



Patsy Bonspille

February 8, 2005

The Honourable Andy Scott, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-status Indians
Terrasses de la Chaudiere, 21st floor
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec
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Subject: Niocan Mining Project in Oka, Quebec

After having attended all the BAPE (Bureau d'audience publiques sur l'environnement) hearings in Oka, regarding the potentially adverse effects from the proposed mining project during the week of January 17th 2005, I couldn't help but notice that there was nobody present from the Department of Indian Affairs sitting on the panel.

I find it disturbing, to say the least, that INAC is *not* involved considering that the proposed mining site falls within the parameters of our land claim. The site in question was purchased from the city of Oka for \$200,000. Since the 1990 Oka Crisis, I was under the impression that any third party acquisitions of land within our land claim would be negotiated as per the 1991 Agenda and Process for Negotiations. Ironically, the other property that touches upon the Niocan project is the Abbey with some 600 acres of agricultural land, and this too is apparently for sale.

I would like to know Indian Affairs' position on the Niocan project considering it is within the parameters of our land claims and why Indian Affairs was not present for the BAPE hearings.

Yours sincerely,

Patsy Bonspille

Cc Mr. Jim Prentice, M.P., critic for Indian Affairs
Mr. Bernard Cleary, M.P., critic for Indian Affairs
Mr. Andre Harvey, BAPE
Mr. Joseph Zayed, BAPE
Mr. Andre Cote, Regional Director for Indian Affairs
Mr. Alain Picard, CBC Canada
Mr. Kenneth Deer, Eastern Door
Mr. Ghislain Picard, Assembly of First Nations Quebec and Labrador, Regional Chief