



COMMUNIQUÉ

Pour diffusion immédiate

10th Anniversary of Erasmus-Dussault Report

“WHEN WILL THE GOVERNMENT TREAT THE ABORIGINAL NATIONS AS EQUALS?”

- Marc Lemay

Ottawa, Tuesday, November 21, 2006 – “Ten years after the report was tabled, what progress has been made?” asked the Critic for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Member for Abitibi–Témiscamingue, **Marc Lemay**, about the follow-up that was never given to the Erasmus-Dussault report, tabled on November 21, 1996.

“This 4,000-page report, which contained over 400 recommendations that sought to improve, among other things, the quality of life of Aboriginal communities, likely takes up more space on the shelf than in the government’s mind,” said the MP.

“Even though the report was enthusiastically welcomed, including a sun salutation ritual on the banks of the Ottawa River and an elaborate ceremony at the Museum of Civilization, the five years it took to complete the report have been quietly brushed aside,” added the Deputy Critic for Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Member for Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou, **Yvon Lévesque**.

The two Bloc Québécois MPs and critics want to know how the government intends to follow up on the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, established under a previous Conservative government. The recent Socioeconomic Forum of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador again demonstrated that the Aboriginal communities and the Harper government are still a long way from seeing eye-to-eye on the communities’ needs and ways of addressing them. “We will now see whether the Prime Minister has the political courage to take on his responsibilities and implement the key recommendations of the report,” said **Marc Lemay**.

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