

First Nations Fiscal Institutions Initiative

Initiative sur les institutions fiscales

Des Premières nations

Welcome to the fourth issue of *FNFI Update*. The *First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act* (Bill C-19) is moving through the legislative process, and this update bulletin is intended to keep everyone informed of the Bill's progress. To date, Bill C-19 has received its first and second readings in the House of Commons, and has completed the witness and clause-by-clause phases of the Committee Process. Below is a brief overview, as well as a brief explanation of the Report Stage. Your comments, suggestions and questions are always welcome, and can be sent to mail@fnfi.ca.



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Bill C-19 Back In House of Commons

After returning from Summer Recess, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development, and Natural Resources resumed its review of Bill C-19 on September 16, 2003. The Committee proceeded with three days of clause-by-clause consideration of the legislation. The clause-by-clause concluded on September 22, 2003, when the Bill was returned to the House of Commons with amendments.

The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Raymond Bonin, tabled the Committee's report on Bill C-19 in the House of Commons on Wednesday, September 24, 2003. The legislation was re-printed to include several amendments which had been passed during the Committee Hearings.

The most significant amendment passed was the inclusion of a non-derogation clause. It should be noted that the motion to amend the bill to include a non-derogation clause was carried unanimously by the Standing Committee. The clause reads:

ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

2.1 For greater certainty, nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any existing aboriginal or treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada under section 35 of

What is the Report Stage?

The **Report Stage** of the Committee Process, which follows witness testimony and clause-by-clause consideration, involves the House considering the Bill as reported by the Standing Committee.

The Report includes amendments proposed by the Committee, which are debated and voted on in the House of Commons.

Further amendments may be proposed by any Member of the House during the Report Stage; these are usually amendments that Members did not have the opportunity to propose in Committee.

When all of the amendments have been either passed or rejected, the Bill receives its third reading (often the report stage is combined with the third reading and a final vote on the Bill).

If the motion for third reading carries, the Bill goes to the Senate, where it enters into a similar process as the House of Commons: introductory reading; second reading; Senate Committee Report; third reading; and finally, Royal Assent.

Bill C-19 will now be re-printed to include the amendments as reported by the Standing Committee.

Although no date has yet been set for Bill C-19 to receive its Third Reading, we look forward to keeping you updated.

| TIMELINE for <i>Parliamentary Process</i> | |
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| Date | Parliamentary Study (House of Commons & Senate) |
| Aug 15, 2002 | Notice |
| Dec 02, 2002 | Introduction & First Reading |
| Feb 25, 2003 | Second Reading & Referral to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources |
| June 9, 2003 - Sept. 22, 2003 | Committee (Witness Hearings and Clause-by-Clause Examination) |
| Sept. 24, 2003 | Report tabled by Committee |
| | Third Reading |
| | Senate (same stages as House of Commons) |
| | ROYAL ASSENT |

What's Next?

The next stage in the drive towards Royal Assent is the Report Stage. Members of the House of Commons will debate and vote on amendments to Bill C-19, as prescribed in the Committee Report, or as put forward by other MPs. Following this, Bill C-19 will receive its Third Reading, after which it will be referred to the Senate.

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