

FIRST MINISTERS' CONFERENCE
ON ABORIGINAL CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

Framework Agreement Concerning Charter of
Aboriginal Rights

Province of Manitoba

Ottawa, Ontario

March 15, 1983

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT CONCERNING
CHARTER OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Subscribing First Ministers and the leaders of the Aboriginal people agree:

1. That Part II of the Constitution Act, 1982 remain, be revised and be entitled Aboriginal Charter of Rights.
2. That rights of aboriginal people be recognized as collective and individual rights.
3. That the word "existing" is to be removed from S. 35(1) when particular rights are defined and entrenched and that the word "guaranteed" be added after the word "affirmed".
4. That Part II include:
 - (a) A definition of the term "Aboriginal peoples".
 - (b) A statement concerning and a definition of aboriginal title including the rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada to a land base.
 - (c) A clause concerning aboriginal rights, including customary, linguistic, cultural and spiritual rights.
 - (d) An enforcement clause.

- (e) A clause relating to the initiation of amendments to any item included in Part II.
- (f) A clause relating to the role of the Aboriginal peoples with respect to amendments directly affecting them whether contained in Part II or not.
- (g) A clause relating to the questions of fiscal responsibility and program delivery.
- (h) A clause concerning the status of treaties and analogous agreements including the implementation of treaties.
- (i) A clause concerning economic rights and benefits, including hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering rights; and concerning benefits from the development of renewable and non-renewable resources to which there are aboriginal or treaty entitlements.
- (j) Clauses relating to self-government for Indians, Inuits and Metis.
- (k) A clause relating to equal rights for Aboriginal women and men.