

**Report on the implementation of the provisions of
the James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims
Settlement Act (1977, 25-26 Elizabeth II, C.32) :
(for the period ending March 31, 1980)**

/ John C. Munro

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Report on the Implementation of the Provisions of the
James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act
(1977, 25-26 Elizabeth II, C.32)

(For the period ending March 31, 1980)

Hon. John C. Munro
Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

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I. INTRODUCTION

The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, which was the first comprehensive claim settlement of its kind in Canadian history, came about because of the need to redefine in contemporary terms the relationship between the Cree and Inuit of Northern Quebec, the Government of Quebec, and the Government of Canada.

The Agreement rests on the premise, accepted by the native Parties and the Governments of Canada and Quebec, that it is through the management of their own affairs that native people will improve their social, economic and political condition and further strengthen their sense of cultural identity. The Agreement provides a detailed framework within which, through ongoing interaction, the native people and government can work towards realizing these goals.

By providing for the creation of various native legal entities, and a network of advisory bodies and committees, the Agreement has enabled the Cree and Inuit people of the James Bay Territory to assume a substantial degree of control over their own political, economic and cultural evolution.

Since the signing of the Agreement, November 11, 1975, there have been ongoing and intensive discussions and negotiations on the legislative and administrative actions required to implement the Agreement.

Although most of the legal entities and other bodies called for in the Agreement are now in place the implementation process will continue for some years to come.

The Agreement is complex and highly detailed and various sections are open to varying interpretations. As might be expected, there have been and probably will continue to be, disputes among the parties regarding the implementation process and the levels of funding required to meet the letter and, in the minds of the native people, the spirit of the Agreement. As indicated in the following pages, the implementation process, as far as Federal Government responsibilities are concerned, has been relatively smooth. However, while the Agreement has resulted in significant new benefits and opportunities for the Indian and Inuit people of the James Bay Territory, there have been pressures of late on Canada to accelerate funding, particularly in the areas of housing, community infrastructure, and airstrips.

II Supplementary Agreements

The ratifying Federal legislation, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Native Claims Settlement Act, (1977, 25-26 Elizabeth II, c.32) and Provincial legislation, an Act Approving the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, (S.Q. 1976, c.46) were proclaimed on October 31, 1977. The ratification of the Agreement made possible the conclusion of several supplementary agreements.

In early 1978, four Complementary Agreements were concluded. These Agreements amended, among other things, certain provisions of the

James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and made possible the Chisasibi Agreement which established the conditions for the relocation of Fort George.

In January 1978, Canada, Quebec, and the Naskapi Band of Schefferville signed the Northeastern Quebec Agreement. The Agreement forms the basis of a comprehensive settlement of the claims filed by the Naskapis. The terms of the Northeastern Quebec Agreement are almost exactly the same as those of the James Bay Agreement. In early 1980, Treasury Board approval was obtained for an expenditure of roughly \$5.5 million over the next three years to relocate the Schefferville Band of Naskapis.

III. The Federal Role in Implementation

Under the terms of the Agreement, Canada incurred a wide range of obligations to the Crees and the Inuit of Quebec. In addition to funding responsibilities Canada also agreed to provide technical assistance and to participate on a variety of mainly tripartite advisory bodies. The Agreement also specified that the usual Federal programs were to continue to apply to the James Bay Cree and Inuit on the same basis as to the other Indians and Inuit of Canada.

The Federal Government's responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Agreement was assigned to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as well as to other Federal departments such as Health and Welfare, Justice, Transport, Fisheries and Oceans, and Environment Canada. The Minister of Indian Affairs is responsible for the overall coordination of the implementation process (as well as specific programs) while the other Departments have responsibilities in their specific areas of concern.

The involvement of these various Federal Government Departments is reflected in the following pages which describe action taken and under way in the various spheres of activity covered by the Agreement.

A. Department of Indian Affairs

1. Local Government and Lands Administration

Pursuant to the commitment contained in Section 9.0.2 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement discussions have been taking place with Cree representatives since 1977 on the subject of local government and lands administration legislation for Category 1A lands. The Crees and Naskapis have agreed that this legislation should deal with both groups and the Naskapis have been participating in discussions on the proposed legislation.

Detailed proposals for legislation, upon which there is general agreement between the Crees, Naskapis and Canada, were approved by Cabinet in May 1980. Legislation is now being drafted by the Department of Justice and should be ready for presentation to Parliament in the near future.

2. Enrollment

Preparation of the official lists of persons entitled to the rights, privileges and benefits specified in the Agreement was the responsibility of the Enrollment Commission which was officially established on August 26, 1976. The Commission was established pursuant to the "Regulation respecting Eligibility for the Benefits of the Agreement concerning James Bay and Northern , Quebec" adopted under the Provincial Act approving the Agreement (S.Q. 1976, c.46). The Commission was composed of one representative each from the Governments of Canada and Quebec, the Grand Council of the Crees, and the Northern Quebec Inuit Association. A fifth member was appointed by the first four members.

The Commission worked in close cooperation with the twenty-three Local Enrollment Committees which were set up during the summer of

1976. These three-person Committees operated in each Cree and Inuit community with the exception of Povungnituk and Ivujivik which expressed their opposition to enrollment under the Agreement. A large segment of the population at Sugluk also originally opposed the Agreement but have since decided to participate in and take advantage of the benefits provided.

Between April 1, 1976 and November 30, 1977 the Commission held 48 meetings requiring 60 days. During this period close contact was maintained with the Quebec Department of Social Affairs and the designated coordinators for Canada and Quebec. In the summer of 1976 the Commission visited the Cree and Inuit communities and eligibility criteria were discussed, terms defined and enrollment procedures explained. The Cree Local Enrollment Committees had completed the initial enrollment by the end of July 76 and that of the Inuit was completed at the end of September 1976. The lists for Povungnituk and Ivujivik were prepared by the Enrollment Commission because it was not possible to obtain the cooperation of these committees in setting up Local Enrollment Committees.

Following newspaper and radio announcements and visits to locations outside the Territory where significant numbers of potential beneficiaries were thought to reside a further 305

applications were received. A total of 7037 Crees and 4918 Inuit had been enrolled as of July 1, 1977 following a review of the lists which was conducted in the spring. Lists were subsequently posted in the various communities of affiliation. In October 1977 persons living both in and outside the Territory, whose applications were not accepted were informed of the Commission's decision on their applications and their right to appeal. In November 1977 all official records and documents were transmitted to the Secretary General of the "Registre de la Population" of the Department of Social Affairs of Quebec.

Beneficiaries of the Agreement who are Registered Indians will continue to be registered under the Indian Act by the Registrar of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The expenditures of the Commission for the fiscal years 1976-77 and 1977-78 amounted to \$309,643.41 of which Canada paid one half, as specified in the Agreement.

3. Transfer of Cree Category 1A Lands

Under Section 5 of the Agreement the Crees received approximately 1,274 square miles which are designated Category 1A Lands. These are areas containing the Cree communities, and their

administration, management and control are within Canada's jurisdiction, with bare title being retained by the Province. The category 1A lands have been transferred to Canada for the use and benefit of the Cree bands according to preliminary territorial descriptions as of June 1, 1979 and will be transferred according to final territorial descriptions upon completion of detailed surveys. As a transitional measure pending passage of the special legislation required by S.9 of the Agreement and in accordance with the Agreement these lands are subject to the provisions of the Indian Act.

The final selection of Cree Category 1A lands and the planning of the surveying of the communities was undertaken by a tripartite committee (Cree-Canada-Quebec). The first contract to survey the communities was let in August 1976 and it is anticipated that all surveys of Category 1A lands will be finalized during the 1980-81 fiscal year. Funds allocated to this project by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for the fiscal years 1975-76 to 1980-81 total \$1,084,600. It is anticipated that an additional \$135,000 will be required in order to complete the surveys.

4. Nemaska Band Relocation

Under the terms of the Agreement, members of the Nemaska Band presently living in Rupert House and Mistassini had the opportunity to select Category 1A land west of Lake Champion which is 205 miles north of Matagami and 225 miles south of Fort George. This selection was dependent on at least 90 Band members opting to relocate on this land within five years of November 1975. Between 30 and 40 families, comprising a total of 205 persons, have indicated their intention to relocate. A plan for the development of a new community was developed by consultants retained by the Band Council and the Department. The plan envisages a total required expenditure of \$5,611,800 over the period 1979-80 to 1988-89.

The Department obtained Treasury Board approval for financial participation in the project (including housing, school, infrastructure and community buildings), in an amount of \$2,184,050 (1978 dollars), on March 29, 1979. In addition, eight homes are being built this year and work on infrastructures is planned for the coming year.

5. Fort George Relocation

As a result of an understanding between the Government of Quebec and the Cree on certain technical matters concerning the location of the LGL dam, it was decided to relocate the community of Fort George. The corporation contemplated in the Chisasibi Agreement to be responsible for the relocation of the community has been created and Canada is represented on its board of directors. Work is proceeding according to a schedule, which calls for the completion of the project by September 1981. The school and most of the residences at the new site will be occupied by September 1980. Construction of the hospital is expected to be completed by late fall 1980. Municipal services have been established.

Under the terms of the Chisasibi Agreement, Canada is contributing \$10 million and the James Bay Energy Corporation is contributing the balance of the \$50 million required for the project. Canada has paid \$10 million towards relocation costs.

6. Inuit Local Government

The Provincial legislation, (S.Q. 1978, c.87), which created the Kativik Regional Government, assigned powers to that body over the entire territory north of the 55th parallel on a number of matters. This legislation was proclaimed August 2, 1978 and the

Regional Government was established October 1, 1978. Kativik has also acted as the local government for all the Inuit settlements and will continue to administer contracts for the provision of water service, garbage collection and housing maintenance for those communities which have decided not to incorporate.

In 1979-80 the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development continued to apply its programs in the same way as it had done in the past. At the same time, however, it reduced its staff gradually so as to facilitate the taking over of the programs by the new Inuit municipalities under the province's guidance.

Negotiations are currently being conducted for an agreement respecting the transfer of DIAND properties and an operating budget; the purpose is to enable the province to develop, in conjunction with the Kativik Regional Government and the municipalities, the terms and conditions governing the implementation of the housing, municipal service, and electricity programs for the 1980-81 fiscal year as referred to in paragraph 29.0.40 of the Agreement.

7. Cree and Inuit Education

Prior to the coming into force of the Agreement educational services in the Territory were provided by the Department of

Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Provincial School Board of Nouveau Quebec. The Agreement created the Cree School Board and the Kativik School Board, both provincial legal entities, which assumed full responsibility on September 1, 1978. Two transitional years preceded the date upon which the two bodies took office. During 1976-77 school commissioners were elected and information sessions took place. Some of the senior staff required were recruited and the planning for the taking over of the administration of education services began.

During 1977-78 the Executive Committees of the two responsible bodies began functioning in line with the provisions of the Provincial Education Act. During the second transitional year the administration of the schools was the responsibility of tripartite committees composed of representatives of the Federal and Provincial governments and the respective native school boards. The elected commissioners and their control office staffs began to plan for the 1978-79 school year by submitting proposals on all aspects of educational administration to their respective tripartite committees.

The Federal Cultural/Educational Centres Program is administered by a Secretariat within the Indian and Inuit Affairs Program of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The Program aims at making the process of education meaningful and

relevant to Indian and Inuit people, and by so doing, stimulating a new sense of self-awareness and self-reliance among them. The programs offered by the Centres are based on native language and native culture and are intended to complement and supplement existing federal and provincial educational services. In consequence the Cultural/Educational Centres Program is continuing to accept and respond to requests for financial and other assistance to establish and operate centres to serve the Quebec Cree and Inuit on the same basis as requests from other Indian and Inuit groups.

8. Cree Policing Services

The Agreement allows for the formation of Cree Units of the Quebec Police Force as well as Cree Local Municipal Police Forces. In 1976 Cree constables from Great Whale River, Mistassini, Eastmain, Paint Hills, and Rupert House were trained at the Police Academy at Pointe-Bleue. Because of recruiting difficulties police service for Fort George was obtained through a federal-provincial cost-sharing agreement with the provincial Municipality of James Bay. This agreement expired in December 1977 following consultations between the Band and the Department on the Municipality's proposals for renewal.

In July 1977 the Quebec Amerindian Police Force came into being and the communities of Great Whale River, Mistassini, Rupert House and Waswanipi arranged to have services provided by that body. By late August 1978 ten Cree Peace Officers were employed in the Region. Great Whale River had a constable, Rupert House had a constable and three cadets and Mistassini had three constables and two cadets.

In December 1978, all the Cree communities withdrew from the Quebec Amerindian Police Force and opted for the creation of Cree Local Community Police Forces pursuant to sub-section 19.2 of the James Bay Agreement.

Negotiations concerning the question of cost-sharing are currently being held between the Quebec Department of Justice and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

9. Cree and Inuit Legal Entities

Under the terms of the Agreement the compensation paid to the Crees and the Inuit is to be received and administered by the two non-profit corporations established under special Acts of the Quebec Legislature. This legislation creating the Cree Regional Authority and the Makivik Corporation came into force on June 28, 1978. Canada was involved in discussions leading up to the drafting of the legislation.

In accordance with Section 26.0.8 of the Agreement, Canada has appointed one representative each to the Board of Compensation of the Cree Regional Authority, and to the Board of the Makivik Corporation. Both corporations have completed their initial organization work and are in the process of assuming roles contemplated for them in the Agreements and the Provincial legislation.

An area of primary concern for the two boards was the question of reaching an agreement with Canada with respect to the scheduling of the repayment of loans made to the Grand Council of the Crees of Quebec and the Northern Quebec Inuit Association for the purpose of supporting the claims negotiating process. During the years 1974 to 1977 the Federal Government made loans amounting to \$3,220,701 to the Crees and \$1,676,000 to the Inuit. An agreement was reached with the Cree Regional Authority to assume the obligations of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) and with respect to revised repayment schedules. As of December 31, 1979 the Crees had repaid \$1,221,526 of the loan made to them. Discussions are continuing with the Makivik Corporation with the view of concluding a similar loan repayment agreement.

10. Cree Tripartite Committee

The Cree Tripartite Committee was established in May 1978 and met on two subsequent occasions in 1978. Canada has 2 members on the 9 member Committee.

The Committee has dealt with areas such as economic and community development, and other programs related to the socio-economic development of the Cree people. Specific subjects discussed were: the Cree housing program, the Cree arts and crafts program, policing services, the transfer of control of programs and the role of the Cree Regional Authority in program administration.

The Cree Tripartite Committee has not met since 1978, however, a special tripartite committee was formed in 1979 to negotiate paragraph 28.16.1 of the James Bay Agreement which deals with access roads to Cree Communities. Three meetings were held during 1979 but no agreement has yet been reached.

11. Inuit Tripartite Committee

The Inuit Tripartite Committee was also constituted in May 1978 and met twice again before the end of that year. Two members of the six person committee represent Canada.

The committee's mandate is to coordinate Federal and Provincial programs applicable to the Inuit and to facilitate their transfer to the responsible Inuit agencies. Agenda items for this committee have included the funding of the Kativik Regional Government, Inuit housing programs, the provision of electricity and fuel, and airstrip construction.

The Inuit Tripartite Committee met only once in 1979. At that meeting, it discussed the transfer of the responsibility for administration of programs to the institutions created north of the 55th parallel, namely, the Kativik Regional Government and the northern villages, through the intermediary of the Quebec government.

The transfer of responsibilities and of the programs is to take place during 1980. Quebec will be responsible for supplying electricity to the Inuit communities at rates comparable to those existing in the south. It is in the process of developing a housing program for Arctic Quebec. Municipal programs and services will be turned over to the Kativik Regional Government and to the northern villages. The Inuit Tripartite Committee will need to be activated to oversee the orderly transfer of responsibilities and to assuage Inuit concerns about levels of funding and of services standards.

12. Economic and Social Development

a) The James Bay Native Development Corporation

The mandate of the James Bay Native Development Corporation is to promote the economic development of Cree communities in the

areas of tourism, arts and crafts, construction, transportation, forestry and other industries. The corporation, which is a subsidiary of the James Bay Development Corporation, a Quebec Crown Corporation, has received from the parent corporation \$2.25 million of a total of \$4 million which is to comprise its authorized capital. Two of the five members of the board of directors are nominated by the Cree Regional Authority. Canada is not involved with this corporation.

b) Trapping

The Cree Trappers' Association was incorporated in March 1978 following a positive feasibility study undertaken by Canada, Quebec and the Grand Council of the Crees. La Grande Complex Remedial Works Corporation is a Quebec Corporation formed to reduce the negative effects of dam construction and related works on Cree traditional activities. The Remedial Works Corporation, in 1978, provided the Trappers' Association with \$225,000 to fund a communications pilot project involving micro-wave and high frequency systems. Funding for the project was split between Canada (1/3) and Quebec (2/3). The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development facilitated an agreement which has improved the trappers' access to the Montreal fur auctions and reduced the rate of commission payable.

A Wild Fur Program proposal, prepared by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for review by a sub-committee of the Cree Tripartite Committee on Economic and Community Development is being discussed with the trappers of each community. The operational budget of the Association, which in 1977-78 was \$27,000, is shared equally by the Federal, Provincial and Cree governments.

The Cree Trappers' Association, in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Canada Employment and Immigration and the Cree School Board, intends to undertake the training of one person from each Cree community as a wildlife technician. It is intended that these persons, at the end of their training period, will be employed by the Association to be responsible for project implementation at the community level. No candidates have yet been found to undergo training.

c) Arts and Crafts

The development of arts and crafts is a responsibility that has been decentralized to Cree operated organizations.

In 1979-80 the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development contributed \$50,000 to the Crees for their use in this field.

d) Outfitting and Tourism

By the end of 1978 it had been agreed during tripartite discussions that the Cree Regional Government would conduct a survey of community opinion regarding outfitting and tourism before the feasibility study contemplated in the Agreement is commissioned.

One meeting was held in 1979 to discuss outfitting and tourism. The Crees agreed to gather all relevant information concerning their desire to develop this sector, but nothing has happened since then. It is probable, however, that the Crees' plans will be defined clearly during 1980.

e) Assistance to Cree Entrepreneurs

During the 1980-81 fiscal year the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development continues to make contributions and loans to various individual entrepreneurs, cooperatives, development corporations, and local communities as part of Canada's obligation to maintain ongoing economic development programs under the Agreement. This assistance is subject to the availability of funds at the time of the request.

13. Housing and Infrastructure

Though this is one of the ongoing Federal programs referred to on page 3 that continues to apply to the James Bay Cree "on the same basis as to other Indians of Canada", it deserves special mention in this report.

In May of 1979, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs signed a five-year agreement with the Cree Regional Authority and the Cree Housing Corporation through which planning and construction responsibilities were turned over to the Crees. The Department's role remains essentially one of funding and monitoring. The annual budget varies between \$3.5 million and \$4.0 million annually and reflects the Crees' proportionate share of the Quebec Region's capital budget. The Minister of Indian Affairs also guarantees housing loans from C.M.H.C.

While the 1979 Agreement provides for the Crees to put up some of their money on a repayable basis to accelerate construction, their first two years of experience have been marked by unattained objectives and cost over runs, attributable mainly to problems of planning, management, and transportation. These, coupled with community pressures for a more rapid delivery of services, have prompted the Cree Regional Authority to re-examine Cree investments and press for more Federal funding.

B. Department of National Health and Welfare

1. Health and Social Services

A Cree Health and Social Services Board was created in 1976 in accordance with the relevant Provincial Legislation governing health and social services. The Board is now administering the Fort George Hospital, the Eastmain and Fort George Health Centres, and the nursing stations at Paint Hills and Fort Rupert. The Department of National Health and Welfare and the Cree Board have made temporary arrangements for the Chibougamau Hospital to provide health services at the Mistassini Health Centre.

The Board, National Health and Welfare and the Quebec Department of Social Affairs are engaged in developing an agreement for the provision of services for the community of Povungnituk and the Indian population of Great Whale River (Poste-de-la-Baleine).

The Kativik Health and Social Services Council has also been created; however, the arrangements for the transfer of services and facilities from National Health and Welfare to the Council have not yet been finalized. Meanwhile the Department of Health and Welfare has continued to operate the facilities at Great Whale River, Inoucdjouac, Sugluk and Aklulivik. Also, as an interim measure, the Cree Health and Social Services Board has been

providing visiting physicians' services to the communities of Povungnituk and Great Whale River. The Quebec Government is providing health services in the Ungava Bay Area.

C. Department of the Environment

1. Traditional Activities and the Environment

In June 1977 the James Bay and Northern Quebec Office was created within Environment Canada to implement and administer, in cooperation with the Quebec government and the native people, regimes for the protection of the environment and the social milieu and conservation measures designed to assure the continuing viability of native resource harvesting activities.

These objectives required firstly the instituting of controls to minimize undesirable impacts on the native population, the land and the wildlife, and secondly the developing of review and evaluation procedures to reduce any negative effects of development activities. The protection of the native people and their rights under the Agreement with respect to hunting, fishing and trapping is the priority consideration.

The Agreement assigned responsibility for the implementation of the various regimes of environment protection to committees on all of which Canada, and Quebec and the native people are represented. The Advisory Committee for the area south of 55° began its work in 1977. The Committee for the area north of 55° became functional in March 1980. These committees' mandate includes advising the Governments concerned regarding the preparation of legislation and regulations and overseeing the administration of these regimes. Canada and Quebec share the cost of secretariats which in 1979-80 amounted to \$34,000.

In the case of the environmental and social impact assessment and review process, the committees contemplated for the area south of 55° are in place and have been working since fall 1978.

The hunting, fishing and trapping regime described in Section 24 of the Agreement allowed for the formation of a multipartite committee which is responsible for reviewing, managing and in certain cases supervising and regulating the regime. Canada, Quebec, the Crees, the Inuit and the Naskapis have all nominated members to this committee which has been functional since the signing of the Agreement.

The budget allocated by Environment Canada to its James Bay and Northern Quebec Office in 1979-80 amounted to \$349,300.

2. Migratory Birds

Under the Agreement Canada undertook to take all reasonable measures to seek the consent of the United States Government with respect to proposed modifications to the Migratory Birds Convention. The intent was that Canada might establish seasons for the taking of migratory birds during periods in which this is currently prohibited in order to ensure compatibility with the hunting, fishing and trapping regime established by the Agreement. On January 31, 1979, the then Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Len Marchand and the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus, jointly signed a protocol to amend the Migratory Birds Convention. Although the protocol must still be ratified by the U.S. Senate, when this occurs Canada will be in a legal position to amend the Migratory Birds Convention Act as it relates to hunting by Indians and Inuit.

D. Secretary of State

1. Friendship Centres

The Secretary of State Department's Migrating Native Peoples' Program was first established in 1972 to assist native people who,

for whatever reason, found themselves having to adjust to the Canadian mainstream society. The fact that this program is referred to specifically in the Agreement attests to the value placed on it by the Cree people of the James Bay area.

In April 1978 an expanded version of the program, approved earlier by the Federal Government, came into force. Subject to annual parliamentary approval of funding, the new program will run until March 1983. The program's basic aims are to encourage and assist the effective inclusion of migrating native people in the social and cultural fabric of the community; to seek greater understanding by the community at large of native cultural and social values; and to seek community support to address problems of migrating native people.

Support is provided to the Centres in the areas of core funding, capital funding and training funds. The National Association of Friendship Centres, the coordinating body, also receives direct funding. In the 1979-80 fiscal year the following funds were provided to Centres in the Province of Quebec:

	Core <u>Funds</u>	Capital <u>Funds</u>	Training <u>Funds</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Val D'Or	62,500	39,500(1)	1,698	103,698
Chibougamau	62,500	-	1,701	64,201
La Tuque	59,000	-	1,700	60,700
Montreal	<u>78,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u>79,701</u>
Totals	262,000	39,500	6,800	308,300

- (1) Total Capital grant was \$89,500, paid over two years:
1978-79 - \$50,000; 1979-80 - \$39,500.

E. Department of Transport

1. Construction of airstrips in Northern Quebec

In 1978 a meeting was held between the Northern Quebec Inuit Association, Transport Canada and the Province of Quebec to discuss the construction of airstrips. At that time it was agreed that the Government of Quebec would be responsible for the actual construction and Transport Canada would provide financial assistance. Although Quebec at first declined to provide

financial assistance it recently agreed to allocate \$300,000 in 1980-81 for this purpose. Transport Canada agreed to provide \$100,000 per strip but due to rising construction costs this figure is under review and may be increased. It is anticipated that the first strips will be located at Povungnituk and Ivujivik. Airstrip construction to a standard found in the N.W.T. is of high priority to the Inuit.

F. Department of Justice

1. Native Courtworker Services

The Federal Department of Justice, under the terms of a 1979 Canada-Quebec cost sharing agreement, contributed to providing the services of native courtworkers to native people living in the James Bay area.

IV Conclusion

The Government of Canada, through the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, remains strongly committed to ensuring that all provisions of the Agreement for which it is responsible, are implemented as quickly as possible and in the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect on which the Agreement is based.