



Minister of Indian Affairs  
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires  
indiennes et du Nord canadien

DEC - 8 1987

Mr. Bruce Probert  
R.R. No. 3  
4555 Hitching Post Street  
ALDERGROVE, British Columbia  
VOX 1A0

Dear Mr. Probert:

Thank you for your letter regarding the fisheries component of the Nisga'a comprehensive claim negotiations.

Before addressing your concerns, it is important to describe the policy basis for these negotiations. The policy of Canada since 1973 has been to negotiate comprehensive land claims with aboriginal groups where their traditional and continuing interest in the land and resources can be established. In return for relinquishing any claim they may have, an agreed form of compensation and benefits would be provided to the aboriginal group affected. Under this policy, six comprehensive claims are negotiated at any one time. Currently there are one comprehensive claim under negotiation in each of the Yukon, British Columbia, Quebec and Newfoundland; and two in the Northwest Territories.

Once claims settlements have been reached, the uncertainty which currently surrounds government's ability to deal with land related questions and to manage resources will be ended. All area residents can expect to benefit from the more confident basis for development which will thereby be established.

A settlement of the Nisga'a claim, which has been under negotiation for approximately 12 years, could contain several components, such as Indian self-government, land, cash, natural resources (fish, forests, minerals and wildlife) as well as socio-economic and cultural provisions.

.../2

