

Yukon Indians to begin negotiations

Negotiations between the Indians of the Yukon Territory and the Canadian government for a land claims settlement in the Yukon will begin in mid-November, according to a story in the Whitehorse Star.

The Star said Harry Allen, chairman of the Council for Yukon Indians made the announcement September 8.

The Indian organization has shown a tentative land claims proposal to all affected Native communities for discussion, and it is currently being reviewed by professional consultants.

"Then we'll be coming up with our presentation for negotiations. I'd sayd probably at the latest, to get it ready, probably a month or so, by the middle of November," the newspaper quoted Allen as saying.

Allen confirmed the Indians

sought total Native jurisdiction over all renewable resources in the territory plus non-renewable resources on future Native land. Yukon Natives also seek an Indian Wildlife Committee with sole authority over hunting and fishing regulations and license fees, it was reported.

The Yukon Natives indicate concern over a conflicting claim to the Yukon's north slope. The Inuvialuit Eskimos of the Northwest Territories, represented by the Committee for Original People's Entitlement (COPE) have reached a tentative settlement with the Canadian government for the region. The Yukon Indians, however, say the Athabaskan Indians of Old Crow also claim that land, and that their claim must be resolved in advance of the COPE claim to the area.