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**Black spots  
on the hearts of survivors  
revealed  
Page 8**

**Feds absent  
from TRC events and  
withholding archives  
Page 10**

**Decisions coming  
on TRC  
mandate compliance  
Page 11**

Volume 30 No. 1 • April 2012

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Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

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Windspeaker • Established 1983



## Releasing winter's last grip...

This photo was taken at Enoch - just west of Edmonton.  
Spring is coming ( please, please, please)  
and so too is the start of a new Powwow season.

Photo Credit: Bert Crowfoot

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04



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Chancellor, Vancouver Island University

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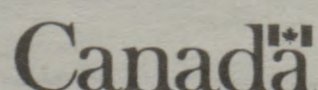
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Windspeaker acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical Fund - Aid to Publishers for our publishing activities.



## Special TRC Coverage

### Black spot on the hearts of survivors revealed

8

The Tseshaht First Nation had the unfortunate experience of having a residential school operate on its territory for many years.

### Reverberations of the schools pass through the generations

9

One of the most powerful speakers of the two-day Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings held in Port Alberni March 12 and 13 was Yanny Barney, who never went to residential school but who is a survivor nonetheless.

### Feds absent from TRC events and are withholding archives

10

Lack of cooperation from the federal government, both in providing court-ordered documents and participating in residential school survivors events, was a concern recently raised by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

### Decisions coming on TRC mandate compliance

11

In its interim report released Feb. 24, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommended that the federal government ensure the commission had "adequate funds to complete its mandate on time."

## Departments

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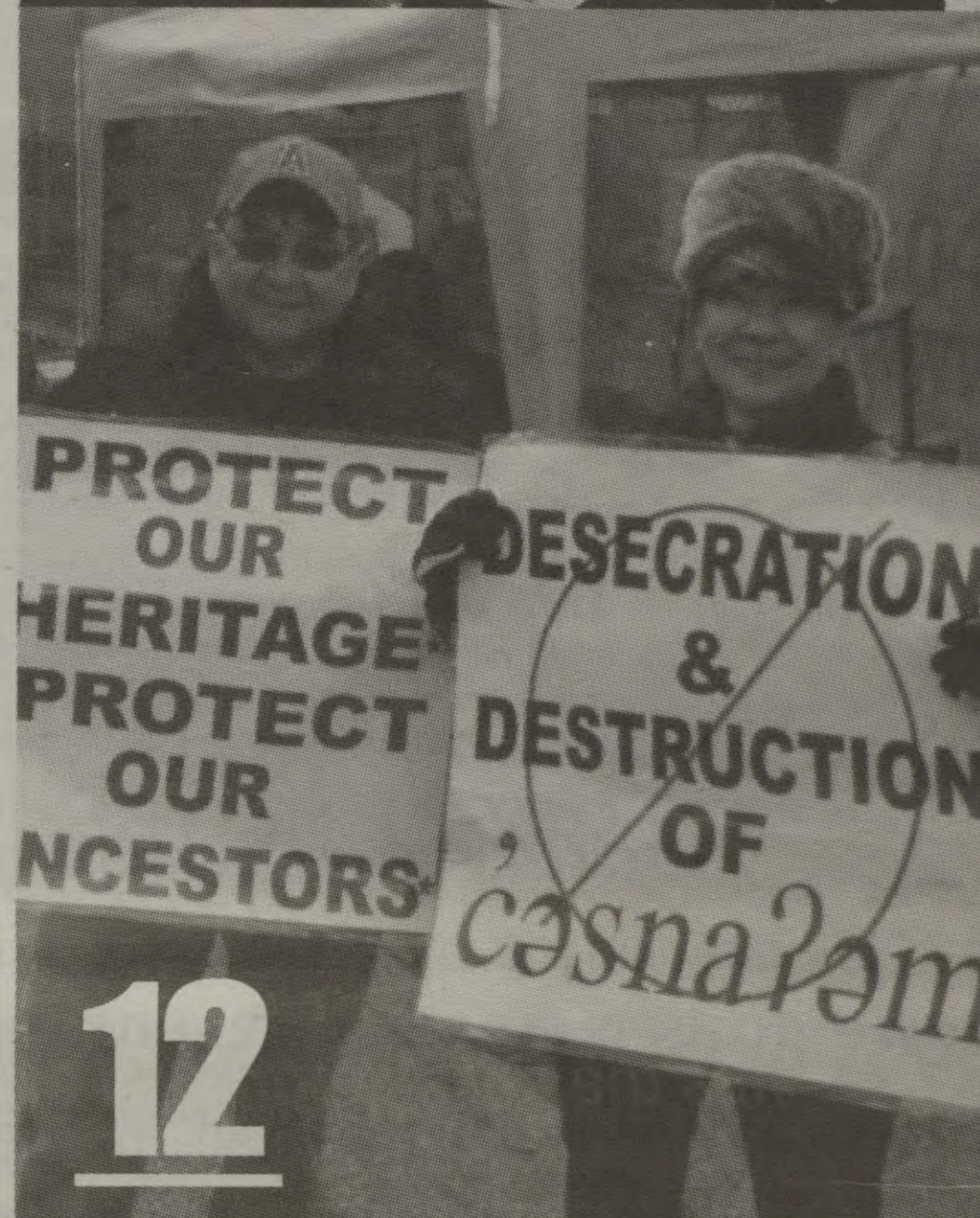
[ careers ] 20 & 21

[ footprints ] Harriet Nahanee 22

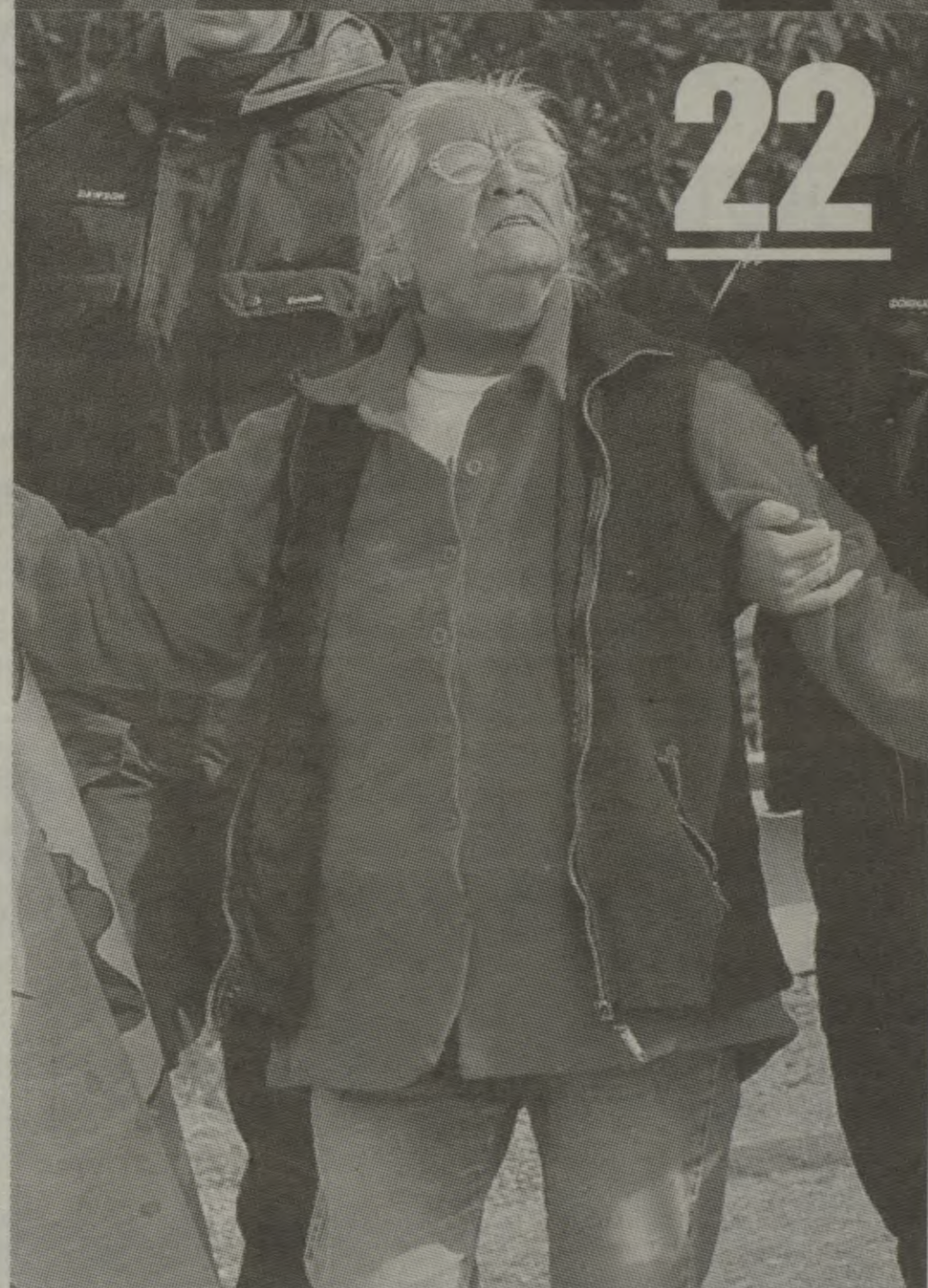
Five years have passed since environmental activist Harriet Nahanee died, but her friend and fellow protester Betty Krawczyk, now 83, still gets e-mails sent to her praising the elder's courage.



8



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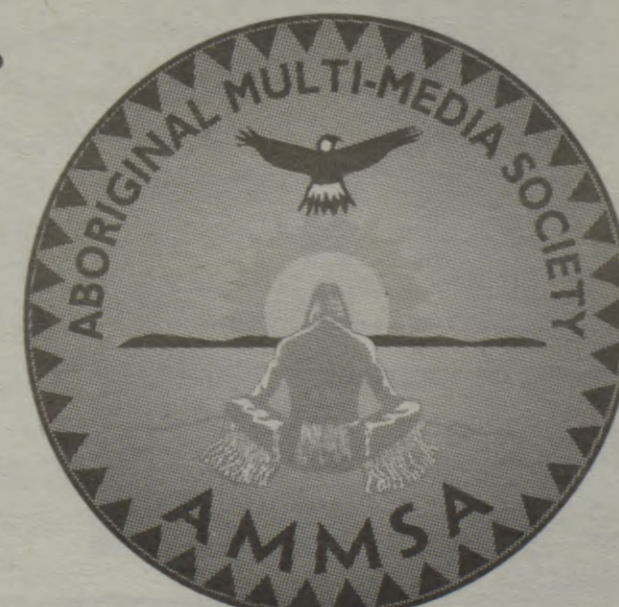
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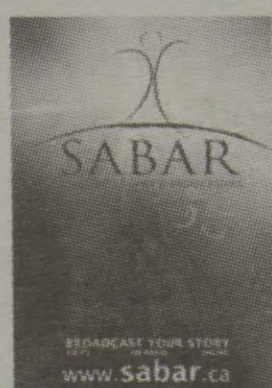
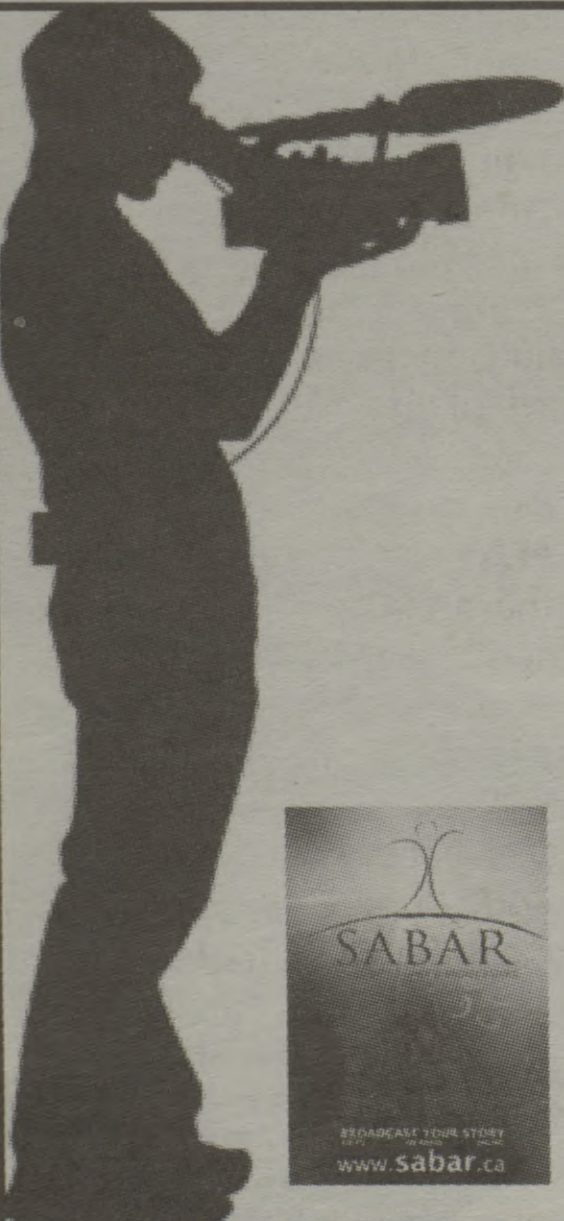
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## Government needs to get up-front and personal with residential school survivors

It's more than a little bit disturbing that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is complaining about the lack of federal involvement in their statement gathering hearings. Does Prime Minister Stephen Harper believe that the 2008 apology for the residential school system is enough to absolve Canada's Government of its responsibility on this issue? It's not.

As far as we're concerned, if the churches that ran these schools can send representatives to bear witness to the survivors' stories and stand with them in the design of a better future where such atrocities are never allowed to occur again, then a willing partner in this bright future should be Canada.

But now it seems that the same blind eye that allowed pedophiles and vicious brutes to ply their evil in the schools over past decades, remains today. Should there not be some oversight? Should there not be some interest in this process as it unfolds across the country?

The TRC is not government, nor does it represent government, and it's not good enough just to wait for a commission report to hit some desk in government to say, 'well, now, that little bit of ugly business is behind us.' Such an attitude does not bode well for true reconciliation anytime soon.

In fact, it's an insulting slap in the face to the Aboriginal people involved in bearing their souls for the benefit of this country—to put the sad and sick history of residential schools on the record so that future generations can never say it never happened or it wasn't all that bad—that they are doing all the heavy lifting when it comes to this process. The settlement agreement will not be fulfilled in the spirit in which it was negotiated unless something in Ottawa's dark heart changes.

Reconciliation must be a personal act filled with the knowledge of the past wrongs with a commitment of working toward a healthier

relationship going forward. Canadians are taking part in the process in large numbers. They are engaged. Why isn't their government? Aboriginal hands are reaching out, yet government doesn't seem to want to grasp ahold of them, or be bothered with the whole distasteful thing.

It should be mandatory that a member of the federal government sit and listen each time the hearings are held. Those people should be acknowledged as being in attendance and stand when a survivor asks to speak directly with government, because what the churches are finding is that when they demonstrate they care about this terrible time and the impacts that continue to reverberate throughout the generations, their caring is rewarded with forgiveness.

Aboriginal people have a great capacity for forgiveness. They want the burden of carrying around this monkey on their backs relieved and government needs to help in that effort by being present. A compassionate government that considers their suffering important enough to be represented at the hearings would go a long way to helping lift survivors back up on their feet.

Instead, what is being communicated is that this understanding of their grim reality is not important enough to expend resources. Government must be seen to be carrying their share of the load, and until now, government has given this responsibility a pass.

The mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation is not over. Canada still has a chance to be perceived as doing the right thing. Government's response to the commission's criticism will tell if the settlement agreement was just a line item on the books, or a real and true commitment to change.

We'll see if they'll be putting in some time when the hearings reach Victoria, BC mid-month.

**Windspeaker**

[ rants and raves ]

## Page 5 Chatter

### LETTER: Keeping the Native perspective alive for future generations

There was a peace treaty that took place many years ago. Lately, there has been so much talk about treaty issues I thought I'd better touch a bit on this particular subject.

Ever since the 1950s, I can remember clearly how Native Elders used to tell their version about their respective view about treaty.

When I was young I used to listen to their legendary and historical stories. There was no electricity, plumbing, running water, TV, radio, infrastructure, amenities or government aid. We had a plenty of time to listen and learn. Later I was sent to Indian residential schools and there we were denied our history, culture, language, tradition and so on.

When talking about treaty, the Elders strongly expressed that they had never given up their land at all. According to their stories, during the treaty, the Elders said if non-Natives or Natives experienced a hardship, they would promise to help one another. Also, as long as the grass grows, the rivers never flow backward, and the sun rises from the east and goes down in the west, no restrictions would ever be imposed on their genuine hunting, trapping, fishing and so on.

This peace treaty would exist forever. This was their true document and signs. Illegally, the native Elders' signatures were forged in the treaty documents and given under severe duress.

All these things told to us by our Elders you will never find in the history books, treaty and Indian Act documents, anthropology, Native law schools, Native studies programs and in universities. All the vital information is still being held by the Native elders.

The Elders never heard about the 1763 Royal Proclamation whatsoever. What the Elders said during the treaty was never, never documented and written. When the Elders marked their X in the treaty documents, their signatures were no longer original ones. Their marks were typed in by the old outdated typewriters. The Native Elders didn't have a clue why they would mark their X.

The Native Elders were being coerced to sign without really, truly, and fully understanding the meaning. They were very vulnerable, duped, and victimized. If anyone out there wishes to refute, by all means do so in a respectful manner.

It was an oral history which has been passed on by the Native Elders for many years. Later, when the Native organization was created, one of their mandates was to preserve, protect, and maintain the treaty rights from the Native elders' perspective and their interpretations, not from the Europeans' point of view. Nowadays it is unfortunate that many young Native people don't really know their own history, but it is not their fault. Who knows, this can be a part of the school history and debates.

This is what I learned from the Elders. At that time I didn't speak English at all before entering into the Indian residential school system. However despite being brainwashed I still maintain my Native first language.

**Charlie Beaulieu**  
Yellowknives Dene First Nation  
Yellowknife, NT

### THE REGINA LEADER-POST REPORTS

that the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is not pleased with the province's budget, saying the organization is disappointed that there wasn't more in it for First Nations youth. Vice-President Morley Watson told the paper that the FSIN wanted investments that would have trained up the young labor force and prepare them for work. There was also no word on resource revenue sharing, a drum the FSIN has been banging more loudly over the past year. From the province's perspective, however, there were increases made to funding for First Nations and Métis to the tune of 2.8 per cent or \$4.7 million. Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations Ken Cheveldayoff said Aboriginal people in the province are very much a part of the "Saskatchewan Advantage."

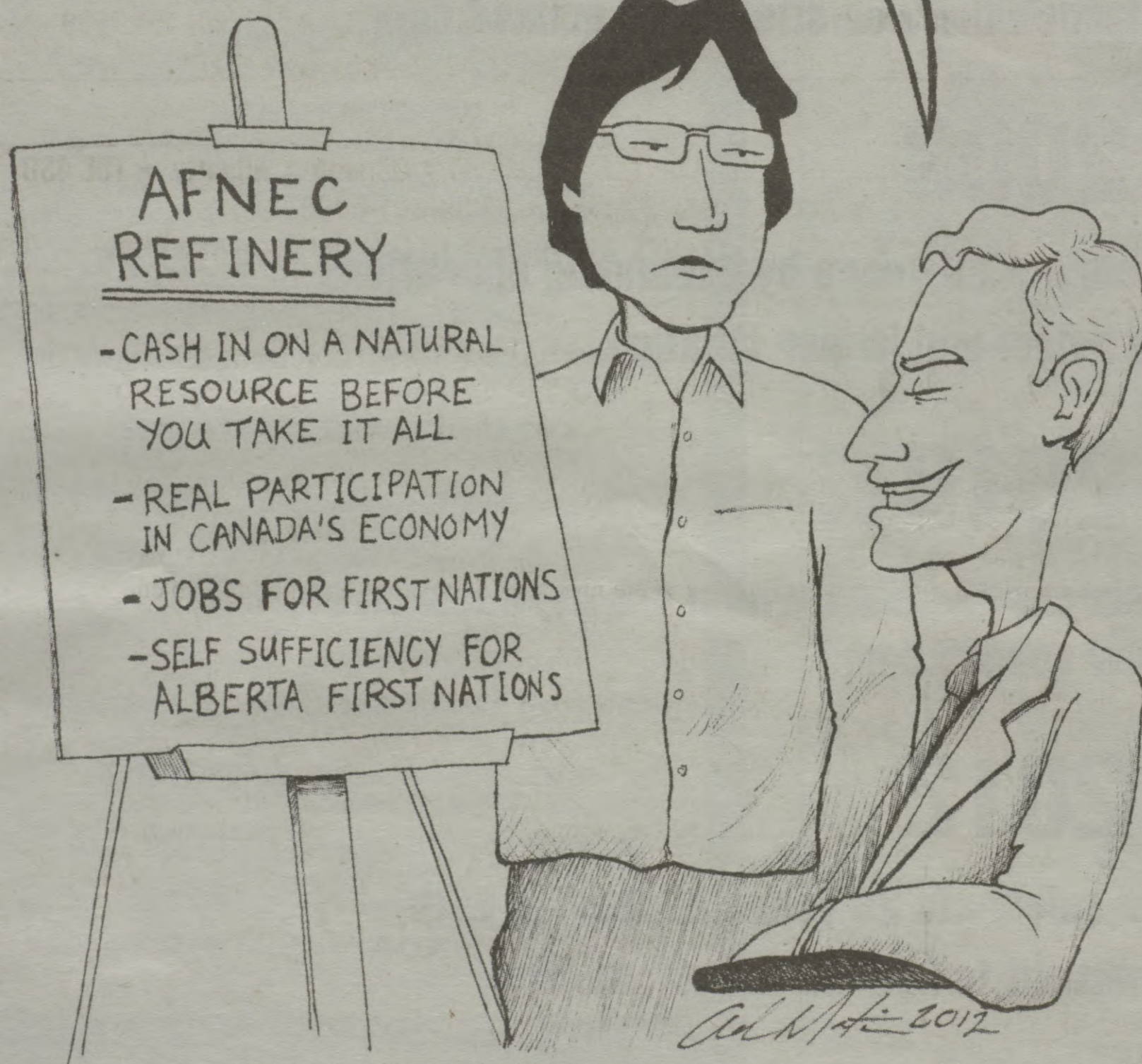
### CBC NEWS REPORTS THAT

two First Nations men from northern Manitoba are exempt from paying taxes on income earned from fishing. In the Court of Appeals, Revenue Canada argued the fishing income should be taxed because it was garnered off reserve. But the court upheld the original 2009 decision that said the Norway House members were exempt even though the fish weren't caught on reserve. Tax court Judge J.E. Hershfield said at that time "they fish in the lake because that's where the fish are." Manitoba Grand Chief Derek Nepinak said the March 21 announcement "is a great win for treaty fishermen." The federal government has 30 days to file an appeal with the Supreme Court of Canada.

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by Adam Martin

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**1985**

**The AMMSA newspaper is renamed Windspeaker.**

**1987**

**Windspeaker expands coverage to western Canada.**

**1990**

**AMMSA and Windspeaker develop a 5-year plan to become self-sufficient.**

**1991**

**AMMSA and Windspeaker (along with 10 other Aboriginal publishers) lose all government funding to support training of Aboriginal people in publishing careers.**

**1993**

**Windspeaker celebrates its 10th anniversary by expanding distribution and coverage to include all of Canada. Windspeaker becomes Canada's Aboriginal News Source**

**1996**

**AMMSA and Windspeaker launch the web site: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)**

**2003**

**AMMSA and Windspeaker celebrate 20 years by expanding operations and moving into a new and larger location.**

**2010**

**AMMSA and Windspeaker celebrate 27 years with a major re-launch of [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com).**

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# Black spot on the hearts of survivors revealed

By Lee Codlin  
Windspeaker Contributor

## PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

The Tseshaht First Nation had the unfortunate experience of having a residential school operate on its territory for many years.

Alberni Indian Residential School was one of the most notorious in the country and is the place from which grew today's Indian Residential School Settlements Agreement, the indirect result of a handful of AIRS survivors who banded together to take government and the churches to court to hold them accountable for the abuses that were perpetrated in the facility.

So when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission visited the Alberni Valley to hold statement gathering hearings on March 12 and 13, Tseshaht Chief Councillor Les Sam took the opportunity to speak directly to the survivors of AIRs in attendance. He told them the Tseshaht people were behind them 100 per cent, supporting them and giving them strength.

Tseshaht Elder Willard Gallic agreed. "We don't want our homeland to be a black spot in your heart," he said.

For many former students, coming into the valley rekindled painful memories, so the message from Tseshaht was welcome.

One survivor said through her tears "I'm terrified to be here, because I was so tormented here." She told Commissioner Marie Wilson she had three abusers at the school.

"There is a building on this ground that terrifies me," said a middle-aged George August. "One of the supervisors used to take us in there, put us in the tub and sexually abuse us. He would make us do things to him. I can still see, smell [and] taste it."

One after another, survivors of the residential schools on Vancouver Island and even from those on the mainland, stepped forward to describe their treatment at the hands of their tormentors, either those in the employ of the schools, or other children that were used to keep order in the ranks.

Cliff Atleo, president of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, described the cuff on the side of his head that made his ear ring for months and that caused permanent hearing loss. He remembered when he was 10 how his brother would plead with him to use more English to help young Clifford avoid punishment.

Ben Nookemis of Huu-ay-aht described how supervisors would wash the children's mouths out with soap for speaking their native languages. Another survivor spoke of being forced to eat a whole bar of soap.

"The supervisors, the abusers, they scolded us so much, strapping, whipping," said

Nookemis. He described the sexual abuse of young girls in the schools that he witnessed and heard.

"We were always hungry. We were always stealing food. We lined up once a day and they would give us dry bread. We saw some horrible things," Nookemis said.

Tim Sutherland talked about a beating his brother had received, which prompted him to run away from the residential school. His face was so badly swollen from the beating, Tim said, that his parents didn't recognize him, but Tim's brother was in good cheer because he had found his way back to his home.

Then Sutherland described the sexual humiliation that he endured from a group of boys that attacked him one day. His grades slipped from all "A's" to "D's" and "E's" in response, and when he was made to repeat a grade, he just couldn't take school anymore and quit altogether with his mother's blessing.

He had brought to the TRC hearings the last papers he received from court denying any claim to compensation for the abuse. "He burned the legal papers in the longhouse sacred fire after his testimony. He said he was done with it. He didn't want to carry the burden of residential school around with him anymore.

Sutherland was angry that the court, in essence, had called him a liar.

"I want to get my point across to Canada... to those who think 'I don't think it happened.' We are not liars. We know what happened," Sutherland said.

Another survivor talked about being "kidnapped" from his home when he was just five years old by the RCMP. They threatened to throw his parents in jail if they didn't allow their children to be taken to residential school. There were many stories told of feeling abandoned by mothers and fathers; survivors' spoke of the resentment they felt that lasted a lifetime. That's when the alcohol and drug abuse would set in, said some. When moms and dads couldn't protect their children, and found themselves alone in their villages with all the children gone.

"There is a silent rage among the Indians today," said George August. "People had to block their feelings because of what went on."

August said he also had to learn to fight at a very young age.

"Most of the time I didn't know what the fights were about. I've been in lots of fights. I've hurt people and I've been hurt myself. ... I'm sick of people not understanding what we students had to go through," he said.

"I'm very angry and I'm afraid of the anger. I'm afraid I'm going to lash out and hurt someone and that's the last thing I want to do is hurt someone else."

(See *Black spot* on page 11.)



ALL PHOTOS: LEE CODLIN

Survivor Pat Charleson is surrounded by family as he gives his statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He equates part of his residential school experience to the cougar attack on his brother when they were only three and four years old.



Donna Samuel apologized to her children for raising them in the military-like style she learned in Alberni Indian Residential School.



Survivor Gregory Wright speaks with Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Marie Wilson after his emotional statement during hearings held in Port Alberni March 12 and 13.



# Reverberations of the schools pass through the generations



PHOTO: LEE CODLIN

Yanny Barney (right) gives her personal statement about the intergenerational effects of residential schools to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Port Alberni on March 12.

By Lee Codlin  
Windspeaker Contributor

## PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

One of the most powerful speakers of the two-day Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings held in Port Alberni March 12 and 13 was Yanny Barney, who never went to residential school but who is a survivor nonetheless.

The intergenerational effects of the residential school system grew vivid in the minds of all in attendance with her public statement.

"I was raised by residential school survivors," she began.

Fear was the dominant emotion that ruled young Yanny's life, she said; fear of rage, the only emotion her own father was comfortable with; fear of threats; fear of a cousin who was molesting Yanny and her twin sister Moira while they were in the care of an aunt; and fear of the violence that was prevalent in that home.

"We were only getting what they were getting day-to-day in those residential schools," Yanny has come now to understand.

Yanny said that while she never stepped foot in a residential school, those "horrible institutions" had a severe and lasting impact on her. It left her suffering from depression, with abandonment issues, a lack of self-worth, a lack of trust, a lack of the sense of belonging she wanted so badly.

Yanny described being bounced around among family members as her father juggled work in a logging operation with

the demons that developed as a result of his time in Alberni Indian Residential School.

After being apprehended by the ministry, the twins were put in foster care with an aunt, who had also been a student in AIRS.

"Our day to day life was ruled with militant fear," she said. Yanny and her sister would show up on the public school grounds hours early just to be away from an abusive home environment. Other school children would call her crybaby because she was an "emotional mess." She said she was dealing with so much at home her emotions were on the surface so every little thing caused her to weep.

By the age of 11, the twins had lost their mother, were removed from their father, were abused by family, and then torn from their culture when placed with a white family in foster care.

"I feel I was robbed of a childhood, because of the trauma," Yanny said as her sister sat with her holding her hand.

Yanny laments not knowing her language, but beyond having it withheld from her, she said the language was a tool used against her, only hearing it when relatives were complaining about the girls.

Yanny described herself as a musical soul, having been in choirs and bands. Not having her cultural songs and dances "is a pain" and something that could have been important to her healing process, she said.

Another legacy of the schools was the fractured families and communities. This is an example of "how successful those schools were," Yanny said.

She discussed the important parallels of the residential school system and the foster system where, in Canada, 30 per cent of the children in care are Aboriginal despite representing only 3.5 per cent of the country's population.

"The injustices of residential school has found a reincarnate," Yanny said.

Disappointment was also another emotion that she carried with her.

She said she didn't have many memories of that time, but the "most visceral" was "for our father's visits. The excitement, hope and joy for his treasured visits turning to fear, disappointment and anguish as we waited for his arrival." She said he was often self-medicating in a bar and would never show up, drowning his own pain and guilt and his failures as a father.

Yanny Barney said she hoped the result of the hearings will be a greater understanding of the intergenerational bondage that still exists because of the schools, and that the cycle of violence and abuse will stop so that other children can grow up without the same fear and pain endured by her sister and herself.

Throughout the hearings, residential school survivors apologized to their children for their shortcomings as parents, unable to hug or express love, for being stern, remote, and unavailable. And in many cases, their children sat with them, supporting their parents' statements, learning why the residential school legacy continues to reverberate through the generations.

## Windspeaker News Briefs

PALMATER  
BRAZEAU

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### INDIGENOUS NATIONHOOD BLOGGER

Pam Palmater seemed to have hit the raw nerve of a certain Conservative Senator in mid-march with her writings at [indigenouationhood.blogspot.ca/2012/03/afn-election-2012-stopping-assimilation.html?m=1](http://indigenouationhood.blogspot.ca/2012/03/afn-election-2012-stopping-assimilation.html?m=1) and the Twitter-verse lit up with his response. Palmater talked about political strategy in her blog, saying the Assembly of First Nations National Chief was taking a page from the playbook of Patrick Brazeau, former president of the Congress of Aboriginal People, by sucking up to the governing Conservative Party. "Two things about this "strategy" (if you can call it that): (1) it may have won Brazeau a cushy Senate seat (an immediate, individual gain), but it left the grass-roots off-reserve people with nothing but an indebted organization with a horrific reputation as being the mouth piece of the Cons with an anti-First Nation political slant (long-term, community pain); and (2) the organization itself never gained anything in terms of major budget increases, political concessions from the Cons; nor did it advance the rights and interests of off-reserve Aboriginal peoples in any measurable way," Palmater wrote. On March 18, Brazeau from his Twitter address @TheBrazman said he wasn't upset by the blog, but threatened Palmater, a law professor associated with Ryerson University, with exposing what he described as her 'hypocrisy'. "I'll show your true colors," Brazeau threatened. He even told her she could sue him if she felt anything he was saying was 'off the mark.'

For her part, Palmater responded to Brazeau's comments in a dignified way, even inviting him to drop by the next time he is in Toronto " & get whatever it is off ur chest." She told him that her blog is the opinion of one First Nations woman, and that it was meant "in the spirit of political insight & commentary." Brazeau told Palmater her blog was "insignificant except to those who don't know any better." The Twitter-belly-aching went on from Brazeau over the course of a couple of hours, and the next day even Liberal MP Justin Trudeau chimed in. Trudeau and Brazeau were set to take part in a charity boxing match on March 31. One twitterer who was following the conversation told Brazeau to stick with boxing because "you are empty handed in battle of wits against @Pam\_Palmater." Trudeau responded saying "Nah, he's in trouble on the boxing front, too. He's in way over his head in this fight."

### A STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS

declared in two Ontario First Nations as the annual ice break up on the Albany River threatened flooding. Kasheshewan and Fort Albany First Nations began an evacuation of "vulnerable residents" on March 24. Some 300 residents were expected to be taken out of the communities to Kapuskasing or Wawa, but the emergency abated by March 26 and the evacuation was suspended. Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, however, called on governments to work together to address the flooding crises saying sustainable long-term mitigation strategies and solutions to the problem is required. "Once again flood season has arrived causing displacement and hardship. The worst part is that this happens every year," said Atleo. "This annual problem calls on all of levels of government to work with First Nations to develop and implement emergency response plans that work for our communities. This means action now for all of the communities impacted. It also means proper investments in infrastructure and long-term, sustainable plans." He said the situation needed to be resolved quickly. "In order for our citizens to reach their fullest potential in this country, our communities must be guaranteed at the very least, the basic standards of safety and community wellness."



# Feds absent from TRC events and are withholding archives

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## OTTAWA

Lack of cooperation from the federal government, both in providing court-ordered documents and participating in residential school survivors events, was a concern recently raised by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Murray Sinclair, chair of the TRC, said that the lack of both an inventory of documents available as well as documents themselves from both the federal government and the four churches, which are party to the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, has forced the TRC to ask the judges monitoring the agreement for

direction.

"Document collection has proven to be a challenging experience for all of us, the commission as well as the parties," said Sinclair.

Sinclair suggested that neither the federal government nor the four churches (Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United) were aware of the massive amount of documents that would be involved. For many of the churches, he added, it's a matter of going through boxes "stored in basements" and cataloguing the material. He singled out the Catholic Church for "some of the best cooperation" in providing archival material.

"The issue of the degree of cooperation we received is often a reflection of the magnitude of the work involved," said Sinclair.

He noted that the federal government still has not provided the TRC with the full documentation that was presented during the litigation case that resulted in the IRSSA.

"It is clear that if they were filed in the legal proceedings, they're relevant, so it should have been automatic that we were given them," he said.

The interim report of the TRC states that the federal government "has yet to provide the commission with appropriate levels of access to federal archives—an issue that compromises both document collection and report preparation."

All documentation is necessary to provide future researchers with a database to help understand residential schools and their

impacts on Aboriginal life, said Sinclair.

Among the points that the TRC is asking the judges to clarify is whose financial responsibility it is to inventory and collect the documents.

"If we are obligated to undertake all of that and pay for the cost of that it will far exceed our financial capacity as a commission and we think that the settlement agreement is clear that it is the ... defendant parties responsibility to put their documents into order, to show us what they've got, so we can make determination about what it is that we need. And we have not been able to reach agreement on that," said Sinclair.

Along with lack of cooperation with documentation, the TRC charged the federal government

with being noticeably absent at TRC national and regional events.

"We do not have representatives of the federal government, either at the administrative or political leadership level," said Commissioner Marie Wilson. "We are concerned about the glaring hole if everybody is to live up to their ownership of this agreement, this process, and each of their articulated responsibilities toward reconciliation."

Church officials and a growing number of non-Aboriginals are participating in both TRC national and regional events, Wilson said, adding that health support workers were also present "but that's an obligation of the federal government."

# Métis leader thinks report language weak

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## OTTAWA

The "general language" used by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in its recently released interim report is a disappointment to Clement Chartier, president of the Métis National Council.

"The report itself speaks in general terms. When one reads it, one would not think that Métis generally were excluded (from the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement)," said Chartier. "Canadians, I don't think, would understand the specifics of this."

One of the 20 recommendation calls for the parties to the IRSSA "to address the legitimate concerns of the former students who feel unfairly left out."

In the preamble to Recommendation 12, the TRC

discusses hearing from students who attended schools not on the prescribed list or students who attended residential schools but as day scholars. Métis students are not mentioned as a group.

However, speaking about the recommendation in a news conference following the release of the interim report, TRC chair Justice Murray Sinclair said Métis students were among the "three broad categories of students" targeted in this recommendation.

As it stands now, Métis students are only covered through the Common Experience Payment and Independent Assessment Process, as outlined in the IRSSA, if they attended Indian residential schools, which are included on a prescribed list. Métis students covered number only a few hundred, which leaves thousands without compensation.

While Chartier sees the value in the recommendation, he

questions its strength.

"I'm not sure how that would be translated into action. I'm not sure that the parties to the agreement would necessarily want or need to address that," he said.

One reason the commission made the recommendation, said Sinclair, was that if "the purpose of the parties in setting up this commission was to try to achieve a better relationship with all Aboriginal people in Canada, then they need to consider a process that is inclusive of all Aboriginal people in Canada and to engage in a discussion about reconciliation with only part of that group is an exercise that may be futile if they're not careful."

"In order to have reconciliation there has to be more than one party at the table," said Chartier. "Until some government or some church agency accepts responsibility for what happened to Métis who attended Métis residential schools, how can we

participate?"

Chartier said the MNC met with the TRC in January 2010 and informed the commission that the MNC would not be participating in the process as the Métis are not part of the TRC's mandate. The TRC interim report notes this meeting but not the outcome.

Chartier added that not only are Métis boarding schools excluded from the IRSSA, but Métis were also excluded from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's 2008 apology to former residential school survivors.

In 2008, the MNC signed a Métis protocol with the federal government, which included dealing with residential schools, but "nothing is happening on that front," said Chartier.

"At the moment, really the only alternative is court action ... but we can't afford court action. We don't have the resources for that," he said.

Chartier is part of a class action

lawsuit that was brought on behalf of 1,500 former Ile-a-la-Crosse students filed in 2005 by Regina lawyer Tony Merchant. Ile-a-la-Crosse, a Métis boarding school in Saskatchewan, which Chartier attended for 10 years, is not recognized under the IRSSA. The lawsuit is pursuing a separate agreement from the IRSSA.

"We actually try and engage with the (Saskatchewan) government as well and we received a letter from them a little over a year ago saying ... 'We'll only deal with it if the courts tell us to,'" said Chartier. At this point, "the lawsuit is just sitting there. I'm not sure what's going to happen with that."

The MNC held a two-day conference in Saskatoon at the end of March to look at action the Metis could take in moving forward. Money for the conference was received from the TRC's Commemoration Fund and the federal government.

agreements First Nation Justice Murray Sinclair  
 METIS HOT veterans Treaty Rights  
 Chief and Council role models showcase  
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# Decisions coming on TRC mandate compliance

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## OTTAWA

In its interim report released Feb. 24, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommended that the federal government ensure the commission had "adequate funds to complete its mandate on time."

But there has been no formal request made for additional funding.

While the TRC has been given another year to accomplish its tasks, additional funding has not been received and getting additional dollars will not be an easy task.

"Issues of extension of time and additional resources are really not in front of us because the question of where the resources come from raises itself. It was an

agreement that the parties reached so all the parties would have to agree on any additional resources," said TRC Chair Justice Murray Sinclair.

The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, signed in 2006 by the federal government and the Catholic, Presbyterian, United and Anglican churches with the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit representatives, established a \$60-million-budget through the survivors fund to be used over a five-year period. The first members of the TRC were appointed in 2008 but resigned shortly thereafter.

The present commission members were appointed in 2009 and the TRC's mandate was extended to 2014 at the commissioners' request.

If additional funding is not forthcoming, Sinclair said the parties to the agreement will have to reconsider the commission's

mandate. The commission has been tasked with gathering statements from residential schools survivors; establishing a research centre to house archives; to host national events; and to prepare interim and final reports with recommendations.

"What we've said to the parties and what we will be saying sooner rather than later, I think, is that we are at a point where we have to make some crucial decisions as to how we're going to spend the remaining money that we have and it will have implications for mandate compliance," said Sinclair.

Adding to the complications of the timeline are delays that the TRC are faced with, including collecting documentation from the government and the churches, a court-mandated process.

"We are concerned about any delays that are attributable to the delay that one experiences when you can't agree on how to go forward with the parties," said Sinclair. The judges monitoring the agreement have been asked by the TRC to step in.

Sinclair noted that the commission would not "shy



PHOTO BY AMIE STAFFORD, COURTESY TRC

TRC Chair Justice Murray Sinclair at launch of TRC Interim Report.

away" from the work it needed to do.

He said that at the midway point of the TRC's mandate, over 500 communities have been visited by the TRC, with survivors' statements having been gathered in these communities and others.

"We do want to put out that we still have a lot of work left to do and we are going to get to it and do it in the best way we can in the time we've got and we will continue to reveal all that we are shown and told by those who are most affected by this," said Sinclair.

## Black spot on the hearts of survivors

(Continued from page 8.)

Chuck August described the abuse he suffered at the hands of AIRS supervisor Arthur Henry Plint, a man convicted of abuse who has since died. August talked about being made to fellate Plint each morning.

"I used to get paid a candy from this prick, sending me back to the kitchen to go to work and to keep quiet."

August talked about the drugs and alcohol abuse that resulted from his experience in AIRS, the sexual confusion that he struggles with still today, the damage to the relationships with his family.

"When that guy died, that Plint, I was in jail when he died. When they told me, I didn't jump up and down or anything like that. I told people 'OK, that's fine. He isn't going to hurt anybody else... He's gone. Our little ones are safe from him now.'"

There was no such relief for Gregory Wright who suffered physical and sexual abuse in AIRS during his time there from 1966 to 1973. As Wright provided his statement, his abuser was just days from being released from jail on March 22.

Richard Donald Olan, who was a teacher at a nearby public school, pled guilty in November 2009 at the age of 68 to five counts of gross indecency relating to the abuses of Wright and others who were shipped to AIRS from their homes in Hazelton, B.C. After eight years of effort pursuing charges and in the courts, on March 23, 2010 Olan received two years for every count to be served concurrently.

Wright took judo lessons from Olan "right up on that stage" he said pointing to the bleachers in the gym where the TRC hearings were being held. Olan would sign Wright out from the residential school for weekends and would take Wright to his home to abuse him.

"I was an innocent little boy," he said.

Wright broke down and wept uncontrollably during his statement, choking and vomiting from the emotion of remembering the beatings and rapes.

He described one violent supervisor who couldn't be named because no charges have been brought against him. A former football player who was over six feet tall grabbed Wright one day by the neck and "beat me like I was a man."

In the dorms he suffered other abuses nightly, and at one point was told to choose between sexual or physical abuse.

Wright also spoke of the first week in AIRS and of seeing a six-year-old boy hanging by his neck by a towel secured to the rafters. He wondered how the young boy, whose name was Michael, could have got himself up so high.

After his testimony, TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson took Wright by the hand and comforted him with words about the courage he demonstrated that day.

The hearings were attended by large groups of non-Aboriginal people. Many wept openly, shaking their heads in shock and disgust at the abuses being described. One former school employee seemed astounded

with the extent of the abuse, worried that it occurred during her time at the school. Now an old woman, she looked hurt and confused, head in hands, having to re-evaluate what she thought she knew about her time working in the school.

"We didn't know," said the Reverend Minnie Hornidge, current minister of the local United Church, about the abuse. The United Church operated AIRS all those years.

Survivor Pat Charleson spoke about the fear associated with residential schools.

"My older brother... he was attacked by a cougar when we were three and four years old. I felt that fear again when my older sister and brother were dragged down to the boats. I was hiding under the bed. I always relate the cougar attack with my experience with residential school."

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission held hearings in Port Hardy, Campbell River, Port Alberni and Duncan at the end of February and throughout March, leading up to a regional event to take place in Victoria April 13 and 14. There is a national event scheduled for Saskatchewan in June, and in Vancouver the following year.

The TRC hearings in Port Alberni set records for those watching via live webcast around the world, and also for the number of people lined up to give public statements, going late into the night on both days. There were also private statements taken that will become part of the official record of the residential school experience in Canada.

**ERCB** Energy Resources  
Conservation Board

Calgary Office Suite 1000, 250 - 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 0R4

### ERCB Information Session

OSUM OIL SANDS CORP.  
APPLICATION NO. 1636580  
TAIGA PROJECT  
COLD LAKE OIL SANDS AREA

Osum Oil Sands Corp. (Osum) has submitted Application No. 1636580 for an oil sands thermal recovery scheme to the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB). The ERCB has scheduled a public hearing to consider the applications, commencing on May 23, 2012.

To assist public who may wish to participate in the hearing, the ERCB invites all interested parties to attend the following information session:

WHERE: Lakeland Inn, 5411 - 55 Street, Highway 28, Cold Lake, Alberta

WHEN: April 10, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.

The information session will review the ERCB's hearing processes and rules for intervener funding. ERCB staff will not discuss Osum's application but will provide information so that public participants can engage effectively in the hearing process.

If you have any questions on the information sessions or the ERCB's processes, contact Felix Chiang by telephone at 403-355-4586 or e-mail to felix.chiang@ercb.ca. To call toll free, dial 1-855-297-8311 and follow the prompts or ask the operator for the desired number.

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# [ strictly speaking ] Behind the scenes at the NAAA

Sometimes I don't know where I am going to end up in this big country. Just a few days ago I was driving through two snowstorms to speak at a library/literacy function at Saugeen First Nation on the shores of Georgian Bay. The day before that, I was getting lost trying to find a parking spot at York University in Toronto. But the definite highlight of my winter (my apologies to Saugeen) has got to be the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards that occurred last month in Vancouver.

For the second year in a row, I was writing the festivities. Produced by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, it's in its 19<sup>th</sup> year of celebrating and awarding talented and dedicated people in the First Nations, Métis and Inuit community.

Awards shows are amazing things. You can smell the scent of excitement and fear in the air. So much to do by so many people in so little time. There is also so much talent and so much pressure in a small confined space. But amazingly, the show



## THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

gets done and it looks fabulous.

As a writer I am a natural observer of the human condition. So, as I paced the hallways and aisles of the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, I noted certain things happening around me that I found amusing. For instance, I noted several production assistants complaining about the lack of Red Bull available, and the definite need for it. One person said they could make a fortune bootlegging it to the cast and crew. I will pass that on to the crew captains for next year.

And a scant two hours before the show was set to open, I noticed one of the guys who was going to be onstage escorting the

award winners to and from the stage, running around in a somewhat panicked mood. He saw me, called my name and came running over.

Dressed very dapper in a fashionable black suit, he asked if I had any black socks on me. I asked why. Somewhat sheepishly, he lifted his pant leg to reveal white pattern socks. Somewhere between his home and the theatre, his black socks had disappeared. And as anybody knows, you do not wear white socks with a black suit. Especially on television. What are we, savages?

Unfortunately, I did not have a spare set of black socks in my pocket. This young man then

ran off continuing his desperate search for appropriate hosiery. Later he told me a cousin had managed to supply him with socks sufficient enough to not embarrass himself on stage. Just another typical day in Aboriginal-land.

Chantal Kreviazuk, who sings a stunning ballad on the show, had a nasty cold. And in between rehearsal takes, was always asking for Kleenex. She hoped her running nose wouldn't 'dampen' the festivities. One thing you won't see on the actual show is when they set up her piano on stage during a video break. One stage hand forgot to bring out and hook up her mic. She good-heartedly made small talk – by yelling – with the audience while technicians quickly hooked her sound up.

I saw Evan Adams backstage, practicing the monologue I wrote for him. It reminded me of the last year when he and Adam Beach hosted these awards – for which they both won an award of their own, a Gemini.

Last year at the show, one of my aunts phoned me asking me to introduce her to Evan so she

could ask him, a medical doctor, to come out to an Aboriginal health conference she was helping organize. So, with her on my cell phone, I go to his dressing room just before the show, knock, and enter. Once inside, I explain the situation and hand over my phone to him and listen to them chat. I should mention at this time that Evan was in his underwear. If my aunt only knew...

Back to the present. As I mentioned earlier, the show was amazing, fabulous and quite spectacular. At least as far as I could tell from my seats ... way back in the upper balcony. At least that was better than last year. I showed up half an hour before the show, all dressed up snazzy, and it suddenly occurred to me that in all the rush of rehearsal and production, I'd forgotten to arrange tickets to my own show. I was quite prepared to watch it from backstage but luckily after some scrambling, somebody I knew in the audience had a spare ticket and I was saved the embarrassment. That's show business.

## Development sparks protest when human remains unearthed

By Shauna Lewis  
Windspeaker Contributor

### VANCOUVER

Members of the Musqueam First Nation are embroiled in talks with a Vancouver condo developer, the province and the city following a dispute over a parcel of land where protesters say ancestral remains were unearthed.

In the early morning hours of March 12, about 50 Musqueam band members gathered at the 1300 block of Southwest Marine Drive demanding that the developer of the South Vancouver property call off construction after workers discovered intact human remains on the land late in January.

Construction was halted when the remains were uncovered but plans to continue development were set for last month.

But just as bulldozers and backhoes were to break ground, the crew was met with a large group of placard-toting protesters.

The area, known as the Marpole Midden, or c-YsnaíYm, was a traditional village site occupied by the Musqueam for more than 4,000 years.

Protestor and Musqueam band member Aaron Wilson said the demonstration went on for three days with community members visiting the area in solidarity.

"It's important to us because cultural respect for our ancestors is so important," explained Wilson.

"It's such a universal issue. I consider it a human issue," he added. "It's respect for all grave sites," he said.

Talks between the land owner, the Musqueam people and the government began March 13 and parties agreed that a three-week halt on construction would commence so that a resolution to the issue could be reached.

As of March 23 talks were ongoing, confirmed Wade Grant, elected councillor for the Musqueam band.

"We've said they can knock down the buildings on the site but not dig," Grant added.

"Our community is looking to protect the whole site," he explained.

"Our stance is that we don't want to disturb the site because it is the last connection we have to our ancestors who are over 5,000 years old."

The Musqueam band is upset that they were never properly consulted and their input not respected prior to digging.

"We're disappointed that we didn't have an opportunity to find a solution prior to the issue of development," said Grant.

"They [the province] have never protect the site in the way we would have hoped they would," he stated.

But according to Brennan Clark, spokesperson for the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, the province sent the draft management plan to the Musqueam Indian Band for comment in December 2008 but did not receive a response from the Musqueam until the

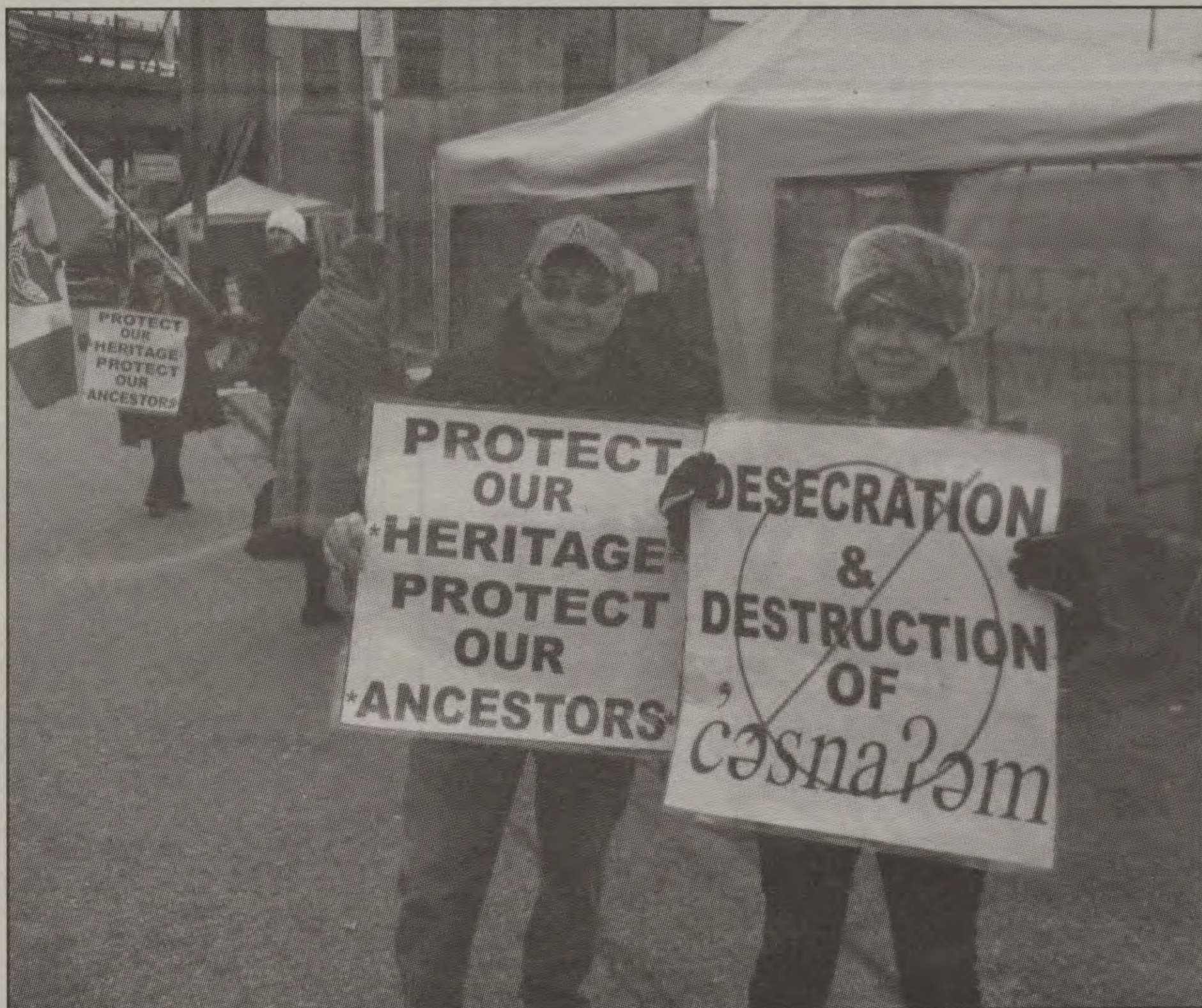


PHOTO: MARY POINT

Musqueam nation members brought construction to a halt on land where human remains were found in January, protecting the burial site of their ancestors.

current permit application was referred to them.

Further, the Ministry said the site has seen significant disturbance over the years. The majority of the area has been heavily disturbed.

The Ministry confirmed that the work has stopped in the area near where the intact remains were discovered. The remains have not been removed and will not be disturbed until an

archaeologist has completed intensive testing in the vicinity to determine if there are additional remains in the area.

The Ministry said the additional testing is at the express request of the Musqueam people. The province said is following the appropriate archaeological methodologies to preserve remains at the site and the proposed site management plan would preserve half the site

in perpetuity while still allowing for reasonable development of the land.

In an email to CBC News, developer Gary Hackett allegedly stated that his family has owned the property for more than 50 years.

"The land in question ... has been built on and its soil disturbed over many years and there are existing structures on the property," Hackett said.



# Wesley French — [ windspeaker confidential ]

**Windspeaker:** What one quality do you most value in a friend?

**Wesley French:** Honesty.

**W:** What is it that really makes you mad?

**W.F.:** Injustice.

**W:** When are you at your happiest?

**W.F.:** When I'm with my family.

**W:** What one word best describes you when you are at your worst?

**W.F.:** Manic.

**W:** What one person do you most admire and why?

**W.F.:** Hunter S Thompson. He tried to tell the truth. His words sent me on a path of discovery. He defined our culture but affected it as well. For good or ill he became more than a man, but a force.

**W:** What is the most difficult thing you've ever had to do?

**W.F.:** Leaving the reserve, my home.

**W:** What is your greatest accomplishment?

**W.F.:** My Family.

**W:** What one goal remains out of reach?

**W.F.:** Hollywood.

**W:** If you couldn't do what you're doing today, what would you be doing?

**W.F.:** Unearthing the secrets of mankind.

**W:** What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

**W.F.:** The basic difference between an ordinary man and a warrior is that a warrior takes everything as a challenge while an ordinary man takes everything as a blessing or a curse.

**W:** Did you take it?

**W.F.:** I'm trying.

**W:** How do you hope to be remembered?

**W.F.:** As someone who tried to make it a better place.

Wesley French was born and raised on the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation near London, Ont. He and his extended family lived on the reserve, but early in his life he was sent to school off reserve. He was an avid fan and player of minor league hockey as a youth but an injury had him reassess his ambition to play professionally. By the time he reached high school he found himself somewhat lost in the sea of faces he recognized from the reserve, but didn't grow up with it in the school system, leaving him lost between two cultures. French

said he was a loner and self-conscious of himself in high school. He did not have a direct affiliation to one group or another and found himself unsure of his direction. His academic standing suffered quite a bit until his later years in high school where he ran for Vice-President of the Student Council and won, as well as bringing up his marks to a respectable level to pursue post secondary education. His school population was 2,500 students, so winning the office of VP was no small achievement on his part.

In his senior year he became involved with the drama department and performed as Donald in the school production of *You Can't Take it With You*. This is where French found his niche. As his high school years came to a close he decided to apply to Toronto's Ryerson Theatre School. Once again, against the odds, he was accepted. He was competing with over 800 applicants for only 34 available spots in the program. He graduated in 2001 after performing in plays such as *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Emile Zola's Nana*. French is presently enjoying playing the part of Justin Tommy on APTN's *Cashing In*, a half-hour comedy/drama set on the fictional Stonewalker First Nation in southern Manitoba. French plays

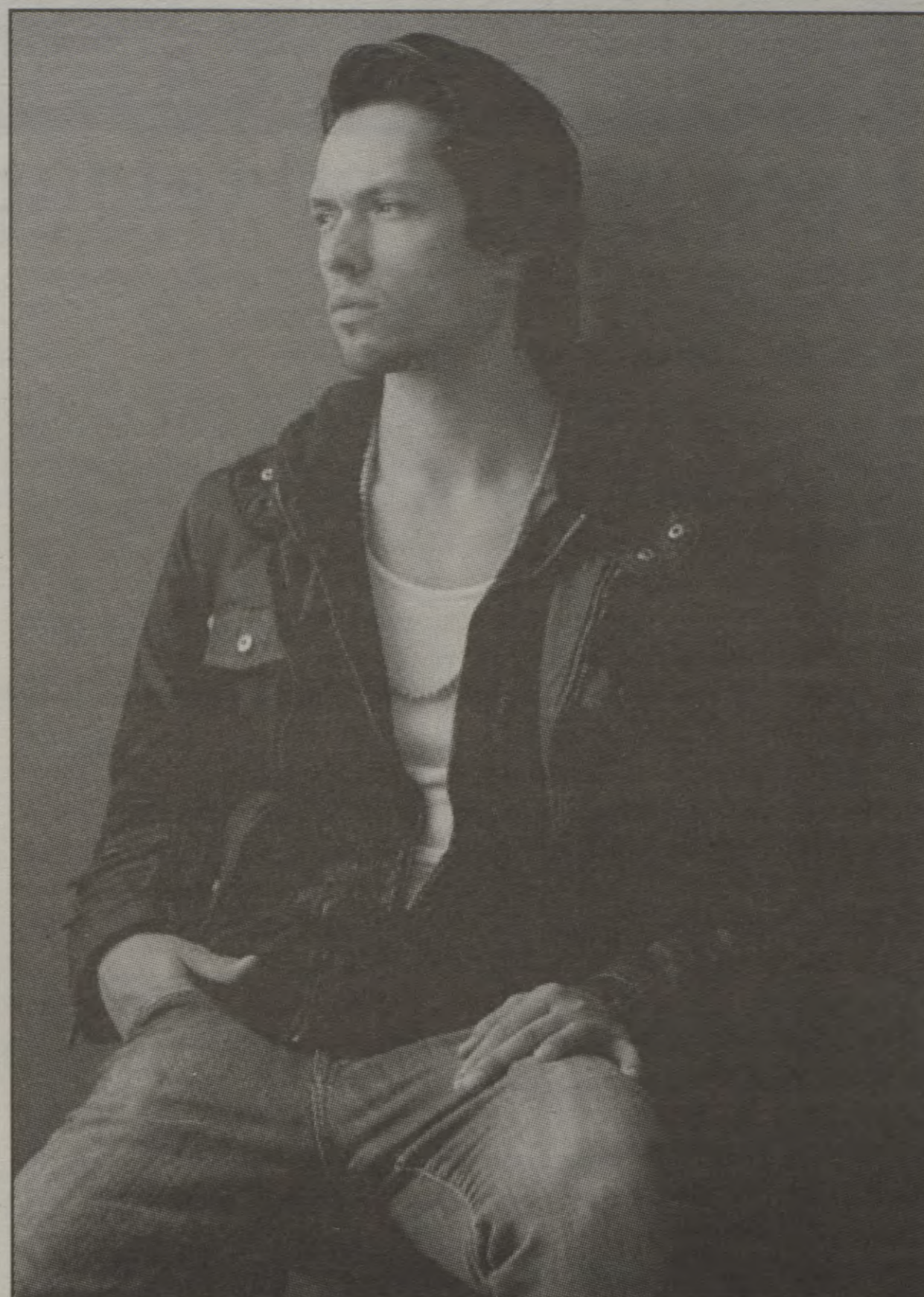


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Wesley French

the wealthy and spoiled son of casino owner, Matthew Tommy. *Cashing In* has been on the air since 2009 and is shot on a tight schedule of six to seven weeks in Winnipeg, leaving French time to pursue other acting opportunities. French lives in Toronto with his wife and young daughter when not on location.

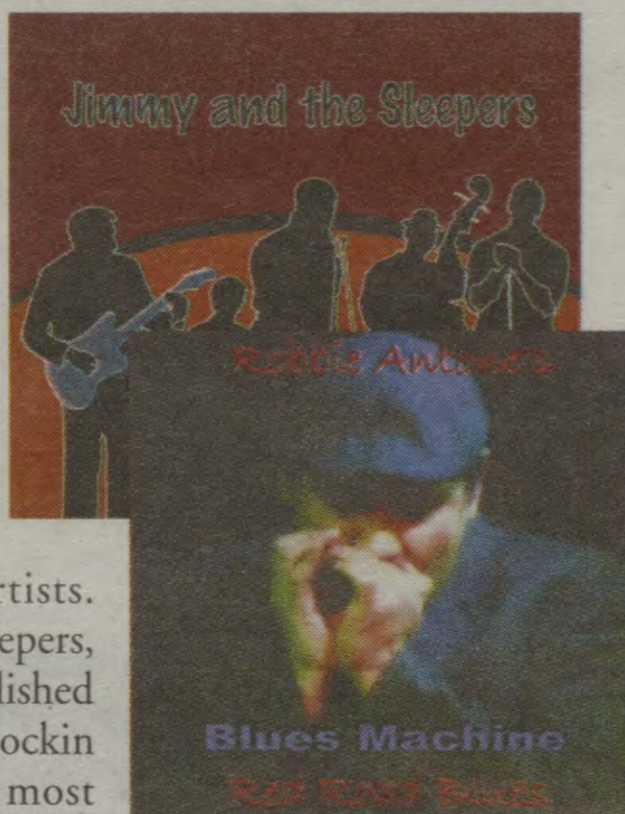
## OUR PICKS

**Artist—** Jimmy & The Sleepers  
**Song—** Devil In Me  
**Album—** Self-titled EP

**Artist—** Robbie Antone's Blues Machine  
**Song—** Red Road Blues  
**Album—** Red Road Blues

The first days of February 2012 was a special time for blues out of Canada and Aboriginal directed music. Jimmy & the Sleepers and Robbie Antone's Blues Machine both represented different Canadian city Blues Associations as entries into the International Memphis Blues Challenge. Both bands are Aboriginal artist driven and directed. Both bands won their own city competitions against many mainstream blues artists. Jimmy Guiboche of Jimmy & the Sleepers, assembled some of the most accomplished musicians to accompany him in his rockin blues style delivering some of the most jumping gritty working man's blues you'll ever hear. Robbie Antone's Blues Machine comes from a slightly different direction with more of a smooth burning blues that feels relaxed while at the same time delivering a fever of melody. Either release by both bands are must have for any blues fan. Both bands are proven to be a couple of Canada's hottest blues acts. Jimmy & the Sleeper's new release is what one would call in vinyl days as an EP of five songs while Robbie Antone's Blues Machine gives us the full meal with ten songs. They run the musical paces leaving you satisfied which apparently Muddy Water's claimed he couldn't be. He obviously never got a chance to listen to these musical offerings. These guys once again prove that Aboriginal affinity with the blues genre is a natural fit. Robbie is from the Oneida Nation while Jimmy hails originally from Snow Lake Manitoba. If you are feeling down and blue, listening to these cds can only be topped at making you feel better by a chance to listen to them both! But who comes first? East or West? †You can get your own taste of the blues at [www.jimmyandthesleepers.com](http://www.jimmyandthesleepers.com) and you can search for Robbie Antone's Blues Machine on iTunes.

Review by : K. Kanten

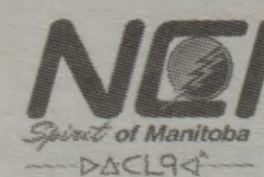


## [ radio's most active ]

# ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Tim Harwill	Rollin' With The Flow	A Tribute To Catfish John
The Outlaws	From Hell To Paradise	The Outlaws
Little Hawk	Beautiful Me	Vigilance
TK & The Honey Badgers	Please Take Me In	EP
Nathan Cunningham f. T. Lamouche	The Wildflower	Single Release
Art Napoleon	Long As I Can See The Light	Creeland Covers
Sharon Anderson	I Got Love	Life And Times
Bob Chartrand	Let's Play Love	The Hits
Yvonne St. Germaine	North Song	Single Release
Holly Vee	I Luv You	Love, Spurs and Rock n' Roll
Sherry St. Germain	Kick Out The Lights	Kick Out The Lights
Crystal Shawanda	Closer	Single Release
Fargo Arizona	I Promise	Single Release
Ashley Robertson	Finished With You	Single Release
Shane Yellowbird	Sedona Arizona	It's About Time
D'Aoust Brothers	Music Man	Single Release
Priscilla's Revenge	The Best Thing For Me	Third Gear
Hank Horton	Oh Mama	Mama's Waiting
Harry Davies	When I Touch You	Single Release
Keith & Renee	Wildflower	The Best Day

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:





## Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

# Hard work and talent makes boy dancer the head man

By Rob Lackie  
Birchbark Writer

### Toronto

Talon Thunder White-Eye is a very determined 14 year old boy who was born on Dec. 2, 1997. He now lives in Sarnia, but is originally from the Aamjiwnaang First Nation.

Talon has been winning traditional dance competitions since he was a baby, and dancing the Northern Traditional style since he could walk at the age of two. In fact, Talon went undefeated in his last year of Junior Boys Traditional Dance Competition.

Talon has travelled as far south as New Mexico, as far west as Washington State, Oregon and California, taking first place honours in most of his competitions.

Talon is just as successful in Teen Boy's Traditional Dance. He has improved his dance style, met new people and won several dance competitions thanks to being able to take the summer to travel outside his normal

powwow circuit. This has really helped him focus for competitions.

Now Talon is looking forward to his position as "Head Young Man Dancer" in Albuquerque, New Mexico at one of the largest "Gathering of Nations" Powwow competition in the world for singers, drummers and dancers of all ages.

It is a great commitment to be selected as "Head Young Man Dancer" at the powwow. Talon will be hosting a Teen Boy's Traditional Special and Blanket give away to honour the organizers and head staff at the Gathering.

Talon has received much support from many communities in Ontario, including Toronto where Talon lived for nine years of his young life. A community social was held March 7 in Talon's honour at the Toronto Council Fire Cultural Centre this month where he was recognized as a youth leader.

This social helped raise money for his commitment and travels to Albuquerque.



Talon Thunder White-Eye

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

# Mohawk musician making it on his own

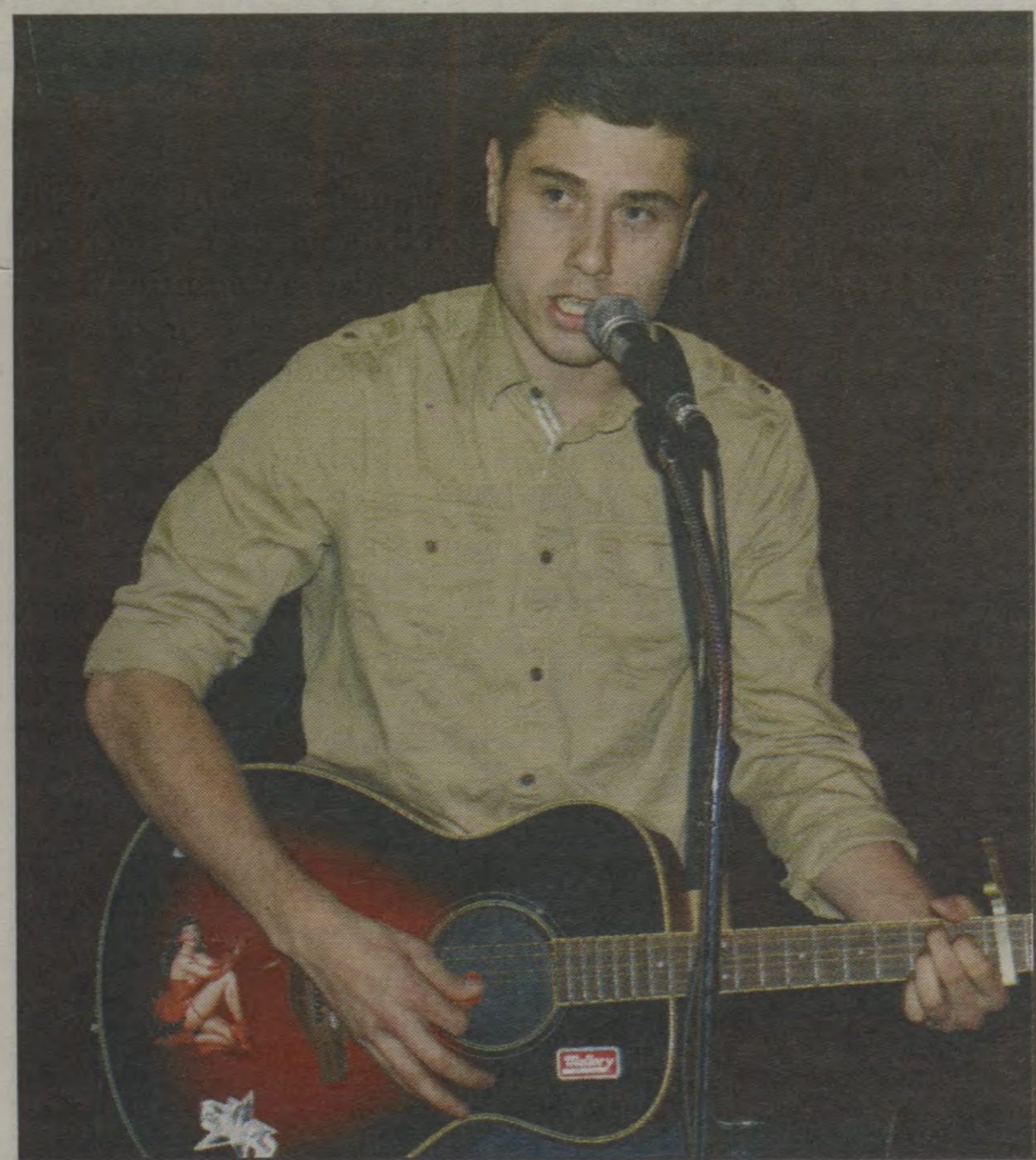


PHOTO: LAUREN MCCOMBER

Brendt Thomas Diabo performing at an open-mic in Montreal

By Lauren McComber  
Birchbark Writer

### MONTREAL

Right from the start, Brendt Thomas Diabo doubted his pursuit of a solo music career. It was April 2011, and he had just started recording songs for his solo music project called Thomas Doubling.

It wasn't that he lacked the musical talent – he has plenty – or that he suffers from stage fright. It's just that, as Diabo puts

it, it is simply in his nature to doubt. Hence the name, Thomas Doubling.

"It was sort of an experiment for me. I was mainly just testing the waters to see if I could do this," confessed Diabo, a 21-year-old musician from the Mohawk Nation of Kahnawake.

With his tentative first steps into the Indie music scene of Montreal, Diabo promised himself that if he didn't reach a certain goal by the age of 22 (to tour outside of Montreal), he would just "stop the whole

pursuit and grow up."

With his 22nd birthday just two months away, Diabo doesn't see himself giving up anytime soon. He is recording his second EP - which has already yielded a bluesy number called Ride - and has some potential gigs in the works opening up for a well-known Aboriginal musician.

"Where I wanted to be last year is now where I'm at this year," said Diabo. "It's taken a lot of time, money, and dedication to get the ball rolling, but with my new EP being recorded I have a lot more confidence in myself and my music. I'd like to see how far I could take this one."

Diabo's interest in music began at the age of eight-years-old. He remembers owning an Elvis fridge magnet and watching all of Elvis' movies.

"Elvis is the king," said Diabo, half-joking.

At the age of 12, Diabo's father taught him how to play the guitar. His earliest musical influences came from his father as well, who listened to classic rock groups like Led Zeppelin.

Diabo's father also played another crucial role in Diabo's solo music project: He got his band name, Thomas Doubling, from a list of band names his father brainstormed for his own cover band. It was originally Doubling Thomas, but Diabo had to change it due to the name's popularity as a band.

Other musicians who inspire Diabo are folk blues bands and artists like The Gaslight Anthem, City and Colour, and Bruce

Springsteen. He is also influenced by Country legends George Jones and Hank Williams Sr.

"They are all very vivid and great story tellers," said Diabo.

At the age of 15, Diabo played in his first band, a punk group called The Renegades. A couple of years later, he played in a Kahnawake hardcore metal band, and later found himself producing rap beats. More recently, he played in two hardcore metal bands from Montreal called Deadwalk and Hatred.

These experiences shaped Diabo to be the musician he is today, which is basically a one-man-music-act. Not only did he write, produce, co-engineer, and promote his first EP "Haunted" all on his own, he played all of the instruments (guitar, vocals, drums, harmonica, and keyboard) heard on the album.

"Haunted" was released in November 2011, and the first single titled 6 Feet Underground was released in June 2011.

"[6 Feet Underground] is dark, along the lines of Tom Waits, but other songs on the EP sound similar to Tom Petty; they're very pop and upbeat," explained Diabo. "It's a mix of light and dark."

Since 6 Feet Underground's release, Diabo has not stopped playing shows and performing at open-mics.

"I play shows as much as I can, when I can. In the past year, I've managed to meet a lot of new people in my genre of music, so

there is a lot of gig swapping," said Diabo. "Everything is building up brick by brick. People are liking [my music], wanting to hear more, and asking where they can download it."

Diabo mainly promotes his music through social media sites like facebook and twitter. His youtube page ([www.youtube.com/doublingthomas27](http://www.youtube.com/doublingthomas27)) has received 4,388 hits to date. 6 Feet Underground has received 609 views, received airplay on Kahnawake's community radio station K103.7 FM, and was featured in a Headrush MMA clothing line commercial.

Not too bad for someone who was dubious about stepping out as a solo music artist in the first place.

When asked what advice he would give to someone contemplating going down the same path, Diabo cautiously answers.

"I honestly have a hard time dealing with this question because I'm just some kid with a guitar who's been running down a dream and constantly chasing it," explained Diabo. "But if I were to give any advice, it's that everyone has got to start somewhere in whatever it is they want to do with their lives. I just hope they're ready to build what they want from the ground up, because it takes time and work like anything else."

To download Diabo's EP "Haunted" for free, go to [www.mediafire.com/?jhp7sjl83vi2763](http://www.mediafire.com/?jhp7sjl83vi2763).



## Alberta Sweetgrass: Special Section providing news from Alberta

# Chief claims racism behind government's decision

By Shari Narine  
Sweetgrass Contributing  
Editor

EDMONTON

Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation is accusing the Alberta government of racism.

"The Alberta government has never ever put a red light on any projects that are being put forward by any major corporation or company in regards to oil and gas development. Because it's the First Nations that come up with one, this is the only known project that was ever given the red light. They put a stop on this," said Adam. "The province of Alberta is racist to the First Nation people and it just goes to show that they will never ever sit down at the table at the First Nation level in regard to moving forward."

In February, the Alberta government announced that after months of discussions between Teedrum Inc. company representatives and their partner

First Nations, the Alberta First Nation Energy Centre would not be receiving funding under the Bitumen's Royalty In-Kind program.

Bart Johnson, spokesperson for Alberta Energy, said the proposal will not be negotiated further nor would the government take into consideration Teedrum Inc. president Ken Horn's suggestion for a third party to conduct an independent assessment review.

"Minister (Ted) Morton, following discussions with the Premier's Office, did meet with them and let them know we are not prepared to proceed on it now. There are just too many uncertainties," said Johnson.

"I'm absolutely surprised (by the decision). It was not expected at all," said Horn, who noted that not only had he and his team had over 30 meetings with government bureaucrats, but the project had the support of former Premier Ed Stelmach and a number of ministers.

Although a conditional commitment had been "drawn up," said Johnson, it had not

been signed.

According to the AFNEC website, the Alberta First Nations Energy Centre is an initiative of Enoch Cree Chief Ron Morin on behalf of all First Nations and Teedrum Inc. The \$6.6 billion oil sands upgrader would process 125,000 barrels per day of bitumen from the tar sands into synthetic crude oil, diesel, jet fuel and other products. The refinery is to be located in Lamont County on approximately 1,700 acres in the area referred to as the Industrial Heartland, Canada's largest hydrocarbon processing region with over 40 oil and gas companies operating there. The state-of-the-art facility would be capable of expanding to 300,000-barrel-a-day production, primarily for export.

Although most oil and gas companies have policies in place that employ Aboriginal people, this upgrader would be the first directly owned by First Nations.

"The proposal could have offered potential economic benefits to First Nations but that's as it was presented. But we don't have enough information

to determine if there's any validity to the proposed benefits because they have not done enough front end work," said Johnson.

He said Teedrum is short on both partnership commitments and financial commitments. The company has provided only \$20 million in advanced engineering work, has not acquired land to locate the refinery, has not acquired regulatory approval, and has not signed agreements with partners.

"The level of uncertainty with the project was just too high. It would have required government and therefore taxpayers to take on an unacceptable level of risk," said Johnson.

Horn refutes the government's claims saying the agreement Teedrum is looking for is "conditional in nature and there was no risk to the Crown. In fact, all the risk was put back on us. We had a two-year period to do a number of things (to meet) 13 conditions."

As far as economics, he said, Teedrum had work undertaken

that showed the project was viable.

Horn is hopeful that Teedrum will be able to get the government back to the table.

"It's a big blow. These large megaprojects around the globe certainly need some participation by government," said Horn.

In the meanwhile, Horn said Teedrum will look to China and India for support in the project, noting that relationships have been cultivated with both countries already.

"This is a critical time," he said. "There are a number of investors and there's the availability in pipelines.... To keep a project of this size and staff and everybody moving is difficult."

Johnson said the government's refusal to support the First Nations' refinery is not connected to First Nations' opposition to either Northern Gateway pipeline or Keystone XL pipeline developments.

"I imagine somewhere in their decision they make reference to that but I'm not going to comment on it," said Adam.

# New litigation launched to challenge minister's decision on caribou protection

By SHARI NARINE  
Sweetgrass Contributing  
Editor

EDMONTON

Swan River First Nation has signed on to new litigation challenging Environment Minister Peter Kent's decision to not issue an emergency order to protect woodland caribou.

"When we participated in the Northern Gateway hearing process, we identified the Little Smoky herd and the inaction around that. So that's where we now started to get involved because we now know there are other Nations also challenging that," said Leon Chalifoux, Chief of Swan River First Nation.

On Feb. 23, counsels for the four Alberta First Nations and

two environmental groups (Alberta Wilderness Association and Pembina Institute) filed a notice of application in federal court for a second judicial review of the minister's decision not to issue an emergency order under the Species At Risk Act as well as challenge the delay in presenting the recovery strategy.

The decision to pursue a second litigation instead of continuing with the initial court action was strategic, said Jenny Biem, counsel with Woodward and Company, which is representing the First Nations of Athabasca Chipewyan, Beaver Lake Cree, Swan River and, also new to the litigation, Cold Lake. Enoch First Nation is no longer involved in legal action.

"Because the minister advised us of his decision, we only had a 30-day time frame to bring new litigation to challenge the new decision. We could have waited, but had we waited, we would have risked getting into a motion war with Canada ... saying we hadn't met the deadline ... so that's why we had to bring it quickly," said Biem.

In mid-January, Kent upheld the earlier decision of his predecessor to not to issue an emergency order to protect the woodland caribou. Federal Court Justice Peter Crampton said the federal environment minister of the time had "clearly erred in reaching his decision by failing to take into account the First Nations Applicants' Treaty Rights and the honour of the Crown in interpreting his mandate under (the federal Species at Risk Act)."

Kent was directed to provide the reason for his decision. That has yet to come.

"The document is still in the process of being posted, but it should be up soon. There were a few procedural issues that delayed its posting," said Adam Sweet, press secretary for the minister, in an email interview.

In February, Kent announced a further delay in developing a recovery strategy for the woodland caribou. Feedback from the public on the Proposed Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population was extended by 120 days, pushing

the deadline to Feb. 22. With 14,000 submissions received, Kent added an additional 30 days to the timeline in order to assess the feedback received.

"In the next couple of weeks, we will find out if those 30 days will be adequate. We are working as quickly as possible, but we do have a responsibility to consider every one," said Sweet.

Chalifoux said he considers himself an optimist but doesn't know what to expect with the newest litigation and the latest attempts to protect the woodland caribou. It is obvious, he said, that Kent has still not considered Treaty rights, although the judge instructed him to.

"Our way of life, our people are important to us, our resources are important to us. This is what we have preserved back in 1899, that our ways were to continue as long as the sun shines and the river flows. So the more animals and stuff they take away from us, it's not leaving anything. We may have a Treaty, but we won't have anything to use that Treaty on," he said.



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# Don't let the bedbugs bite

By Dr. Dianne Saxe and Jackie Campbell

Over the past decade, North America and western Europe have seen an alarming resurgence of bedbugs in homes, university dormitories, apartments and hotels. Although the reason for the proliferation of bedbugs is not clear, some attribute this to the increase in international travel, use of narrower spectrum insecticides targeting other insect pests (that don't work on bedbugs) and resistance of these parasites to pesticides.

Bedbugs are bloodsucking insects that attack humans and other mammals at night. They live in floor and wall crevices, cracks in ceilings, bedding and upholstered furniture and even inside light fixtures, remote controls, alarm clocks and other electronics.

Although wingless, bedbugs, which are small and flat, the size of an apple seed, can crawl up to 20 feet seeking a human host; they feed once a week for 10 to 20 minutes, then return to their lairs. Bite marks may not develop until two weeks later. Unfortunately bedbugs can live for several weeks to around a year-and-a-half without a meal.

Although they bite and may cause rashes, bedbugs do not appear to transmit bloodborne diseases like hepatitis B or C or HIV. However, they can provoke allergic reactions, cause secondary infections (e.g., following scratching) and anxiety. Most people do not need medications to treat bedbug bites, but in more severe cases, corticosteroid creams and oral antihistamines may be used.

However, more research is needed to determine if bedbugs can transmit disease. One small study suggests that bedbugs may carry, and transmit, bacteria that are resistant to conventional antibiotics. In Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, which has high rates of homelessness, HIV/AIDS and injectable drug use, more than 30 per cent of

residents reported bedbugs. Some of these bedbugs contained bacteria resistant to the "last resort" antibiotics, such as vancomycin. A 2011 literature review examined the possible role of bedbugs in transmitting pathogens.

To detect an infestation: Inspect all bed linens, the mattress (including along piping and handles, under pillow tops and in air holes), the box spring and headboard.

Black/brown spots might be dried blood or droppings; white dots may be eggs. Correct identification is critical to ensure that the treatment is appropriate.

Check baseboard gaps or behind tears in wallpaper or flaking paint. If you find bedbugs on walls, they may also be in picture frames, smoke detectors and other items mounted on the wall.

The easiest prevention steps are:

Bring into your house only new mattresses and stuffed furniture. As new mattresses may be delivered in a truck that takes away old mattresses, ensure that your new mattress is well-sealed.

Encase all mattresses in bedbug-proof encasements.

Use bedbug interceptors to find and trap the insects. These look like two shallow nested plastic bowls and slip under each leg of a bed. Bedbugs found in the inner bowl come from the bed; if in the outer bowl, from another area in the room.

If you've got bedbugs, call a licensed pest control company. Depending on the situation, the company may recommend physical (non-chemical) strategies to eliminate the insects, and/or to treat the area with chemicals and/or pesticides.

Physical means include heating, freezing, steam-cleaning followed by vacuuming, and washing/drying items at high temperatures. Note that temperatures that are not high (or low) enough, or for too little time, will result in treatment failure....and more bedbugs. In

some cases, bedbug detecting dogs may be used to locate the pests.

Save money by doing some of the work, including:

Declutter; steam clean and/or vacuum the area and clean it thoroughly. If possible, use a vacuum that has a HEPA (high efficient particulate air) filter, so that insect parts and droppings (and dust) don't get recirculated back into the air. Also, as vacuums may become infested with bedbugs, avoid using handheld ones, those with cloth bags or fabric hoses. Discard the vacuum bag in a tightly sealed garbage bag.

Wash and dry bedding and clothing at the highest temperatures the materials tolerate.

Heating or freezing infested items may be an option.

Seal cracks and crevices in walls, ceilings, window and door frames, and openings like areas where pipes and wires enter your home.

Wrap any furniture or infested items that won't be treated tightly in plastic and seal, then put them in the trash, perhaps with a sign that they contain bedbugs.

Sometimes treatments don't work. Reasons for failure include that not all the bedbugs were located, the area wasn't cleaned sufficiently, cracks/crevices were not sealed, nearby areas the bugs may have colonized were not treated (e.g., other rooms, the next apartment).

For those who rent apartments or other lodgings, landlords may be responsible for paying for the costs of treatments to get rid of bedbugs. However, this may vary with jurisdiction and, in view of the high cost of treatment(s), landlord-tenant disputes may arise. Tenants are responsible for the work involved in treating and preventing bedbug infestations, like clearing shelves, washing clothes and bedding, checking furniture and getting rid of clutter.

Ontario's Residential Tenancies Act requires landlords

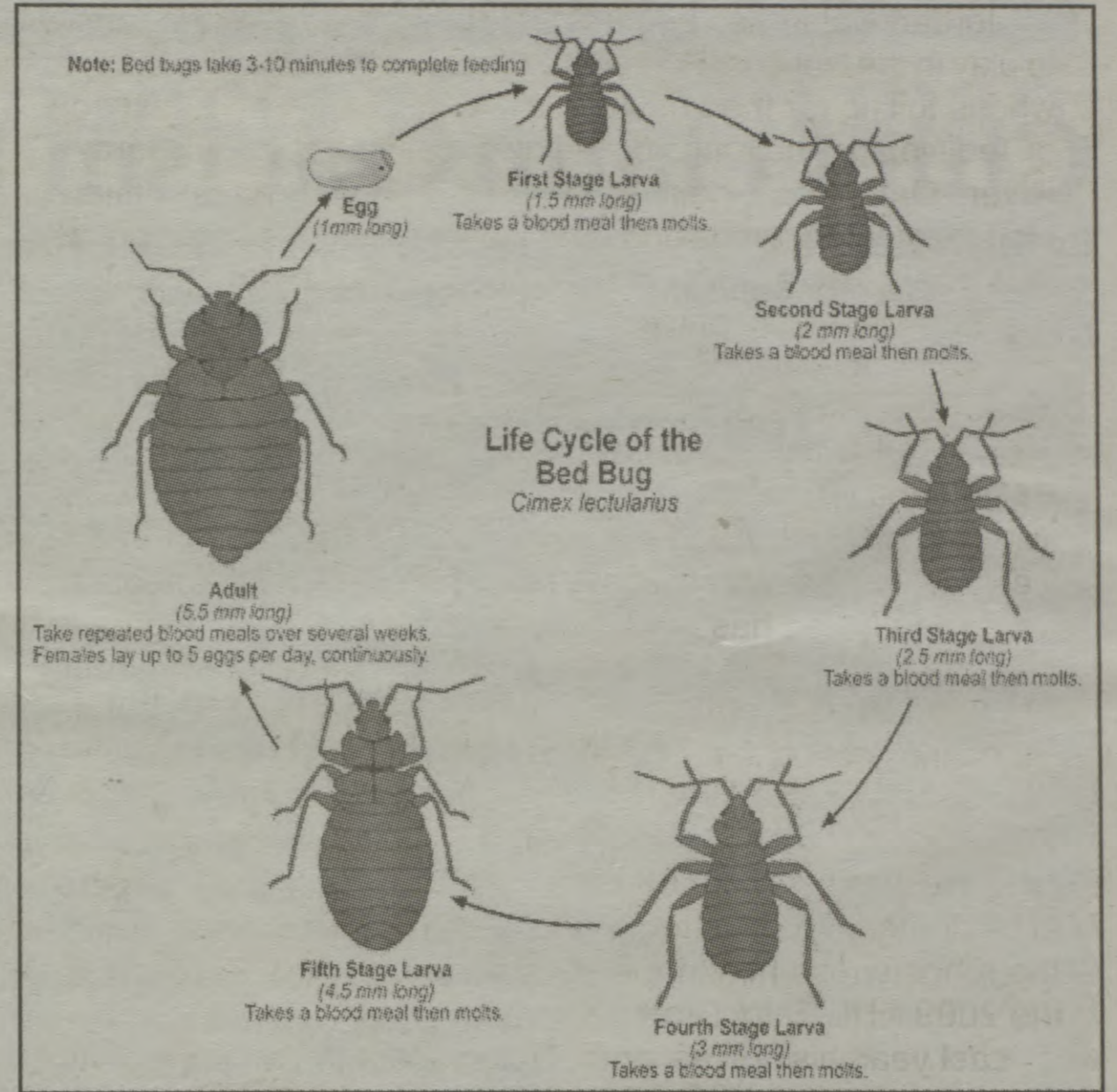


PHOTO: PROVIDED.

The life-cycle of a bed bug - as if you weren't already itchy enough.

to ensure that rental units and common areas are kept in good repair, comply with health and safety standards and the buildings must be fit for habitation. The landlord is responsible for costs of building maintenance. Municipalities typically have bylaws that require all dwellings to be kept free of pest infestation.

In some cases where vulnerable persons who may not be able to prepare their homes for treatment, the Public Health department of their municipality may provide assistance. Programs like the Toronto Bed Bug Project and Bug and Scrub may be available.

Bedbugs are notorious hitchhikers. When you travel use hard, smooth-surfaced luggage without pockets. The bedbug registry shows hotels with recent bedbug reports.

It is safer to pack your clothes into large, sealable plastic bags and leave them inside your luggage or hang them in the closet. Don't leave clothing on the bed, floor or in hotel drawers.

Use luggage racks. Don't put

your bags on the bed or floor.

Before you accept the room, inspect the bed: pull back the bedsheets and check the mattress, including the seams and mattress tag. Watch for bloodstains and droppings (red or brown). Check the headboard and bedside table, too.

If you do detect bedbugs, inform hotel management and ask for another room. Repeat the inspection.

When you get home, unpack outside, and re-inspect everything. Vacuum luggage (inside and out). Wash everything that is washable using the hottest water and dry on high heat for 1 hour; Delicates can go in the freezer for two weeks. When weather permits, luggage can also go into a hot car in the sun over a sweltering summer weekend, or into a car or outdoor container in bitter winter conditions.

Bedbugs are exhausting and expensive, but they can show up anywhere, even in the fanciest hotel. Be aware of what to watch for and act quickly if you find them.

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## Sports Briefs

By Sam Laskaris

### Another Nolan in NHL

Jordan Nolan has become the third member of his family to play in the National Hockey League. The 22-year-old Ojibwe, who is toiling for the Los Angeles Kings, is the youngest son of Ted Nolan. The Kings called up Nolan, who is from Garden River, Ont., from their American Hockey League affiliate Manchester Monarchs on Feb. 10. The forward had four points (two goals, two assists) in his first 17 games in Los Angeles.

The elder Nolan played 78 NHL contests. He appeared in games for the Detroit Red Wings and Pittsburgh Penguins during the 1980s. But he's better known for being an NHL coach. Ted Nolan coached for the Hartford Whalers, Buffalo Sabres and New York Islanders. He's perhaps best known for winning the Jack Adams Award as the NHL's coach of the year for his work with the Sabres during the 1996-97 season.

Jordan Nolan has already appeared in more NHL games than his brother Brandon did during his five-year pro career. Brandon Nolan played six matches with the Carolina Hurricanes during the 2007-08 campaign. He missed the entire next season due to a concussion and then retired.

Jordan Nolan was considered a longshot to make it to the NHL. He was not selected in the first two years he was eligible to be drafted. Then, during the third year he could be selected, the Kings chose him in the seventh round, 186th over-all, in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft.

Last year, his first as a pro, Nolan spent the majority of his time in the AHL with the New Hampshire-based Monarchs. He had 22 points in 40 games this season with the Manchester side before being called up by the Kings.

### New program launched

Just Move It—Canada is the name of an online program that has been launched to improve the health and fitness among Indigenous communities in Canada. The Just Move It campaign, however, is not a new one. This marks the 20th year the health campaign will be run in the United States.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami president Mary Simon were among those that assisted with the Canadian national launch on March 19.

The Just Move It—Canada program will list and follow events, programs and projects that promote physical activity and wellness in First Nation and Inuit communities across the country. Also, by going to the Web site individuals can share their stories and plans about their fitness and wellness initiatives.

The Just Move It campaign was started in the U.S. by the Healthy Native Communities Partnership.

More information about the program in Canada is available at [www.justmoveit.org/jmicanada](http://www.justmoveit.org/jmicanada).

### Manitoba's athletes named

A hockey player and a multi-sport athlete have been selected as Manitoba's top Aboriginal athletes.

Winnipeg's Julie Desrochers and Kiinnan Stevenson-French of the Peguis First Nation were announced as the province's top Aboriginal female and male athletes for 2011 on March 12.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council annually honors its top female and male athletes. They are chosen in part for their positive role in sports in their communities as well as their personal commitment to athletic development and achievement in sport.

Desrochers, who is Métis, was a member of the Winnipeg East Saints AA hockey team. She also represented Manitoba at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, which were held in Saskatoon last May.

Desrochers also was an assistant coach for a peewee hockey team that her sister played for. And she volunteered several weeks last summer at hockey schools.

Stevenson-French is also a hockey player. But he also competed in the following sports last year—wrestling, golf, street hockey, volleyball, softball and basketball.

He ended up winning numerous trophies and medals for his athletic endeavours.

Stevenson-French was a member of the team that captured the bronze medal at the Western Canadian Softball Championships and he also won three medals at the Manitoba Indigenous Invitational Games this past summer.

Stevenson-French is also a member of the Peguis Youth Hunters and Gatherers Group.

### Warriors don't repeat

The Akwesasne Warriors were not able to defend their Federal Hockey League (FHL) championship.

The Warriors, who play their home contests in an eastern Ontario Mohawk community, captured the inaugural FHL title last season.

As for this year, during the regular season the Akwesasne side finished fifth in the eight-team league. The Warriors then had their season come to an end when they were downed 2-1 by the New York-based 1000 Islands Privateers in their best-of-three opening playoff series.

[ sports ]

# Hockeyville contest a bonding experience for Beardy's



PHOTO: SARAH STONE, PANOW.COM

Dustin Desjarlais of the Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation participates in the Road Hockey tournament during the Beardy's Memorial Arena Hockeyville Festival, Saturday, March 17

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

### BEARDY'S AND OKEMASIS FIRST NATION

What is known is that the Beardy's Memorial Arena in Saskatchewan will be undergoing some upgrades soon. But residents of the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation are now anxiously awaiting March 31 to find out whether their rink will also host a National Hockey League pre-season game later this year.

The Aboriginal community made the Top 5 list in the annual Kraft Hockeyville contest. By cracking the Top 5 list, the community will receive \$25,000 to upgrade its rink, which was built exactly two decades ago in 1992.

The winning community will be announced on CBC during a Hockey Night In Canada broadcast. That community will receive \$100,000 in arena upgrades and will have the honor of hosting a NHL exhibition contest.

This marks the sixth year of the Kraft Hockeyville contest, which was developed by CBC Sports and is sponsored by Kraft Foods, the NHL and the NHL Players' Association.

"We are the only First Nation in the history of Hockeyville to advance to this level," said Kevin Seesequasis, the spokesperson for the Beardy's bid. "That's something interesting in itself."

Newfoundland's Conception Bay won the 2011 contest. The Ottawa Senators and Winnipeg Jets participated in a pre-season contest in that community this past September.

A total of 227 communities entered the Hockeyville contest this year. By early March this group was whittled down to 15. And then on March 17 the Top 5 finalists were announced.

Kurt Seesequasis, who is a local councillor and Kevin's cousin, is the one who submitted the Beardy's bid.

After that local residents were invited to submit videos or photos to show their passion for hockey as well as to explain why their community should win the contest.

Once the Top 15 communities were announced people were able to vote as many times as they wanted, either online or by phone, for the location they wanted to move on.

And when those votes were tabulated and the Top 5 were announced during a Hockey Night in Canada telecast, another four-day voting period followed.

Though voting closed on March 20, the results will not be announced until the end of the month.

The other four communities that made the Top 5 list are West Kelowna, B.C., Ontario's Stirling-Rawdon, Amos, Que., and Yarmouth, N.S.

Kevin Seesequasis said this contest has proved to be quite the bonding experience for those in his community.

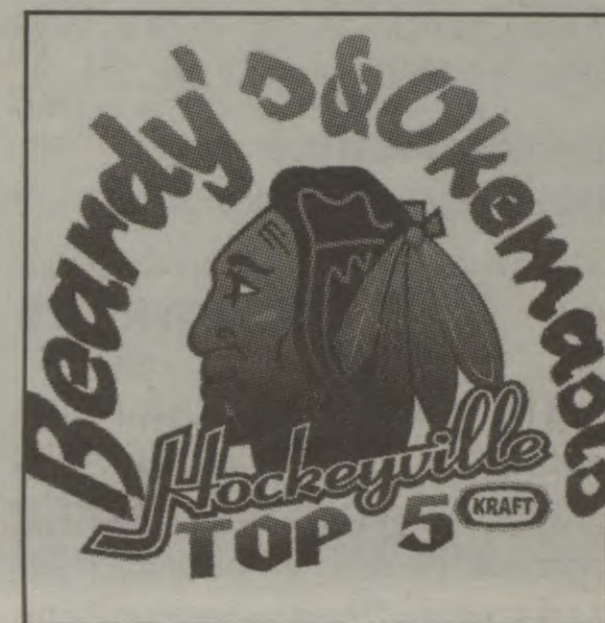
"This has brought all 3,000 of us together," he said.

During the voting periods, many from the Aboriginal community staged voting parties, staying up with others until the wee hours of the morning to vote as many times as possible.

People were trying to spread the word about their community's bid any way they could, including word of mouth, Facebook and Twitter.

"We've been getting people across the country and North America to help us," Seesequasis said.

Support for the Beardy's bid from local residents took off on Jan. 21. That's when a Hockey Day in Beardy's was staged at the



Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation Hockeyville logo

local rink.

Seesequasis said local residents were especially pumped after that day once they realized what they could win in this contest. Many uploaded videos and pictures to the contest Web site after that day to boost the Beardy's submission.

"We were really excited then," Seesequasis said. "We had a lot of momentum moving forward."

And no doubt residents are ecstatic they were able to make it onto the Top 5 list, securing \$25,000 in arena upgrades.

But there's no point in speculating how those funds will be used. Especially since local residents are still hoping to win the grand prize of the contest.

"Those decisions would have to wait," Seesequasis said of any possible upgrades.

The Beardy's Memorial Arena has a capacity of about 1,600. There are no individual seats, just rows of benches. About 1,000 people can sit on the benches and the rink can accommodate about 600 standees.

These days the rink is primarily used for minor hockey contests.

The facility though was home for the Beardy's Rage, a Junior A squad that competed in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League during the 1997-98 campaign. That franchise moved to Saskatoon and eventually folded.

(More Sports on page 24.)



[ education ]

# Educators should work to put residential school history in the classroom



TRC Commissioner Marie Wilson, TRC Chair Justice Murray Sinclair, TRC Commissioner Chief Wilton Littlechild at launch of TRC Interim Report on Feb. 24.

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## YELLOWKNIFE

The Northwest Territories is taking the lead in educating its students about Indian residential schools. N.W.T. Deputy Premier Jackson Lafferty accepted the historical report *They Came for the Children* from Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Marie Wilson and pledged to use it as part of the school curriculum.

"We are proud to be a partner on this very important initiative that's before us," said Lafferty on Feb. 24. He also holds the portfolio for education, culture

and employment. The N.W.T. committed to taking the lead in educating its students on residential schools when the TRC hosted the second national event in Inuvik last summer.

Lafferty announced that a small pilot project would be delivered this spring to educate students about Indian residential schools and their impact. A long-term program, as a collaborative effort between the departments of education and justice, will be rolled out in the coming years.

"In the Northwest Territories many Aboriginal people attended residential school, including myself. I was one of the lucky ones who retained my language .... During this time our language

and culture were denied us .... Residential school has left us, and left many former students, struggling....," said Lafferty.

N.W.T. and Nunavut will be collaborating in this educational effort. Wilson said the two northern territories "were now branching out" to talk to education departments in the northern and western parts of the country.

TRC Chair, Justice Murray Sinclair, said the historical document needed to be adapted by curriculum developers for age-appropriate lesson plans.

"We're giving this to educators across the country and saying figure out how to use this, make a commitment to using this

information and developing materials based upon information that's either in here or that we refer to and work with us and we'll help you develop sources of material so that your curriculum materials can be properly founded," he said.

This direction is among the three education-specific recommendations presented by the TRC in its interim report, which contained 20 recommendations over all.

"There is a need to increase public awareness and understanding of the history of residential schools. This will require comprehensive public-awareness efforts by the federal government and in-school educational efforts by provincial

and territorial governments and educational institutions," said the report.

The recommendations state that the provincial and territorial governments need to work with the commission to meet these goals.

Wilson said it was clear as the commission traveled the country that many Canadians, both non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal, were not aware of residential schools and their multi-generational effect.

"Our goal ... is that there would come a day, sooner rather than later, in Canada where no child will be able to go through a school system in Canada without knowing this important part of our country's history. This is not Aboriginal history. This is Canadian history," she said.

Wilson said the challenge to educate was clear.

Sinclair agreed. "There is a significant level of ignorance out there. I'm not using ignorance in a pejorative sense. I'm using it in a sense of a lack of knowledge exists within the Canadian population, many of whom simply do not know what went on in the schools and a significant number who aren't even aware there were residential schools in Canada."

Sinclair stated that education was needed before a meaningful discussion could take place about reconciliation.

"If we're going to have a discussion around reconciliation during the term of this commission then we have to ensure we have an educated public that can contribute to it and participate in a discussion around reconciliation," he said.



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Donations over \$50 will receive the CD above as well as the book: *Métis Veterans of Saskatchewan: 1914-1953* by Cathy Littlejohn.

Our goal is to ensure the monument recognizes and honours all of our Métis Veterans, past and present. If you know of a Métis veteran who should be recognized, please visit the website below for submission information.

For more information, please contact the Gabriel Dumont Institute toll-free at 1-877-488-6888 or visit the website [www.gdins.org/veteransmonument](http://www.gdins.org/veteransmonument).

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[ education ]

## Space camp scholarships will go to Aboriginal youth

Did you know that Aboriginal Canadian or Native American students between the ages of nine and 11 years old could win free tuition to Space Camp just by sending in a short 30 second video and telling why they want to go?

Did you know that if you won one of 12 scholarships for Aboriginal or Native American students you will be invited to be an extra on a major box office family-oriented feature film about Space Camp?

Due to overwhelming interest and response to the Proffer Family Explorer scholarship awards, the date to select and announce the winners has been extended. However, the scholarships are for this summer 2012, so don't wait to have your submission considered. You can submit an application by 30 second video taken from a phone, digital camera, your computer, or other recording device. For more information on how to apply go to <http://www.spacecamp.com/explorers/user/register>

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Space Camp have teamed with esteemed media production company Meteor 17 and its founder, music and media producer Spencer Proffer, to establish 25 Proffer Family Explorer Scholarships for children between the ages of 9 and 11, with 12 going specifically

to Native American tribes. For the past year, Proffer has been working with Native American author, businessman and lawyer, Calvin Helin, who will be coordinating the awards to Native American children through a high level international committee.

The awards will be announced in Huntsville, Alabama by USSRC CEO, Dr. Deborah Barnhart and Proffer in the near future.

Meteor 17 and Proffer are currently teamed with Space Camp on a number of media and strategic enterprises, including production and marketing of a family-oriented feature film. You can visit Space Camp's Facebook page to learn more about the announcement and how to qualify.

The union between Space Camp and the company dates back to 1997 when CEO Proffer's younger son, Morgan, began his nine-year journey as a camper. He was the recipient of two Right Stuff Awards (outstanding camper overall) and his love of aviation eventually led him to Space Camp's sister camp, Aviation Challenge where he earned the coveted Top Gun Award 15 times, even besting his fellow counselors in their own Top Gun tournament.

(See *Space* on page 21.)

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# Skills event an add-on to exciting tournament action

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

## SASKATOON

For the second straight year many of the country's top Aboriginal teenaged hockey players will be deciding national bragging rights in Saskatoon.

The National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) are scheduled for May 7 through 12. All matches will be held at Jemini, a Saskatoon-based four-pad facility.

Sixteen teams representing eight provinces, territories or regions will compete at the tournament, which will include both female and male divisions.

Among the squads that will participate at the event are host Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Northwest Territories. Also taking part will be Team Atlantic, comprised of players from the Maritime provinces, as well as Quebec-based clubs called Eastern Door and the North.

The Saskatoon Tribal Council will once again be hosting the tournament, which has been held annually since 2002.

But this year's event will feature a first.

"We'll be incorporating a skills competition," said tournament manager Mark Arcand. "And then we want to have a banquet that night. It's just to give most of the players and teams a day off so they can sit back and relax and have some fun."

While there has never been a skills competition at the NAHC, some previous editions of the tournament did have a banquet. But last year's tournament did not have one.

Though details are still being finalized, Arcand said he anticipates all teams to have 3 to 5 of their players take part in the skills competition.

Some of the anticipated events that will be staged are hardest shot, accuracy, fastest skater and a breakaway competition.

"We're going to have some fun prizes for that," Arcand said of the skills competition. "We just want to have a fun atmosphere and make it as interesting as possible for everybody."

Organizers are planning to stage the skills competition on the afternoon of May 10, after some relegation contests are held that morning. And the plan is to have the banquet that night.

As for this year's tournament, it will be slightly bigger than the 2011 version, which attracted 13 teams.

All of the participating clubs from a year ago are back. And those who have also entered are a pair of Atlantic squads as well as an Ontario female side.

Ontario had been one of the powers in the female division in previous years of the NAHC.

"This year it will be good to have them back," Arcand said.

Saskatchewan won both the female and male divisions at the 2011 nationals.

But Arcand said it's difficult to predict the winners of this year's tournament.

"It's going to be wide open," he said.

The boys' category will feature just midget-aged (15-17) players. And the girls' division will feature bantam and midget players (13-17). Girls' teams, however, can also include up to four overagers—players who are either 18 or 19.

But a new tournament rule will exclude some elite individuals. Any player that has competed in a Hockey Canada national team program will not be allowed to play in the tournament.

Another new rule—which will only apply to those in the female division because of the higher age grouping—is that teams cannot ice a player who also toils for any post-secondary team in Canada or the United States.

"It's going to be a more equal playing field," Arcand said, adding in the past some clubs have dominated because of their overagers who also toiled in the collegiate ranks.

About 3,000 fans attended the 2011 NAHC. Arcand said organizers are hoping this number will increase this year. He believes the spectator numbers will go up in part because both of the Saskatchewan clubs enter the event as defending champs.

Arcand believes people will be showing up to see how the host squads fare this time around.

"That will create some awareness the whole week," he said of the host team's successes from last year.

Arcand added organizers are also doing their best to have some more talent seekers attend the tournament.

"We're trying to increase the awareness of the tournament and have some more scouts there," he said.

Various scouts from Junior A clubs were among those who took in the action a year ago. Arcand is hoping scouts from some higher calibre Western Hockey League teams, as well as reps from various post-secondary schools, decide to attend this year.

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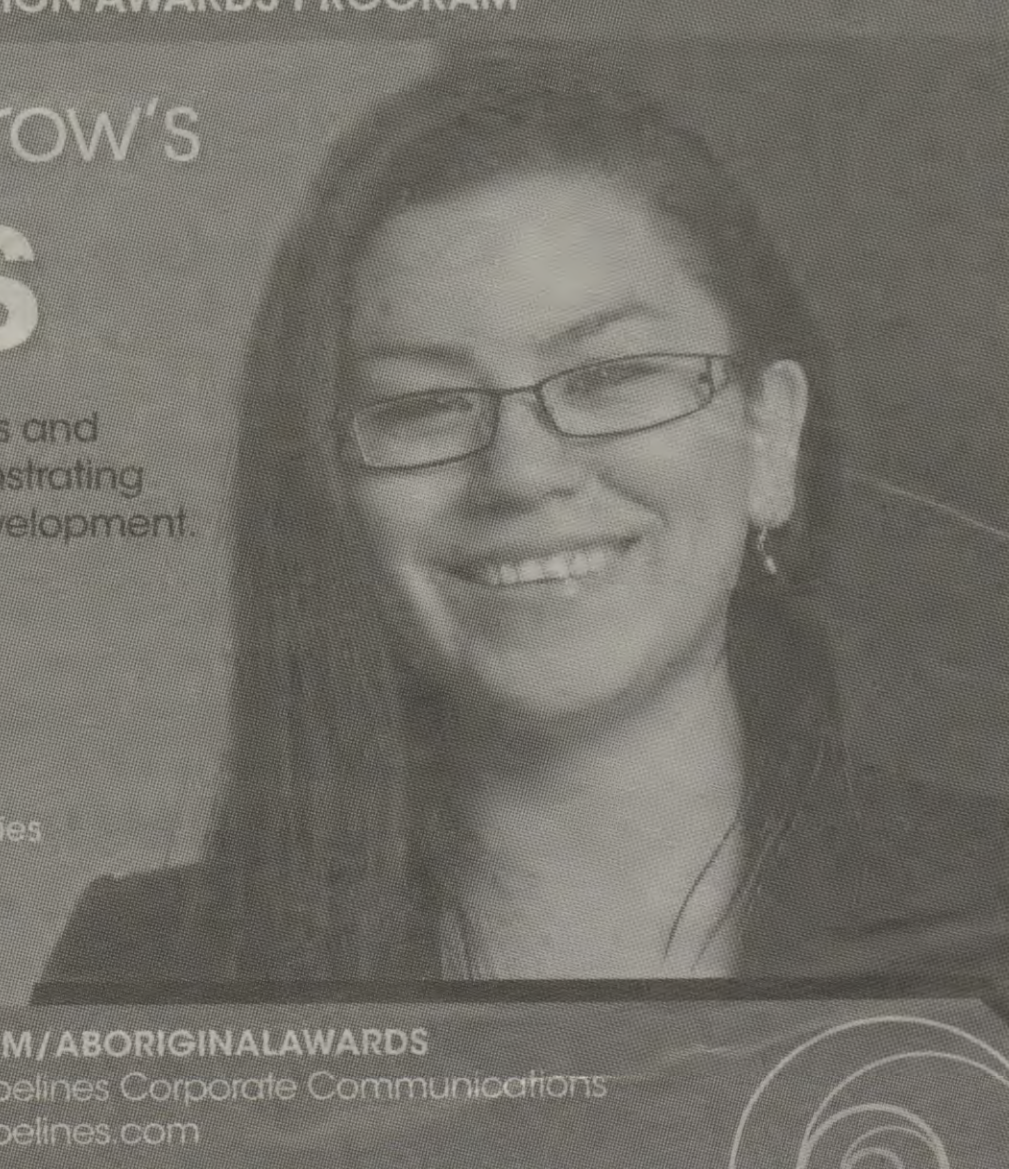
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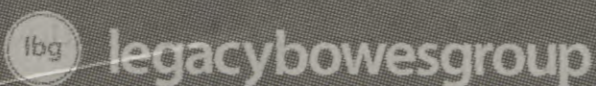
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[ careers & training ]  
**Space camp scholarships awarded**

(Continued from page 19.)  
Meteor 17 and Spencer Proffer have kept a close relationship with Space Camp and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, watching the facility become one of the most respected camps on the planet for young minds to develop team building and friendship skills while having fun and learning about one of the most fascinating platforms of all - outer space. At the same time as Proffer had been building M17, he experienced first-hand the paternal pride of watching his son win awards while learning great leadership and life skills and looks forward to other families sharing that experience.

"From the time my son Morgan began his nine years as a Space Camper and counselor, I sensed that its ethos about fraternity, teamwork and dream fulfillment would be a solid foundation and enriching life experience as well as a lot of fun", stated Proffer. "To be able to 'pay it forward' and give other kids a chance to build the life skills that my son has achieved is something that means a lot to my wife Judy, our Company and myself. Even though I am European born, Morgan and his brother Sterling have a little Native American in them on their mother's side. It is an honor for us to acknowledge their roots by

extending a select number of scholarships to Native children."

Meteor 17 is a highly-regarded media production and strategy company with a long history of connecting with audiences (Gods & Monsters, Adventures of Pinocchio, Robbie Robertson: Going Home, Happily Ever After, Broadway hit It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues are but a few).

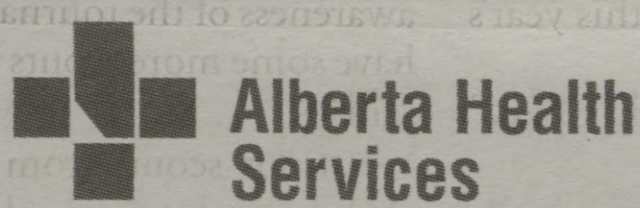
Their productions and projects have garnered Academy, Golden Globe, Emmy, Grammy and Tony awards and nominations. As music producer, the Company's CEO Proffer has sold millions of gold and platinum records, having worked with artists such as Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder, The Little River Band, B.B. King, as well as all the Quiet Riot albums and videos. Dating back to the foundations origins of Meteor 17, Proffer's love of extraterrestrial explorations were clearly evidenced years ago in the Billy Thorpe mega classic rock hit, "Children Of The Sun" space album and laser planetarium shows, which Proffer produced.

"Working closely with Spencer has been an absolute joy, knowing that his heart as well as enormous talent is next to us and the goals we have set out to accomplish with kids of all ages for decades. Our mission is to coach pioneers of the next generation of

discovery. We challenge our trainees to master the educational building blocks of innovation, applying leadership, technology and teamwork to become tomorrow's flagships of progress. Not just in space travel, but all areas of technical advancement. These Proffer Explorer Scholarships and movie are just the beginning of our working with Spencer who is also helping us establish Space Camp in other countries of the world", says Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO of the US Space and Rocket Center.

Proffer's philanthropy dates back to his college days at UCLA. where, for two years, he helped maintain a therapeutic rehabilitation program utilizing the power of music in a weekly program for veterans.

In 2005, the Company and Proffer, along with music manager Doc McGhee and Quincy Jones produced a star-studded multimedia event which featured Beyonce (and Destiny's Child), KISS, Hootie & The Blowfish, Ted Nugent and Godsmack, hosted by Cedric The Entertainer, for 50,000 Marines and their families at Camp Pendleton in California. They have recently produced and arranged a theme song for the Special Olympics currently being recorded by worldwide artists.



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[ footprints ] Harriet Nahanee

# Activist still inspires

# years after her death

By Dianne Meili

Five years have passed since environmental activist Harriet Nahanee died, but her friend and fellow protester Betty Krawczyk, now 83, still gets e-mails sent to her praising the elder's courage.

In January 2007, Nahanee, 71, was sentenced by Judge Brenda J. Brown to two weeks in jail for criminal contempt of court for her part in the Sea-to-Sky Highway expansion protest at Eagleridge Bluffs near Vancouver.

Despite a written plea from Krawczyk, who was also arrested and served her 10-month sentence, that "Mrs. Nahanee is not well (and) has asthma and is suffering the after effects of a recent bout of flu that has left her very weak" the elder was incarcerated in the Surrey Pretrial Centre.

"That facility is very cold," explained Krawczyk, who is non-Native, in a telephone interview. "They keep the air conditioners cranked up and there's not enough blankets. Harriet served nine of her 14 days and then she caught pneumonia. When she was hospitalized, doctors discovered she also had lung cancer. She came home on a Saturday, but by the next weekend she was dead."

Krawczyk, who bonded closely with Nahanee during the protest, said Nahanee had angered Judge Brown because she wanted to read the Royal Proclamation of 1763 in court. The decree defines Canada's special relationship with Aboriginal people and sets out the basis in law for Aboriginal land ownership and other rights.

"The judge wouldn't let her read it. She wouldn't let me read it. When Harriet stood up with the document the judge got up from her desk and left the courtroom."

Nahanee had refused to apologize to the court for her behaviour because she felt she had done nothing wrong in

protesting the road development and this, along with the fact she was hard of hearing, exacerbated her relationship with the judge.

The night before Nahanee's death on Feb. 24, 2007, about 100 people stood in a prayer vigil with candles outside St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. They sang a "Women's Warrior Song" to give her strength and verbally condemned the harsh and punitive jailing of the elder for standing up for her Aboriginal rights. Having undergone a CAT scan that day, Nahanee was fragile, but told Krawczyk she insisted the fight for justice be carried on.

Krawczyk, originally from Louisiana, could understand Nahanee's concern about the wetlands that were going to be bulldozed to make way for a highway in preparation for the 2010 Olympics. The new development would route Whistler-bound traffic around the bottleneck of vehicles waiting to access the ferry at Horseshoe Bay.

"I saw the filling in of swamplands around my home in the south in favour of hotels and casinos. I think the sacrifice of wetlands is responsible for Hurricane Katrina's devastation because that buffer zone was destroyed," she explained.

"As a grandmother like her, I related to Harriet right away," Krawczyk said. "I hadn't met her before the Eagleridge Bluffs protest, but I'd heard she pushed to get justice for First Nations women who'd been murdered or gone missing from Vancouver's east side."

Nahanee had once hunted deer on the Eagleridge Bluffs with her first husband, and she felt the need to protect the wetlands for generations to come. She also told Krawczyk about the red-legged frogs who lived in the area and who stood to be wiped out

by the disruption.

"When I asked her why especially the frogs, she said they only live in wetlands and they signify life because that is where we all came from – the wetlands. So the red legged frogs also signify life to humans, and in the Pacheedaht belief, when the last red legged frog dies, all of humanity will also die."

Nahanee, known as Tseybayotl, was born on Dec. 7, 1935. She was born into the Pacheedaht people, part of the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation of Vancouver Island, and was from the "Chief over all Chiefs" Queesto family. A holder of traditional knowledge, she married into the Squamish Nation "and was a pariah during the highway expansion protest because she was going against the Squamish band council," said Krawczyk.

As a five-year-old, Nahanee was taken from her home in 1940 by the RCMP, placed on a gunboat, and taken first to live at the residential school at Ahousaht and then the Alberni Indian Residential School.

"Their idea (in schooling us) was to civilize us and make us Christians and, actually, it was a process to take us away from the land," she once said, noting her pristine childhood home had been clearcut-logged, mined and over-fished since she grew up there.

A 1995 Vancouver Sun newspaper article documents Nahanee's report to former United Church Minister Kevin Annett about a murder she witnessed at the Alberni school. She was at the bottom of a set of stairs when she heard a female student crying and looking for her mother. The child was running up and down the stairs, and the school administrator chastised a supervisor at the top of them for letting her do so.



PHOTO: MIKEWAKEFIELDPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Harriet Nahanee arrested at Eagleridge Bluffs in May, 2006.

"I heard him kick her and she fell down the stairs. I went to look – her eyes were open and she wasn't moving. They didn't even come down the stairs," she is quoted as saying. Later, she was told by fellow students the body had been sent back to the child's parents.

"It was for the children of the Squamish Reserve that Harriet did what she did on the Eagleridge Bluffs," said Krawczyk. "She is still influencing people today. I get e-mails from Mohawks in Montreal who say they are

inspired by her courage," she added, referring to readers who respond to her social justice writings at Bettykrawczyk.ca.

Following Nahanee's death, the Opposition party in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia on March 5, 2007 called for an independent public inquiry. Solicitor General John Les said the provincial government expressed regret for Harriet's passing but denied any government responsibility and refused the Opposition's demands.

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**Settlement restores some land and creates new nation**

By Shari Narine Windspeaker Contributor  
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Industry has one more First Nation to consult when looking to do work in northern Alberta. A special ceremony was held Sept. 12 that celebrated the conclusion of years of negotiation that resulted in the creation of the province's 45th First Nation...



**First Nations gather to protest government treatment**

By Shari Narine Sweetgrass Contributing Editor  
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Chief Allan Adam announced in front of a loud and boisterous crowd of over 500 that the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation will be taking court action once more, this time challenging the provincial government's Public Lands Act in order to protect...

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**Time and funding crunch challenges Atlantic working group**

By Shari Narine Windspeaker Contributor  
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**Assu takes a fresh look at West Coast art**

By Shauna Lewis Raven's Eye Writer Vancouver  
Contemporary artist Sonny Assu has a knack for infusing the politics of modern pop culture with traditional First Nations style, and his latest works are no exception. In his exhibit entitled 'Longing,' Assu, a member of the Laichwiltach First Nation...

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**Maggie Black Kettle [footprints]**

By Dianne Meili  
Blackfoot Elder overcame fear to pass on traditional ways. To walk into Maggie Black Kettle's tipi from the bustling grounds of the Calgary Stampede was to enter the peaceful eye of a pounding, frenetic storm. The muted light, the faint sage...

**U of A Hospital gallery showcases diverse talent**

By Dianne Meili Sweetgrass Writer EDMONTON  
In a quiet recess of the frenetic University of Alberta Hospital is an artistic showing of diverse Aboriginal talent. Shifting Patterns, curated by Edmonton's Aaron Paquette, features paintings, claywork and photography by established and emerging artists.

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