

*Government Orders**[Translation]*

The government ended up with so much land because it set preconditions at the outset. The government said the Inuit could only have a certain amount of land in total. Inuit were prohibited from making land selections in certain specific areas. The government had the power to do this because it was bigger and stronger.

• (1050)

[English]

Canadians should understand the tremendous power imbalance that exists in land claim negotiations between aboriginal peoples and the federal government. The federal government makes the rules. It changes the rules. It breaks the rules. It has the money and all kinds of high-powered expertise at its disposal. It has armies of bureaucrats and relies on legalese.

Aboriginal negotiators do not have the same resources. They are also communicating with government representatives in a language that is not in their mother tongue, and then they have to try to explain to their people government terms and concepts that simply do not exist in aboriginal languages. In addition, there are totally different decision-making processes involved.

While some revisions to policies and practices have been made from time to time, the system and the policies are still heavily weighted in the federal government's favour.

There are other matters in this agreement that continue to cause me some concern.

[Translation]

I still think \$580 million is a small price for the government to pay for the extinguishment of Inuit rights and for 82 per cent of our territory. Nevertheless that sum could be of significant benefit if invested wisely. We will have to be very vigilant and cautious.

I am also worried about the number of boards and institutions that will be set up under this claim. We are headed into a very complex system of administration and I hope we do not find ourselves overwhelmed and overburdened.

I also want to touch briefly on implementation. Previous claim settlements, the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and the Western Arctic Inuvialuit

Agreement have experienced serious implementation problems. Since an entire section of the Nunavut claim agreement is devoted to implementation, we hope to avoid the implementation problems of the past.

[English]

In this context I want to urge the government to be forever mindful of the spirit and intent behind this agreement.

[Translation]

As I said earlier, what Inuit have tried to obtain in this agreement is a better future for our children. The right to harvest wildlife on lands and waters throughout Nunavut is a major component of this agreement. In addition, Inuit will have equal membership with governments on institutions established to manage the land, water, offshore and wildlife of Nunavut and to evaluate the impact of development projects on the environment.

As well, Inuit will get a share of the royalties the federal government receives from oil, gas and mineral development on Crown lands. On lands where Inuit have surface title, Inuit will be able to negotiate with industry for economic and social benefits from non-renewable development.

[Translation]

The agreement also specifies an amount of \$13 million for a training trust fund and includes measures to increase Inuit employment within government and to increase access to government contracts.

[English]

There is much promise here. There are opportunities to be seized. There are challenges to be faced.

[Translation]

This agreement must benefit all us Inuit. This agreement is for us. We must make it work for all. We must never forget the people in the communities.

We must focus on our education and training needs. We must encourage and support our youth so that we can benefit from their talents and energies. We must integrate the wisdom of our elders. Together with the co-operation of government and all the people of Nunavut we will utilize this agreement to build the better future we envision.