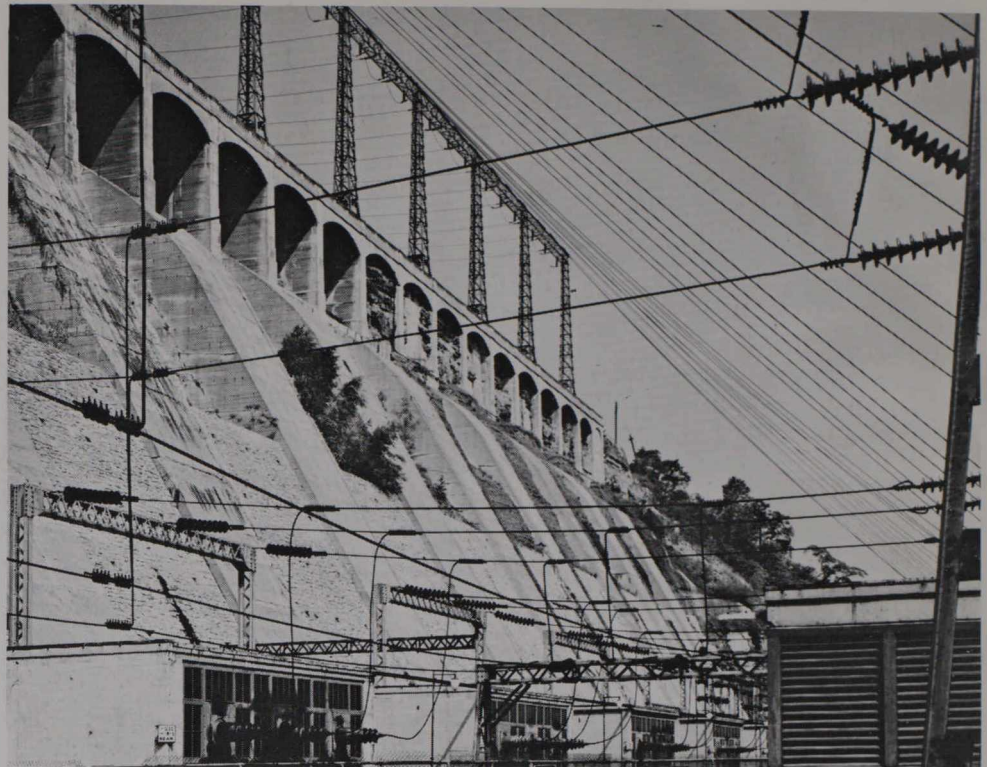


of its Mount Wright iron mine development. The project, intended to become a major open-pit iron ore mine, was announced on Sept. 4, 1970, jointly by Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa and the Cartier Company president, L. J. Patterson. The Mount Wright reserves are located 70 air miles northeast of Lac Jeannine. They form part of the same geological formation as does the company's existing Quebec, Labrador, iron ore trough.

The project includes construction of a concentrator capable of producing 16 million tons of concentrate annually. Dimensions of the ore body are about four miles long by 4,000 feet wide.

In the past, northern communities have tended to be carbon copies of those in southern Canadian cities, with more elaborate heating systems being the sole concession to lower temperatures. Fermont marks a sharp break with the past in an experiment that town planners should watch with interest.

Power and heat from electrical sources will make for a pollution-free environment.



NFB Photo

Native rights acknowledged in cash payments

By Roy Turman

The conversational catchphrase, "Give it Back to the Indians," is literally coming true for Canada's northern native peoples.

By agreement with the federal government, and the provincial government of Quebec, 10,000 of them are to receive a tax-free cash gift of C\$150 million, plus royalties and exclusive rights for hunting, fishing and trapping in a 25,000-square-mile territory.

The award goes to 6,000 Cree Indians and 4,000 Eskimos after a three-year battle with the provincial government of Quebec. It represents compensation for lands lost through development of the C\$12 billion hydro-electric project in the rugged James Bay area of northern Canada. Other settlements are to follow later.

Premier Robert Bourassa of Quebec, a youthful-looking leader who acquired some of his urbanity at Britain's Oxford University, hailed the mid-November signing of the agreement as a "historic precedent" for Canada.

Leaders of the native peoples gave the accord a qualified welcome. Billy Diamond, Grand Chief of a Cree leadership body, said the agreement must be confirmed by November 1, 1975, or the native peoples would resume legal action against the controversial James Bay project. But he said the accord, signed by representatives of the federal and provincial governments

as well as by the native peoples, was the best way to see that "our land is prevented as much as possible from white man's intrusion and white man's use."

The agreement coincides with a growing militancy among Canada's oldest inhabitants — the native peoples who were there before the white man and now seek to right wrongs they say date from pioneer days.

Multi-billion dollar bargaining is in prospect over claims by some 270,000 Indians, 18,000 Eskimos and several hundred thousand Métis (of mixed Indian and European descent) based on longtime occupation of lands later settled by white peoples. Their demands will involve complex negotiations lasting possibly a generation and entailing an eventual cost estimated by civil servants between C\$3 billion and C\$5 billion.

The settlement in the case of the James Bay Indians was described by Grand Chief Diamond as guaranteeing that Cree Indians would be able to maintain their way of life and pass land on to succeeding generations. "It also guarantees that we can continue to live in harmony with nature," he said. Other spokesmen broadly applauded the settlement but had mixed views on how it might affect claims by other native groups. George Watts, chairman of the West Coast district council of

Indian chiefs, said the James Bay Indians will get only land that was rightfully theirs by a treaty signed more than 100 years ago. He said the federal and provincial governments had split Quebec Indians on the issue.

In Edmonton, Harold Cardinal, president of the Indian Association of Alberta province, said the agreement sounded good. But its terms must be examined closely.

The agreement calls for an initial payment of C\$75 million to native people in the James Bay area during the first 10-year period after the signing, and a further C\$75 million over a longer period, largely through royalties from hydro-electric projects in the area. The native peoples will also receive a share of Quebec revenues from future hydro-electric projects.

In an exchange during question period in the House of Commons at Ottawa, Indian Affairs Minister Judd Buchanan said the James Bay settlement should be seen as a precedent only in the sense that it recognises that native peoples have legitimate land claims. Detailed accords should not be patterned after James Bay, he said. This was because the James Bay settlement was reached under pressure of actual hydro construction in the area. He said the agreement did not take into