

The payment in terms of the specific claim includes \$26.6 million and the transfer of 4,969 hectares of land outside the park. It also establishes what I consider to be a very important intergovernment instrument, which is a wildlife advisory board, which will provide for the permanent establishment of a board with four members appointed by the Cree Band, three by the Minister of the Environment with the superintendent of the parks sitting as an *ex officio* non-voting member. That board will establish a permit system for hunting, trapping, fishing of all various species to monitor any harvesting that goes on within about one-fifth of the park, an area of 8,869 square kilometres of the 44,800 square kilometres of the park.

Therefore, there will be an area within the park that has been recognized as the traditional hunting ground of these aboriginal people. This wildlife management board will have a process for identifying sustainable harvest levels of species that have been traditionally harvested. There will be an identified, designated membership of Cree hunters, trappers and fishers who will be operating within that area. This board will manage this traditional harvesting in a sustainable fashion within the largest of Canada's national parks systems. It is something that I think has encouraged debate among many conservation and wildlife groups in this country. I think it is now well enough understood that this nation was founded on three nations: the aboriginal people, who were the original occupants of Canada; the French; and the English. It is that ultimate recognition which is now recognized constitutionally that is being recognized in part through the legislation we are dealing with today.

• (1040)

I understand there have been both consultations and discussions with Fort Chipewyan and with the Cree. They not only support what has happened in terms of the specific land claim which occurred almost six years ago but also the legislation that we have today, which is to implement the wildlife management board, the territory that it will include, the permitting structure and the excise of this particular reserve land.

Within the schedules of this legislation one finds the description of the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago. In my

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consultations with officials and the parliamentary secretary this morning, I understand that this is the precise restatement of the designation and definition of lands in what is now often referred to as South Moresby, but now legislatively will be referred to as the Gwaii Haanas Archipelago. It is what is found in the 1987 agreement struck between the three nations almost five years ago and is therefore for legal purposes not to change any boundaries, so there should not be any concern that this legislation in schedule VI is in any way to add to or to subtract from what was agreed to after a very long and protracted and thankfully happy debate of many years ago.

My colleague from LaSalle—Émard touch on one other point that I think is worthy of the attention of the House today because of the way it occurred yesterday. That is in relation to the panel decision on the Oldman dam. This has been an extraordinarily long and hard fought environmental issue that has probably attracted the greatest focus other than the *Grande Baleine* project in the province of Quebec.

The issues are ones that are deeply felt in Alberta and in fact all across the country. A very small group of Albertans principally took this matter all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. On January 23 of this year there was a unanimous ruling on most points from the highest court in Canada that there is an affirmative regulatory duty of federal ministers of the Crown in relation to projects such as the Oldman River dam and in particular, is binding on the Minister of Transport in his role with the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

In four months the Minister of Transport never lived up to the orders of the Supreme Court of Canada. Yesterday, regrettably, after the long awaited court ordered panel review of the Oldman River Dam, in the secrecy and darkness of the offices of the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Transport they made a secretive decision to reject the conclusion reached by the expert panel, which is to decommission the dam.

Regrettably, I think the decision made by the ministers in secrecy yesterday, without ever letting the public see the panel report, will be the undoing of environmental assessment and Bill C-13 as it was passed and as it is presently before the other place.