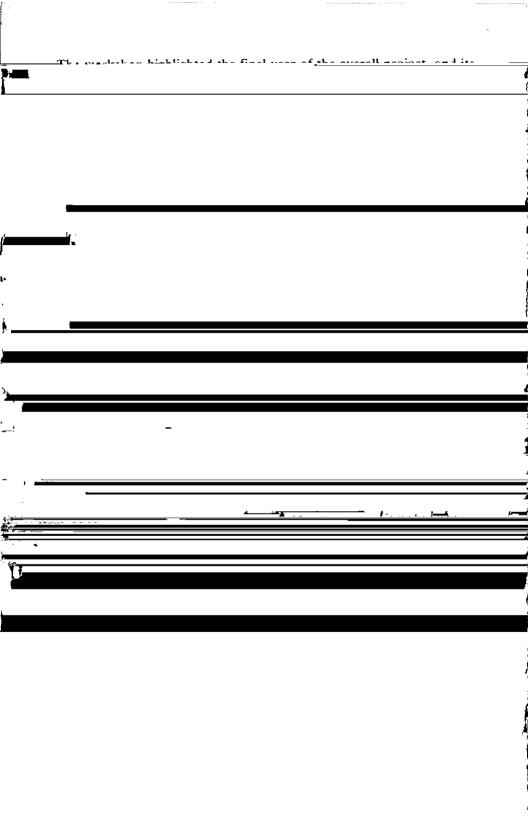
A Self-Government Amendment and the Political Process

David C. Hawkes: The Search for Accommodation
Keith Penner: The Politics of Abortainal









### Session I

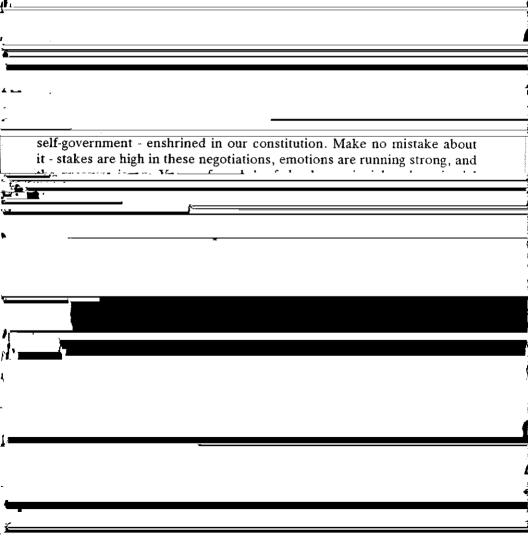
A Self-Government Amendment and the Political Process

#### THE SEARCH FOR ACCOMMODATION\*

David C. Hawkes

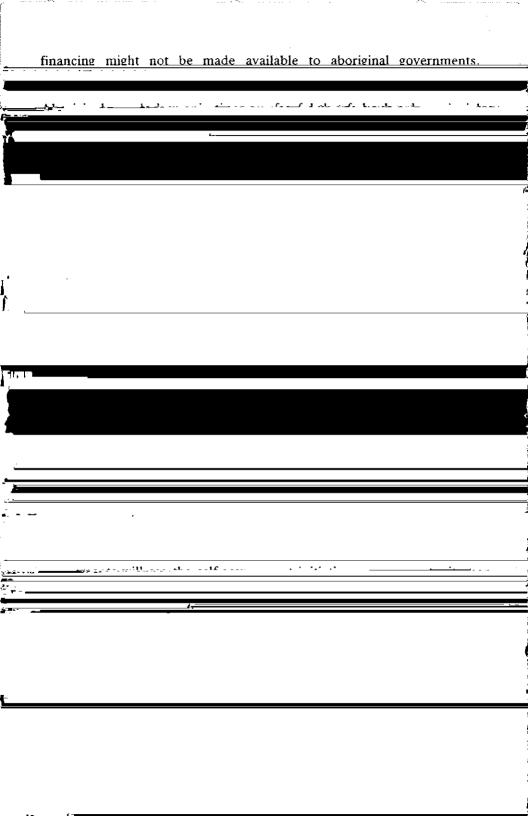
#### Introduction

The 1987 First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters is the final one mandated by the Constitution Act, 1982 (as amended). As such, it is seen by many observers as the last chance for aboriginal peoples in Canada to have their rights - particularly that of

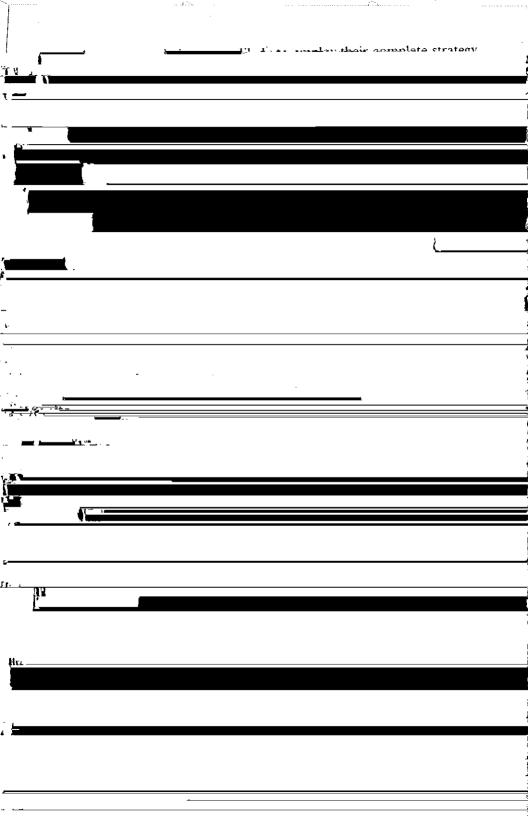


Accordingly, the first question in the interview asked: "Generally speaking, what would you consider to be a successful conclusion to the

twenty issues were mentioned. Only the most frequently-mentioned are reported upon here. (1) federal/provincial responsibility The most frequently-mentioned problem was that of ill-defined and often



(5) land base At issue here is whether the right to self-government should include the right to a land have for all aboritinal neonles. This is of narticular concern to Métis and Non-Status Indians and other landless aboriginal fields of aboriginal self-government jurisdiction, and of aboriginal government powers imminging upon federal and provincial jurisdiction living in Winnipeg?). Aboriginal peoples express the opposite concern-



negotiated agreements, provided that aboriginal peoples have some

order to work out such agreements.

This underlines the importance of the linkage between the right to self-government and the commitment to negotiate. Eleven of the parties to the section 37 negotiations indicated that a constitutional accommodation would require some process beyond 1987. It is interesting to note, however, that almost no one wished to extend the current (section 37) process "as is". Many officials, from both governments and aboriginal peoples' organizations, appeared either to be "burned" or "burned out" by the current process. Some suggested, as a minimum, that another First Ministers Conference on the matter, to be held in three to five years, be included in the constitutional amendment. This would allow parties to the negotiations to review progress toward aboriginal self-government agreements, and give aboriginal peoples' organizations some leverage in bringing governments to the table. More

by governments to enter self-government agreement negotiations, it is unlikely to attract further support. (3) likely positions of the "uncommitted" parties Theresition

to the negotiations, the issues before them, the range of positions across those issues, and the possible combinations and permutations which present themselves.

(1) federal/provincial responsibility

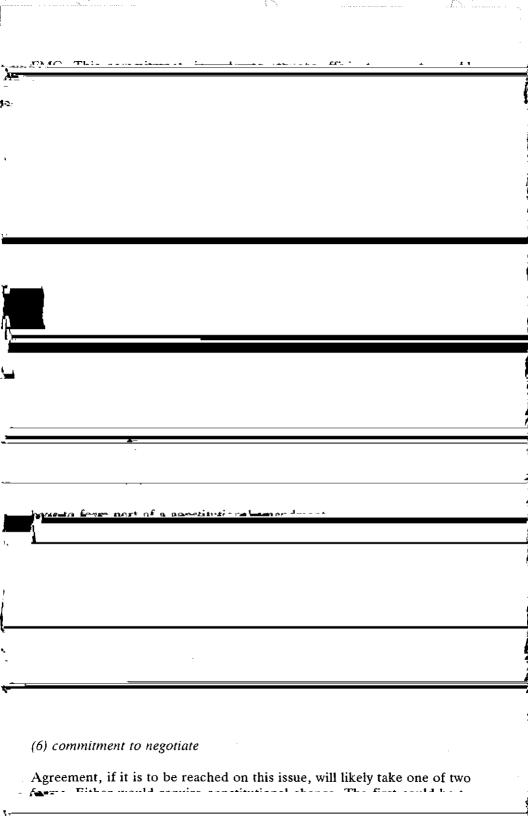
The most promising approach here is to focus on principles of financing, from which might develop a fiscal and federal-provincial cost-sharing framework. However, it would appear that there is insufficient support to have such principles - yet to be elaborated - form part of a constitutional amendment. A more workable approach, at present, would be to have a general commitment in principle of federal and provincial governments to share in the

to self-government if that right is subject to the negotiation of agreements, and if there is a constitutional commitment to enter into such negotiations. A variation on this theme would be a commitment to another FMC, in three to five years, replacing the government commitment to negotiate, in effect replacing a legal obligation with a political one.

A second approach, also capable of generating agreement, is the

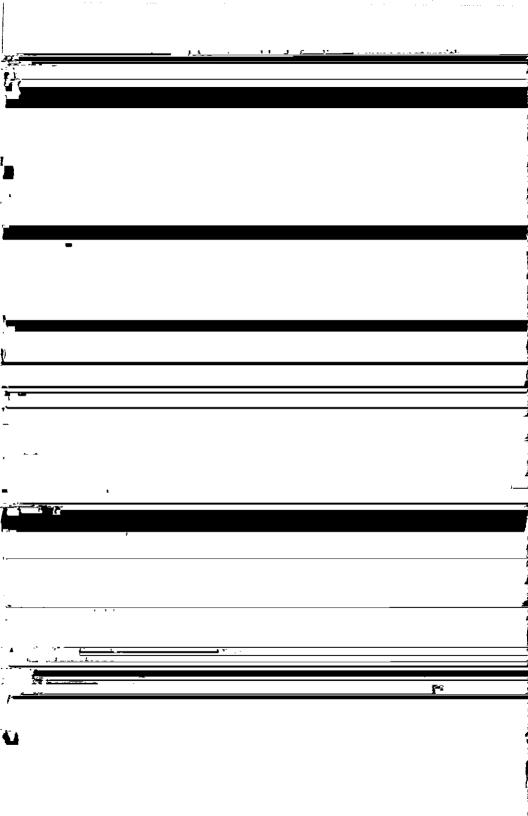
and agree to deem self-government agreements as treaties (and rights defined therein as treaty rights). A constitutional commitment to negotiate (or another FMC) would be required, in addition to the constitutional protection of rights defined in self-government agreements or treaties.

(4) role of the provinces/"provincial veto"



The preferred route for most parties to the negotiations is some variation of the 1985 federal draft accord. Several variations are capable

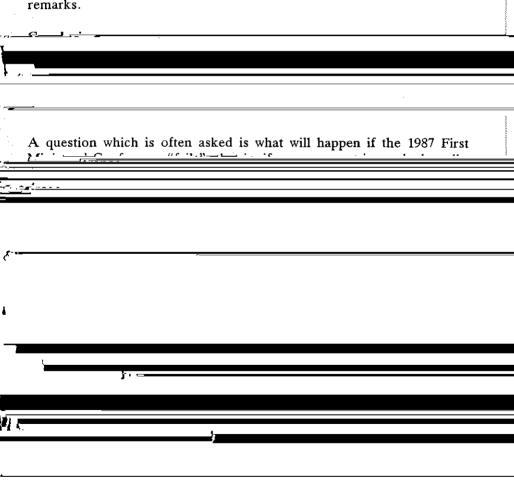




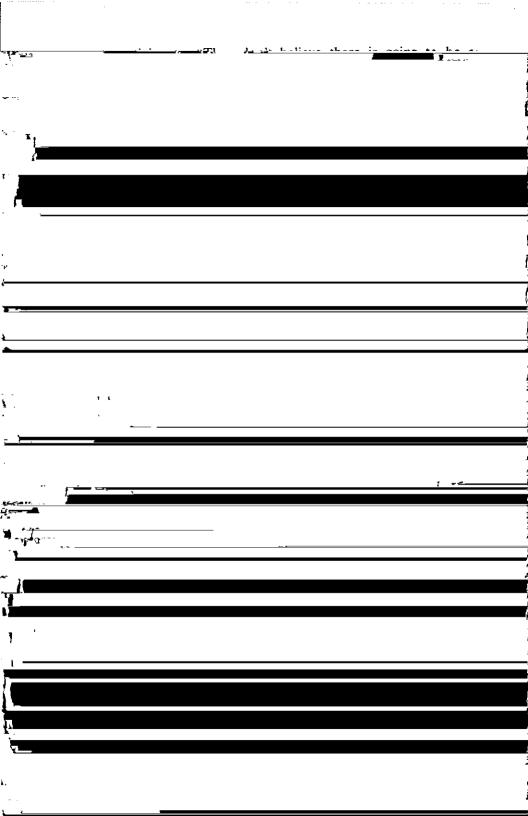
#### (6) the negotiation process

All parties to the negotiations could commit themselves, in a political accord, to a revised negotiation process. This could involve negotiations at two levels - the local/regional/provincial level, and the national level. Parties could agree to focus on negotiations at the local/regional/provincial level for, say, three years, before returning to the national level, and perhaps another FMC. This would enable parties to concentrate on negotiating individual self-government agreements, and to review progress toward such agreements at the national level at a targeted date.

I have already spoken for some time. Let me offer some concluding remarks.



THE POLITICS OF ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT Keith Penner, M.P.



From the adoption of the federal government's present self-government policy to April 1, 1990, a minimum of 20 Indian self-government regime.

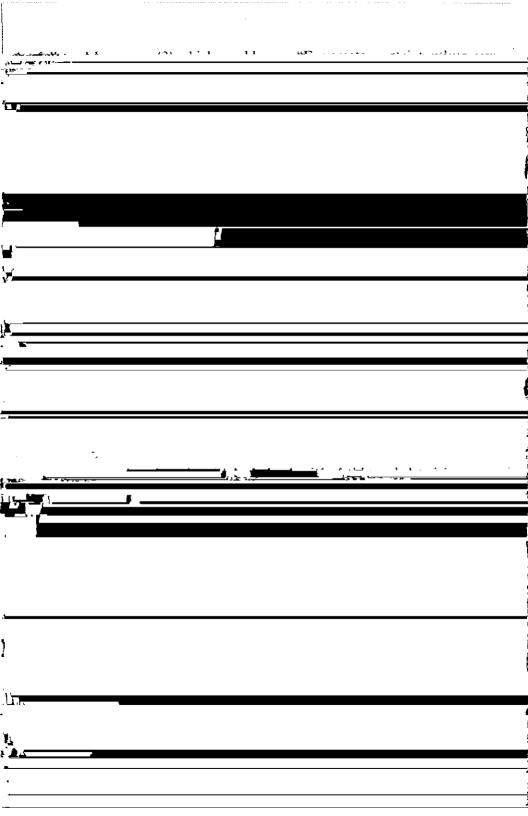
bands and Inuit communities are expected to be under

than 100 years to impose its form of self-government upon aboriginal people.

As you know the Department now has an Assistant Deputy Minister for self-government. That same national management plan to which I earlier referred, says that:

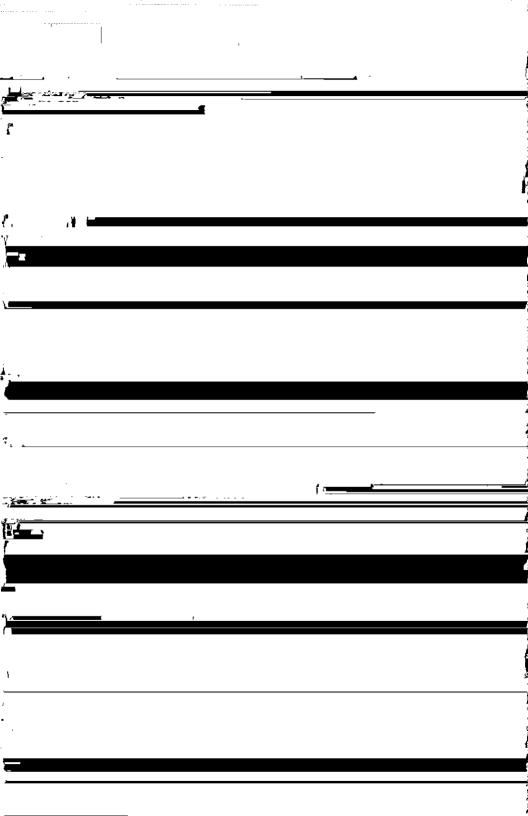
His responsibility is to approve all national plans, strategies and operational documentation (eg. directives) specific to the sector.





<ul> <li>b) in principle along the lines of the commitment in principle relating to equalization payments (see 36(2));</li> <li>2. contained in a constitutional preamble (the preamble to constitutional amendment would reflect the commitment negotiate);</li> </ul>	the
constitutional amendment would reflect the commitment	the
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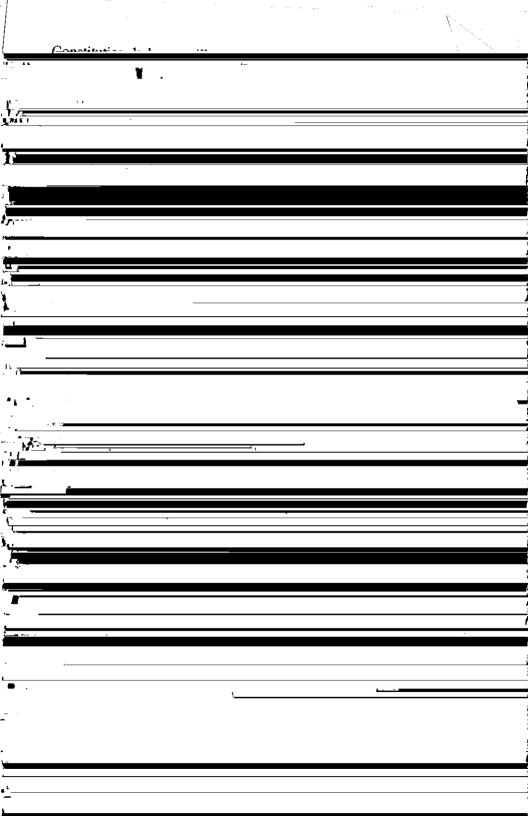
hat Ontario seems to have abandoned its lead role among the provinces. Mr. Scott, Attorney General for Ontario, however, counters by saying: Why push the good guys even further? Get some of the bad guys - Lucie + Inne Efter narrant of



#### Micha Menczer, Discussant

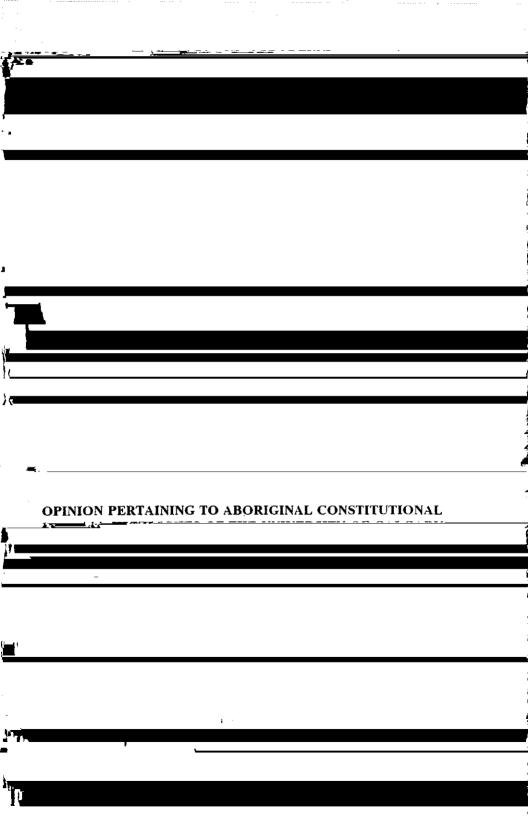
My comments focus on the recognition of aboriginal self-government and the political will needed to bring this about. Aboriginal people have consistently stated that recognition must be the goal. Delegated powers such as presently exist in the *Indian Act* are not appropriate given that aboriginal peoples view section 35 of the Canadian Constitution as





## Session II

Public Opinion and Aboriginal Self-Government





characteristics to be francombone to identification the NDP federally to

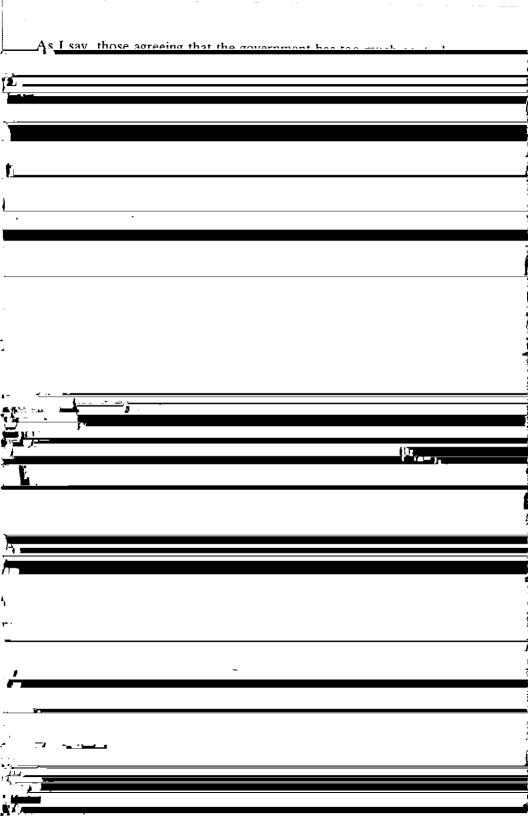
of support for multi-culturalism.

That latter finding was a surprise to me. I recognize that there has been a long-standing position taken by numerous Native leaders to the effect that "we are not just another ethnic group". I think that has led to

ad | a | met posset in the acceptition of acalition with multicultural aroune

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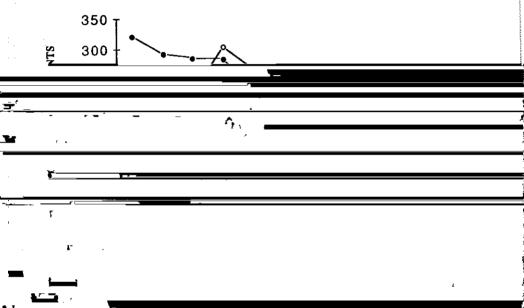
no means synonymous with support for the Progressive Conservative party.

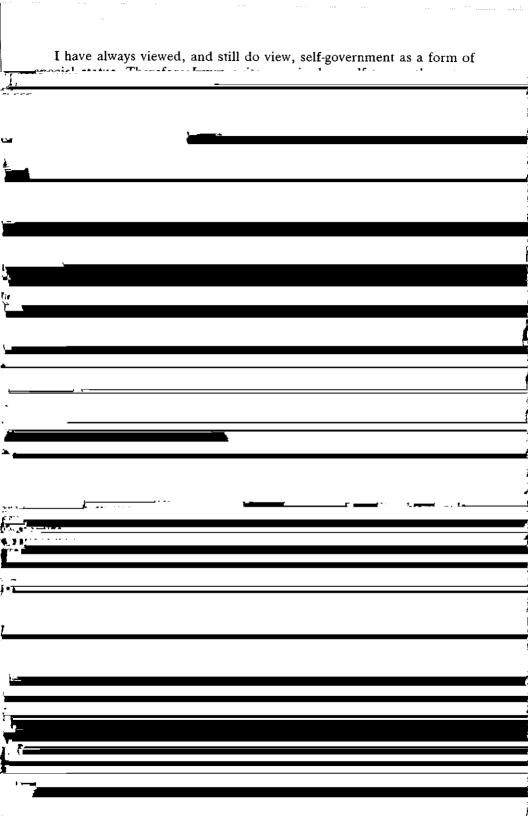


curve, except for a small hump on the supportive side of the mid-point. These are drastically different shapes that we observe for these two curves.

## Figure 1

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SAMPLE
ON THE INDEX OF SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL STATUS FOR NATIVES
AND ON THE INDEX OF SUPPORT FOR NATIVE SELF GOVERNMENT, 1986





all the rest of the study into context by finding out just how much importance Canadians give to this area of Native people. The question was as follows: "I'm going to give you a list of several problems facing Canada today. Please read the list and tell me which one you consider to be most important. Now, which one is second most important to you? Which ranks third in importance to you? etc." The items were: protecting the natural environment, reducing the national debt, reaching a free trade agreement with the United States, improving the social and economic situation of Canada's Native people, and improving the rights of women in Canada. (The order in which these were presented to respondents on these cards was different throughout the country, and I think within each region as well, although I'm not positive about that.) Attesting to what

these cards was different throughout the country, and I think within each region as well, although I'm not positive about that.) Attesting to what environment is the finding that in either their first priority choice or their

preample or introductory statement recognizing the importance of Natives to Canadian society. There was considerable support for that.

The final obstacle that I want to mention is the conservative ideology. To try to turn that into a resource, I think that one needs to do the kinds of things that the Prime Minister did at one point in his speech at the

between the conservative ideology on the one hand and the Native

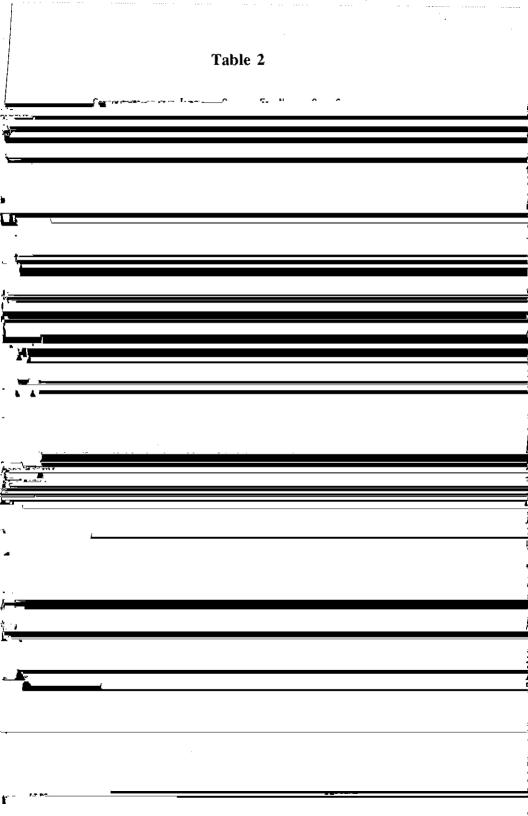
This choice was made from a list of three items presented to respondents. The other two items, along with the percentage of the sample choosing them, are "less control by government" (33 per cent) and "more money from government" (7 per cent).

#### Table 1

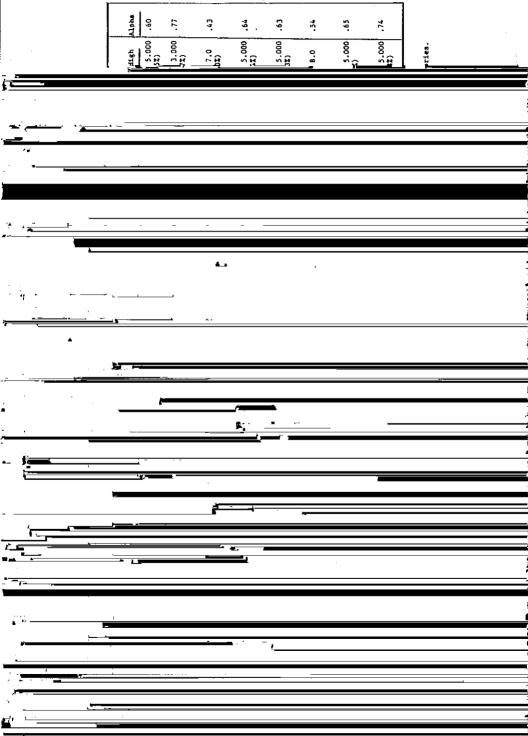
COMPONENTS OF THE INDEX OF SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL STATUS FOR NATIVES

More detail on these scale items is available in the tables of Modules 1 and 2.

SPSS				PE	RCEN	F			
LABEL		STATEMENT	AS	AM	N	DM	DS	DK	TOTAL
speclaws	Q.76	If Parliament and the elected leaders of the Native people agreed that some Canadian laws would not apply in Native communities, it would be all right with me.	15	23	10	19	25	9	101
nsymschl	Q.78	Native schools should not have to follow provincial guidelines on what is taught.	9	13	5	26	41	5	99
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Appendix



Session III

# ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND CANADIAN POLITICAL VALUES

Richard Simeon

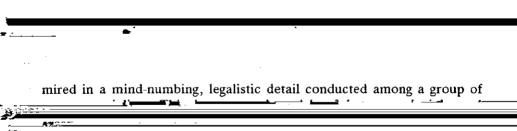
I don't usually like to admit in advance my limitations air

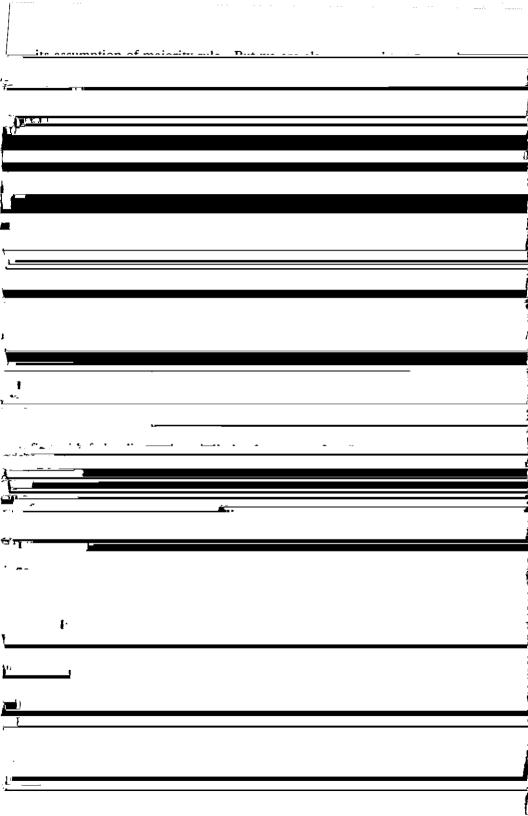
I cannot in any sense be considered an expert on the profound questions which the country, and this conference, must deal with as we

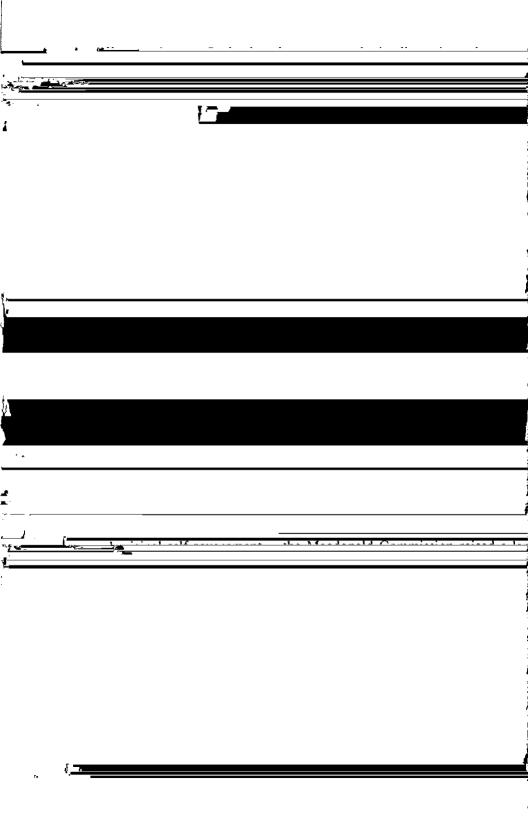
Cancidar hour to define and implement the control of the control o

make progress, and to provide a means whereby agreements can be given permanence. But the constitutional process also has large costs. It puts a premium on the symbolic, the abstract, the issues around which compromise is most difficult. It seems to create, partly for that reason, an incentive for all sides to keep the debate going on and on, with no resolution. All parties seem to have an incentive to avoid bringing the debate to a conclusion.

Keeping the debate at the constitutional level means that we devote an inordinate amount of time to crossing the t's and dotting the i's in order to anticipate every possible eventuality which might end up before







division of the Northwest Territories largely on ethnic lines; and the continued support of regional development. With respect to aboriginal peoples. I don't think appears are to be a support of the people of the

Indeed, federalism itself would not survive if one image was to predominate. Moreover, federalism assumes that there is no necessary conflict among these identities; they are complementary, indeed mutually supportive. This I think is the evidence from public opinion surveys. But it is also true in a larger sense: the Canadian national community is

itself defined in large part by the existence of vibrant regional 12. . . The and and and and communities in time dowlers

True, this may create all sorts of practical difficulties: decisions by aboriginal governments may contradict or undermine those of other governments. As in the federal system, all sorts of intergovernmental agreements will be necessary To it

There remain massive uncertainties about the powers to be exercised by aboriginal governments; about the ambit of federal and provincial laws

## COMMENTS ON CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION\*

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The Charter of Rights and Freedoms has no place in aboriginal

#### SELF-GOVERNMENT AND THE CANADIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

Leroy Little Bear

The theme of this workshop on aboriginal constitutional matters is "the search for accommodation". Why is this search for accommodation so difficult? In part it's because of the fundamentally different mind-sets of the participants, which means that the constitution and amendments to it are approached from different angles. This difference of mind-sets

if I were a Christian? It wouldn't matter if I was on the moon, in Durban, South Africa, or in Inuvik. I would celebrate Christmas. Aboriginal people, instead, relate to space as an organizing concept.

Place and space are important referents - a microcosm in which

aboriginal people are situated. For my people, the Blood Tribe of the

on a particular date. It doesn't happen on the same day every year. The

Sun Dance happens when the people who are preparing for it are ready. Rut it always hannens in the same place the Rolla Butte on the Blood

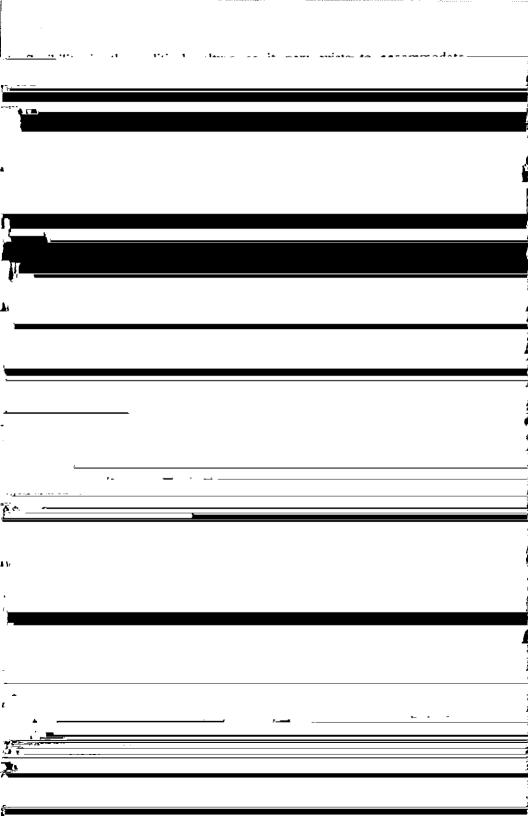
old relationship as a basis for discussion. If we talk about a new relationship, then the view that aboriginal self-government has to be dinned in through a loop hate we take 1 13-In the aboriginal view, self-government is a response to a relationship We already have some examples where the Western approach has been broadened in this way. One of the hallmarks of Canadian government has been co-operative federalism, in which constitutional delineations have been by-passed in order to develop a more workable nation. The provincial incursion into Indian affairs also skirts the rules. In essence, given the federal government's responsibilities for Indians, provincial incursion is a de facto constitutional amendment.

In asking for the entrenchment of the right to self-government, aboriginal people are saying: "We want to be part of the whole". Legal obstacles essentially come down to saying: "No, you can't be

simple - finding some accommodation from within, or, if not, finding some way of relating to each other from without.

### William Pentney, Discussant

Two themes that arise fr	rom this topic are the values that underlie
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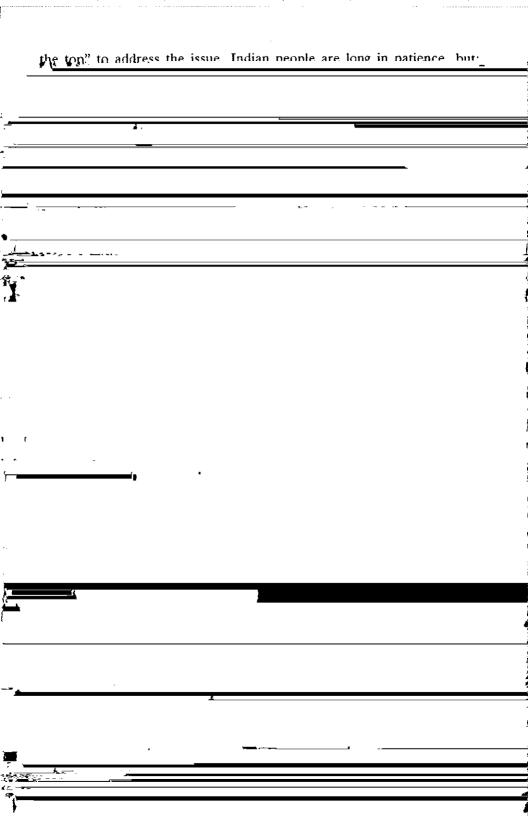


#### Vina Starr, Discussant

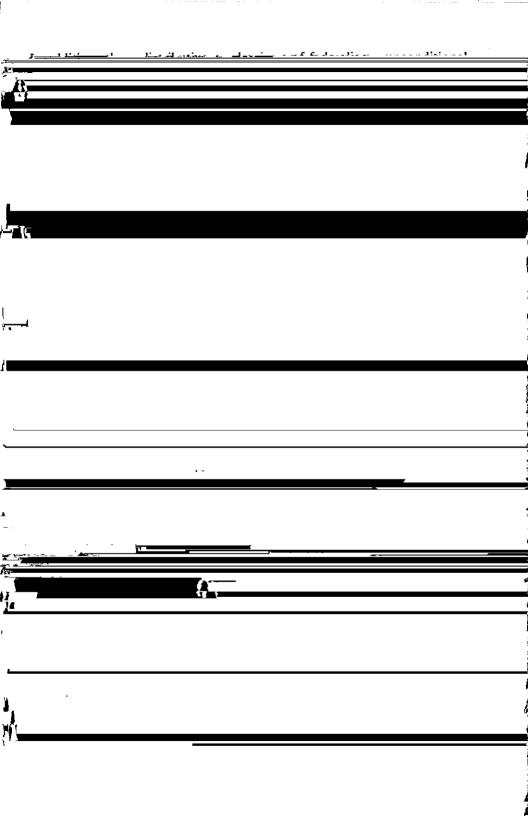
The aboriginal values underlying the move toward self-government have to do with our Native concept of how we relate to the land. In contrast

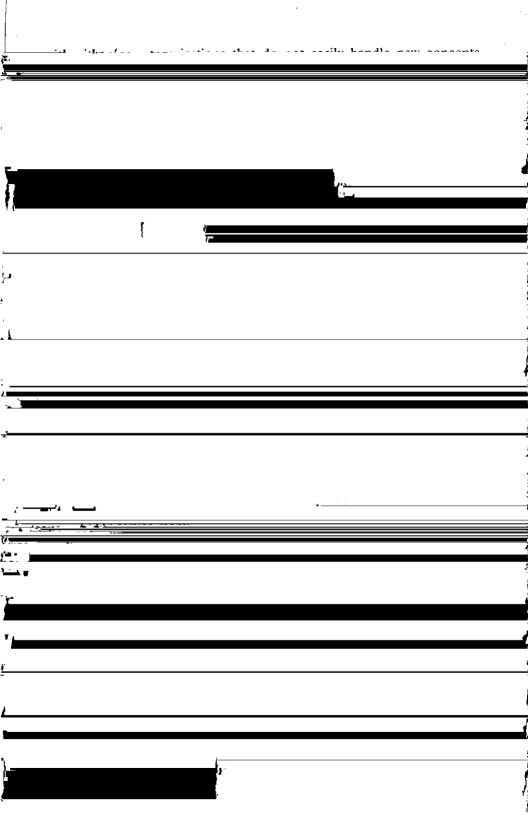
over the earth and all that is in it, aboriginal peoples themselves as equal to all other life forms in nature. We do not regard humans as superior to animals but as brothers, placed on this planet to share equally in the wealth of our environment.

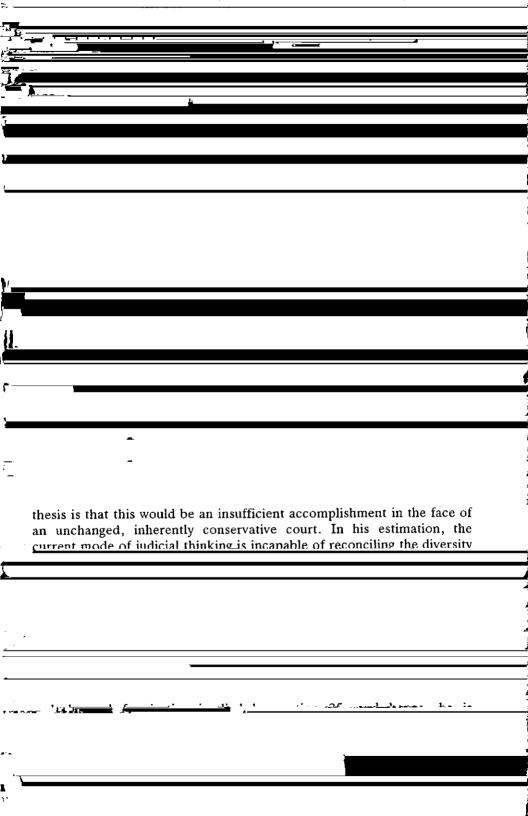
Four hundred years after whites came to North America, aboriginal peoples and whites are like two ships passing in the night - an aboriginal version of Hugh MacLennon's *Two Solitudes*. Why has communication been so difficult? It is largely because we have difficulty defining how we should share this land together.



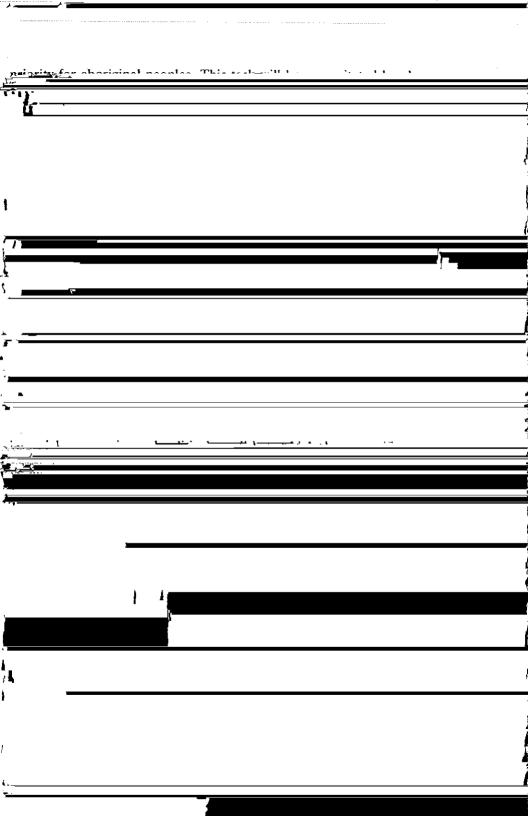
AN EVALUATION OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE WORKSHOP T Ki Kelly Speck



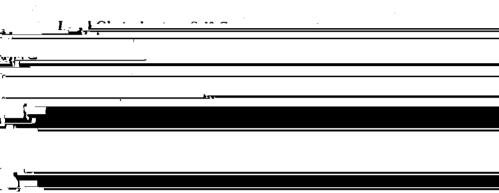




or delegated rights. Still others questioned the efficacy of the process concerns than negotiation imperatives, requiring extensive time, energy and resources to nursue elusive agreements on abstract levels. Perhans condemned as "conservative" perspectives) might provide a more useful framework through which the past five, or indeed, the 20 years might be viewed. A more critical assessment of the changes in policy and attitudes بالأراب بالمائد مطبلت مناهدما المستمميم الواصممور





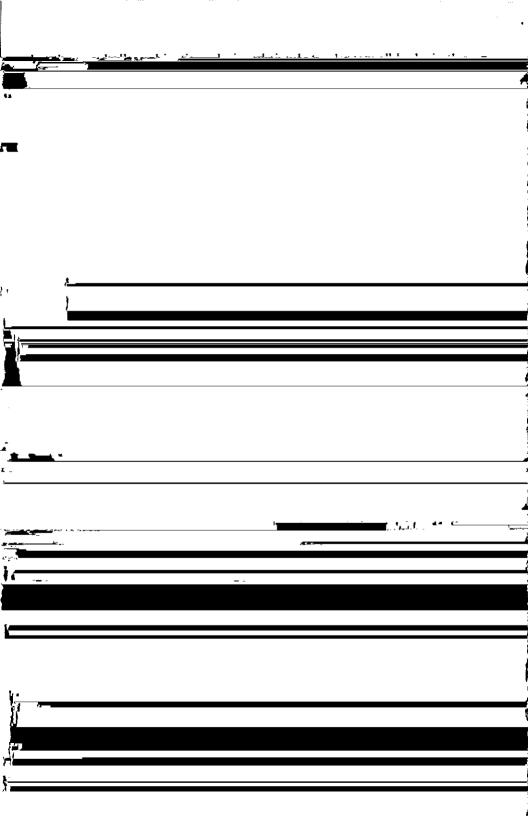




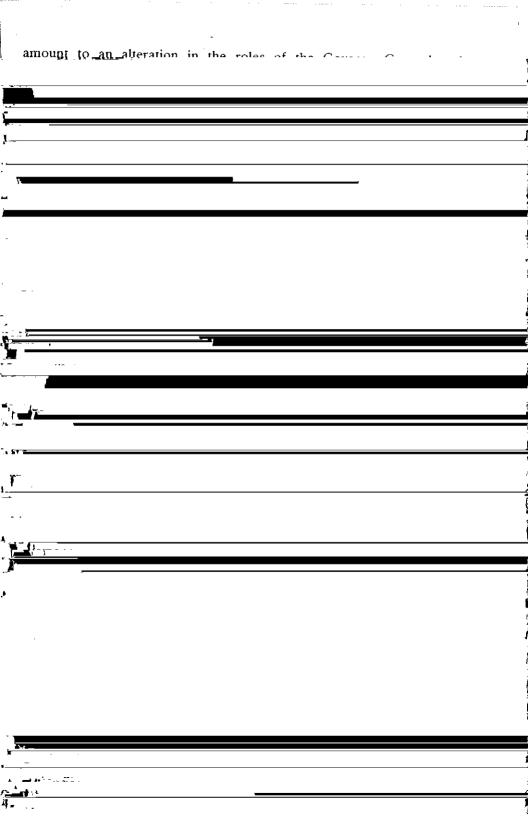


## THE ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT: ANALYSIS OF SOME LEGAL OBSTACLES

The last of the constitutional conferences, comprising the Prime Minister, the premiers of the Provinces and the political leaders of the four major aboriginal grouns in Canada, that is mandated under Seasing 37.1(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982, will be held in March, 1987. The long period of negotiations relating to constitutional matters directly affecting the aboriginal peoples of Canada that has taken place between 1982 and the present day has served to focus the issues in debate. In particular, the demand for constitutional reform that has amount



expressing liberationist claims - the story in Exodus of the escape of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt has not been drawn upon in making the control of the dominant society, and confine it to the terms that our legal system and political system are familiar with. In fact, the dominantly legal perspective on the self-government claim is the perspective of non-liberation. Having said that, however, it must be, and can be



It is beyond the scope of this paper to deal with each of these problems in detail. Instead, I will look in some detail at the first legal problem identified - the problem of whether the aboriginal self-government amendment as proposed will amount to an amendment of the amending formula.

section 38) it is necessary to determine the "matter" of an amendment. It is at this point that the distinction between statecraft and adapting the constitution to new legal claims comes into play. If we view the clause under which self-government agreements will be automatically entrenched as part of the implementing device for giving new

whether this derogation of normal governmental power fits the conditions for certain forms of constitutional amendment. But if we view the clause as expressing the autonomous status of aboriginal peoples, analysis based on the impact on existing powers will become beside the point.

But let us take the weakest case. Let us take section 35 (the basic recognition section within Part II) at its most minimal scope. This would potail consider that the word "avietine" in access 75 ..... the at

when the question of aboriginal rights was contemplated as a matter for future amendment, it was not contemplated in terms of a rule of unanimity. In addition, the presence of Part IV is strong evidence that there was not legislative silence about aboriginal rights development. It is clear evidence that the framers of the Constitution Act, 1982 adverted to the possibility of aboriginal rights amendments in the fire



The legal obstacles to a self-government amendment are in some senses quite real, but in other ways they are the product of a failure of imagination on the part of lawyers and politicians. The diversity of groups involved in these negotiations, and the dazzling array of issues which lie behind the negotiations present

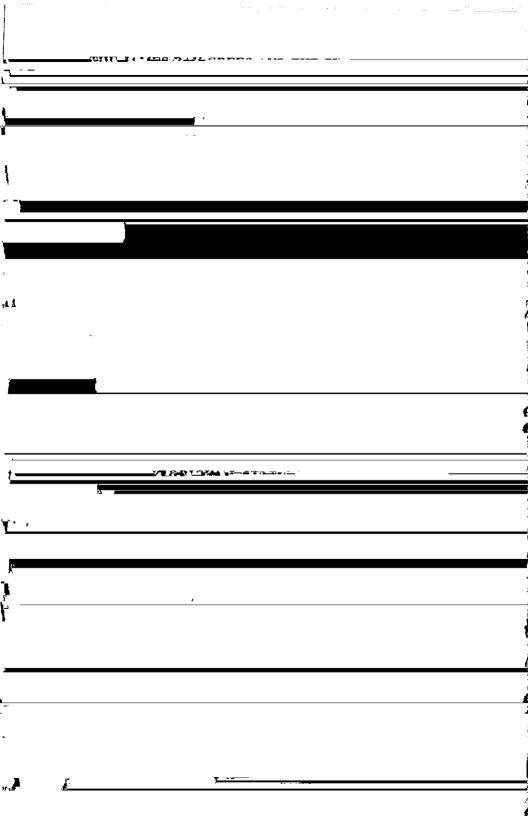
point at issue here is whether some matters are best left out of court, to be dealt with by political rather than judicial authorities.

Of course, aboriginal peoples know only too well the dangers inherent in that solution - political failures in the past have spurred aboriginal leaders to demand legally enforceable promises. To the extent that

opportunity, it seems to me that a political compromise may be If aboriginal rights (including the right of self-government) are to be meaningful as collective rights, they must at a minimum guarantee that the survival of the collectivity, and its essential functions.

## Session V

## Financing Issues

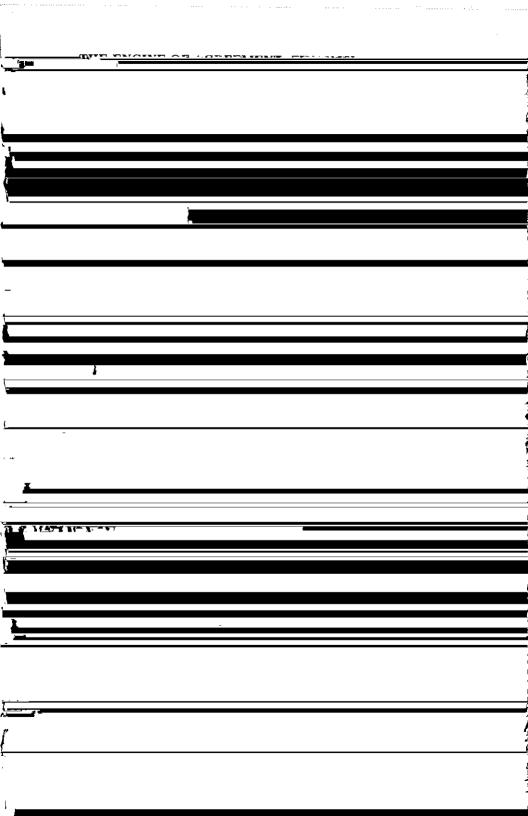


The James Rev and Northern Overhan Samonment and did fan d

adoption of self-government legislation which was to replace the *Indian Act* for the Crees of Quebec. This has in fact been done and the Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act now provides us with full regulatory power at the community level, control over our local governments, and the ability to assert that we have obtained self-determination and self-government. This legislation was adopted pursuant to an avowed federal recognition of its special responsibility toward the Crees (and toward other Indians) and the legislation itself recognizes this.

all efforts to have that formula approved by Treasury Board, have misinformed Treasury Board of the nature of the agreement with the



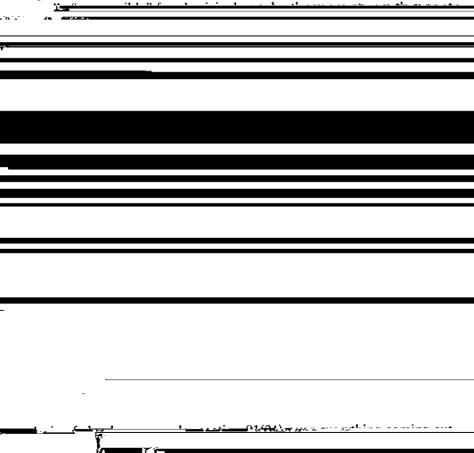


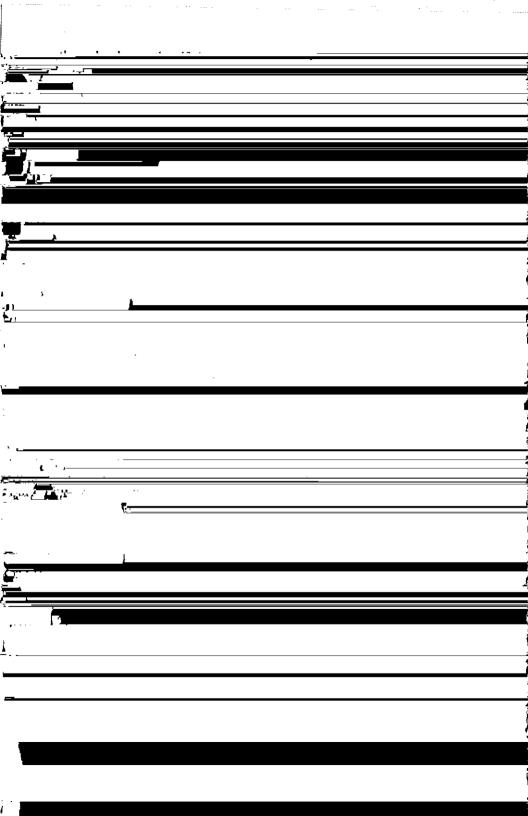
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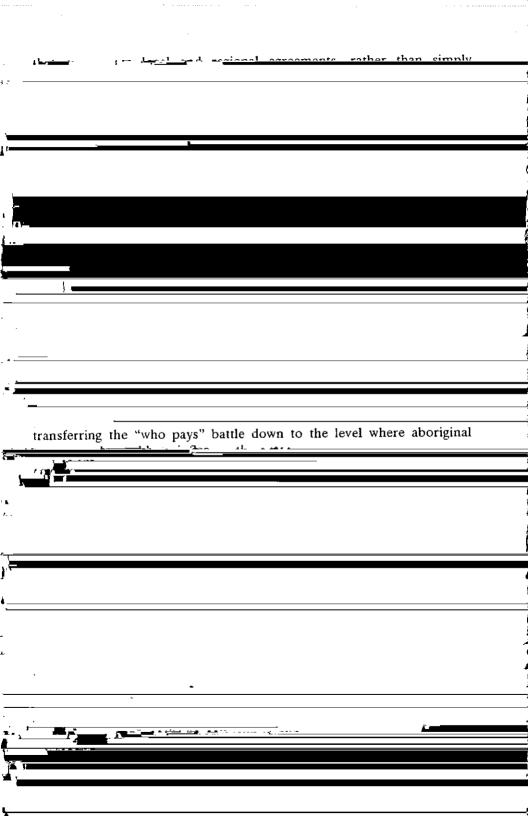
is not to say that there must be a similar relationship, or non-relationship, between financing and self-government. The two issues are distinct. The first relates to the issue of whether sections 91 and 92 are pubarration or not and which a sale accommend to

local and regional groups can expect to address in the way of fiscal powers and financial transfers; and some clarity about the role of the provinces, where they are involved, in financing the negotiation and outcome of agreements.

Despite the fact that most provinces see the federal government as

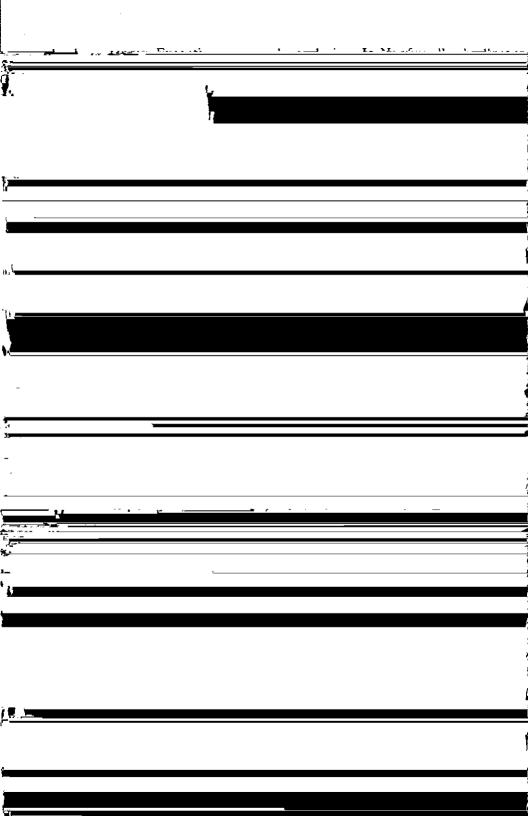






A general equalization provision concerning levels of services and autonomous resourcing of aboriginal governments; 1. 3. A process provision.

incentives to aboriginal governments that are not provided to other groups who choose not to negotiate self-government. Since MNSI



## Cost-Sharing Options 1. By Group: a) on-reserve vs. off-reserve

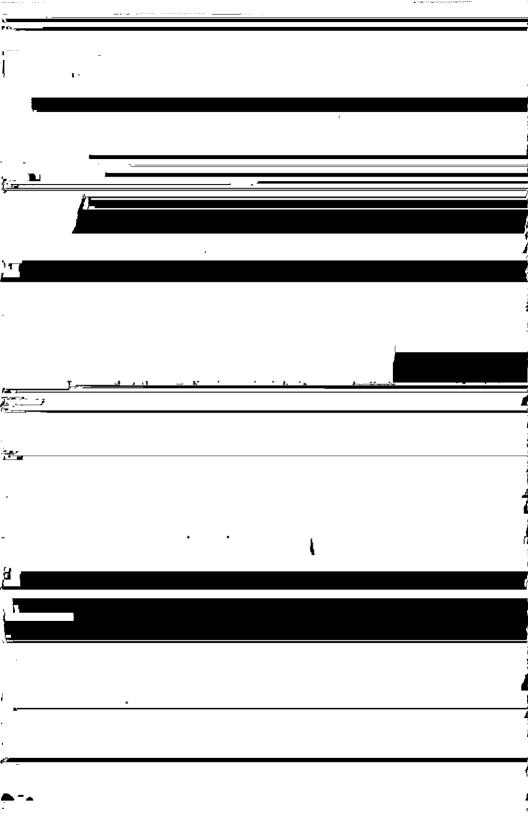
the merit of not importing legislative definitions. However, there are no other definitions available. One consequence of going this route would be to force the abandonment of the *Indian Act* regime. It could not survive in the face of any constitutional regime that had to untangle the current reality of Non-Status Treaty Indians, Status Métis, and so forth.

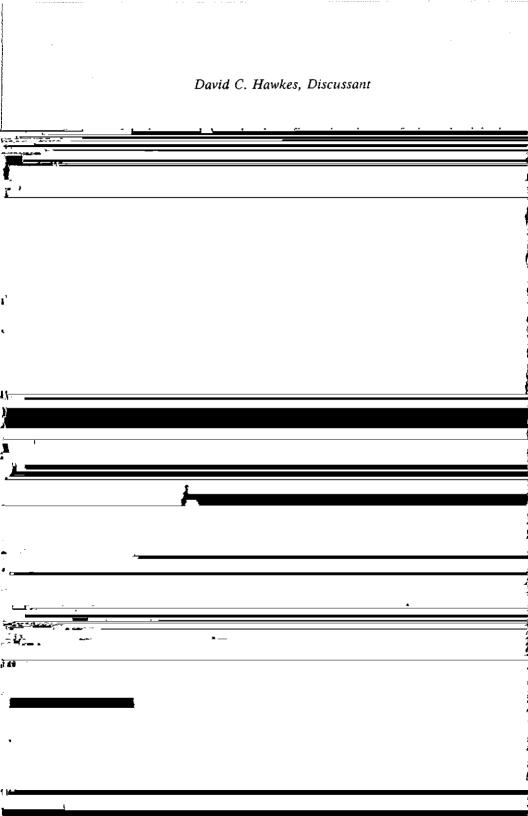
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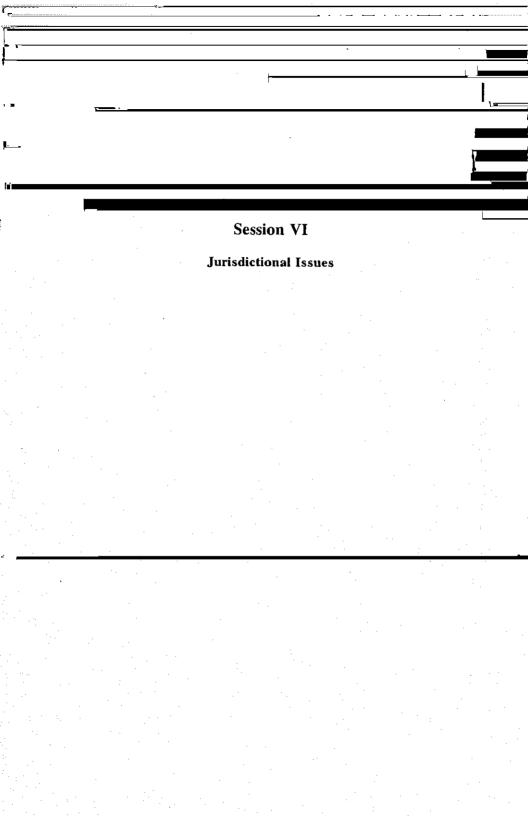
Avoidance of the issue at the First Ministers' level will only mean a worsening of the climate for negotiations at the local and regional levels. Without an arrangement for essential resourcing, the entrenchment of the right self-government may prove hollow.

My remarks will be very brief. The panelists have covered a good deal of ground and I suspect there are many who are eager to get into the discussion. I confess that after listening to Billy Diamond and Ian Cowie





solely dependent upon federal and provincial governments. And there is agreement with respect to public accountability for government expenditures, although some difference in terms of whether aboriginal governments should be accountable to their own members, or to



## ISSUES OF JURISDICTION BETWEEN ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL GOVERNMENTS

Ian B. Cowie

What I was asked to do today is to summarize some of the main points

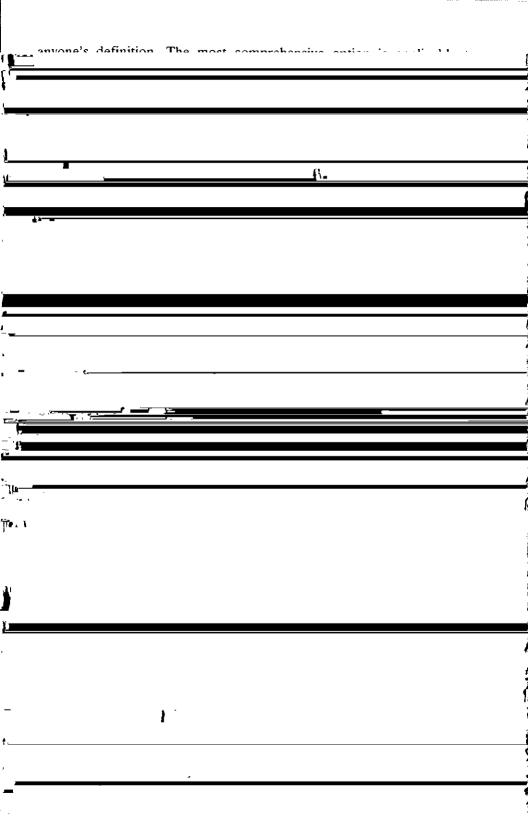
table. There are continuing attempts to make a "best effort", but the enthusiasm, the real political will to make the fundamental changes required is not there.

For any self-government amendment to be contemplated without some precision of understanding regarding future fiscal relations between federal, provincial and aboriginal governments means that the

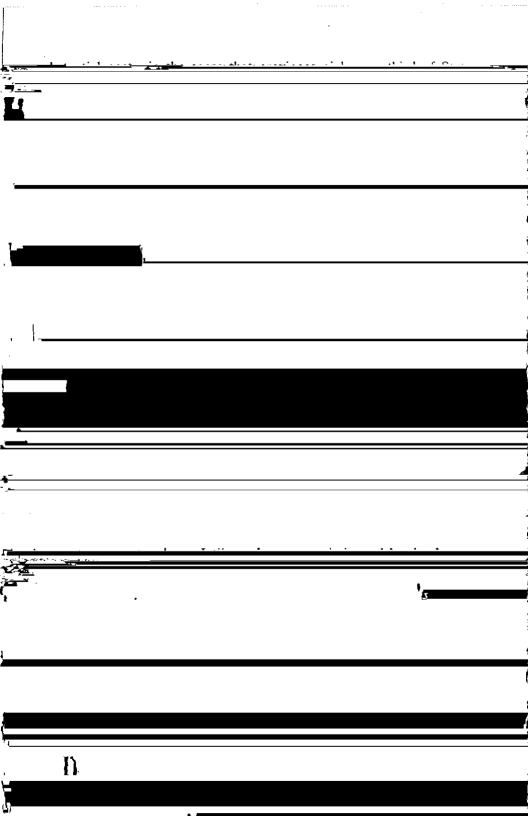
101 45. Look, this is just another meeting. It's an important meeting but if failure is the result, things will continue on. Things are

My paper does not look at the legal aspects of the current constitutional discussions. It starts with the premise that irrespective of the outcome of the constitutional discussions, there are a variety of opportunities and processes now open to aboriginal peoples for moving forward with the negotiation of self-government. We have concentrated much of our energies on the constitution; now we must translate some of the concepts discussed. A lot of aboriginal communities are now focussing on questions which are constants in a number of negotiation self-government negotiations under amendment, negotiating comprehensive claims, or the so-called Indian community self-negotiation policy announced in 1986. The paper tries to identify some of the questions and issues that now confront governments and aboriginal participants in defining the strategies - the policies, the financing requirements authorities and the self-government for the future. It says that while we are focussing all of this energy constitutionally, we must become aware that at the

community level, people are grappling with more fundamental questions. It outlines what some of those fundamental questions are, and gives an indication of how people prepare for the substantive negotiations and arrangements required.



related to the social interaction of the people is included here. Third, the to economics, life-support or wealth creation. This incorporates resource galonment, <u>no</u>prufacturina activity and tovotion.

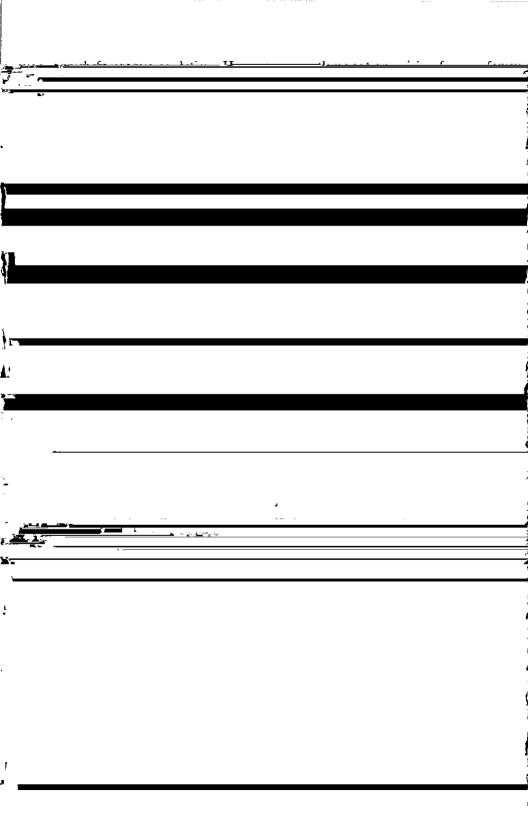


**CONCLUSION - EXPLAINING THE FAILURE** AND LEARNING FROM IT

Ministers' Conference. In terms of their outlook for the March FMC,

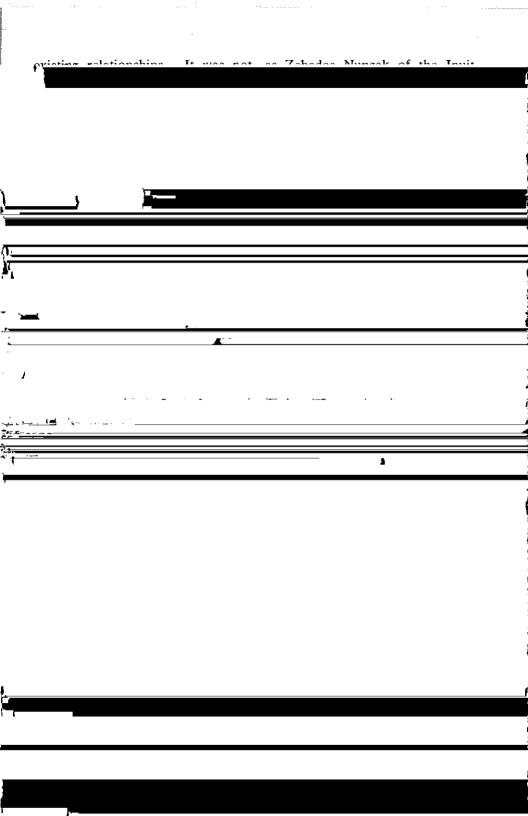
most participants were of the view that the parties to the negotiations

participants honeful regarding the outcome of the uncoming\_First



It is also the case that many of the government leaders had changed during the constitutional reform process. Compare, for example, the First Ministers' table of 1981 (the time of the patriation debate) with that of 1987 - Trudeau vs. Mulroney, Blakeney vs. Devine, Lougheed vs. Getty, and Levesque vs. Bourassa (who did not attend the March 1987

FMC). We have today a very different cast of characters and some, we would argue, do not share or feel bound by their predecessors' commitments to aboriginal peoples and constitutional reform. Nor were the aboriginal peoples' organizations at the table without



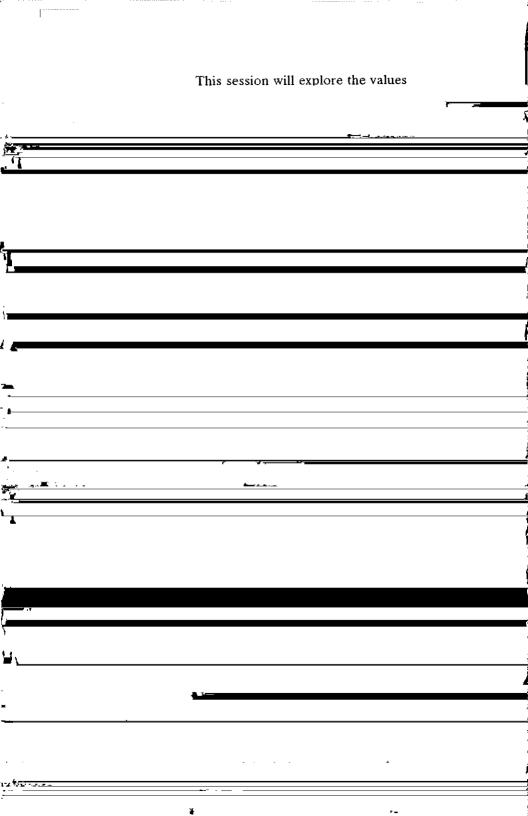
If we have learned a lesson from this exercise, it is that we need a new framework or lens through which to view aboriginal - non-aboriginal relations. We must look to fundamental values rather than arcane legalism. We must seek to remove a tie that does not belong, and that		
framework or lens through which to view aboriginal non-aboriginal relations. We must look to fundamental values rather than arcane legalism. We must seek to remove a tie that does not belong, and that		of self-government by aboriginal peoples, together with broad public
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back from the constitutional negotiations and examine, in a comprehensive fashion, the section 37 process and the "failure" of the March 1987 FMC. We need to explore the negotiation process, how it was structured and the issues that emerged, with a view to uncovering

# Appendix A Workshop Agenda



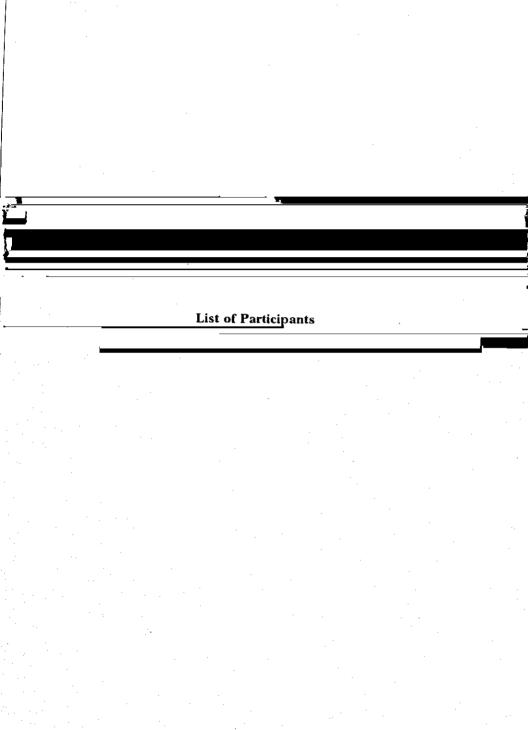
Workshop on "Issues in Entrenching Aboriginal Self-Government"

Monday, February 16

7-00 p m \_\_\_10-00 p m

**AGENDA** 

DISCUSSANTS: Ian Stewart, Queen's Rick Ponting, University of Calgary David Hawkes, Institute of Intergovernmental Relations This session will explore issues such as the



#### **PARTICIPANTS**

### PANELISTS & DISCUSSANTS

Ian Cowie Ian B Courie

Management Consultants

Billy Diamond

Chief Negotiator Federal Cree Negotiations on Implementation of James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

Vina Starr Barrister and Solicitor University of British Columbia Ian Stewart Department of Political Studies Queen's University John Whyte Faculty of Law Queen's University **PARTICIPANTS** Nigel Bankes Associate Professor of Law University of Calgary

Brian Bennett A/Director Self-Government Indian Affairs

Grand Chief Joseph Morton

Mohawk Council of Kahnawake

Norm Prelypchin Ministry of Attorney-General

Harvey Schachter Editorial Department The Whig Standard

Robert E. Simon Tribal Director Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

Kelly Speck
Queen's University

Sam Stevens

University of British Columbia

Inuit Committee on National Issues

Michael McGoldrick Consultant

Gary Mitchell

#### Ontario

Deborah Doxtator Ministry of Natural Resources

Linda Stevenson

Race Relations Division Ontario Human Rights Commission

Staff

David C. Hawkes Project Director

Pauline Hawkes Conference Coordinator

Peter Leslie Till and Alexander (Indication of the

Evelyn J. Peters

Bres de A

PHASE ONE Background Papers (second printing) Noel Lyon, Aboriginal Self-Government: Rights of Citizenship and

