

Oral questions

provide additional funding to the Dene-Métis in order to conclude a final settlement in two years.

After the election, the Dene-Métis were advised that they would get only one-fifth of what was budgeted in pursuing the final settlement. If the Government is really serious in settling this claim, will it not reconsider this funding and honour its commitment made before the election and bring forth an agreement to provide the Dene-Métis with adequate funds?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member on her election to this House to represent her people and all the people of the Northwest Territories.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McKnight: The Hon. Member's family and I have had discussions. Part of those discussions resulted in an agreement-in-principle being signed between the Government of Canada and the Dene-Métis people. The commitment made by the Government of Canada in the agreement-in-principle was to provide funding.

The Dene-Métis asked for \$1.5 million in funding for travel. Just so the House understands, Mr. Speaker, on signing \$2 million was transferred to the Dene-Métis people; \$1.2 million will be provided for land selection; \$500,000 was sent in October to assist on debts that had been accumulated during the negotiation process, and \$300,000 has been provided in response to the request of \$1.5 million.

Mrs. Finestone: What does that mean in English?

FEDERAL FUNDING

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that stability and progress in the North require a settlement of the Dene-Métis claim. If the Government really wants a final settlement in two years, then surely it must provide the Dene-Métis with adequate funds to prepare for that settlement.

Will the Minister make a commitment to do that today?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification): Mr. Speaker, I believe the Government of Canada and the Dene-Métis people have

shown a commitment to the settlement of a long outstanding obligation so that development can take place in the Northwest Territories.

This year \$4.9 million has been provided to the Dene-Métis for claims negotiations. That brings the total to \$30 million that has been provided for claims negotiations during the time period in which they took place.

We believe that there is an opportunity to settle a long outstanding claim in the Western Arctic and we, the Government of Canada, and the Dene-Métis people, over the next two years I am sure will succeed.

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[*Translation*]

THE ENVIRONMENT

DISPOSAL OF AMERICAN GARBAGE IN EASTERN TOWNSHIPS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the new Environment Minister. In view of the fact that the Canadian public is now aware that between 150 and 160 American garbage trucks from the Boston area deliver their loads every week to the Eastern Townships area, more specifically to Saint-Denis de Brompton and the Magog Township, could the Minister tell the House what he intends to do to prevent Canada and Quebec, more specifically the tourist oriented Eastern Townships, from becoming the garbage dump of the United States?

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Secretary of State of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Quebec and federal governments, working closely together, are taking drastic measures in their effort to control the situation the Hon. Member has described.

We are all aware that under the shared jurisdiction which governs this type of situation, the provincial Government is responsible for the disposal of all waste on its territory, while the federal Government is entrusted with overseeing the transportation of dangerous materials.

We have the necessary powers to ensure the safe transportation of matters deemed dangerous or toxic, and the Quebec Government has the powers to control the disposal of all waste material on its territory, and especially with regard to burying it.

According to our investigations, these wastes happen to be neither toxic nor dangerous, so that we have put