

WILTON LITTLECHILD, L.P.C., C.M., R.P., Q.C.

**BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
BOX 879
BOHEMIA, ALBERTA, CANADA
T0C 1N0**

**Office 403-282-8288
403-282-8287
Fax 403-282-8776**

**doCip
ARCHIVE**
Call 403-282-8288
email: willie@wllc.com

UNPF 2 May 20, 2003

Intervention 10: Re Agenda Item 4 (c) HEALTH

In the Treaty No. 6 Territory of Western Canada, our elders have always maintained that there is a Treaty Right to Health. The article of the Treaty No. 6 that reflects this position has been called the "medicine chest" clause. It has been the position of our elders that it was to describe the traditional medicine person's medicine bag. However, over time, the Crown in the right of Canada has disagreed with this. This is compounded by the fact that the elders rely on oral testimony and the Crown's honor.

Yet, let me quote two statements at Treaty time by the Commissioners representing Her Majesty the Queen.

"We promised that supplies of medicine would be put in the charge of persons selected by the Government at different points, and would be distributed free to those of the Indians who might require them". And

"We assured them, that the Government would always be ready to avail itself of any opportunity of affording medical service just as is provided. The physician attached to the Commission should give free attendance to all Indians whom he might find in need of treatment..."

This goes to the spirit and intent of Treaty. The Treaty Right to Health. To the Indian, (our ancestors) negotiations "medicines", and the Treaty promise to supply them, means all that is required to maintain proper health.

Mr. Chairman, as we have done with other matters that are subject of study by Special Rapporteurs, I respectfully submit that this Treaty right to Health, as understood by Indigenous Peoples in Treaty Territories, is one that must be addressed by the Special Rapporteur on Health. I therefore recommend the Treaty Right to Health, since previous calls have been made to the Special Rapporteur, be included in the Rapporteur's Report on the Right to Health. Thank you.



Willie Littlechild IPC