

Nault, Coon agree to 30-day "cooling off"

By CP News

Continued from front page

The 633 chiefs have boycotted the process, saying it's too rushed and narrowly focused to allow real input on legislation, expected later this fall.

The chiefs threatened an 'aggressive strategic plan of action' across Canada should Nault refuse to include them in a broader, longer term consultation.

Coon Come wouldn't comment Tuesday on the status of those threats, which include the prospect of highway blockades.

"Well we had a very good meeting with Mr. Nault. We've agreed to present that work plan. We will direct our people to meet with his people and figure out where we go from there," said Coon Come. "And we will work very fast

and see where we go from there."

He said part of the work plan will address issues such as health, housing and economic development — all of primary concern to the chiefs.

Those issues were also mentioned in the Liberal throne speech that opened Parliament in January, Coon Come pointed out. "We'll find a solution; we'll find a way."

Said Nault: "I think as leaders — no matter whether we're on the federal government side or in First Nations communities — we all want our citizens to tell us what they think about how we can move together down the road."