

# *Inuit of Canada make fresh start on Nunavut land claims*

OTTAWA—Inuit Tapirisast of Canada (ITC) is making a fresh start on the Nunavut land claims project by throwing out the policy implemented by the former ITC Board of Directors last year.

The decision was made in Pond Inlet by the new ITC directors, Thomas Suluk, ITC land claims project director said.

Suluk said the national organization abolished the land claims policy because it has "created confusion, uncertainty and inactivity."

"It was put together hastily and designed on the false assumption that we were prepared for intense negotiations leading to an agreement-in-principle during 1979," he said.

Under that policy, the Inuit Claims Commission (ICC), the former negotiating body for the ITC, was dissolved by the board in a move to overcome dissatis-

faction with the continuing stalemate over negotiations. The policy was developed to provide each Nunavut region (Baffin, Central Arctic and Keewatin) responsibility for developing positions for their regions and holding their own preliminary negotiations.

Although several attempts were made to resume negotiations last year, Suluk said ITC is no closer to an agreement-in-principle for the Nunavut land claims.

There have also been delays resulting from the Conservative

government review of the land claims policy, he indicated.

Hopes for negotiations to resume in November were "overly optimistic," Suluk said. "There cannot be negotiations until after the federal elections. We will use this time to prepare."

At the Pond Inlet meeting, Suluk was appointed to the position of Chief Negotiator for Nunavut land claims and will continue his responsibilities as project director. Each president of the three regional associations in Nunavut will continue as the Chief Negotiator for their area.