

# Wrong court cost \$5,000

*Continued from front page ....*

band councils over this issue, we feel that with a majority of aboriginal people living off the reserves (%60 in Ontario) it is the federal governments responsibility to provide these funds equally to both the band councils and the non -reserve natives", said Hill. "The federal lawyer in this case is no different in his tactics than what our people have seen in the past - they want us to be at odds with the band councils, a "divide and conquer scenario" and their hope is that we will be so frustrated that we will forget about this", added Hill. "That simply is not going to happen in this issue and we are going to see this case through."

The fact that this case has gone

on for so long likely means the aboriginal groups wasted money on unnecessary preparation and legal work, Judge Quinn ruled and awarded them \$5,000 to offset some of the extra expenses that they may have had.

Lawyer Chris Reid, representing aboriginal groups, said that it's "unusual" for a judge to make a successful party pay court costs to a party that loses.

"I hope this sends a message to the government that they have an obligation to avoid unnecessary delays", said Reid.

Reid expects the lawsuit to be re-launched in federal court in a few weeks and hopes to have the matter heard there by spring.