

and has to look to some state or Federal official who is hundreds (or thousands) of miles away, who is overburdened with other cares and problems, who cannot be called by telephone (only a handful of villages have phone service), and who cannot get to the village without a substantial expenditure of time, effort and money. (The vast majority of villages can only be reached by bush planes; during certain times of the year, some villages are totally inaccessible.)

To put it simply, and at the risk of understatement, if the Natives cannot retain adequate lands, their present problems may become seriously aggravated.

The AFN proposal would confirm the title of each village to a minimum of four townships. This is not an unreasonable amount for a small village because no matter what the size of a village may be, the sparseness of the land requires its citizens to cover substantial distances in order to survive. Larger villages would retain additional acreage so that there would be at least 500 acres per person.

If a village were entitled to a patent to more than four townships, the additional acreage would not have