

Lubicon Cree Band



Chief Bernard Ominayak

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Alberta Native ffered to give the ght. The condi- e publicity while g down as pre-

Loughheed, the y'd give the 25 id would drop all

its charges against the province and accept it as a final settlement," he said.

After a year and a half of studying the case and spending time with the band, Fulton came forward with his report which supported many of the band's claims.

But the government was not pleased by the Fulton Discussion Paper and did not release it to the public. "Fulton was kicked out for his report," said O'Reilly. "And they don't want to re-involve him."

The band sees some drawbacks in the report, but they still feel that if any negotiations are going to take place then they would like to see Fulton play a significant role.

"The federal government has always been setting us up to make us look unreasonable," said Ominayak. "Mr. Fulton spent a lot of time with us... he kept it honest and on track."

Since the presentoin of the Fulton report, William McKnight has become Indian Affairs Minister. He has appointed another negotiator, lawyer Brian Malone. "They shuffled the cabinet and so when a new minister comes

cization of museums."

Wright-McLeod does. "The whole cosmology of our spirituality is contained in those objects — for the museum to come along and say it isn't political is a bunch of bullshit."

While the Glenbow Museum may deny its political involvement, the Canadian government has taken a stand on the issue.

"The department of External Affairs has been supporting the Glenbow and is putting pressure on foreign museums to donate but many have joined the boycott in spite of this pressure," said McGill professor Bruce Trigger. He resigned as curator of the McCord Museum at McGill after the board of directors decided not to boycott the exhibit.

The Lubicon Cree have taken their case to the United Nations human rights committee. In July 1987, the committee decided that the State party (Canada)... (must) take interim measures to avoid irreparable damage to Chief Ominayak and other members of the Lubicon Lake band."

"The U.N. gave a stern warning to Canada that it can no longer push Native issues under the carpet," said O'Reilly. "The U.N. told Canada to take immediate measures — Canada, as usual did nothing."

The future of the Lubicon Cree still remains uncertain. "We're all at a crossroad when we look at what technology has done and continues to do without thought, heart or soul," said Wright-McLeod.

"There isn't one indigenous person on the earth that isn't facing dramatic changes created by people who make changes but don't feel they have to answer to them," he says.

For Ominayak, "The future's hard to predict—it depends on the amount of pressure. You can't let up. One of the reasons I'm still in it is because I have 100 per cent support from my people. I never hear at any of our community meetings to give up — it's full steam ahead."

"It's going to take real confrontation and it's leading up to that. Various bands have already made a commitment to support us — if we're going to go, we want to go down fighting."

Still, he maintains that public pressure is perhaps their strongest ally. "Any kind of support we can get is very important because that's what we're dependent upon — it's the only thing that's keeping them off our back."

But the Lubicon Cree's most dangerous enemy, next to the governments, the courts and the oil companies, is time. Said Ominayak, "If it takes too much longer our people are going to lose even if we win."

The Lubicon Cree have taken their case to the United Nations human rights committee.

in he has to learn everything all over again. The whole idea of shuffling the cabinet is part of the waiting game," said Wright-McLeod.

The Lubicon have taken their case to the public through a boycott of the Calgary Olympic Games this winter. "We've got multinationals taking all our resources — these are the same people organizing the Calgary games... that's why we went ahead with the boycott," says Ominayak.

The band has focused their energy toward boycotting the Glenbow Museum's exhibit *The Spirit Sings*, featured during the games and sponsored by the Alberta government and Shell Oil, one of the companies drilling the disputed area.

Duncan Cameron, director of the Glenbow said in an interview on CBC Sunday Morning Radio Program, "I don't believe in the politi-

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