

Hotspots Binder

Aboriginal Hot Spots and Public Safety

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
March 30, 2007

Purpose of Presentation

- Describe past initiatives to improve collaboration between INAC and PSEPC to mitigate aboriginal occupations and protests (O&P's).
- Describe what we have learnt through these past initiatives which may inform future plans

Summer 2006 Operational Plan Objectives

- In May 2006, the Deputies PSEPC and INAC directed that a summer operational plan be prepared for aboriginal occupations and protests (O&P's). Its objectives were:
 1. to establish a dialogue between federal departments as to the sharing of information on their respective mandates, policies, business practices and issues; that needs to be known in order to collaborate on preventative measures;
 2. to support the sharing of information between federal departments and other parties as appropriate, for the timely identification of impending incidents and by which to avoid them or mitigate them;
 3. to support the coordinated federal/provincial response as to aboriginal O&P that may arrive and by which to defuse any potential violence at the site or through sympathy actions;
 4. to support measures towards a long-term, stable and secure environment in the aftermath of O&Ps; and
 5. to provide for timely, consistent advice and high quality aids to federal decision-makers, regarding O&P's through efficient interdepartmental processes.

Summer 2006 Operational Plan Problematic

- There were strong indications of a need to improve communications and collaboration:

"it became evident that most (law enforcement officials) are ignorant regarding INAC roles and responsibilities and mandate...Conversely, the role of law enforcement, and an understanding of their related capacities, appears also lacking from an INAC perspective"

Identifying Collaborative Efforts to Deter and Mitigate the Impact of
Organized Crime on First Nations Governance and Well Being, March 2006

- There was a payback for doing so:

"What distinguishes Caledonia from Ipperwash is that (operational) communications was established quickly and maintained; though the OPP never contemplated an event of that complexity.

Ron George
Critical Incident Mediator, OPP

Summer 2006 Operational Plan Results: Process Improvements

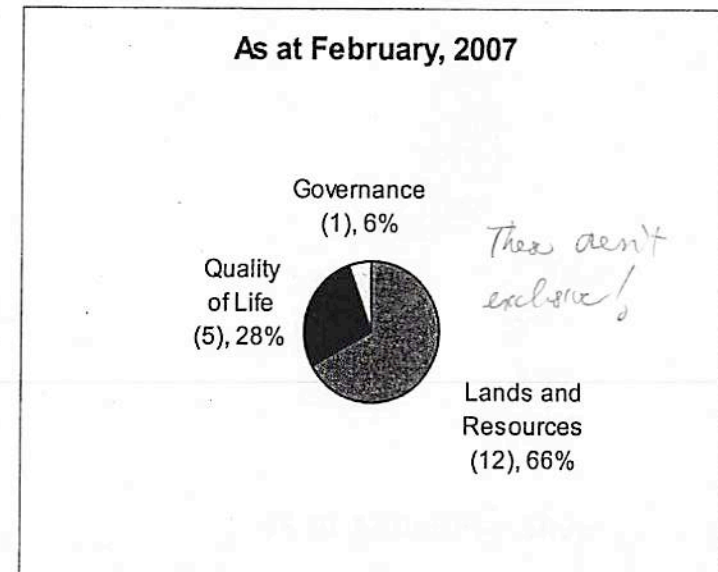
- Standing Information Sharing Forum:
 - Chaired by RCMP
 - Members PCO-S&I, CSIS, CBS, GOC, INAC, DFO, NRCAN, TC, etc.
 - Weekly conference calls
 - Intensive real time info sharing during incidents
- INAC Hotspot Reporting System:
 - Continuous environmental monitoring (INAC, DFO, NRCAN Regions, Federal Negotiation teams, INAC media services, Police Intelligence)
 - Continuous information dissemination by INAC of existing and emerging risks
 - Hot Spot Binder: summarizing and analyzing case files ✕
- Synergy with PSEPC Reporting Systems (CSIS, ITAC, GOC and RCMP)

Hotspot Reporting Binder Lessons Learned

1. Nature of Hotspots
2. Multitude of Jurisdictions involved
3. Leaderships of protests
4. Incidents mitigated

Nature of Hot Spots

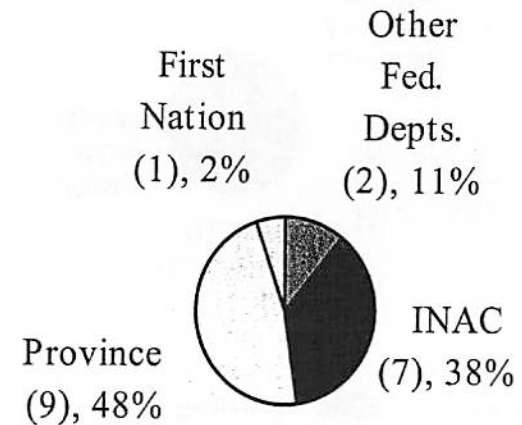
- The vast majority of Hot Spots are related to lands and resources:
 - but: less than 30% of these are related to “claims” negotiations, and
 - most are incited by development activities on traditional territories



Multitude of Jurisdictions Involved

- Hot spots fall about 50/50 between federal and provincial jurisdictions.
- Provincial issues are most often related to development on traditional First Nation territories
- Federal issues are more diverse and often related to *Indian Act* provisions or program funding issues.

As at February 2007



Hotspot Reporting Binder Leadership of Protests

- The following unpredictable protests were led by "splinter groups":
 - Caledonia, Ontario: (Douglas Creek Estates occupation)
 - Belleville, Ontario: (Montreal/Toronto Rail Blockade in sympathy to Caledonia)
 - Brantford, Ontario: (Grand River Conservation Authority Lands)
 - Desoronto, Ontario: (Occupation of Quarry)
 - Grassy Narrows: (Blockade of Trans Canada Hwy by environmentalists)
 - Manawaki Quebec: (Blockade of Route 117) *Beaver Lake (?)*
- Such incidents may involve multiple competing power groups. At times it appears these involve illicit agendas (e.g. smuggling)
- In contrast the Manitoba Day of Protest through rail blockades, sanctioned by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), was highly structured and transparent
- Incidents led by splinter groups are arguably harder to manage as they exist outside negotiation processes to resolve recognized grievances with duly elected leaders. We seek to avoid giving standing to such splinter groups so as not to debase the legally recognized government. Incidents are also complicated by external groups such as Warrior Societies or non-aboriginal counter-protest groups.

colonial model

How Aboriginal Leaders Position Themselves With Respect to Aboriginal Extremism

- There is a tendency to predict extremism as a consequence of problems in Canada/First Nation relations
but: where there is a potential for actual violence, there is a tendency to dissuade members from participating in the event
- There is a tendency to observe extremism but not to sanction specific splinter groups (e.g. Caledonia/Deseronto)
- The 2006 Numbered Treaty Conference proposed a national “movement” of independent actions to express discontent
- Events led by duly elected leaders tend to be transparent and disciplined

Summer 2006 Operational Plan Incidents Mitigated

- The vast majority of incidents are mitigated by INAC and RCMP regional staff
- Major collaborative efforts have occurred to mitigate certain situations
 - Manitoba Rail Blockades (Roseau River FN)
 - RCMP/INAC/CN interventions
 - Alberta Rail Blockade (Ermine Skin FN);
 - RCMP interventions
 - Kanesatake
 - INAC/PSEPC intervention
- Caledonia was and remains a significant event in risk management.
- Fisheries and Oceans is monitoring significant risks related to, for example, the Fraser River fishery.

And the Summer of 2007? Recent Quotes from Aboriginal Leaders

- *"Obviously the Government of Canada is not listening. Perhaps a summer of barricades, balaclavas and burning tires will serve to draw attention to the urgency of the desperate situation of the Aboriginal people of Canada,"* concluded Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. (Press Release issued by the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, March 21)
- *"We're moving back to the frustrations that arose and intensified in the '80s that led to the Oka uprising in 1990, and we're going to see another national outbreak of expressions of that violence."* Stewart Phillip said the \$21 million in new funding contained in the budget for aboriginal initiatives is just another slap in the face of First Nations people. (The Penticton Herald, March 22)
- *"If people aren't being heard, if (land) claims aren't being addressed . . . you can bet there's going to be much more confrontation and barricades." "Do I advocate it? No. But the young people are going to be taking matters into their own hands."* (Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse, Montreal Gazette, March 21)

And the Summer of 2007?

Recent Quotes from Aboriginal Leaders

- *This budget is doing nothing for First Nations people. It's very disappointing," said Shirley Clarke, chief of a reserve in Nova Scotia. "Sometimes confrontation may be the avenue to go, because sometimes nobody is listening."* (Montreal Gazette, March 21)
- *"The patience of the people is getting very thin. There is no faith at all with the Crown. There is no trust. We saw what went on for a whole year," said Six Nations spokesman Hazel Hill. "You are going to have people that if they feel that the government of Canada is not willing to co-operate fully then people are going to have do things to bring attention."* (The Ottawa Sun, The London Free Press, The Toronto Sun, March 17)
- The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is threatening not to co-operate on new hydro dams or forestry projects as it absorbs the sting of being snubbed by this week's federal budget. AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans said he is still reeling from the budget, which included only about \$70 million in new spending for Aboriginals out of total new spending of \$10 billion. "This budget only allows for enough money to continue the management of our own misery," Evans said. (Winnipeg Free Press, March 21st.)



RCMP Operational Response to Aboriginal Occupations and Protest

April 3rd, 2007

Presented by: Supt. Shirley Cuillierrier to CSIS
Slides 4-6 delivered by Russ Weissman

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