

THE INUIT TAPIRISAT OF CANADA

The Inuit Tapirisat represents 27,000 Inuit living in 65 communities in the NWT, Northern Quebec and Labrador. A major concern of the organization is constitutional development in the North which involves a number of complex issues such as the settlement of land claims (negotiations are ongoing with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut), division of the Northwest Territories and the overall process of devolution in the territories, and the Meech Lake Accord. Other key areas of concern are resource development, economic development, environment, health and social services and the anti-trapping movement.

THE NATIVE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

The Native Women's Association of Canada represents indigenous women regardless of their status under the *Indian Act* and is concerned with a wide range of national issues of concern to aboriginal people. The organization has been a leading force in the struggle to remove sex discrimination from the *Indian Act* and in assisting persons applying for registration under "C-31" and trying to access services at the national and local level such as health care and housing.

THE INDIGENOUS BAR ASSOCIATION

The Indigenous Bar Association was founded in 1988 and is made up of indigenous lawyers from across Canada. The objectives of the association include the respect of the spiritual basis of traditional indigenous laws and customs; the advancement of social and legal justice for indigenous peoples in Canada; the reform of policies and laws affecting indigenous people in Canada; and the fostering of awareness within the legal community and the general public of legal and social issues of concern to indigenous people of Canada.

THE METIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

In 1983, some of the western Metis organizations affiliated with the Native Council of Canada broke away and formed a new organization, the Metis National Council. The MNC has stated that