

# Northwest Territories Brotherhood Speaks

For years the Native People in the Northwest Territories have been in second place in the eyes of the government. The extraction of raw materials such as minerals, oil and natural gas have counted more than the people who live on the land.

The Indian Brotherhood of the N.W.T. wants to make it clear that the present government policy favoring resource development over the Native People who form two thirds of the population is no good. The Brotherhood and the Native People will fight this policy if it continues.

Recently the Brotherhood was told by a high official in the Ministry of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that policies would be changed to recognize the Native majority and put its interests in first place. Since then the Federal Government has made another announcement that it has not changed its policies.

The Brotherhood insists that the Government recognize the decisions of the leaders of the Indian People at the annual conference at Fort Rae this July and, after discussions with the leaders of the Native People, make new policies recognizing that the importance of the human beings in the North take priority over the mineral wealth under the ground that these people live on.

It must be kept in mind that two thirds of the people in the N.W.T. are Native People, and that we have suffered and will continue to suffer if we are denied priority over resource development. We will not be ignored any longer while the government and corporations take all the wealth from our land.

—Indian Brotherhood of the  
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