

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

It is the view of the Province that this work group should initially prepare and submit to the negotiating committee a report dealing with the following areas, to be utilized by the negotiating committee in determining priority projects to be dealt with in the tripartite process:

- (1) an inventory and analysis of both existing and proposed programs, institutions, and sources of funding in this field for Metis and Non-Status Indians. This should include a description of interested agencies and organizations and the role each plays in funding and delivery. It should include all programs presently targetted at and operated by Metis and Non-Status Indians. It should also include an examination of the effectiveness of universal programs in responding to the economic development needs of Native people;
- (2) an environmental analysis of Metis and Non-Status Indian needs in the economic development area in all parts of the Province, North and South, rural and urban. Given the breadth of the topic, it would be useful for the working committee to deal not only with the broad picture and trends, but to treat in greater depth specific problems or areas which it feels should be accorded priority treatment by the negotiating committee;
- (3) recommendations as to priority projects for immediate treatment by the working group. These recommendations should, as noted, be based on specific environmental analyses, and should contain a general description of suggested institutional or program arrangements, and a proposed work plan for the detailed design which the working group proposes to next pursue. That work plan should identify resources required by the working group to complete its analysis and design of the program or institution, and those agencies or third parties whose involvement would be either essential or useful in either the design or implementation stages. The projects chosen should be measured against the following criteria:

- (i) do they respond to a pressing need;
- (ii) prospects of successful implementation in light of technical considerations and likely response in interested constituencies;
- (iii) likelihood of success in ameliorating conditions in both the short and long term;
- (iv) funding constraints and likelihood of government capacity to fund.

The recommendations should include proposals directed at short and long term needs, and at rural, urban, northern and southern areas.

In the event that the work group cannot agree on the contents of the report, it should seek further directions from the negotiating committee. The negotiating committee may issue further instructions, or request separate reports which reflect the differing points of view.

The working group or any of the parties to the negotiation may in addition propose specific projects for immediate treatment in the tripartite process prior to completion of the report as a whole, and make interim recommendations accordingly. In that event, the negotiating committee may agree to instruct the working group, subject to resource constraints, to immediately begin work on a specific project.

The working group will be instructed that its work will be carried on in the context of discussions aimed not only at practical solutions to the special needs of this constituency, but at achieving that goal in a manner which increases Metis and Non-Status Indian participation in the delivery of economic development initiatives. The working group should not, however, attempt to address "self government" or jurisdictional issues, except to the extent that assumptions relating to those issues are implicit in the proposal relating to a specific project. Those issues should first be dealt with by the negotiating committee, and might then be the subject of specific instructions for additional work by the working group.

On completion of the initial report and recommendations, the negotiating committee will decide whether and to what extent those recommendations will be implemented, and will in any event identify the priority areas to be addressed by the working group and the tasks to be carried out in respect thereto.

Provincial representation on this work group will initially include a member of the Secretariat staff and representatives of the departments of Economic Development and Trade, Tourism and Small Business, Finance, and Agriculture. Additional representatives of provincial agencies and departments might be added from time to time, depending on the manner in which specific proposals involve their mandates. Third parties may be asked to participate by the negotiating committee, in order to supply needed expertise or due to jurisdictional issues relating to either existing or proposed programs or institutions.