

*Routine Proceedings*

I want to quote the minutes of a meeting held at 10 a.m., August 10, 1953, in Room 304 of the Langevin Block, to discuss the transfer of certain Eskimo families from northern Quebec to Cornwallis and Ellesmere Island. The date it was received in the northern administration was August 12, 1953. I would like to have the opportunity to table this document in the House because it directly refutes the lies that were included in the report made by the consultant to the Department of Indian Affairs that was tabled in this House yesterday.

Mr. Sivertz, who later became the director of the northern operations, pointed out that the Canadian government was anxious to have Canadians occupying as much of the north as possible and it appeared that in many cases the Eskimos were the only people capable of doing this. It was a primary concern of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs at that time to transfer Eskimos, to uproot them from their homes, and to transplant them into the far north in order to establish Canadian occupancy in the far north and in order to establish Canadian sovereignty in that region.

For any bureaucrat or any bureaucrat's report to say that that is not true is utterly false. It is corroborated by its own minutes and by evidence available from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development which its bureaucrats know about and which its so-called independent consultants know about. This report that was given to us by the minister is an attempt to mislead the minister and an attempt to mislead the House. It is also an attempt to mislead Canadians about the wrong-doing done against those Inuit families between 1953 and 1957.

I call on the House to support this motion, to vote in favour of it and to tell the bureaucrats and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in no uncertain terms that we do not like to be misled and lied to.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in its report also says that it was sending the Inuit families up to the High Arctic for their own good. It said that game resources were running in short supply in northern Quebec where these families lived prior to their transplantation. Game was running short and, as a result, it was said that game was in abundance in the northern area of the country. Therefore, it was worth-while to move these families to the northern area

of the country in order that they would have more game and not be obliged to rely on the welfare system provided by the province of Quebec or the Canadian government.

In fact, that same meeting that I referred to that took place in the Langevin Block on August 10, 1953, even questioned the availability of resources and the ability of those 15 families to survive in the High Arctic, based on the resources that were available.

Mr. O'Neil, a representative of the Royal Canadian Air Force stated that he was afraid that there was not sufficient wildlife in the Resolute area to provide for the proposed Eskimo population, which amounted to 15 families. Mr. Cantley, who was also in attendance at the meeting, replied that he had reason to believe that there was sufficient marine life to support the Eskimo families concerned. No one could say for sure that this was the case and, consequently, the experiment was being staged.

When the Canadian government and the report of the minister and the bureaucrats from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development tells us that it was moving these Inuit families up to the High Arctic for their own good because there was more wildlife and fisheries resources there, even the evidence presented to the minutes dealing with this issue in 1953 indicated that members of the committee were concerned that, in fact, this was false. There was insufficient wildlife resources and insufficient country food resources available for those Inuit when they did arrive in the High Arctic and, as a result, they would be faced with starvation or a lack of country food. They may be even further forced to depend on the RCMP or the military for their food.

As a consequence, many of these families suffered hunger, privation and starvation as a result of the lack of food and the lack of success in hunting food in an area that was completely different from the one they came from.

Anyone who makes a comparison between the documents publicly available, the documents available in the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and the report done by the department's so-called independent consultant can see that the so-called independent consultant selected information, dismissed other information, and, as a result, presented a report to the House that is false, that is full of lies, and that misleads the House.