

Adjournment Debate

	Area A	Area A & B	Area A, B & C
McElhanney Surveying & Engineering Ltd. Vancouver, B.C.	91,205.00	324,031.00	352,556.00
Underhill & Underhill Vancouver, B.C.	143,169.00	221,164.05	273,698.00

For the benefit of hon. members I will read the figures out for the six firms for area A, B and C: Marshall, Macklin Monaghan Ltd., \$161,418; Burnett Resources Surveying Ltd.,—

Mr. Fraser: Where is that firm?

Mr. Reid: The first was Don Mills, Ontario, and the second is Burnett Resource Surveys Ltd., Burnaby, B.C., \$307,944; Canadian Engineering Survey Co. Ltd., Edmonton, Alberta, \$328,931; J. A. Smith & Associates, Calgary, Alberta, \$388,630.50; McElhanney Surveying & Engineering Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., \$352,556; and Underhill & Underhill, Vancouver, B.C., \$273,698.

Each proposal was evaluated by a team of officers from the Departments of Energy, Mines and Resources and Supply and Services, using a weighted point rating system. The proposal selected was considered technically acceptable, and was also the lowest in cost.

While it was clearly indicated that submissions were to be based on ideal weather conditions, the Crown recognized that it would have to absorb the downtime costs associated with poor weather conditions. This contingency has been set at \$38,582 to raise the value of the contract to the maximum financial limitations provided for the project by the customer department, which will have an on-site project inspector.

With regard to the purchasing policy of the Department of Supply and Services, it should be stated at this time that when the final point of use for a product is in the western or in the Atlantic provinces, purchases will be made from suppliers in those regions provided that—

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. parliamentary secretary but his allotted time has expired.

Mr. Reid: Perhaps there might be consent to my finishing the sentence.

Mr. Fraser: Madam Speaker, I would ask hon. members to agree, as this is an important matter to the west coast.

Mr. Reid: May I just go back and start it again. Purchases will be made from suppliers in these regions provided that total PROC cost, that is product, resource, operating and contingent cost to the government cannot be reduced by using alternative Canadian sources.

INDIAN AFFAIRS—SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF CIRCULARS CONTAINING GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNTIL NATIVE LEADERS CONSULTED

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Madam Speaker, I am sorry to note that the Minister of Indian

Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Buchanan) is not here this evening during the time I intend to pursue a question of policy of his department which is of extreme importance to all native people in Canada.

I have asked for this time to address the House and to put some further questions to the ministry, but in this case I suppose it will be to whomever it is that is representing this department. I do so because I feel that by implementing the program circulars the minister's department is taking a giant step backwards in its relationship with Indian people. Because of the time limitation I will only be able to touch on a very few of the questions that arise from the implementation of these circulars. I say this so that you, Madam Speaker, and the other members of this House will understand that, when I limit my remarks to those circulars dealing with local government, I am not sanctioning the rest.

The circulars dealing with local government are labelled D-1 to D-5. As the minister indicated in the House yesterday, they outline accounting practices which the bands must use as part of their administration of public money. The circulars add a few new terms to the language of Indian self-government, and they are "local government authority" and "district councils". These two terms are defined in such a way as to include traditional band councils, but they also allow for the creation of other units separate from the councils.

Local government authorities are to be incorporated as legal entities for the purpose of signing contracts and entering into agreements. Band councils, as they are now, do not have this legal status, and it would require a great deal of change in the law for them to acquire it. This has frightening implications for the Indian people and for their elected representatives, the chiefs and band councils, on the reserves and in the villages in the north.

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The first step is to have the local governmental authorities incorporated. The next step is to transfer or delegate the traditional power of the chiefs and councils to the local government authority. The minister has a number of tools at his disposal which he can use to make sure the councils transfer their duties to other administrative units. By withholding all program dollars until the chiefs accept the circulars, the minister is now using one of the most effective of those tools. Some call it financial coercion; others call it extortion.

Once the chiefs and band councils are out of the way the minister will have a new level of bureaucracy which will be that much easier to deal with because there will be no need to go through the niceties of elections. He will have taken control of programs and will have brought them closer to the inner circle of his department, thus making it