

Province to cut 300-500 teachers

by Kathy O'Brien

Education Minister Maynard MacAskill announced earlier this week that his department will reduce its cost sharing on the number of teachers employed in the province. This will mean a cutback of 300 to 500 teachers from the provincial education system in the coming school year and will result in the government saving about 3 million dollars. Currently there are approximately 11,500 teachers employed by the province.

Dr. MacAskill said that most provincial school boards now employ more teachers than required by education regulations, and that school enrollments have dropped.

He further stated that there will be additional reductions in school personnel as the enrollment continues to decrease.

Recent demographic studies show that enrollment in elementary schools has declined across the country since 1970 and will continue to decrease until the early 1980s. Secondary school enrollment is expected to peak in 1976 and then steadily decline until the turn of the century. However, university graduates are expected to increase by 13 to 14 percent over the next five or six years as the last progeny of the post-war "baby boom" leave the post secondary

education system.

Enrollment in the schools will not begin to increase until the mid-1980s when offspring of the original "baby boom" generation will begin to reach the elementary schools. However, projections for the 1990s indicate an enrollment increase of 40 percent, with more students than ever enrolled in the schools across the country.

The annual attrition of over 800 teacher retirements and resignations should make easier the cutbacks of the 300 to 500 teaching positions in the province. The move should not mean the firing of teachers but rather a cutback in

programs and a raising of student-teacher ratios in certain areas. It will also mean that there will be far fewer positions open for graduating Education students. Minister MacAskill stated there may have to be a review of future enrollments by all institutions involved in teacher education. He cited the enrollment limits placed on the provincially-operated Nova Scotia Teacher's College as a case in point.

There are currently 269 full-time students in the Education program at Dalhousie. Enrollment in the program has remained relatively stable over the past five years, although there have been slight increases since 1973. However, enrollments at other provincial teacher education institutions have increased more sharply.

Despite this, Professor J. Roald and Eric Ricker of Dalhousie's Education department do not foresee any limits being placed on this university's education program. In an interview Professor Ricker claimed that the department could not respond to short-term demographic changes by keying down departmental operations due to the expense involved in such a move. However, he added that there would certainly be no expansion of existing facilities.

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Whitemen tricked Indians

by Brian P. Duggan

Room 115 of the Weldon Law Building was the setting for a forum on Native Land Claims held on Wednesday March 10, 1976. Representatives from the Native peoples in the North were present as well as MicMac Indians from Nova Scotia.

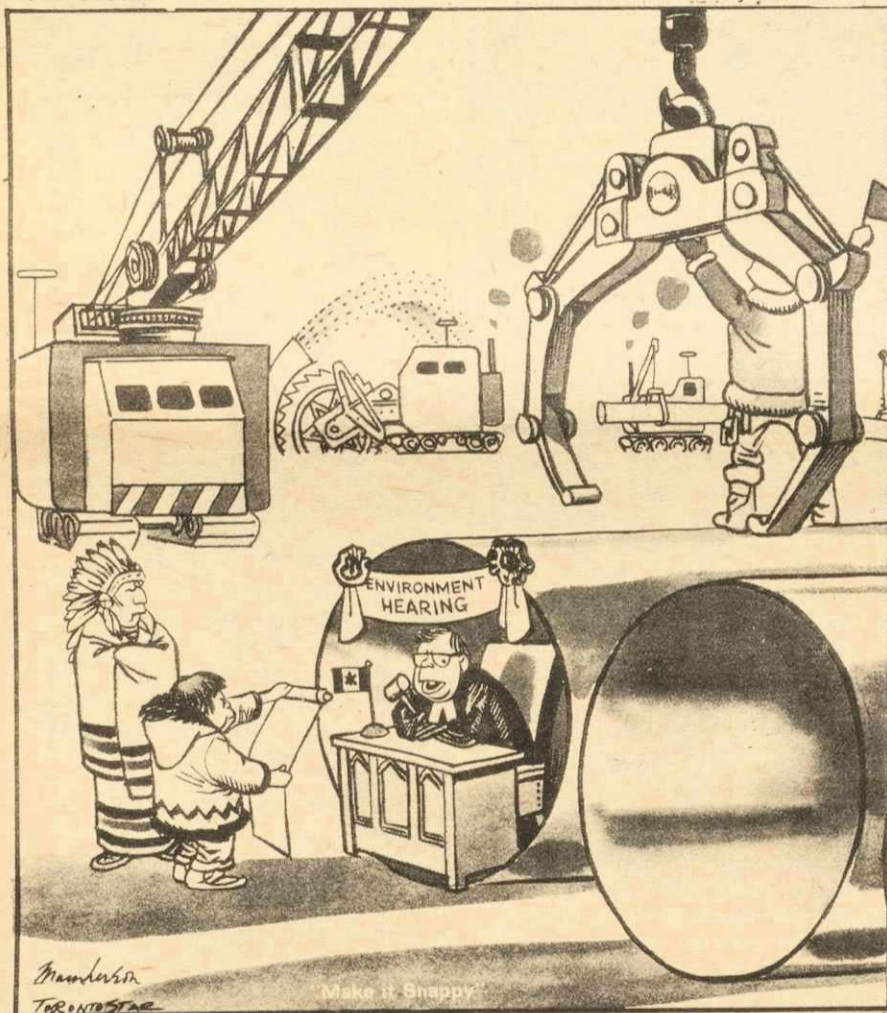
Eskimo, who live above the tree line. Both of these groups have for many years been preparing reports to present to the Federal Government concerning the use of the land that they live on.

The Dene people number 17,000 and they are represented in the Federal Government by a Council-

Territories do not want this to happen to their environment. What they want is some input into the type and amount of development that takes place on their land.

The feeling that I got out of this meeting was one of frustration on behalf of the Native people. There I was sitting in the same room with a group of people that my government for many years did not even think about until valuable resources were discovered in the North. I am sure that if oil was not discovered in the Territories the government would have just sent along the welfare cheques and talked about how much they are helping the Native peoples.

The land claims situation now stands as one where the Dene and Inuit people are being rushed into submitting reports concerning development. The government reaction to these reports will tell us whether the government really means it when they talk about helping the Native people. The question that remains to be answered is: Who will be helped—the Native people or the developers?



The opening address was given by a MicMac Indian, who spoke on the history of Indian-white man relations in Nova Scotia. The main point in his speech was how the white people of Nova Scotia had taken the land from the Indians through trickery. He expressed the opinion that the white Nova Scotians owe the MicMacs 300 years back rent.

Communication was noted as the major problem in the linkage between the Indian and the white settlers. The Indians did not have any say in what was happening in the Province. The result was, as we all know, the white man taking over the land and eventually through many treaties limiting the Indians to small reserves. The MicMac Indians are going to present a claim to the Government of Nova Scotia in which they claim all of Nova Scotia as land which is rightfully theirs.

The representatives from the North West Territories attended the meeting as part of a cross country tour to seek support for their land claims. Two groups were represented, the Dene Indians who live below the tree line, and the Inuit of

lor. They have no input into the decision making process at this time thus they have very little political power. Essentially the claims of these people are only an appeal for some input into what type of development takes place in the area. The development that takes place must have some benefits for the Natives. Money is not what the Dene want, they will not accept a deal like the James Bay ripoff. The Dene want control of the resources that are under their land.

The Inuit people were represented by a young lawyer who was a member of their Association. He expressed the point that the Inuit people were dependent on the land or the tundra that they live on. They are basically a people who live subsistence lives. They hunt, trap and fish. In the Summer they follow the herds of animals that are necessary for their livelihood. The main concern of these people is that these animals and their environment are not disrupted. Developments such as the MacKenzie Valley Pipe Line have disrupted the wildlife and environment of the Yukon. The Inuit of the Northwest

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