

To The Royal Commission on Aboriginal People.

From Robert Ross: Chairman Concerned Fisherman  
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XOE ORO

(1) First I would like to state that I have lobbied and dialogue long and hard to try too define what are the rights of aboriginal people. I have dialogue with people right across Canada, with different levels of knowledge of rights, how rights should be applied, how we understand rights and how the rights differ. First we as Aboriginal People fall into three categories of rights.

- (a) ( Given Rights: which are Treaty Rights. )
- (b) Aboriginal Rights: Aboriginal rights are rights that apply to all aboriginal people differently, or variance of rights due to classification of aboriginal people, and residency.
- (c) Inherit Rights: Inherit rights is something all aboriginal people have and all apply equally, inherit to ones own environment: and the continuous denial of aboriginal rights, then becomes a justiciable right.

Treaty rights are very inconsistent, to the extent that some treaties maybe actually impinge on the rights to sell fish commercially. While some treaties may enhance commercial sales of fish.

Unlike the rest of Canada, where by aboriginal people are being denied their rights due to lack of numbers, and a political decision then over rides justice. We the aboriginal fishermen in the freshwater zone far out number the none Aboriginal fishermen, approximately 80% of the license fishermen are aboriginal, and just about 100% of the helpers are aboriginal. Yet by decree we must sell our fish to (FFMC) at a losing price. To the extent that approximately 90% of the fishermen must have alternative means of existence, and by doing so actually become a drain on family income in order we can afford to fish for (FFMC).

There for not only is (FFMC) depriving the Aboriginal fishermen of our rights as Aboriginal people, but also depriving us of our economical rights. our political rights, and our constitutional rights, and when loses these basic fundamental rights, than one no longer lives in a democratic society. The present practice of totalitarianism by (FFMC) completely denies us the right to self sufficiency, and self reliance. In order we as resource users attain economic self sufficiency we must have the opportunity to sell our own fish with our export permits from Ottawa, and not from (FFMC).



The role of government is to assist, support, negotiate, train, facilitate, share resources, share power and share decision making. Looking at the role of government we feel that it is not only logic that we utilize our resources to the fullest extent, but is a justiciable right.

In short FFMC is an aboriginal issue and a national disgrace, (FFMC) is a marketing board similar to other marketing boards, and yet totally different. Different that it applies mostly to aboriginal people and denies the rights of aboriginal to the extent that it creates slavery, and third world conditions for the aboriginal people, and at the same time makes us destroy our resources to the extent that many lakes are already experiencing an imbalance of fish species.

FFMC is destroying more than twice the amount of fish that they are selling, and we the aboriginal people have sale for all the fish, but not only is the waste of millions of pounds of fish an inhumane waste, and a discouragement to aboriginal fishermen to destroy their resources for nothing, but may also contribute to the deterioration of water quality in certain given areas of the lake.

The denial of our rights as aboriginal people to correct the inhumane wrong, does not permit us to do so, A quote from the minister of fisheries and oceans states that \$ 32,000,000 divided by 3500 = \$ 9,143.00 before expenses, a long way below the poverty line and upwards of 50% of the \$32,000,000 is subsidy money, grant money and U.I.C benefits to a crown corp. that is suppose to be totally self sustaining instead (FFMC) is using Tax Dollars for a few high paying none aboriginal positions, and we the aboriginal people are denied a right to self sufficiency.

Where as we the aboriginal people make up over 80% of license fishermen and nearly 100% of the helpers, we feel we should be entitled to at least 80% of our resources, we can inter into a negotiated inherent right. Where by we will not only harvest 80% of all species. but also manage our share. if other areas in canada can make this exception, or better put realize that resources are inherent as in fish to aboriginal people, then we see no reason why we in the (FFMC) zone should be denied our rights, that is simply against the charter of rights and an absolute portray of totalitarian, and absolutely no semblance to democracy, but for we the aboriginal people or better put the aboriginal fishermen, to realize our rights. as live and factual. We must break the monopoly of (FFMC). For (FFMC) is what denies us the concerned fishermen of the utilization of our rights, Right now G.N.W.T. is trying to take over the monopoly of fishing from (FFMC) and that is totally illegal.



Rights of the Aboriginal People is a Federal Matter,  
and fish is also a Federal Matter. The issue here is that all  
resources must remain under white control for high paying white  
positions even it means the complete destruction of a whole  
industry and a way of life. But we as aboriginal people must not  
utilize our rights to resources, and further to that we must not  
export our own resources. We the Aboriginal People or the  
Aboriginal fishermen for most part do not believe in  
classification of Aboriginal People we feel that (FFMC) is the  
biggest form of humane rights violation known to man in any  
modern democratic society, and definitely the Metis Nation does  
not  
speak for us. The Metis Nation does not fight for rights of  
Aboriginal People. Instead they try to sell the rights to the  
Government. Thus making it impossible to a resource user to  
remain Metis. Most choose to go first Nations. We the concerned  
fishermen choose Aboriginal, there fore if the Metis nation state  
the violation of Humane Rights does not exist. They are not  
speaking for us. On great slave lake there are not even any  
labour laws and all regulations and policies were discontinued  
to better serve the purpose of (FFMC).

There fore (FFMC) is not a Metis or a treaty issue per say, but an Aboriginal issue. We the concerned fishermen fully intend to exercise our rights as Aboriginal People, not as Metis or Treaty people, the fact remains that the presence of (FFMC) completely denies us of our rights.

The Government of Canada is always crying about too much Government, and we are in full agreement. Constraining Government Legislation is simply killing the country, by to much expensive bureaucracy, and what a better way to trim the fat than throwing (FFMC) right out of the window. We the Aboriginal Fishermen would become an asset, rather then a liability and would cease to exist on the tax payers dollar. We the Aboriginal Fishermen feel we could greatly contribute to kick start our economy.



## Dumping of fish into Great Slave Lake

After speaking to many elders from around the lake, I have come to the conclusion that the most important thing to the aboriginal community is to keep the lake clean: to the aboriginal people, particularly the elders, any kind of waste is unnecessary. But the mass amount of dumping is totally inhumane in fact most think that if the government can't handle fish properly, than government should have nothing to do with fish, the general feeling is that it is better to stop the fishing altogether, then to destroy our own resources for nothing, and by so doing may in fact pose a water quality problem.

To add to the insensitivity, the feeling is if government as role models and supposedly knowledgeable in management, that this disregard to-ward the future environmental repercussion is a clear indication to industry that environmental concerns by aboriginals are secondary and are of no major consideration. In short the portray that government seems to point to-wards aboriginals environmental concerns is something to talk about, but nothing to do about. And the inhumane waste and destruction of a renewable resource as in fish, by (FFMC) is a clear indication of what the elders are saying.

The problem is not only a destruction to a resource , and displacing a certain species of fish from it's natural habitat. But the mass dumping of fish in certain lake areas may in fact contribute to the deterioration of water quality and may pose an environmental problem in the lake bottom.

The general feeling among the elders that live in harmony with nature is that the mass dumping of fish and fish waste into an environmentally sensitive lake ecosystem, such as Great Slave Lake is that dumping is not only a major contributing factor to imbalance of fish species, but may prove to be incorrigible to the extent that prime food sources can become extinct. Certainly the disappearance of trout from certain lake areas is something to draw from, that and the over abundance of course fish or what seems to be an explosion of course fish in certain areas of the lake, definitely seems to be unnatural.

All in all the dumping of so much fish and fish waste works against the users to curb the present problem and to guard against the total destruction of our resources in the future. We the concerned aboriginal fishermen must have a definite input into the following.

- (a) We must be allowed to harvest and sell our own resources; at least 80% of all the fish species, must be under our total guardian, and entitlement to export for our enhancement of generic life. We the concerned fishermen have a registered company,

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known as Great Slave Lake co. LTD. We have sale  
for all the fish we can catch.

(b) We the concerned fishermen and resource users must  
have a direct input into all environmental issues  
and be part of all major decision making, since we  
are the biggest stake holders.

(c) No longer can we trust politicians, business or  
bureaucrats. Publicly stating they are an  
environmental group. When in actuality they are  
only signatories and promotional to industry.  
Certainly no consideration is given to long term  
safe guard. The emphasis is all on the quick  
dollar, and for that, the aboriginal resource  
user are paying the price to extent of  
extinction.

(SCOPE)

Problems with the current systems of FFMC Marketing

The FFMC's biggest problem is in the dishonest manner in which they maintain their overall operation. Instead of trying to create a more equitable and meaningful return they have intentionally bled every penny possible from the aboriginal fishermen, just to justify for too many high paying non-aboriginal administrative positions. In order that FFMC adapt to a role reversal without looking conspicuous they first took away all processing equipment from outlying, remote, destitute parts of northern Canada in the FFMC zone. And by doing so, made obsolete employment opportunities to the aboriginal people. Not only did they stop the dollars from coming back to the aboriginal community, but also escalated the cullage ten folds over. But, by centralizing everything in Winnipeg, they actually destroyed their evil intent.

The intent here was to get the fish for next to nothing, by categorizing, and emphasizing on categories of fish, they felt that they could achieve their objective. First was to demonstrate total supremacy by applying unheard of oppression, never before realized in any democratic society. Secondly would become a very profitable organization in the eyes of the public while in actuality living on tax



dollars. But intentionally or unintentionally they have created inferior quality of fish, by over handling of old fish. But they get the fish as small, continentals, and cutters, which is of less value. But after filleting, it is all white fish. But due to the deterioration of quality due to the length of time before processing, the fish is of much inferior quality as opposed to fresh, and that is exactly why the Americans simply refuse to buy mass amounts of inferior quality fish from FFMC in the USA. FFMC fish is commonly known as board fish, and automatically refused. The FFMC is simply too cumbersome to compete in today's world market, unlike other marketing boards, whereby producers and sellers have complete control over quality and production except for an act of God.

The fishing industry is the most volatile industry ever pursued by man. Not only does it require special techniques to special markets, but also is confronted with weather elements, seasons and cycles. And FFMC simply cannot and will not adapt or adopt to alternatives to reflect better returns to fishermen. Instead everything that goes through the hands of FFMC is intentionally earmarked for FFMC profit, and a liability for the fishermen, especially the aboriginal fishermen. No pension plan, no union benefits, no health plan, no vacation pay, no holiday pay--and no one is supposed to speak for their rights against FFMC. The whole operation

of FFMC is a complete failure. Not only are they destroying our resources and a whole fishing industry, but they are also destroying a way of life.

FFMC controls Fisheries and Oceans, Renewable Resources, Environment, and Economic Development, and seems to have more power than all our elected department heads, especially the minister of Economic Development and Fisheries and Oceans. By controlling all major departments that they should be accountable to, they pool sell all fish and pool expense. But expense here is not factual for each province seems to pay the extras. But the pool selling is a different matter. By pool selling, they manage to sell the poor quality of fish as good fish. Thus not enabling the fishermen to sell the fish that they catch as quality fish. Instead the system enables the South basin of Lake Winnipeg to sell as any other Lake, even though many people feel that the water quality here may be questionable.

But the fact of the matter is the south end of Lake Winnipeg is heavily utilized by non-aboriginal fishermen, and for that purpose is why the board of directors of FFMC decide on how the FFMC can better function. Absolutely no consideration is given to the aboriginal people, fishing in the remote areas where all quality fish are caught in the cool clear water and that is where all destruction of



- FFMC Marketing

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resources takes place. The reason: too far from the processing plant.

Today's world marketing demands that one sells what one has when one has it, and that means adapting to market demands over night if the needs arises. Therefore, one desk selling is not the answer for a commodity as volatile as fish. Rather, the more specific facilities accessible to each region, the better fish quality, and the better for local economy. It is a lot cheaper to load a finished product and ship to market fresh, then using Government subsidy money to ship thousands of miles away only to cull and create inferior quality of fish, or better put, not knowing what one is selling, or what one is shipping. This very approach is the clear indication that what is considered good business sense and profitable to FFMC in Winnipeg is exactly what creates slavery, and third world conditions to aboriginal fishermen, and denies any spin off opportunities for enhancement of aboriginal economies, in the remote outlying communities.

## SCOPE

### Aqua Farming, Fish farms

Bill 27 of Alberta clearly indicates as to who proposed this Bill. Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation knew a long time ago that they could no longer sell to the Americans the inferior quality of fish that was created, "intentionally or unintentionally," and thus proposed a bill that would guarantee their operations. Bill 27 specifically states one desk selling (FFMC), and the negative effects of fish farms as proposed in Bill 27 would certainly be felt by the Aboriginal Fishermen in remote outlying communities. Bill 27 as written and proposed, definitely does not consider Part III of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Equalization and Regional Disparities, nor (2) subsection (1) of (15) Equality Rights.

Subsection (1) does not preclude any law, program or activity that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of disadvantaged individuals or groups including those that are disadvantaged because of race, national or ethnic origin.

But FFMC simply does not operate within or adhere to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; simply put FFMC is simply not bounded by any part of the Canadian Constitution, and the proposed fish farms is just another case of totally ignoring the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



- (1) by selling farm products as fish FFMC would only enhance the third world conditions that they have already created.
- (2) FFMC would further deny the aboriginal people of utilization of our resources to the enhancement of generic life, as in fish commercially.
- (3) FFMC would break the very purpose of their incorporation. The fiduciary responsibility of the fishermen, and that is the most important thing for FFMC since incorporation of FFMC, states that FFMC must buy all quota fish.
- (4) FFMC would have total authority over both types of fishing, natural and aqua farming, and by so doing would use whatever means is best suited to their needs.
- (5) In short, aqua farming would certainly kill the whole fishing industry as it is now known, and it would take some time to prove the fruitlessness of aqua farming.
- (6) Aqua farming would certainly guarantee that high paying, non-aboriginal positions are intact, and that the continual denial of aboriginal people to the utilization of our own resources would be further perpetuated.
- (7) The reasoning for FFMC to go to aqua farming is simple, aboriginal people must not prove self sufficiency, and intellect. Aboriginal people must be used as a commodity, something to make huge profits on, or dispensed with, whichever serves the purpose.

- (8) FFMC is the most dishonest marketing board ever incorporated. The purpose of FFMC is the survival of FFMC and not the benefit factor for the people that they represent. Instead the emphasis is to destroy the aboriginal fishermen.
- (9) FFMC simply can't sell the fish to the Americans, and must change their dirty tactics to stay alive. Right now they propose to take some fishermen of their own choosing to try to find markets in the U.S.A., under their terms and conditions, and rest assured once markets have been developed, the export permits will become very insecure to the extent of non-existent to the fishermen.
- (10) Since FFMC cannot prove its worth, and can no longer sell inferior fish, they must not let aboriginal people sell their own fish and prove the futility of FFMC; instead they must kill all opportunities for aboriginal people to sell our own fish, something we have been denied all these years.



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THE EXPLORATION OF OPTIONS, OF ECONOMIC AND ORGANIZATION  
(SCOPE)

(1) Alternatives and options to marketing fish is a must, it is imperative that we as aboriginal people market our fish, if we are to attain any semblance of self sufficiency. The present system of destroying all the resources inhumanely, is simply unacceptable. But extreme caution must be exercised when selling a volatile commodity such as fish, and that is why, unlike Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation that put all their eggs in one basket from learning business in school and proved to be totally disastrous; we the Aboriginal people must be adaptable, flexible and competitive. In order to sell fish for a living, one must have a vested interest and not salary, the salary is what seems to put administration out of reality, too much for administration that is accountable to no one, thus the emphasis here is to satisfy administration and not the people it serves.

Many times we have heard " Tom Dunn " president of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation state that they " must be mean and lean " and believe it, that they are, to the aboriginal fishermen. But I wonder how mean they are to the benefit package and salaries of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation administration.

(2) Credit cards, to what extent are used, benefits, pension plan, travel pay, etc. etc.

Certainly, we feel that Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation have not adhered to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, we feel they have totally violated our rights (1) as Canadian citizens, (2) as aboriginal people.

LEGAL RIGHTS

(seizures)

(8) Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure.

(treatment)

(12) Everyone has the right not to be subjected to any cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

EQUALITY RIGHTS

15(1) Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, (sect.) (15) (2) (1).

Affirmative action programs,

to disadvantaged individuals or groups.



Part 111

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

( Equalization and Regional disparities )

Commitment to promote equal opportunities

36(1) Without altering the legislative authority of Parliament or of the Provincial legislatures, or the rights of any of them with respect to the exercise of their legislative authority, Parliament and legislatures, together with the Government of Canada and Provincial Governments, are committed to:

- (a) promoting equal opportunities for the well being of Canadians:
- (b) furthering economic development to reduce disparity in opportunities: and
- (c) providing essential public services of reasonable quality to all Canadians.

If I was a lawyer knowledgeable in constitutional matters, I suppose it would not be impossible for me to point out other violations that are not only perpetuated, but actually enhanced by the operations of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, and all violations are directed towards the Aboriginal Fishermen, and particularly to the Concerned Fishermen of the Great Slave Lake NT.

We the Aboriginal Fishermen are held at ransom, Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation simply cannot market Fish, not only are they not promoting economic opportunities, but are actually down sizing the fishermen in order to suit their needs, they simply cannot sell the inferior quality of fish they have created, and for that we must be eliminated.

At present Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation's operation destroys 70% to 80% of all fish caught and we the Aboriginal Fishermen have sale for all this fish. A lesson taught is a lesson got, and we the Aboriginal Fishermen must not fall into the same trap as did Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, we must not have one system of selling, to one system of buying, exactly this system is what creates overblown, humongus, ineffective and inefficient bureaucratic regime and destroys not only a whole fishing industry, but a way of life.

Instead we must sell what we have, where we have and when we have to whom wants it, and in order we achieve this, we must be given at least 80% of our resources, to harvest, manage and to market as to how we see fit. First and foremost we must be given the opportunity to utilize our resources to maximum benefits, and that is a fiduciary responsibility of all levels of Government. The role of Government is to enhance the quality of life for all Canadian Citizens, and not promote a double standard, to extent that some citizens, as Aboriginal Fishermen must endure Slavery and third world conditions. While the none Aboriginal Administration of resources are given a free hand to do what they want to, to the extent of destroying resources, such as fish, and



pay themselves undisclosed amounts of salaries. A marketing board that is made up of totally bureaucrats components, with no political involvement, for accountability. Board of Directors that are not fishermen and do not represent the views of the fishermen. But in short, an inside job, for an outside job, and believe it, an inside job it is. Our own minister of economic Development, John Pollard, who is responsible for subsidy money to Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation told we the Concerned Fishermen to go on welfare, even though we far out number the Federation and now John Pollard and his friend, past president of the Federation, Ed Studney, no longer a fisherman, are going to buy fish from Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation at more then double the price of what the fishermen receive. Right from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation plant, without Freshwater ever touching the fish and John Pollard has publicly stated that the Fishermens Federation would be involved. How can a none profit benevolent organization become a corporate for profit because the minister says so. But that is a clear indication of what we the Aboriginal Concerned Fishermen must contend with, a pure and blatant case of institutionalized racism and a definite proof of who controls the Fishermens Federation and who's purpose it serves. A puppet for the Government or an extension arm of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, for the purpose of exploitation.

But the Federation is not all Aboriginal in fact about 30% are none Aboriginal and some don't even fish. Yet that is the apartheid system that the Government chooses to use, including the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, John Crosbie. The Concerned Fishermen represent approximately 75% of all fishermen and upwards of 90% production, while the Federation represents approximately 20 to 25% of the fishermen and control everything and destroy everything.

In fact, on April 13th, 1993 the Federation had an election of officers and a new president was elected. A young Aboriginal person, with full qualification and ability to fish, the past president was none Aboriginal, 80 years old, no longer fished, is a friend of John Pollard and was well trained for Government in fact, he is the man that had the labour laws in terms of commercial fishing, removed from the application of Northwest Territories labour act. Now on April 24th, 1993 the board of directors of the Federation were to hold a meeting to dump the new president, totally illegal and totally unconstitutional. The fear is the new president may serve the purpose of the people and not that of the Government. The Fishermens Federation has always operated totally illegally, just another indication of how it functions and why it functions and exactly why this system of outside control, is what must be avoided.



We the Aboriginal resource users as in fish commercially, fully intend to control our destiny and we don't intend to feed another bureaucratic arm comprised of Metis or Treaty leaders. But we fully expect that they do their jobs and support us. Particularly the Metis, that get core funding because they are considered second class citizens and the funding would enable the Metis to open economic avenues for its people, rather than hinder the users in favour of all forms of bureaucracy.

At present the only support the resource users seem to be getting in terms of rights to resources is from the resource users directly and the First Nations people. We the resource users in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation zone must sell our resources to maximum potential benefits. We cannot sell our fish how it is, where it is, exactly this system is what denies us of economic opportunities. Our resources should symbolize an enhancement of quality of genetic life and to do so we the Aboriginal resource users in conjunction with all aboriginal groups if possible, must in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation zone break the monopoly of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and pursue the concept of added value and quality, on regional bases and to achieve this format, we the Aboriginal resource users in the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation zone must be given at least half million dollars annually, for legal fees. So we can surface our rights as main stream people. We feel that it is the responsibility of all levels of Government particularly the Federal government to get us out of the unconstitutional and illegal quagmire, since they are responsible

for getting us in it. Fishing is a Federal matter and must remain so. Aboriginal rights are a Federal matter and must remain so, otherwise the maze of rights of all Aboriginal peoples would only further create confusion and would enable the Federal Government to further delete the rights to resources of Aboriginal people, thus further oppress slavery and third world conditions on the users.

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We feel the Federal Government must sit with Aboriginal resource users as in commercial fishing and the supporting Aboriginal groups. To compromise on negotiated inherent rights, which is now a justiciable right and work out all details in order that commercial fishing in the Freshwater Fish Marketing zone be stabilized and become a viable way of sustaining a lively hood. Nothing is more inherent than fish and wildlife to the Aboriginal people, resources always represented life, and being denied the utilization of our resources to maximum potential benefits is a direct denial to economic self sufficiency within the Aboriginal community. We know that Government is very reluctant to the use of the term inherent, but inherent does not have to mean totalitarianism as is now the case, for we know that we have rights to resources and what we are striving for is negotiated rights, rather than imposed rights. Imposed rights are not rights at all, but rather regulations and policies of delegated powers. Completely contrary to the rights of Aboriginal people and contrary to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



Thus we must attain our rights that are not just logic or optimism, but are justiciable and export are own fish, as to how we fit market demand, with export permits from Ottawa and not Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation.

First, the only way that fishing can be viable to the users is to incorporate companies, made up of Aboriginal Fishermen and maximize on profits by being the fishermen, the buyer and seller and export all the fish that must be exported.

Secondly, we must be given the opportunity to import and only in that manner can we control prices on imported fishing equipment, thus minimizing on costs.

Thirdly, we must have all the Aboriginal communities involved, they must be involved in all aspects of fishing, (1) environment, (2) harvest management, (3) policy making, (4) domestic fishing, (5) sport fishing, (6) enforcement of policies and regulations. The users of the resources must be directly involved, since we are the biggest stake holders.

The management of our resources would enable us to restock, revive and guarantee that all aspects of fishing would always be available, to all users, as in want and need, be it commercial food, or sport as opposed to the wide open system that is now in place and serving the segment of society that need it less, but want it most.

Money and greed has never produced a fair policy before, so why should it start now, in the days of yesteryears, when the Aboriginal people had a fur industry, they were simply robbed of their furs and now Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation with the same colonial mentality, are robbing the Aboriginal fishermen with 100% more devastating effect. Certainly Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation does not consider environment or conservation, but the emphasis seems to be on destruction and we believe that they have achieved their mission.

We the Concerned Fishermen have a lot of support in obtaining autonomy from Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Firstly, we have all the major Aboriginal organizations in support of our strive for autonomy and equality and a lot of local and Provincial organizations as well. Secondly, the President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Margaret F. Delisle, representing 560 municipalities and 70% of the Canadian population has requested of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, John Crosbie, and here is the draft resolution:

\* ED92.2.07 - FRESHWATER FISHING INDUSTRY

WHEREAS the freshwater fishing industry is in a state of crisis due to declining prices, inadequate marketing strategies and constraining government legislation;

WHEREAS failure by the government of Canada to address these long-standing problems has resulted in freshwater fishermen being unable to make a sustainable living;



BE IT RESOLVED that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities strongly urge the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to deal with the crisis of declining prices, inadequate marketing strategies and constraining government legislation, and resolve the long-standing problems in the freshwater fishing industry.

Consultation on how to resolve the problems must involve the freshwater fishermen, Marketing Corporation and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

The response Margaret F. Delisle received from John Crosbie was that Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is profitable indeed. He also stated that an annual pay out of (\$32,000,000.00) thirty two million dollars, to (3500) thirty five hundred fishermen has been on going for the last (5) five years.  $\$32,000,000.00$  divided by 3500 = \$9,142.85 and that is before any expenses of any kind.

He also stated to Ms. Delisle, that Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is suppose to be totally self sustaining, yet in response to a Mr. Robert Kristjanson: Mr. Crosbie states that FVIP insures 545 commercial fishing vessels, valued at (\$5,000,000.00) five million dollars, just to Manitoba fishermen (\$250,000.00) two hundred and fifty thousand dollars provided by the Department of Indians and Northern Affairs for training, and 3.5 million dollars from Unemployment Insurance Commission, that is not totally self sustaining, but rather living on the tax dollar. John Crosbie also stated that the Government of Canada delegated authority on day to day management of the Manitoba fisheries to the Province in 1930. I wonder if one man can write

such conflicting and contrary statements.

All figures of grant money and Unemployment Insurance Commission, are inclusive to the overall figures of (\$32,000,000.00) thirty two million dollars, most of the money is not fish sale money at all, but rather tax payers dollars. The end result is that the tax payer, without knowing, are paying to destroy our resources and creating slavery among the Aboriginal Fishermen. I wonder how the Canadian public would react to all this if ever they all found out and that is why we have so much support, everyone knows something is very wrong and the Canadian public as a whole would like to see the wrongs imposed on the Aboriginal people be corrected for once and for all. The Canadian Public respects us as people and that is why we respect the Canadian Public. There fore if public awareness is what it takes to surface all the corruption, then that is the avenue we must pursue.

The status quo cannot remain, we feel that it is only fair that everyone gets a share of the resources. Too often we hear, that idle time is a paved path to incarceration, too often we hear that alcoholism, family breakdowns, and even suicides are rampant within the Aboriginal community, but anything is possible, when all means are impossible.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has destroyed the initiatives and aspirations of our younger generation of resource users, and have taken away the opportunity of independence and replaced it with a role model of dependency instead. They have portrayed the elder Aboriginal Fishermen, particularly the



illiterate, as a total failure as bread winners to their families and by so doing have managed to portray themselves as an immovable foe.

Due to lack of fiduciary responsibility by Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, we the Aboriginal Fishermen unintentionally and unknowingly accumulated substantial amounts of arrears, it was the responsibility of Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation not to let things get out of hand. A study done (3) three years ago, by Economic Development of the Government of the Northwest Territories, who is involved with Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation through subsidies, clearly indicated that the break even point for class "A" licences was \$1.19 per pound.

The Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation was paying us \$0.85 per pound, there for Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation knowingly and willingly let us fish, for \$0.85 and never averaged anywhere near \$0.85 per pound.

Now Freshwater is suing us, (4) four of the Concerned Fishermen, for arrears unnecessarily accumulated, to the extent of garnisheeing all our bank accounts and seizing all of our equipment including vehicles and maybe Old Age Pension cheques.

The reason for seizures of the Concerned Fishermen as we see it is, because we are adamantly opposed to the destruction of our resources, we are Aboriginal, we speak for our rights, and we are not puppets for Government as opposed to the Fishermens Federation that represents a small minority of fishermen and some are none Aboriginal. I am the chairman and spokes person for the

Concerned Fishermen and the other three that are presently being sued are adamant supporters of our cause.

According to our Lawyer, there is a total of (47) forty seven fishermen implicated due to arrears and some are Fishermens Federation members. The Minister of Economic Development, John Pollard, is totally behind the Federation, a none profit organization and totally illegal. In fact he is part of the Federation and has gone on record stating that he and Ed Studney are going to process fish and the Federation is involved. Last year John Pollard, subsidized Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (\$800,000.00) eight hundred thousand dollars with no strings attached. When we the Concerned Fishermen asked for some consideration he told us to go on welfare. It has gone to the extent that even though he is our MLA geographically he speaks intentionally to destroy us, the Concerned Fishermen. There fore, we the Concerned Fishermen must meet with other forms of Government and we have started this by meeting with upwards of a dozen MLA's including the Government Leader.

This is the only way we can address our issues. We the Concerned Fishermen represent a whole Fishing industry and the Concerned Fishermen are made up of all Aboriginal people. A people that John Pollard is adamantly opposed too. A clear indication that John Pollard and his staff feel, or try to make believe they are reproachable and unquestionable.

Economic Development are the people that brought in the level one, level two and level three communities and then brought in the Economic Development Corporation a corporation that is



designed to serve only the level three and level two communities because the system of funding projects differ in these two levels of communities. Funding for the level one communities are virtually none existent. Particularly to the resource users. They are denied equal opportunity due to place of birth or residency, this is in complete violation of the Charter of Rights. The main reason for this formula of funding is to infiltrate the predominantly Aboriginal community unsuspectingly, and take control of all resources, to create none Aboriginal, none Northern, high paying Economic Development Administration positions on the pretence that they are there to create better living conditions and more opportune life style, but what is not told is that who's life style shall become more opportuned.

Definitely we cannot all live on traditional life styles, but we should not completely revert to a corruptive life style either. The funding formula of Economic Development should reflect the need, not the greed and we the Aboriginal Concerned Fishermen are a prime example of corruptive money management. At all costs we must not manage our own resources and believe it, we are being oppressed to the extent of extinction.

Thus the subsidy money must stop, no longer can the Government of the Northwest Territories subsidize a crown corporation to intentionally create slave labour conditions and third world conditions. Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation must no longer be subsidized, we feel that it is highly unconstitutional by any Government to deny the enhancement of its people, while promoting and enhancing totalitarianism.

We feel that Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has absolutely no rights to subsidy money. We feel that Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is simply to corrupt, to administrate subsidies as it should be, and have proven it by subsidizing some fishermen more than others. To Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation subsidy money is just another form of control, or pay to control and that subsidy money may in fact be used to sue, we the Concerned Fishermen for speaking out to the extent that we cannot even cash a cheque, where we have lived for over (40) forty years.

If money can be wasted by Government for no apparent beneficial reasoning to the needy, then the waste of money through subsidy should stop. In fact if things don't start to take on a meaningful change for the betterment of the citizens of the Northwest Territories, namely the Aboriginal resource users, we will be compelled to request from the Tax Payer's Association of Canada that at least (3) three to (4) four hundred million dollars be with held and not released unless it is proven that this money will go to the benefits of Aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories. Not to the none Aboriginal high paying administration positions that are not needed at all.

A quote from the Beattie report stated that there are (375) three hundred and seventy five Government of the Northwest Territories programs. That represents a lot more programs then there are people in a lot of communities and exactly this system of governing is why we the Aboriginal fishermen are being destroyed. Every penny must be ear marked, for the Governments



benefits and nothing is left for the actual revenue generator and we the Concerned Fishermen are generators of revenue, by harvesting resources for pay and the present system does not allow political decisions in our favour, for every level of Government seems to want us right out of existence.

Thus the only recourse open is to pursue our justiciable rights. More and more frequently we the Concerned Fishermen hear of other Aboriginal people winning their rights to commercialize their fish and we see no reason why we should not be awarded the same accord. If the resources are ours, then it is our right to do with our resources as we see fit. We should not be out right robbed of our resources.

The Fishermens Federation entered into an agreement with Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (7) seven people out of (78) seventy eight licence holders signed the agreement. According to Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation at a (\$1.00) dollar per pound, but one fisherman who kept a very accurate account of all his fish sales found out that his fish averaged (\$0.71.7) seventy one point seven cents per pound and the cost of putting the fish on the scale was (\$1.11) one dollar and eleven cents per pound.

With the help of the press that will reiterate anything the Government states factual or perceived, the Government or Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to be more specific continues to mislead the public and when the Concerned Fishermen tell the truth, it is completely distorted and intentionally miss guided, since the press seems to work on sensationalism thus the

facts of the common Aboriginal people, particularly the fishermen, are completely ignored. There fore, freedom of the press is certainly something that is not experienced by the fishermen. Thus not enabling the facts of Aboriginal Fishermen to be known by public.