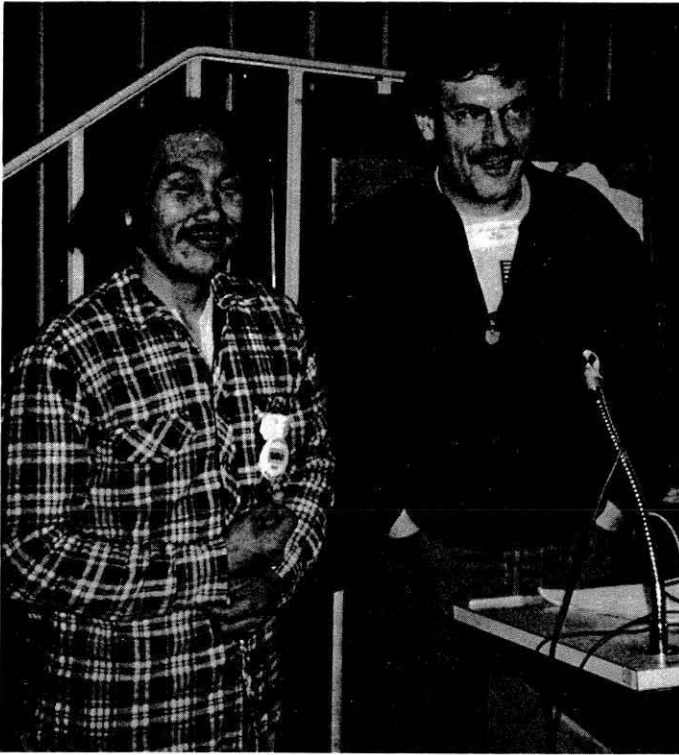


## LOW-LEVEL MILITARY FLYING ACTIVITIES



The following is the essence of a letter initiated by the organizers of the recent Labrador Symposium, and signed by many of those present at that meeting on 26 and 27 January. It was sent by George Luste to Dr. David Barnes, Chairman of the Environmental Assessment Panel, Review of Military Flying Activities in Labrador and Quebec, as well as to Prime Minister B. Mulroney, Hon. J. Turner, Hon. A. McLaughlin, and The Globe and Mail.

"Low-level military flying activities in Labrador and eastern Quebec are incompatible with wilderness preservation. We object to this short-sighted assault on our environment. Please terminate it.

"We, the undersigned, are attendees at the "Labrador Canoeing and Wilderness Symposium" in Toronto. Most of us who have been privileged to visit the unspoiled rivers and coastline of Labrador, cannot comprehend the present practice. The shriek of an unexpected jet is an unforgettable and horrific shock to any visitor who has come to Labrador to enjoy and respect the quiet, natural solitude of its wilderness.

"Please, please stop destroying that which we have gathered together this weekend to celebrate."

(218 signatures)

## WCA'S FUTURE

The following is a letter received by Sandy Richardson as a reaction to his article on the future of the WCA, published in the Winter 1989 issue of *Nastawgan*.

Dear Sandy:

I cannot help but comment on your recent superb article in *Nastawgan* with which I couldn't agree more. In the way of a point of reference: I've canoed Ontario (and a few other places) since 1955, moved to Minnesota from New England in 1982, joined the Minnesota Canoe Association two years ago and the WCA just a year ago. My prime interest is the wilderness, not the canoe.

After two years with the MCA I might conclude that the MCA is everything to everybody. On closer consideration, the truth might be more that it is something to everybody—and very little to the wilderness lover. The monthly publication is full of racing statistics, building tips, ads, calendar events, and odds and ends. The membership voted something like a 6% interest in trip reports—any trip. I find I really have nothing in common with the other people of the loose organization and see little sense in continued membership. (There are a small number of individuals who travel the NWT, and while at my age and financial state I cannot match their adventures, nevertheless I find myself of the same spirit as they.)

In my opinion, there are common grounds amidst the canoe builders, racers, day and weekend paddlers, and rapids runners. But, again in my opinion, the *wilderness* canoeists have little in common with the others. By now (five issues of *Nastawgan*) I've noted the fact of the increasing dilution in the WCA in the original wilderness orientation. It is a dilution of spiritual things with superficial fun-first and artful expression things (which certainly have their place and their values). This disturbs me, and I'm not even an old-timer (in the WCA).

Considering my observations of the MCA, I really wish the WCA would split into two groups with the non-wilderness group not using the word "wilderness" in their title and the wilderness group not being diluted.

Permit me a final opinion. A wilderness group should have two equally important objectives: (1) sharing of wilderness experience and inspiration, and (2) efforts to preserve what little can be preserved for future generations. There may not be many of these yet to come, but as many as there are ought to have a little sanity-preserving wilderness left for the needs of their souls. *They are going to need it far more than we do now!*

Thank you for your splendid article. I hope there is positive action on it.

Bob McCoubrie