

Lawyer states case for natives

By Marilyn McDonald

THORNHILL — The dispute between native Indians and the hydro-electric commission over land rights in the James Bay area has been settled. The government will appropriate the land.

The Eskimo claim on Mackenzie River Valley territory was successful when brought to trial, lost to gas and oil interests on appeal, and the case is now before the supreme court.

Peter Cummings, a professor at Osgoode Hall law school, pointed out these facts last Thursday at Thornhill United Church during an informal speech about the rights of Canada's native people.

Cummings, a Thornhill resident, said the James Bay settlement allows the Indians surface title to specified areas and cash awards, but they can't interfere with development even though it interferes with their traditional lifestyle. Cummings feels if any type of development is to proceed, the areas original inhabitants should share in the obligations and rewards of the project.

YCH official in convention

RICHMOND HILL — Jane Gillespie, director of pharmacy at York Central Hospital, is among the speakers to address the annual Ontario Hospital Association convention in Toronto this week.

Miss Gillespie will take part in a formal debate on the pros and cons of adding new drugs to the pharmacy inventory. The debate is part of the afternoon session today (Wednesday).

The association convention attracts some 7,000 delegates annually. They represent hospitals and health care organizations across Canada and the United States.



Peter Cummings
.....Thornhill man was Eskimos' counsel

"Really, they're only asking for special rights pertaining to hunting and fishing," he said.

Land-use commission? Cummings suggested the government set up a land use planning commission to advise about and set aside conservation areas for hunting, trapping and fishing.

Recounting how the practise of making treaties with the various tribes began in the British colonies now the United States, Cummings contended settlements based on historical rights have been a failure.

"In future," he urged, "let's be more liberal." In 11 treaties (plus subsequent amendments) signed since confederation the Indians have ceded almost 1.5 million square miles of land in exchange for such government obligations as one square mile of reserve land for each family of five, subject of course, to the governments right to appropriate for federal public purposes; hunting, trapping and fishing

very dependent relationship, he said: "It caused the exact opposite of what it set out to do." "Everything was done for them, so to-day you have the most disadvantaged group in Canada. "Their average per capita income is \$730 per year."

Rather than emphasizing and encouraging the positive aspects of the native way of life, Cummings said we're causing their values to change to our values.

Cummings thinks many of our native people tend to avoid conflict, that they are loath to make a decision that isn't unanimous.

"That's not to suggest they are individually passive," he added. "In a disagreement the hunter prevails."

Confusion and disunity are causing many Eskimos and Indians to settle for less than what they could get if they were better organized.

In some areas, the native people are accepting settlements of 128 acres per person because it's at least some guarantee for the future. "They could get over

\$500 million," said Cummings.

But he emphasized there is a strong non-native segment very much opposed to any settlement.

There's also apathy and a lack of understanding about Canada's aboriginal races on the part of non-natives. Not to mention the increasing demand for new gas, oil and hydro-electric power sources.

"I think the pipeline is destined to go through," concluded Cummings.

Professor Cummings became interested in the problems of the Eskimo, Indian and Metis while working as a volunteer at a penitentiary in Winnipeg.

He attended a 1970 Eskimo conference as a volunteer resource person and later was counsel to the Inuit Tapirisat (brotherhood) of Canada.

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I am in receipt of a list supplied to me by the Assessment Commissioner under Section 23 of the Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1970, as amended, which shows the school support of every inhabitant who is entitled to direct taxes for school support purposes. The list was publicly posted in the Town Clerk's Office, 10,266 Yonge Street, on the 25th day of October, 1976, and is available for public examination in case of errors or omissions of electors.

The last day for filing of applications for revision of the list is November 5, 1976. I shall attend at my office on the 25th day of October, 1976, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for the revision of the list and shall continue to do so from day to day, except Saturday and Sunday, until all applications filed on or before November 1st, 1976, have been disposed of.

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