

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

In 1982, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development was given overall responsibility for co-ordinating all federal government activities related to implementation of both the JBNQA and the NEQA. To ensure that the federal government's obligations were met, the Department established the Quebec Claims Secretariat in February 1984. This organization later became known as the Northern Quebec Claims Implementation Secretariat. In 1986, the Department's Negotiations and Implementation Directorate at Headquarters assumed the responsibilities of the Northern Quebec Claims Implementation Secretariat, a situation which continued until the early 1990s. The James Bay Implementation Office then assumed these responsibilities.

Since the signing of the JBNQA and NEQA and the passing of legislation which established the Cree and Naskapi local administrations and regional government for Inuit communities, INAC's role has evolved from that of being a direct service provider to that of negotiator of financial agreements such that these communities could deliver their own programs. The Department still provides technical expertise in many areas and participates in the land and environmental management regimes covered by the agreements.

James Bay Implementation Office

The James Bay Implementation Office (JBIO) was created in November 1990 after the federal government signed implementation agreements with the Inuit and the Naskapi Band of Quebec. The JBIO is part of the Implementation Branch (Claims and Indian Government) of INAC and is located in Hull, Quebec.

Mandate

The JBIO's responsibilities include:

- managing the implementation of the JBNQA and the NEQA, including their respective implementation agreements;
- maintaining relations between the Government of Canada and the signatories of the agreements such that negotiations are conducted in a positive and open atmosphere;
- co-ordinating and monitoring all federal government activities in regards to the implementation of the JBNQA and NEQA;
- ensuring that beneficiaries have access to all federal government initiatives and programs;
- implementing the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*; and
- preparing and submitting for tabling in Parliament an annual report regarding the implementation of the JBNQA and NEQA.