

# 'Memo' urges land deal

Continued from page 1

tive peoples without the consent of the province.

The minister argues in the document that "negotiation offers the only real prospect of acceptable comprehensive settlements oriented to the future, and is the most flexible alternative."

He rejects a purely legal settlement, specifically a reference to the Supreme Court, and rejects purely parliamentary intervention.

A negotiated settlement, he says, "is the only way to ensure that all factors are taken into account," especially the cultural and social factors.

In effect, such a settlement would provide the Indian and Eskimo peoples with sufficient money and land to relieve federal obligations and to allow the native peoples to determine their own future and decide whether and how they might want to enter the mainstream of Canadian society.

The memo notes that the cost of the settlement, which would be spread out over five or 10 years in instalments, would be partially offset by eventual savings in the present large federal financial support given the native peoples.

Initially, it could be expected that Ottawa would continue to support the native peoples at present levels of expenditure which run to more than \$425 million a year. But after five or 10 years, the federal role would become more advisory and federal financial support would drop drastically.

The native peoples would essentially be left to determine their own future.

Two settlement options are discussed:

Lump sum payments to qualifying individuals amounting to perhaps \$10,000 or \$11,000 per person, covering the country's 280,000 registered Indians and Eskimos.

In addition, there would be separate land settlements.

Or, as the preferred option, lump sum payments to regional native corporations, plus separate land settlements.

Such regional native corporations, which the cabinet memo notes encouragingly would become taxable, would be chartered federally with the responsibility to develop local industries and resources or continue native ways of life on behalf of the native populations covered by the settlement.