

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS COALITION



Council of Yukon First Nations
Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)
Gwich'in Tribal Council
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Makivik Corporation
Naskapi Nation of Kawawachikamach

Nisga'a Nation
Nunatsiavut Government
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Tlicho Government

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For Immediate Release

LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS COALITION WELCOMES SENATE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

(MAY 21, 2008, OTTAWA ONTARIO) The Land Claims Agreements Coalition today welcomed the interim report by the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples" entitled "Honouring the Spirit of Modern Treaties: Closing the Loopholes". The report is a study of the implementation of the comprehensive land claims agreements and was adopted by the Senate Committee after an extensive set of hearings drawing in witnesses from a variety of places, including the Office of the Auditor General, federal departments, and Aboriginal organizations and governments. A copy of the report can be obtained at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/39/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/com-e/abor-e/rep-e/rep05may08-e.pdf>.

On behalf of the Coalition, Co-Chair Nelson Leeson, President of the Nisga'a Nation said, "We are very encouraged by the overall substance of the Senate Committee's Report. The recommendations outlined in the Report are consistent with the principles of treaty implementation that the Land Claims Agreements Coalition has endorsed and advocated for a number of years. We are pleased that the Committee has recognized the problems that we have been facing with the implementation of our agreements."

Coalition Co-Chair James Eetoolook, Acting President of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, added "We are very pleased that the Senate Committee has prepared this insightful and constructive report. It has important recommendations for the government to move forward, and will be a significant building block in developing a more successful approach to implementing modern treaties."

The Land Claims Agreements Coalition represents signatories to modern treaties (land claims and self government agreements) in northern Canada from British Columbia to Labrador. Established in 2003, Coalition members work together to ensure that comprehensive land claims and associated self-government agreements are respected, honoured and fully implemented in order to achieve their objectives.

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