

THE ROYAL
COMMISSION ON
ABORIGINAL
PEOPLES



Editor's Introduction

Fred Wien

This section of the Journal features an article written especially for this issue by Tony Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds was the Executive Director of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples from 1993 through to the end of 1996 when RCAP's final report was released. In this position, he was in daily contact with the Commissioners and had a comprehensive view of the workings of the Commission as a whole. He came to RCAP from a long career as a senior civil servant in the federal government, with a particular interest in economic development. He is therefore in a unique position to understand how royal commission's fit into government's policy-making framework, in general, and to describe in particular the main thrust of RCAP's report and its reception by the government of the day.

In this article, Mr. Reynolds outlines the vision put forward by RCAP with respect to the historical relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and the contemporary need to rebalance political authority and economic resources. He describes the requirements that need to be

met if economic progress is to occur, including the importance of governance and an expanded land and resource base. The article concludes with an assessment of the federal government's response to the Royal Commission recommendations.

