

**The 6th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
14-25 May, 2007 United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Intervention delivered by Adelard Blackman

On Behalf of the Buffalo River Dene Nation

Concerning The Future Work of the Permanent Forum:

To members of the Permanent Forum, we make this recommendation: that the Permanent Forum begin the immediate implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples immediately as passed by the Human Rights Council.

In regards to future work: to investigate two incidents that have occurred here at this forum.

1. The interference by the Vietnamese government in canceling a side event here yesterday. This sets a very dangerous precedence for all Indigenous Peoples.
2. To investigate AVEDA Corporation in their participation at this forum. They create an image of corporate responsibility but behind the scenes, they are playing Indigenous groups against other Indigenous groups. This has to be exposed for what it really is. It is too bad that something like this still happens.

Finally, documents will be forthcoming to members of the Permanent Forum so that you can monitor the legal actions over the coming year initiated by the Buffalo River Dene Nation against the Canadian government. We are proceeding with legal action at the national and international level to begin the process on the question of treaties, land, natural resources and genocide against our people. We strongly believe that by creating this action we will have adverse negative reactions by the Canadian government in some way. We ask the Permanent Forum to keep careful watch on our progression over the coming year.

To the Canadian government, we have put you on notice.

Finally Madame Chairperson, our elders say that as Indigenous Peoples we face so much adversity and that we are facing extinction. The work of the Permanent Forum is very important to all Indigenous Peoples. Our Elders tell us that what we do today we must look seven generations ahead. "What do we have to leave our relatives seven generations from now?" The struggle will continue until we have justice, recognition and respect.

Thank you.