
RESPONSES

**Re: Athabasca Denesuline Special Report on the Treaty Harvesting Rights
of the Fond du Lac, Black Lake, and Hatchet Lake First Nations
Ronald A. Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to
Daniel Bellegarde and P.E. James Prentice, Co-Chairs, Indian Claims
Commission, January 17, 1996
203**

**Re: Sumas Inquiry: Indian Reserve No. 6 Railway Right of Way Claim
Ronald A. Irwin, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development,
to Daniel Bellegarde and James Prentice, Indian Claims Commission,
December 20, 1995
205**

RESPONSE TO ATHABASCA DENESULINE SPECIAL REPORT

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

JAN 17 1996

Mr. Daniel Bellegarde
Mr. P.E. James Prentice
Co-Chairs
Indian Claims Commission
427 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 400
OTTAWA ON K1P 1A2

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of November 30, 1995 enclosing your Special Report on Treaty Harvesting Rights of the Athabasca Denesuline.

This information will certainly be useful in the review of the Athabasca Denesuline claim to treaty harvesting rights that the Department of Justice has agreed to undertake.

I have, as yet, received no word from counsel at the Department of Justice as to when the review of past opinions on this subject may occur. I will be sure to keep you informed on the matter as developments arise.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Irwin".

Ronald A. Irwin, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Allan Rock, P.C., M.P.

Canada

RESPONSE TO SUMAS INQUIRY

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

DEC 20 1995

Mr. Daniel Bellegarde
Mr. James Prentice
Indian Claims Commission
P.O. Box 1750, Station B
OTTAWA ON K1P 1A2

Dear Messrs. Bellegarde and Prentice:

My officials and those from the Department of Justice have reviewed the Commission's report regarding the Sumas Indian Reserve No. 6 specific claim.

The issues raised in the report are currently before the courts in several railway actions, including the *Mathias* case.

In light of the fact that these complex legal issues are before the courts in well advanced litigation involving other parties and given the ramifications that a decision on these issues may have for other First Nations and third parties, the Government of Canada is of the view that judicial guidance is appropriate prior to substantively responding to your recommendations. Once the courts provide some direction with respect to these issues, Canada will be pleased to consider your recommendations further.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Irwin".

Ronald A. Irwin, P.C., M.P.

Canada
