

March 8, 2006 Comments Land Exchange

Comments from Jonathan Solomon-Traditional Chief

“My name is Jonathan Solomon; I’m the Traditional Chief of Gwichyaa Gwich’in Tribal Government. I’m opposed to this land exchange, not because of development but because of all the other things they never took into consideration. If the Doyon land exchange is so great where are all the rest of the Regional Corporations? How come there not involved? The oil companies don’t even have a contract, if Doyon, the shareholders and the board of Directors’ think they can make money on the land exchange, I don’t believe so. The land exchange is only between Doyon and the Federal Govt. and the Federal Govt. is getting the best of it, there getting all the land over and above. If there’s going to be a land exchange it should equal to equal basis, true value to true value, there no value on the lands of the Yukon Flats right now.”

“The only thing I see in this whole land exchange is killing the Resources the natural resources that our people depend on fish and all the animals of the land, they will kill them all. And that’s what Fish and Wildlife is supposed to protect and there not doing that. The oil companies are here to destroy Native Corporations, the sooner we get away from it the better off will be.”

Comments from Clarence Alexander-Former 1st Chief

“My name is Clarence Alexander, Former Chief of the Gwich’in Nation. I lived up here on this land all my life. Maintaining our culture, maintaining our land as native land owners we have to maintain that otherwise we will get runned over.

“There already using the process to take some land away from us so we need to rejoin our efforts in maintaining and make sure that our land stays as it is but that does not mean that we are against development. Development in itself has a different condensation to it. So we have lived on this land for thirty thousand of years, we have gone thru the turmoil’s of the mining industry that has went thru our region, we had fur trappers from other areas that went thru our land, we have maintained out livelihood in multiple ways as we see fit, as we transgress thru life.”

“The transition that we are going thru has to be completed as planned and that is the new life as is but maintaining our cultural ways and our native ways and keeping our native lands in tact will be our most beneficial to all of us and into the next century.”

Masi’ Choo

Comments from Clifford Luke-Tribal Member

“My name is Clifford Luke I’m a Tribal Member the Native Village of Fort Yukon and I oppose the land trade. I grew up a subsistence life style, and I would like my grandchildren to grow up a subsistence lifestyle. I don’t want the land to be touched because we will loose our resources. We have too many resources up here, one is fish and one is meat. If we loose one of those resources we will be loosing lots, our culture. Our kids won’t be hunting anymore, the moneys not going to last, it’s not going to last over here so that’s the reason why I oppose the land trade.”