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*At Pelly Bay in the Northwest Territories, an Inuk works on a model of a kayak, while his wife looks on. The Federal Government is moving to achieve equitable land claim settlements with native groups in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.*

settlements...." Recent meetings with the Council for Yukon Indians (CYI) had shown hope for progress in attaining a settlement. Dr. Bob Holmes, the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary, had been appointed chief government negotiator on Yukon land claims. He would provide political direction to federal negotiators and would maintain the sense of priority that the Government attached to the settlement of the Yukon claim. "All Yukoners will be represented in negotiations through the territorial government's participation on the federal team and through the CYI. I will meet Dr. Holmes and the negotiators at least once a month to assess progress and to give direction. Our goal is an agreement in principle by the end of April 1980," stated the Minister.

"There are two other factors to consider in the realm of land claims at present," he continued. "Later this month I will be presenting to Cabinet a situational report on the various land claims. I will review experiences to date and I will seek my colleagues' approval and support for a new mandate to reach conclusions as soon as possible in outstanding claims."

#### **Northern opportunities**

Mr. Epp enumerated several opportunities in the North over the next decade. They included large-scale oil and gas

projects such as the Alaska Highway Natural Gas Pipeline, Norman Wells Pipeline, Foothills Oil Pipeline, as well as the prospect of major hydro with thermal electric power plants, the development of several known mineral deposits, and continued expansion of transportation facilities, road rail, and air. "These projects will expand upon the economic base of the North and lead to steady and healthy economic growth in each territory."

A high priority had been placed on transportation, energy and mining, and streamlining the regulatory review process, said the Minister, and he expected to put forward soon a northern roads policy to the Cabinet. The policy would include the transfer of responsibility for all facets of road administration to the territorial governments.

#### **Energy alternatives**

Programs had begun in the North to explore "more aggressively" alternative sources of energy and to seek new conservation methods, said the Minister. "A comprehensive energy policy is to be undertaken jointly by my Department, the territorial governments and the northern Canada Power Commission. We are preparing a discussion paper on the elements of a comprehensive energy policy which can eventually serve as the basis for a more detailed public discussion and debate."

## **Federal by-elections**

In two federal by-elections in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland on November 19, the Liberals held one seat, and the New Democratic Party took one from the Progressive Conservatives.

Roger Simmons held the federal riding of Burin-St. George's for the Liberals with a win over his two opponents, Conservative Walter Carter, and New Democratic Party candidate David MacKinnon. Dr. Simmons received about as many votes as the combined total of his two opponents. Burin-St. George's lost its member of Parliament when former Liberal minister Donald Jamieson switched to provincial politics after the general election in May.

In the central Saskatchewan riding of Prince Albert, long held by the late former Conservative Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, Stan Hovedbo of the New Democratic Party defeated Conservative Kris Eggum, Liberal Clyde Harradence and independent John De Bryne.

Standings in the 282-seat Commons now are: Conservatives 136, Liberals 113, New Democrats 27 and Social Credit five.

The results of the by-elections mean that with the support of the Social Credit party, the Progressive Conservative Government has a one-vote margin over the combined Liberal and NDP strength. Absences by Conservatives or Social Credit members in a crucial vote would produce a tie or even a defeat, which could force an election.

## **UN declaration submitted**

Canada has recognized the competence of the United Nations Human Rights Committee to consider communications from other countries about Canada's adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In submitting a declaration to the United Nations under Article 41 of the Covenant, Canada recognized the right of other countries that have made similar declarations (Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Norway, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Britain and Sweden) to submit communications to the committee about these countries. The declaration was made with the agreement of the provincial governments.