federal government would not involve itself in these matters if the other concerned jurisdictions are able to sort out their differences. This will probably make it certain that they will come to an accommodation, which is the best way as long as the environment is not compromised.

There are four distinct categories of aboriginal lands affected by this provision. These are: reserve lands, settlement lands set out in a comprehensive land claims agreement, lands set aside pursuant to self-government legislation, and lands in respect of which Indians have interests. These categories are quite straightforward, with the exception of the last one: lands in respect of which Indians have interests. This represents one of the most significant departures from the conventional, much criticized government view of Indian interests.

The government has taken a bold step in identifying in law the following four categories of land to which this is to apply. First, land areas subject to a comprehensive land claim accepted by the Government of Canada for negotiation under its comprehensive land claims policy; second, land identified and agreed in respect of specific claims or a treaty land entitlement; third, settlement lands in a comprehensive land claims agreement; and, fourth, lands set aside for the use of Indians pursuant to self-government legislation.

Unquestionably aboriginal people themselves, while supportive of these steps, will wish to see further explicit recognition of their rights to land use in certain circumstances. I am confident that the government will continue its discussions and investigations in this direction during the coming months.

As we can see, the relationship of this bill to the interests of aboriginal people is multifaceted and, for the first time, addressed rather boldly. We still have much to do in this area, but we are on track and confident the track will lead us to a mutually acceptable destination.

I would like to conclude by delving in somewhat more detail into the very innovative and important area of trans-border assessments, which I have just explored as it relates to the interests of first nations people. I believe members should be more aware of the detailed provisions of this key component of Bill C-78.

By providing for the assessment of trans-border environmental effects, Bill C-78 takes environmental assessment in Canada one giant step forward. The present guidelines order is silent on the issue of adverse environmental effects which traverse interprovincial and international borders causing harm outside the jurisdiction of their sources.

This silence produces confusion and consequently inaction. Bill C-78 ends the confusion, uncertainty, and inaction by outlining clearly the steps that might be taken in dealing with serious adverse environmental effects which cross jurisdictional borders, whether those borders are interprovincial or international or simply between lands in which Indians have interests and surrounding Crown or privately owned lands.

In each instance, before undertaking an assessment of such environmental effects, the federal government will give notice of its intention to establish a review panel to all interested parties so that they may participate in the process.

Where serious adverse environmental effects resulting from projects in Canada threaten other countries, the Minister of Environment and the Secretary of State for External Affairs together will establish a review panel to conduct an assessment. The review panel established will in most cases be one established jointly with the foreign country affected and any provinces affected.

In keeping with its promise made to the provinces during consultations on this proposed legislation, the federal government will not exercise its jurisdiction to establish a review panel to conduct an assessment of the serious adverse trans-border environmental effects of a project if he has reached an agreement with the governments of the affected provinces on another manner of assessing those environmental effects.

It is very likely that in most cases alternative methods of assessing extraprovincial environmental effects will be worked out between the federal and provincial governments through administrative agreements which are provided for in paragraph 54(1)(d) of the proposed legislation. In any event, the review panel established in these circumstances is likely to be a panel established jointly with the interested province or provinces.