



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Slaughter of Inuit sled dogs in the Far North from the 1950s to the 1970s

YVON LÉVESQUE CRITICIZES THE CONSERVATIVES ON THEIR 180° TURN AND DEMANDS THAT A REAL INQUIRY BE HELD

Ottawa, Monday, December 4, 2006 –The Bloc Québécois Indian and Northern Affairs critic and Member of Parliament for Abitibi—Baie-James—Nunavik—Eeyou, **Yvon Lévesque**, rejects the findings of the report presented by Public Security Minister Stockwell Day on the involvement of RCMP officers in the slaughter of Inuit sled dogs in the Far North from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Yvon Lévesque demands that a real inquiry be held by an independent judge, as called for in the Bloc Québécois motion that was passed more than a year ago—a motion that the Conservatives had supported when they were in the Opposition.

“The Bloc Québécois has always maintained that the inquiry should be entrusted to a judge from one of the superior courts in order to ensure that the investigation would be conducted with impartiality. The former government, that did not want to hold an investigation, insisted that the job be given to a former RCMP officer, who was clearly in a conflict of interest situation with his previous employer,” said the Bloc Québécois MP.

“The most frustrating thing about this whole situation is that the Conservatives once again have completely reversed their position and are accepting the report’s conclusions, which, not surprisingly, completely exonerate the RCMP. The three Conservative members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development had, however, clearly supported the motion introduced by the Bloc Québécois in March 2005, that the Committee ask the government for a Superior Court judge to be appointed to investigate the situation,” said **Yvon Lévesque**.

“These events have left a mark on the Inuit communities. At a time when there were not very many roads, they were deprived of their only means of transportation as well as their way of life. This is much too serious to simply look the other way, as the Conservatives are doing, and as the Liberals did before them. The Bloc Québécois will not give up and we will continue to demand a real inquiry,” said **Yvon Lévesque**.

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