

We would have exclusive jurisdiction over certain areas, shared jurisdiction in regard to environment and other resources, and a way of dealing with the federal government and provincial government as equals. That doesn't mean our resources would be equal or our jurisdiction would be equal, but. . . you don't assume that you have the right to make decisions for me. . .

When I say exclusivity, don't interpret that as balkanization or somehow isolation. . .

. . . I look forward, when the aboriginal title grievance is negotiated to our satisfaction in the Kwakwaka'wakw-speaking area, to having a relationship to the municipal corporations within our jurisdictions, to the regional district, especially in terms of sewage, infrastructure and environmental considerations, a relationship to the provincial government that's clearly defined, and a relationship to the country that is defined by our negotiations. It is as huge as that.³⁰

2.25 The Committee recognizes that there are differences in the approach to aboriginal self-government, and its linkage to land claims, among the main aboriginal groups in Canada. The Committee also understands that, in addition to self-government within aboriginal lands, the aboriginal groups see a need to share in the management of those environmental elements that affect them but extend far beyond the limits of these lands (e.g. wildlife management or the control of sources of air pollution affecting aboriginal lands). It is clear to the Committee, as it is also clear to the aboriginal organizations that appeared as witnesses, that the development of appropriate partnerships and management systems will be neither easy nor swift. It is also clear, however, that a principal objective of these organizations is sustainable development, for Canada as well as for areas of aboriginal self-government in Canada. The Committee believes that the achievement of aboriginal self-government could provide a significant opportunity for progress towards environmental protection and sustainable development in Canada.

Recommendation 5:

The Committee recommends that aboriginal self-government be regarded as an opportunity and an obligation to pursue the protection of the environment and the adoption of sustainable development patterns.

2.26 If effective environmental partnerships are to be developed, they must clearly include municipal governments, which so often represent the "front-line" of environmental action—in air pollution control, solid waste reduction, sewage treatment and many other tasks. The Mayor of Toronto expressed the need for an altered and improved relationship with the senior levels of government to enable partnership and cooperation on the environment.

Local governments would love to talk to the federal government, would love to talk to the federal and provincial governments around a table, but it has been a no-no for some time now. . .

³⁰ Issue 13, pp. 18, 25.