

## Report to Parliament recommends action on treaties

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance is recommending to Parliament action on treaties following a plea by Treaty Commission.

In response to the Treaty Commission's presentation to the finance committee in Ottawa on October 28, their report to parliament will include recommendations to move treaty negotiations forward.

"The government should reaffirm its commitment to the British Columbia treaty process, to timely implementation of the west coast fisheries review, and to updated mandates for Canadian negotiators on specific issues hindering treaty completion," the committee report states.

Chief Commissioner Sophie Pierre and Commissioners Robert Phillips, Jerry Lampert and Dave Haggard had asked the committee members to consider, in their pre-budget consultation report to parliament, the importance of achieving the economic stimulus effects that will result from completing treaties in British Columbia.

"Settling treaties now results in greater benefits being delivered sooner to First Nations and British Columbians and creates a multiplier effect in the economy," said Pierre. "We accomplished what we set out to do in getting our message to parliamentarians by way of this report."

The full report *A Prosperous and Sustainable Future For Canada: Needed Federal Actions* is available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca> Finance committee members are: chair James Rajotte (CON Edmonton), vice-chairs Jean-Yves Laforest (BQ Saint Maurice), Massimo Pacetti (LIB Saint Leonard), and Kelly Block (CON Saskatoon), Bob Dechert (CON Mississauga), Daryl Kramp (CON Belleville), John McCallum (LIB Markham), John McKay (LIB Scarborough), Ted Menzies (CON Macleod), Thomas J. Mulcair (NDP Outremont), Daniel Paille (BQ Hochelaga) and Mike Wallace (CON Burlington).