

*James Bay Agreement*

thumb is that if you take Quebec on the basis of its Indian population, you are probably talking about 200 people. I will get the specific figures for the Hon. Member.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Chairman, I have one final question on this point. We cannot then expect any further reduction in manpower, or can we? Will there be a further reduction because of the responsibilities that are being assumed by the Cree and Naskapi which, I might add, will be better administered because things will be done by themselves on a local basis?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Chairman, I cannot give a precise number. I can give an undertaking that there will be a reduction in Quebec. In Quebec there are now only 12 personnel involved with the Cree and Naskapi. It can be seen that we are paring down. If we pare down much further, in terms of the Cree looking for certain responses that they want, they will complain if there is a further reduction.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Chairman, I will go to another subject which is important, namely funding. It has not been discussed in the debate so far. As the Minister well knows, there were some implementation problems with the James Bay Agreement from time to time. Can the Minister enlighten the Committee on the funding agreements? How will this be carried out? He might also wish to talk about the funding and how it will be guaranteed over the next number of years.

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Chairman, counting operation and maintenance, it will be roughly \$11 million a year, at least for this fiscal year under the Act. It is now \$3.7 million. We anticipate through undertakings to the Cree that under the provisions of the Act there will be a further \$8 million, making a total of \$11 million a year.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Chairman, could we have some of the details? Is that given in a lump sum or a certain percentage at the beginning of the year? How will that happen? Will it be directed through the Quebec offices or directly to the Cree and Naskapi? Will the Minister go into a little more detail so that I can assure myself that the mechanisms set up will not be heavily bureaucratized and unduly hold the process up?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Chairman, this level of support is basic. You build on it each year. It is subject to negotiation each year, but it cannot drop below this level. I understand the first payment will go out in the next week or so. It will be a direct payment from the federal Government to the Cree.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Chairman, therefore the Minister does not envisage that the Quebec regional office will be in any way connected with this, that it will be pretty well handled from the federal office. The Minister said the first payment is going to be made. What is the agreement between the Department and the Cree and Naskapi on percentages as to how this will be funded? There must be some agreement as to how much of the total budget for the year will be given to them at the start of the year for their operations. How is that going to operate?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Chairman, I am told that the moneys are paid directly to the Cree by the federal Government, that 75 per cent is up front and there is a holdback of 25 per cent until the accountability features of the Act are met, naturally, and then they flow. It is a one-time payment.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Chairman, will there be any new structures created within the Department to deal with the Cree and Naskapi or will it be business as usual with people in the Department?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Chairman, there are no new structures to be created in the Department. We already acceded in a sense almost independently of this Act at the request of the Cree secretariat to handle their concerns and channel them into action, in terms of negotiating things through the bureaucracy and getting a result without undue delay. That secretariat has two or three personnel. We intend to continue it because they are rather insistent that we do so. We acceded to their demand, much to their relief. That secretariat is already there, but we do not anticipate any new ones.

**Mr. McDermid:** Mr. Chairman, my final questions are with regard to the commission to be set up. The Minister might expand a bit on what the commission intends to do, the estimated cost per year of the commission, what its powers are to be, if it will have any powers, and how it will report to Parliament. How does the Minister envisage that that will be carried out?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Chairman, perhaps the best way to handle this would be to refer to Part XII of the Bill. It sets out the membership, that the commission is responsible for the implementation of the Act and the terms of the members. The over-all mandate of the commission is to be responsible for the implementation of the Act and to prepare reports to Parliament. The duties of the Commission are clearly set out rather concisely on page 78, Clause 165. It states:

The Commission shall

(a) prepare biennial reports on the implementation of this Act, . . . investigate any representation submitted to it relating to the implementation of this Act, including representations relating to the exercise or non-exercise of a power under this Act and the performance or non-performance of a duty under this Act. . . .

(3) The Commission may refuse to investigate—

That is the operative section in terms of the duties of the commission. As far as the cost is concerned, the cost of the Commission is estimated to be \$1,597,000 to be spread over four years plus an upward adjustment for the Cree-Naskapi commission to be funded through contribution agreements with terms and conditions to be negotiated. May I repeat that figure? It is \$1,597,000 over the four-year period of 1984-85 to 1988-89.