

Native people propose Dene nation

OTTAWA (CUP) - The right to self determination through the establishment of an Indian government for native peoples living in the MacKenzie Valley was officially proposed on October 25 to the federal government.

The Dene - or "people" - of the west side of the Northwest Territories have drawn up a land claims position that will form the basis of future territory negotiations with the government.

Almost the entire MacKenzie

Valley district is covered by the land claim.

Only by owning their land can the Dene ensure their social and economic independence, according to the Dene position paper.

To pressure their identity as Canada's original people, they are calling for a Dene government to take over the political jurisdiction now held by the Canadian government in the MacKenzie Valley. Georges Erasmus, president of the Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, says if

the Dene are denied political jurisdiction over themselves the result would be the genocide of the Dene Nation.

The Dene declaration says that a Dene government does not imply separatism within Canada. "It means selfreliance and selfdetermination as people within Canada - it means a reclarification of our rights within Confederation," says the policy paper.

The statement of principles comes as a result of the Dene's history of colonialization in the past 50 years, when the first treaties between Dene and the Canadian government were signed. "Our experience has taught us that it is foolhardy to expect anyone other than ourselves to protect our interests. Relationships whereby one party under-

takes to protect the interests of others are by definition colonial," says the position paper.

"Colonialism is not simply a matter of political control but it is also a matter of economic and social relationships. The truth of this observation is borne out by the experience of formerly colonial Third World countries," according to the statement.

The Dene are asking for consultation with the government when mining and oil companies disrupt the land in the MacKenzie Valley.

"Resource development continues under foreign initiative and control, making the local economy dependent on decisions made by and large in accordance with external interests," states the position paper.

The vast sums of money

obtained from these natural resources are controlled largely by American business interests and are never seen by the Dene.

"We must have control in order to ensure that our relationship with the non Dene remains one of equality rather than one of dependency," says the paper.

The Dene statement of principles does not advocate complete independence from the federal government, however. The statement calls on the government to relocate Dene communities that have a large number of whites, such as Yellowknife, and to compensate the Dene for past use of their land by whites.

It remains to be seen if the government will sign the agreement as originally proposed by the Dene before any land claim negotiations take place.

President appointed

OTTAWA (CUP) - An election to fill the post of student president at Algonquin College has been dismissed as too time-consuming and costly by council executives who will appoint one instead.

According to council vice-president and acting president Mike Carroll "we didn't have time to waste" after the Oct. 13 resignation of George Calderone for personal reasons.

"We have to set goals and objectives," he said, arguing that "we just couldn't wait five weeks."

Asked if the appointment procedure did not infringe on student rights Carroll said, "we

kicked this around but we saw no other sensible way." He added that the council's bylaws allow for the appointment procedure.

He said the cost of the election wouldn't be worth it because, "if we had one, only 17 to 20 percent of the students would turn out to vote anyway."

Carroll was quick to point out that come February the 8,000 students on Algonquin's seven campuses will once again get a chance to vote for the council of their choice.

In the meantime they'll have to make do with whomever steps forth and gets appointed on Nov. 1.

Case of empties — \$.40

The Brewers Association of Canada, Maritime Division, with the approval of the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation, announced that effective October 25, 1976, empty beer bottles, other than foreign imports, will be worth approximately 40 cents per dozen. Previously, consumers received about 20 cents per dozen.

The higher payment for empties will encourage people to take them to a bottle dealer rather than

throw them away. It is estimated that in excess of 1,825,000 dozen beer bottles are not returned each year. An improvement in the return rate would do much to reduce the environmental problems and reflect substantial savings in energy and materials used to make new bottles.

The increase in the deposit value is part of the increase in the price of beer announced by the New Brunswick Liquor Corporation.

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Doyle ex

By J. DAVID MILLER

Last week's issue included a review by Managing Editor Derwin Gowan on Arthur Doyle's new book, *Front Benches and Backrooms*.

The book has just been released and sales are quite good to date. The book certainly is excellent as noted last week. Once you pick it up, it becomes very difficult to stop reading.

History is often described in rather dull terms, but this history relates not just the blatant corruption and self-seeking stupid

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