

thank you and those responsible for our being here. I see that we have representation from across Canada. My name is Leo DelVillano and I come from the town of Timmins. I am the first Vice-President of the Northern Ontario Regional Development Council and I was mayor of the Town of Timmins for 10 years. We have studied our part of Ontario for some time and I know a lot of the things that we have said are going to affect many parts of Canada.

I feel that everyone is looking for an answer to this criterion for designation, and although I always feel that I have the answer to everything—many of us feel that way—first of all we must convince the people who are responsible for running this country.

I am sorry that the Honourable Ministers Drury and Marchand are not here because I certainly think that they should hear what we have to say. I know they will be aware of it because I understand this presentation is being transcribed. The reason I would like to see that those two ministers are in on the ground floor is because not only does our part of Canada have possibilities, other parts of Canada have as well, and I think through meetings like this we may be able to arrive at a solution to what is required for a country like this that is looked upon by the world, and especially so this year of our hundredth anniversary with our Centennial being celebrated across the country.

I would like to point out to those who may have something to do with it—and this was mentioned previously—that although a lot of these things are dealt with on a provincial basis, I certainly think that the federal government could enter into developing any of the natural resources that we have because it would be to the advantage of the country as a whole and not necessarily only for our area. Now if it ever came about—and this was suggested—that we had an eleventh province and we organized from Labrador to Manitoba and down to Parry Sound, we would certainly have the biggest province in Canada.

Mr. CHATWOOD: What part of Labrador?

Mr. DELVILLANO: The west part, I am sorry to say. We would like to include you. Some of us have suggested this idea.

Mr. WHELAN: And you have included some of the biggest problems, too.

Mr. DELVILLANO: I am getting at the fact that many of these things are pointed out to us because sometimes we think we are getting the rough end of the stick. We also feel that we should be benefited more by both governments, not the federal government alone. I know we are making a presentation to the federal government. The possibilities of these areas are great. It has been proven through the discovery by Texas Gulf and around James Bay and Hudson Bay and their basins that there are great possibilities in these areas. We are not selfish in the fact that we want everything to which we are entitled. We certainly would like to have the most that can help us to develop.

Now, outside of two areas in northeastern Ontario and one in northwestern Ontario, the areas including the Lakehead, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, the rest of that part of the province has been dwindling in population, and statistics will bear this out. The only reason for that is that when people become unemployed—and the criterion for designation is unemployment—they will not sit back. If they want to work, they are going to get a job elsewhere. However, they leave their families in the area