

As the guest speaker to the Canadian Institute of Mining lunch at the Davedi Club of North Bay on January 9th Bob Rea expounded the reasons he is lead negotiator for the First Nations in and around the Ring of Fire. He would like to ensure First nations benefit from any development in the Ring of Fire and the estimated 60 billion in undeveloped minerals. As a Canadian citizen have you ever stopped to ask why? Why would the economic benefit from the development of Crown Land in Northern Ontario be set aside for one race of people instead of being used for the benefit of all citizens?

Former Prime Minister, John Diefenbaker once described the North as, "Canada's last great untouched inheritance." The late Premier of Nfld. Joey Smallwood rejected a proposal by western premiers to extend their boundaries north to the Arctic Sea saying, "The North belongs to all Canadians." Why are today's politicians so ready to jump on this politically correct bandwagon that has no real basis in law?

The Royal proclamation of 1763 did not set aside a separate Indian Nation. What the Privy Council of England did do was set aside an Indian hunting area for the economic benefit of the Hudson's Bay Company and the fur trade until such time, "*any of the Said Indians should be inclined to dispose of the said Lands, the same shall be Purchased only for Us, in our Name, at some public Meeting or Assembly of the said Indians, to be held for that Purpose by the Governor or Commander in Chief of our Colony respectively within which they shall lie.*"

The Government of Canada complied with the instructions of the Proclamation (While the American Government simply ignored it) with the Williams Treaties of 1923. "*His Majesty through His said Commissioners, is desirous of obtaining a surrender, and for such purpose has appointed the said Commissioners, with power on behalf of His said Majesty, to enquire into the validity of the claims of the said tribe, and, in the event of the said Commissioners determining in favour of the validity thereof, to negotiate a treaty with the said tribe for the surrender of the said rights upon the payment of such compensation therefor as may seem to the said Commissioners to be just and proper.*" With the signing of the Williams Treaty of 1923 the Natives, "*do hereby cede, release, surrender and yield up to the government of the Dominion of Canada for His Majesty the King and His Successors forever, all their right, title, interest, claim, demand and privileges whatsoever, in, to, upon, or in respect of the lands and premises described.*"

SO... The fisheries treaty on Georgian Bay with the SON was not necessary as the Praxis report to the Government of Ontario reaffirmed that the case it was based on was not democratically nor equitably contested before the courts. The area of Ontario in The Algonquin Treaty was ceded to the Crown in the Williams Treaty of 1923. Why was it renegotiated? The secretly negotiated "almost treaty" is a travesty of common sense and justice as the land is more than was asked for, the treaty puts into jeopardy Algonquin Park, one of Ontario's / Canada's most iconic parks and there is no extinguishment of any further rights.

Former Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau said, "*It's inconceivable ... for one section of the society to have a treaty with the other section of the society. We must be all equal under the law and we must not sign treaties among ourselvesI don't think that we should encourage Indians to feel that these treaties should last forever within Canada... they should become Canadians as all other Canadians.*"

Mr. Rea said that, "Living on the margins is just not sustainable. Well Mr. Rea, neither is living off Fairy tales from the past.

