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Volume 31 No. 2 • May 2013

Wind speaker

Celebrating 30 years of informing, impacting and inspiring.



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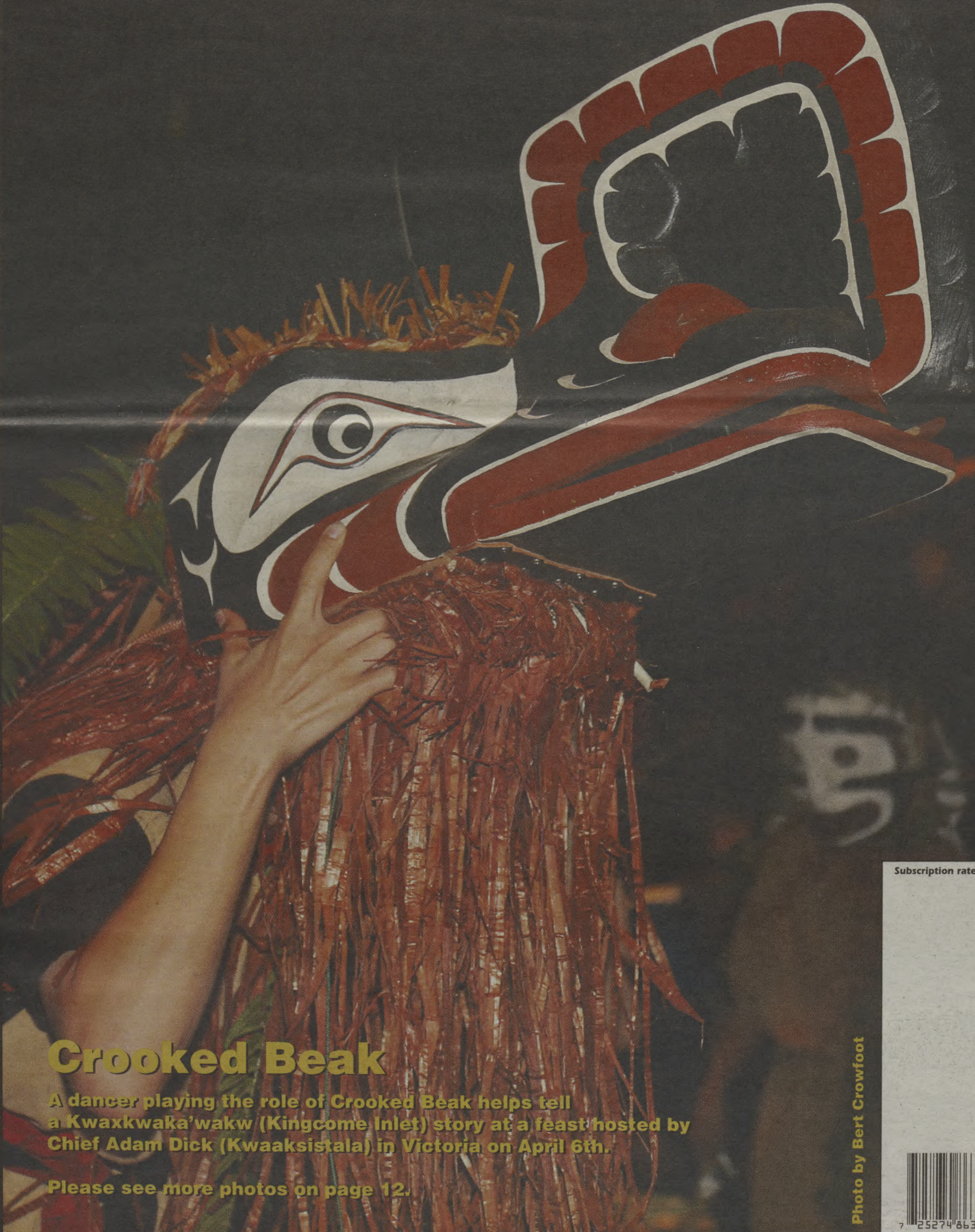
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Windspeaker • Established 1983



Crooked Beak

A dancer playing the role of Crooked Beak helps tell a KwaxkwaKa'wakw (Kingcome Inlet) story at a feast hosted by Chief Adam Dick (Kwaaksistala) in Victoria on April 6th.

Please see more photos on page 12.

Photo by Bert Crowfoot

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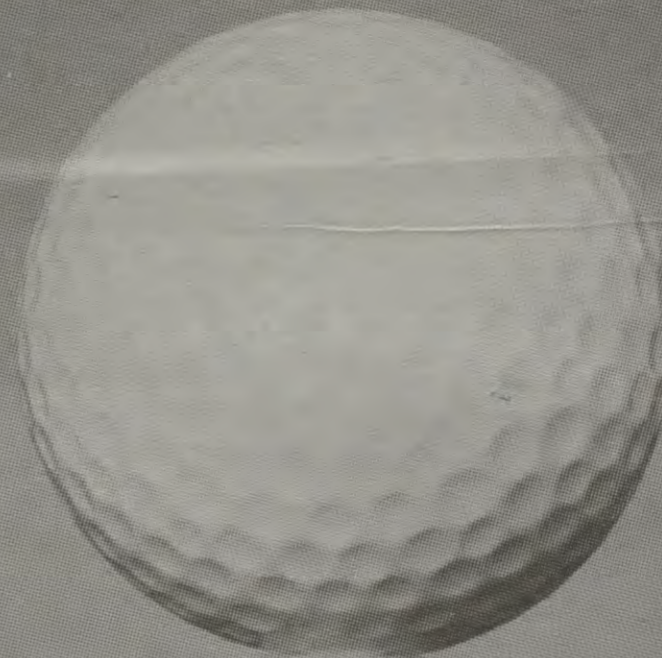
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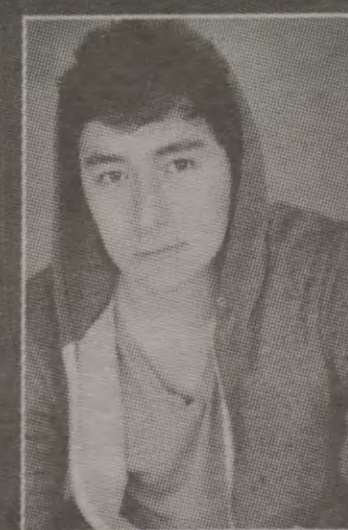
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Publisher
Bert Crowfoot

Editorial
1-780-455-2700
E-mail: windspeaker@ammsa.com

Contributing News Editor
Debora Steel

Staff Writers
Dianne Meili

Production
Judy Anonson

Advertising Sales
1-800-661-5469
E-mail: market@ammsa.com

Director of Marketing
Paul Macedo

*Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario,
Quebec, Maritimes and USA*
Keven Kanten

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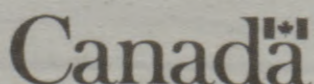
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Features

**Elder Raymond Robinson – Hero to some,
well-intentioned grandstander to others** 8

Hunger striking Indigenous people have gained international headline-grabbing prominence since the birth of the Idle No More movement, thanks to a six-week fast by Attawapaskat's Chief Theresa Spence and Cross Lake Elder Raymond Robinson that coincided with the movement's explosion this winter.

Dam protest escalates with arrests, hunger strike 8

Opposition to the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project in Labrador continues with Innu workers shutting down the construction site alleging racism, two weeks after the arrest of eight Inuit leaders at another protest against the dam.

'Treated like terrorists' said former chief following raid 9

An occupation of the Burns Lake band office in northern B.C. ended dramatically on April 7 when between 30 and 50 RCMP officers stormed the building—some allegedly with firearms drawn—to evict seven protesters holed up inside, including four children, who were demanding the chief's resignation and an Aboriginal Affairs audit of band finances.

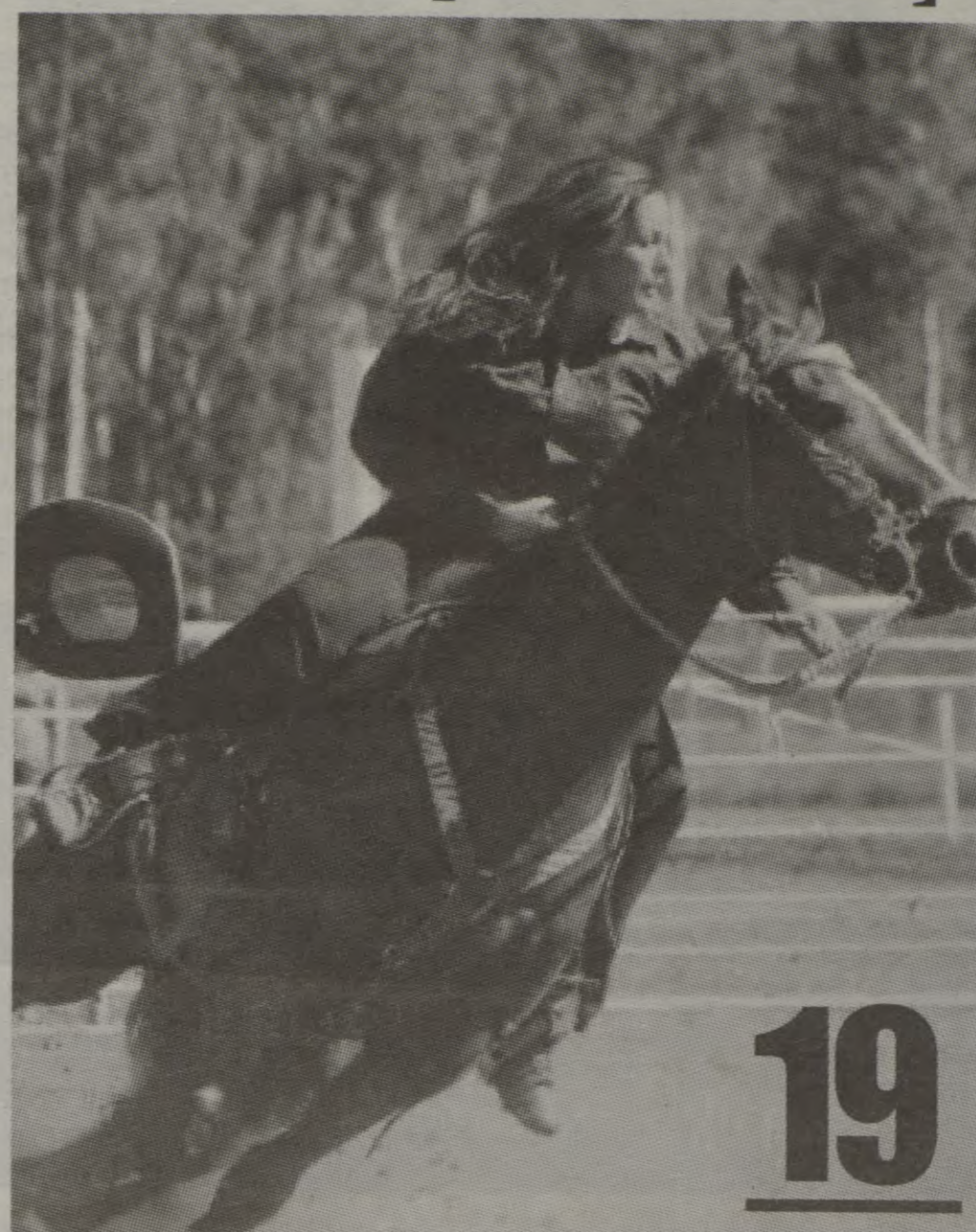
Groundswell of support needed to motivate feds 10

Kwakiutl Indian Band has rejected B.C. government attempts to negotiate a "new relationship" with First Nations, saying that talks had failed to respect its right to refuse consent to industrial development on their territories.

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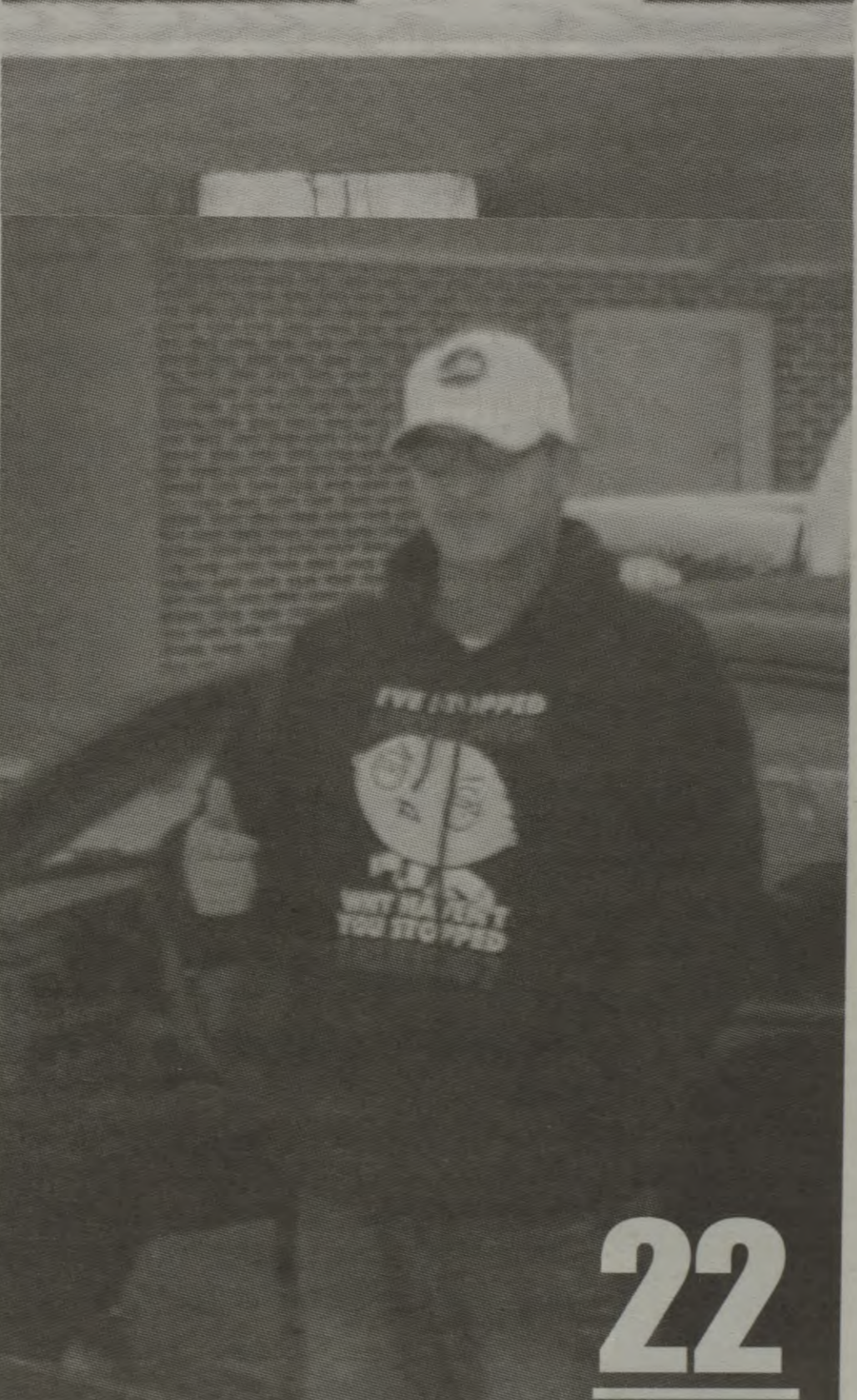
Alo White of Naotkamegwaning First Nation in Northwestern Ontario enjoyed hearing his son Nathan sing traditional Anishinaabe songs after he was initiated into his community's Midewin lodge. "He was a great singer with a beautiful voice," Alo said, so much so that the famous Whitefish Bay Singers accepted him to join them on their powwow rounds the following summer.



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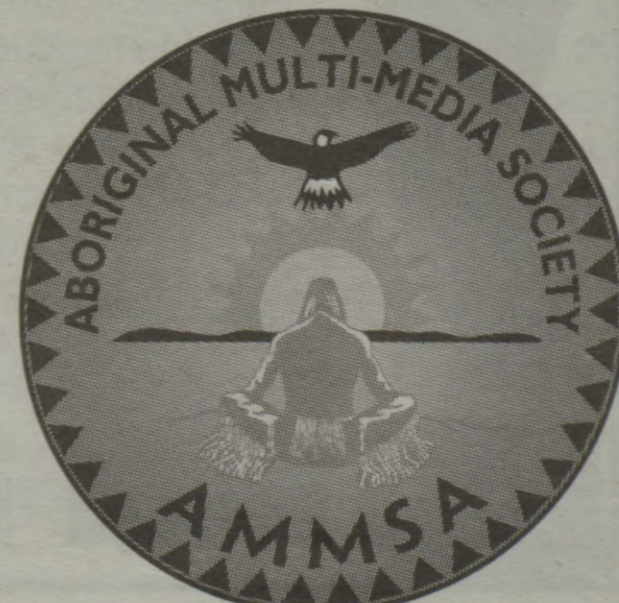


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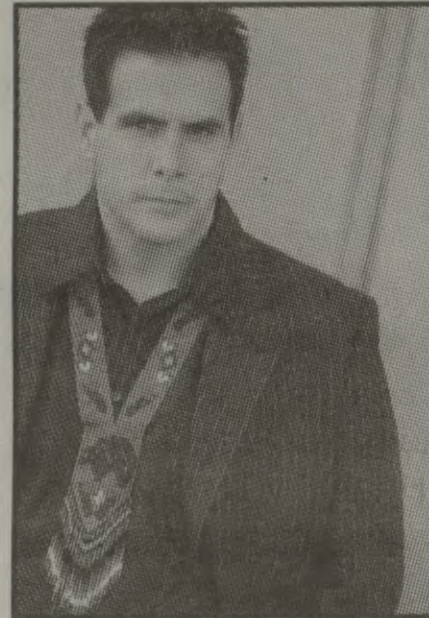
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- Other duties and tasks may be required by First Nations from time to time.

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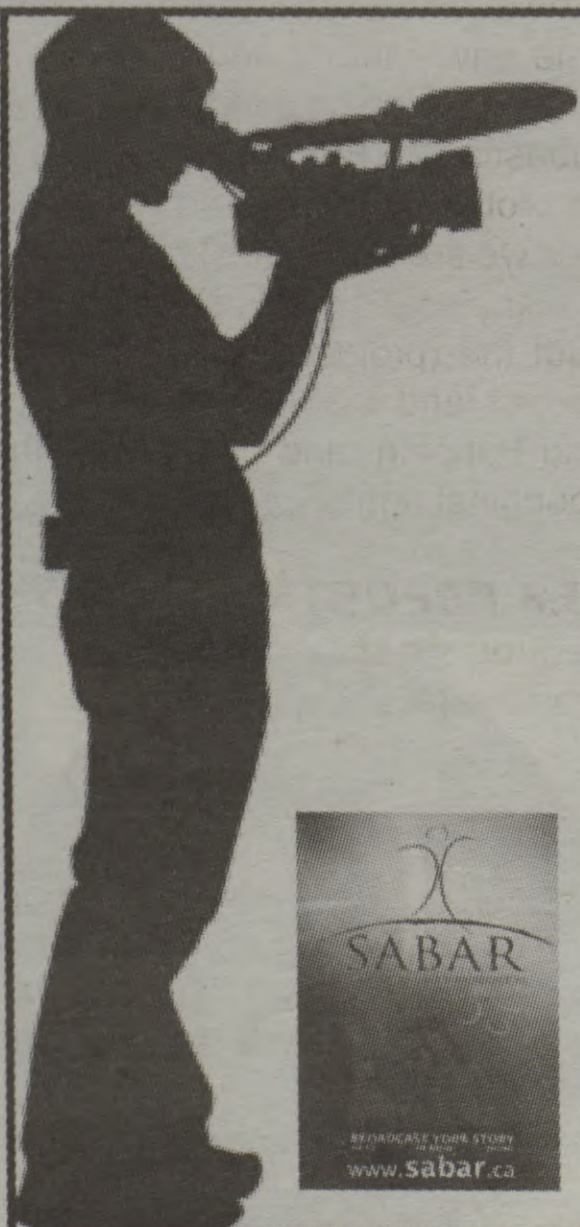
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Strategy comes not a moment too soon

There once was a public service announcement that ran on CFWE, a radio network owned by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society, publishers of Windspeaker, that was designed to raise awareness of youth suicide in northern Alberta communities. This was in the early 1990s and musical warrior Buffy Sainte-Marie lent her voice to it.

"We need all the Indians we can get," was the message listeners were left with ringing in their ears. Such a good message, don't you think?

The recently called state of emergency in the small northern Ontario community of Neskantaga First Nation brought that PSA back to mind this month. Suicide has visited this community over and over during the past year. So overwhelmed were the healthy adults in the community that they were beyond coping, so they sent up a cry for immediate help.

With only 400 community members, half of whom are suffering addictions and a full two-thirds of those young people, it's no wonder Neskantaga had reached the breaking point. Exhausted by it all, frustrated and concerned about the future, leadership is asking why it had to come to this. Where is Health Canada? Where are the resources?

Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer said Ottawa isn't doing enough about substance abuse and poverty on reserve.

"It should just be in our hearts and our souls to tackle this and we need the federal government to work with us," Zimmer said as Ontario worked out its emergency response plan, even though First Nations are a federal responsibility.

Why does it always take a crisis for response from the federal government? Why does a community have to declare a state of emergency for any action? In Attawapiskat, a state of emergency had to be declared on their housing situation before Ottawa thought to respond. Is this indicative of how the federal Conservative government manages the affairs of Canada, or just the needs of First Nations? Stomp one fire out, then wait for another to break out. It's an inconceivably bad approach if this is the case.

It is not a mystery that some northern First Nations communities struggle mightily with prescription drug abuse. This problem did not just manifest itself, coming out of the blue to the surprise of all. A quick search of our own archives reveals that we covered the issue of prescription drug abuse a full eight years ago,

focusing on the community of Constance Lake First Nation, talking about its battle with Percocet and Oxycontin addictions.

Fast forward to last year and Matawa First Nation leaders' proposal for a \$34 million strategy to curb prescription abuse on reserve.

Is this a case of our words falling on deaf ears—again? Well, at least a few have been listening.

On March 27 of this year, only a few short weeks ago, the Assembly of First Nations lauded a new National Strategy on Prescription Drug Abuse launched by the Canadian Centre of Substance Abuse.

The strategy is entitled "First Do No Harm: Responding to Canada's Prescription Drug Crisis." Its key action areas are prevention, education, treatment, monitoring and surveillance and enforcement. This is a pan-Canadian strategy, not Aboriginal-specific, but developed with the AFN and the National Native Addiction Partnership Foundation. The centre doesn't get a lot of funding, according to their 2012 financials, so this is an area we're watching for investment.

In a national survey between 2008-2010, First Nations reported that alcohol and drug use and abuse was the Number One challenge for community wellness faced by on-reserve communities (82.6 per cent of respondents), followed by housing (70.7 per cent) and employment (65.9 per cent). The same report cited psychological pain or trauma and associated prescription drug use as being linked to their experience in residential schools and child welfare.

In the strategy, it says that communities with higher than average percentages of drug addiction and chemical dependency have higher incidences of suicide, violent crimes, illegal activity and other forms of abuse. First Nations communities have reported epidemics of 43 per cent to as high as 85 per cent of the communities' population addicted to opiates.

"The status quo simply cannot continue," reads the strategy. "People are becoming addicted and many are dying. Their families and communities are suffering. Action must be taken — NOW."

We agree. And as Buffy has reminded us, we do need all the Indians we can get.

We need all of you.

Windspeaker

[rants and raves]

Page 5 Chatter

THE CONSERVATIVE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has reimbursed Attawapiskat First Nation for the appointment of a third-party manager to take over the books after the community declared a state of emergency in housing during the winter of 2011. Documents obtained by the Toronto Star reveal Aboriginal Affairs agreed to transfer \$136,132 to Attawapiskat last year to cover those costs. Attawapiskat leadership vigorously opposed the imposition of the third-party manager, which was part of the governments' response to the housing shortage that saw people living in unheated hovels as the harsh northern Ontario winter approached. Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence showed third-party manager Jacques Marion the door, sending him out of the community on the day he arrived. She said she refused to pay for him and asked the Federal Court for a judicial review of the appointment. The court decided in favor of the community in August 2012. Attawapiskat was awarded legal costs, but the court did not order the feds to pay for the manager though it called the appointment of Marion "unreasonable in all circumstances."

NESKANTAGA FIRST NATION IN NORTHERN

Ontario declared a state of emergency in mid-April after two suicides in less than a week. This brings the total lost to suicide to seven deaths in the past year, and 20 suicide attempts. A recent health report stated that of the community's 400 members, half of them struggle with addictions. Only a handful of adults are available to help family members and do all the jobs in the community, reports the CBC. A leader said the burgeoning mining community is adding to the misery in the community. "It's just a lot of pressure, I think, from the outside," Nishnawbe Aski Nation Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler said, "as well as trying to deal with what's happening right in their community." Canada and the province responded to the call for help with promises of additional nursing and counselling staff. "Our hearts go out to those who have lost friends and loved ones to suicide," said Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq in a written statement.

AN EDITORIAL PRINTED IN THE

StarPhoenix newspaper lauds the appointment of Blaine Favel to the position of University of Saskatchewan chancellor. "Favel long has demonstrated the best qualities one would expect of a graduate from Saskatchewan's largest university. He was among a handful of First Nations graduates when he attained his law degree in the mid-1980s, and has since gone on to lead his First Nation, become Grand Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, hold the position of special counsellor on international Indigenous issues with the federal government and earn a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University," reads the opinion. Favel serves currently as president of Calgary-based One Earth Oil and Gas company. The opinion describes Favel as a long-time advocate of education for First Nations youth. "As leader of the FSIN, Mr. Favel gained a reputation for battling the systemic and overt racism he believed was mainly responsible for many of the social ills that First Nations people suffered in Saskatchewan. He rarely missed an opportunity to point out what he believed to be examples of unjust treatment—from the manslaughter verdict handed to Steven Tyler Kummerfield and Alexander Dennis Ternowetsky for the sexual assault and beating death of 28-year-old Pamela George, to the accusations of band corruption levelled by the Canadian Taxpayers Association."

THE FORT MCKAY FIRST NATION,

located north of Fort McMurray, is filing a formal objection against an oilsands project called Dover. It is a joint venture of Athabasca Oil Corp. and PetroChina and would be as close as one kilometre from a reserve. Concerns are for band members who use the territory to fish, hunt and trap. The nation says proposals it has made to lessen the impact on the environment and community have been ignored after three years of consultation with Dover Operating Corp, owned by Athabasca Oil. Fort McKay wants a 20-km buffer zone put in place to protect its hunting and trapping territory. "We want to make it clear we are not against oil and gas exploration and extraction in the area," said Jim Boucher, chief of the Fort McKay First Nation. "But the (project) in question will impact the last remaining traditional land that can be used for cultural activities like hunting and trapping, and (interfere with) the exercise of our treaty and Aboriginal rights."

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES REPORTS THAT

the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued an assessment critical of an environmental impact review of the Keystone XL pipeline. In a letter to high level State Department officials overseeing the permit process, the EPA raises issues regarding greenhouse gas emissions and pipeline safety. The State Department review determined Keystone XL would have a minimal impact on the environment. The EPA's assessment was anxiously awaited and could raise barriers to approval of the project. President Barack Obama said he would decide the fate of the pipeline by this summer. Keystone XL is to carry 830,000 barrels of oil per day from Alberta's Tar Sands down to the Gulf Coast for refining.

Rank Comix

by Adam Martin



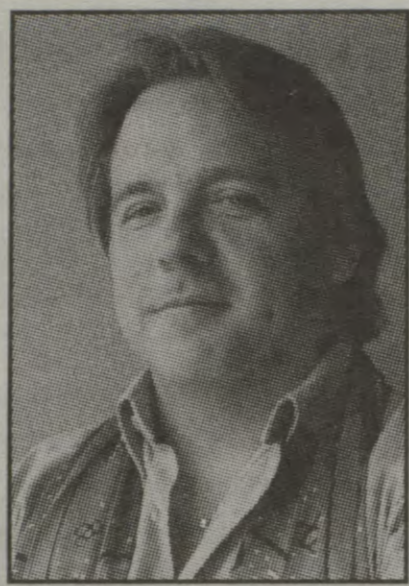
[strictly speaking]

No longer the exception to the rule

Last month in Vancouver there was a revival of a famous opera named "The Magic Flute," written by this guy named Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. You may have heard of him. This is interesting because while opera is normally considered an elite form of musical and theatrical expression, this production was influenced by one of Canada's most marginalized populations.

The imagery, set designs and costumes were inspired by the longhouse cultures of the Pacific Northwest. In many ways, it was a Native infused production of a 200-year-old German opera. Cool huh? The storyline was kind of silly but welcome to opera. My point is this form of cultural appropriation is the kind we can gladly handle because more than 15 Aboriginal advisors from the area were consulted during the production. As a result, it has an air of legitimacy and originality.

Last year the National Art Centre in Ottawa produced William Shakespeare's "King Lear" with an entirely Native cast. Actors Tantoo Cardinal and Lorne Cardinal (note: not all Native actors are named Cardinal but it helps) got the chance to strut their stuff on one of Canada's most illustrious venues.



THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

Unfortunately I never got the opportunity to see either of these productions but all the reviews say both were fabulous creations, the story enhanced by the unconventional elements provided by the inclusion of Aboriginal culture.

Over 20 years ago in Toronto I saw a production of "The Tempest", also by Shakespeare, taking place in British Columbia's Haida Qwaii, with Ariel and Calaban conceived as Haida spirits. The stage was littered with standing and fallen totem poles. It was awe inspiring. When I was the Writer-In-Residence at the University of Michigan a few years back, there was a Royal Shakespeare production of "The Tempest", this time taking place amongst the Yupik people of Siberia. It was very clever.

And then, of course, there was "Death Of A Chief", Native Earth Performing Arts adaptation of "Julius Caesar" and Yves Sioui Durand's film "Mesnak", a contemporary Wendat take on "Hamlet" and so on and so on. Several years ago there used to be a theatre company in Winnipeg called Shakespeare in the Red, dedicated to the Aboriginal exploration of the Bard's writing. I think you know where I am going with all this.

For the longest time Shakespeare and opera were long considered art for the privileged and educated, far beyond the abilities and interests of First Nations people. You see, most Native languages are not spoken in iambic pentameter. It seems this perception is not as relevant anymore. Like the tides in the

Bay of Fundy, the flow of cultural appropriation are now going in the opposite direction. And it's very cool. Picture "A Mid Summer Night's Dream" at a powwow!

In a broader context, above and beyond Shakespeare and Mozart, theatre companies across Canada seem more interested in exploring Native storytelling than ever before. Companies like Magnus Theatre in Thunder Bay have incorporated Aboriginal theatre into their mandate. To better address the underserved Native population of that community, it was decided that "during the 2005-2006 season, our Board of Directors accepted unanimously, a proposal presented by the Artistic Director that, at a minimum, one of the six plays in the main stage season would be a play by a playwright of Aboriginal origin."

Since then First Nations playwrights such as Darrel Dennis, Tomson Highway, Ian Ross and yours truly have had their name in lights (as in both neon and northern) in that fair city. Cree playwright Kenneth William's "Cafe Daughter" wowed the audiences last month.

Other theatre companies across the country have made it

a regular service to feature Native plays and playwrights, as part of the accurate representation of Canada's multifaceted society. Firehall Arts Centre makes a regular habit of producing Native plays, which is logical since they pride themselves as being Vancouver's multicultural theatre and their mandate is to 'reflect the cultural pluralism of Canada.'

Even the National Arts Centre, Canada's premiere performance space, makes a regular habit of featuring Native arts on a practically yearly basis. This season they are featuring "The Edward Curtis Project," a multi-media play written and directed by the talented Métis theatre artist, Marie Clements. "Tulugak: Inuit Raven Stories" opens next month at the same theatre.

I remember reading a review of a Tomson Highway play that said something like "theatre is not an art form that came easy to First Nations people", to which I responded 'the flush toilet was new to us too but we seem to have mastered its intricacies.' I think the same can be said about these classic western art forms. We just want to make it a little more interesting.

They are with us in the wind, the blue of the sky

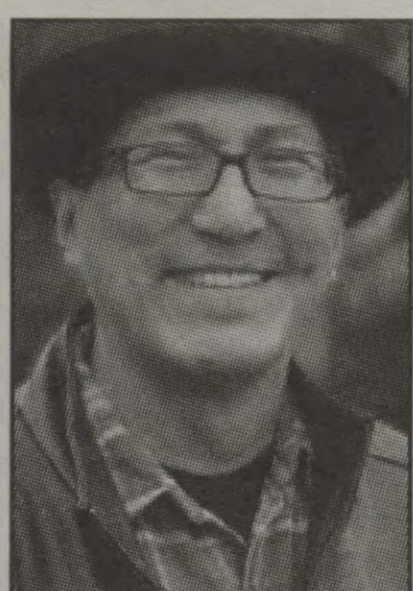
We said goodbye to my sister last week. She'd gone to hospital for a routine eye surgery, had a heart attack, went into a coma and passed away days later when the family decided to remove life support according to her prior wishes.

It was hard and sudden and devastating. There are things in life that leave you with gaps in your being and you spend years, maybe, figuring out how to fill them.

My sister was just 63 years old. She was the eldest of four kids. For me, who had been removed from my family by the Sixties Scoop, she was the lifeline to my family, my history, culture, language and knowledge of myself.

Whenever I had a question, whenever I needed to know something, she was always there. Even when I made mistakes which I have done often, she was always there for me.

There's only my mother and my brother Charles and I left now. Our family has shrunk and



WOLF SONGS & FIRE CHATS Richard Wagamese

each death diminishes it further. Once there were five of us. Now there is just our mother and her two youngest.

I am 57 years old. There are more years behind me now than there are in front of me and I spent a lot of time considering this on the long trip home after the funeral.

It's funny how we refer to the last event of life. That's what dying is, really. But we refer to the deceased as the departed. We say that they have continued on their journey, that they went to meet their maker, that they have entered Glory Land or Heaven or even the Happy Hunting

Grounds. We say that they passed away, expired, died. More often we say that they left us.

I wondered about all that. I wondered whether, in that last great event of our lives, we really leave anyone. I wondered if something vital, pliant and irreplaceable is truly taken away from us. I wondered about finalities and how goodbye is such a shallow word for everything that you feel at times like that.

I had no answers but I do know that I stood at the edge of my sister's grave and felt the depth of the hole where they laid her. That hole was in me too. It was cold

and barren and lonely.

Dirt would fill the physical hole. But the one that existed in me was deeper than that and I pondered how I might go on to learn to fill it or if that was even remotely possible given the breadth and scope of the life we mourned for.

That hole seemed huge. It seemed like a part of me had vanished into it. I understood loss then. I understood that some people are geography and their departures leave a part of us in exile for the rest of our days.

But walking away from the grave, looking up at a sky so perfectly blue it hurt to see, I realized that my sister existed in that. Moreover, she was a part of the trees, the ground, the wind, the river and everything that's part and parcel of the world I'm left to walk in.

I can find her in a sunset, a sunrise. I can find her in the pastoral calm that stretches out across everything the moment storms break. I just only need to remember that.

I smiled to think of that. Smiled to know that when the wind blew across my brow from now on, that it would be like her hands touching me. When the rain and snow falls gently on my shoulders it would be as though she would be walking with me, comforting me, teaching me to heal. Or the moonlight thrown through a darkened window would be her voice telling me that the deepest and darkest night will always pass and that light always returns.

There's no loss in that. There is no inconsolable pain. There is only the gradual realization that we the living have only to keep what is real in front of us at every waking moment and we are healed. Love is real. So is faith. So is yearning.

Do our loved ones really leave us? I don't think so. I believe that they return to spirit as they were when they came here and there is spirit in everything. I can never be lonely knowing that. I only need to stand upon the land and breathe and be united again forever.

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Passion fuels powerful television drama

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

It was a long six weeks for cast and crew of the Prairie Dog Film + Television production *Blackstone*, but after waiting almost two years to shoot the third season of the Gemini-award winning production, they were hours well spent.

"Getting to know my character, seeing her grow, working with all the other actors, it makes me feel like this is a big family. I just feel comfortable. This is almost like a second home," said Ashley Callingbull, who has been playing Sheila Delaronde since the first season. She even appeared briefly in the pilot in 2009.

Callingbull's "second home" is on various locations throughout the city of Edmonton and in the town of Namao, which serves as the fictional Blackstone First Nation

"*Blackstone* is a very location-oriented show so there's lots of locations," said Craig Shillington, assistant location manager. "We take a lot of equipment everywhere."

This season's six episodes, which will begin airing on APTN in September, were shot from March 27 to May 3. Adding to the intensive shooting schedule, which saw 12- to 15-hour days for some cast and crew, was the challenge of shooting episodes out of sequence. In fact, the final scene for *Blackstone* season three was the first scene shot.

"We're shooting here scenes from episode one to episode six. So everything is shot per location. We come in and do all the scenes for all the episodes in that one location. Then we move to the next location and it goes to the editors at the end," said James Mosher, assistant location manager.

Cast and crew were crowded into a large house in the university area on April 17 and 18. The house is the apartment of new character Roberta (played by Tinsel Korey), sister of Debbie Fraser.

There is a lengthy process involved in attaining new locations, said producer Jesse Syzmanski, who spends a fair amount of time on set. Location manager Jake Chapman sends out flyers in the residential areas he is interested in. Then he goes door-knocking. There are quite a few refusals.

"You have to be very open to allow a camera crew into your house. Look how large we are. We just take over," said Syzmanski.

An agreement is then signed and the family usually moves out the day before the shooting to allow the set decorators and art department time to do their work. And there is blocking to be done and lighting to take care of. A control room is also set up

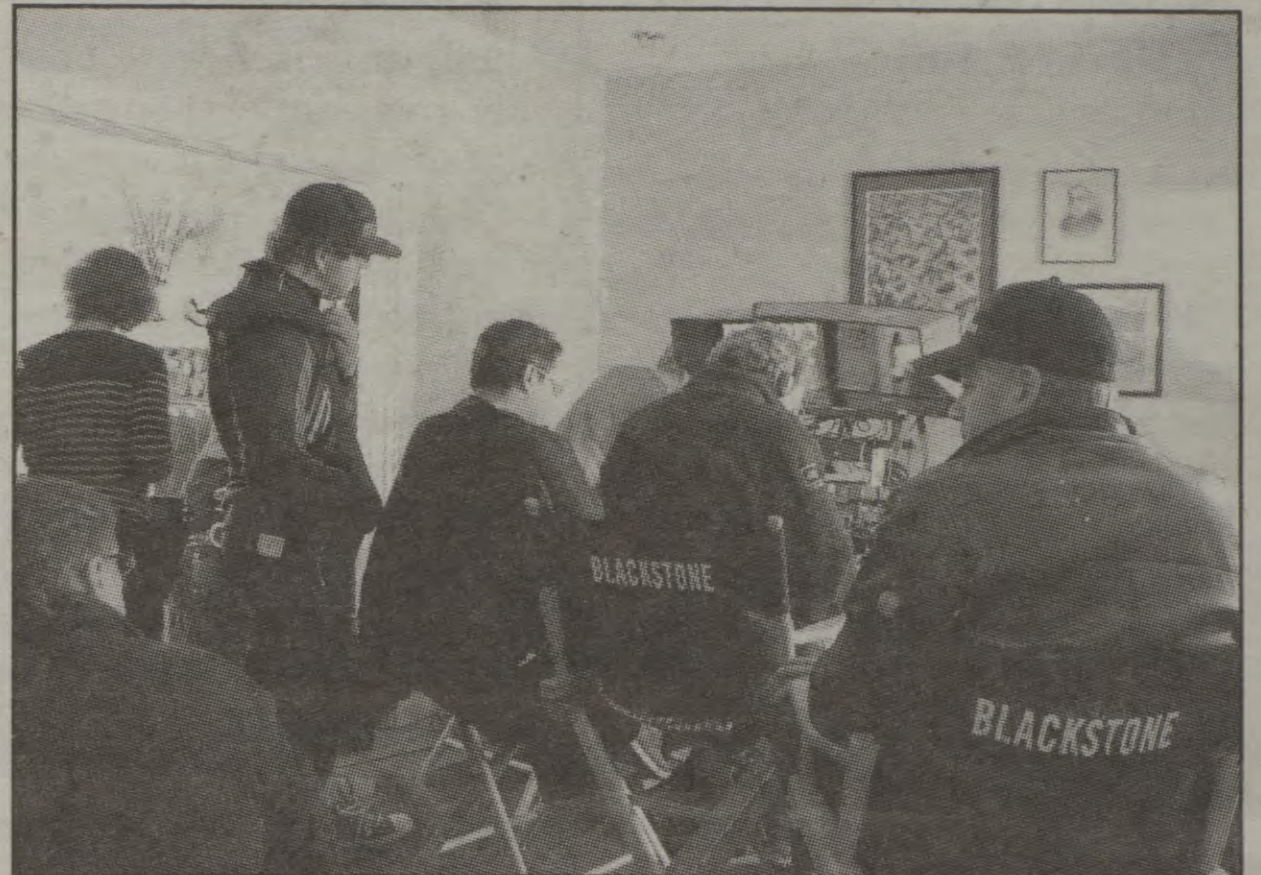


PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Executive producer, writer, and director Ron E. Scott (left, sitting) watches the two cameras as a scene is filmed on location in a house in the university area.

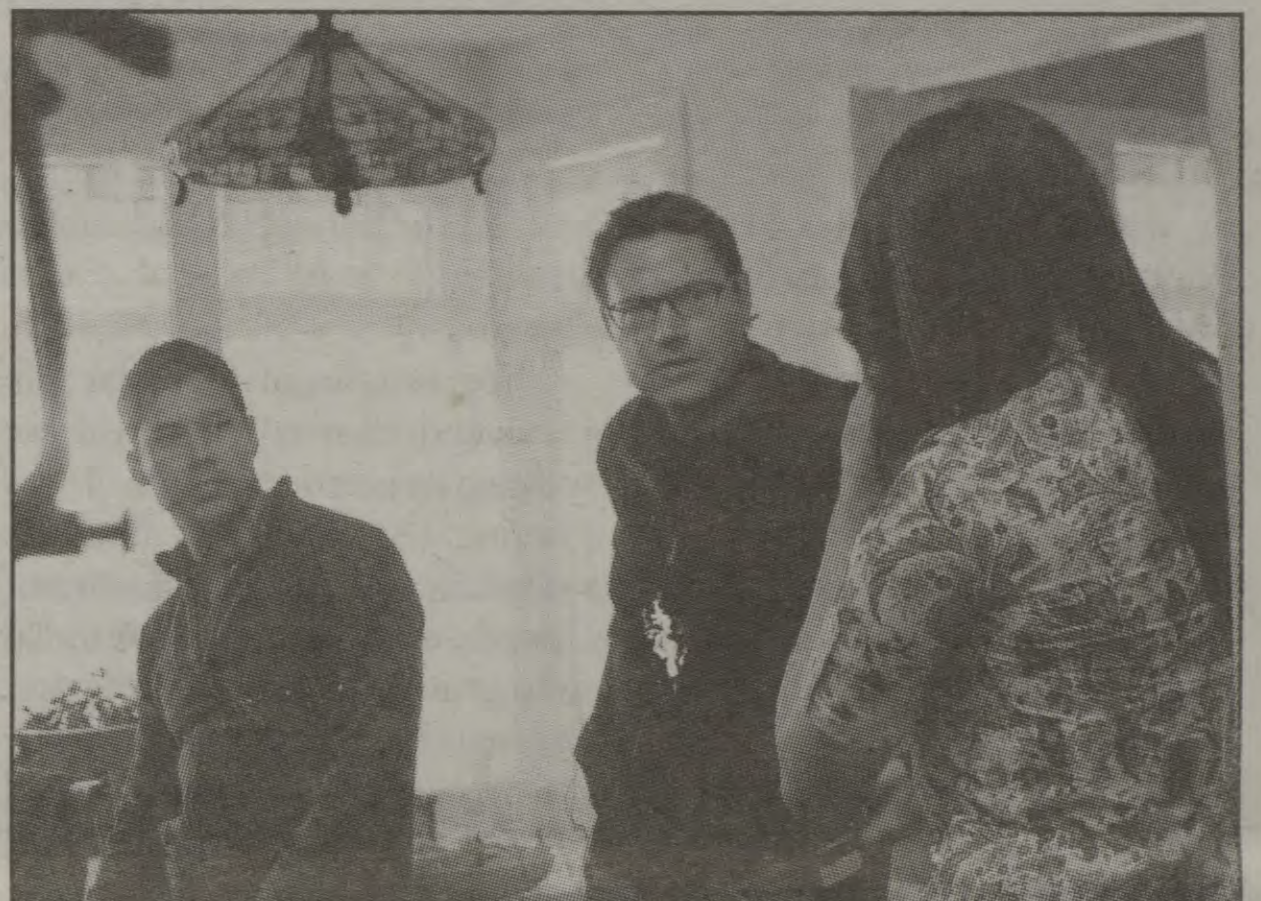


PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Director Ron E. Scott (centre) discusses a scene just shot with actors Justin Rain and Ashley Callingbull.

where the show's executive producer, writer, and director Ron E. Scott, and his crew, do their work.

There is on average 60 crew members per location, said Syzmanski. Most of the crew comes from Edmonton, where Prairie Dog Film + Television is headquartered, but some crew come in from Calgary and Vancouver.

"We have an amazing crew," she said.

Two cameras are used to shoot each scene and each scene is shot multiple times at different angles, using a variety of wide shots and close-ups. Scripts are 42 to 44 pages. Air time for each episode is 44 minutes.

On the morning of April 17, Callingbull was one of five actors involved in an emotionally-charged scene taking place in Roberta's apartment. Shooting the scene began in the morning and by early afternoon the cameras were still rolling with the actors saying the same lines.

"I feel like after a few times of doing the same scene you just start developing it more and it starts to get better," said Callingbull.

Blackstone this season has a large cast of 80, including a large number of Aboriginal youth. There are about a dozen main actors.

Syzmanski won't discuss the production's budget but said, "It

becomes more and more challenging. The show has the same budget it's had for the past few years, but (the show) just continues to grow and get better. So that's always challenging. The priority to us is always making a compelling, engaging product that is competing."

And there is no doubt *Blackstone* is competing. The show has not only been nominated for Rosies, Gemini and Leos in a wide variety of categories, but has won. It is now shown on Maori TV in New Zealand. When the third season begins to air on APTN, the TV network will lead up to that broadcast with airings of seasons one and two as well as a special episode on the making of *Blackstone*.

Syzmanski says all artists would like their work to get viewed by a larger audience, but *Blackstone's* followers are loyal.

"Ron says it best when he talks about *Blackstone*. It's not only a television series, but it's a television series with soul... It's a show with a social conscience with themes and messages, we hit domestic violence in a big way this year and that's not just something that happens on First Nations communities," said Syzmanski. "I'm really passionate about (*Blackstone*) because we hit things in a hard way. We don't shy away from controversial themes and messages and I love that."

Elder Raymond Robinson - Hero to some, well-intentioned grandstander to others

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

Hunger striking Indigenous people have gained international headline-grabbing prominence since the birth of the Idle No More movement, thanks to a six-week fast by Attawapiskat's Chief Theresa Spence and Cross Lake Elder Raymond Robinson that coincided with the movement's explosion this winter.

The age-old starvation tactic has since been employed by a Downtown Eastside Vancouver activist, a jailed Inuit elder protesting a Labrador dam, and a Cree woman in Quebec.

Many observers, however, raised their eyebrows when Robinson launched a second fast on April 3—this one without food or water—vowing to starve if Prime Minister Stephen Harper didn't meet again with First Nation leaders and repeal controversial changes to bands' funding agreements. Robinson, however, called off the hunger strike five days later.

"I decided at that point to thank Creator for answering my prayer; now I want to stand down," Robinson explained in an interview with Windspeaker the day after ending his strike. "I have done my part ... never again."

The Manitoba Cree Elder said

his hunger strikes were both deeply emotional experiences, and the spark is lit for healing the Canadian-Aboriginal relationship. Despite appealing for legislative changes, he insisted his actions were spiritual not political and inspired many.

"Vigils were held in major cities all over world ... countries I didn't even know existed," Robinson said. "We've reached the whole world."

"It was overwhelming. It made me cry that our prayers were being answered, that Creator was answering our prayers. He was creating a new change throughout the world; he's planting seeds."

The former soldier—from a family of veterans—said he learned the value of sacrifice and service in the military, and believes actions motivated by those values, and by the First Nations sacred teachings, lead to real social change.

"The people of Canada, the U.S., and all over the world are waking up, too," he said. "I was praying that the First Nations leadership and the government of Canada will finally, in this crucial moment of time, come together and start having an open and fair dialogue with each other, based on mutual respect, trust, honour, humility, honesty, and the courage to forge new relations."

"Here we are in 2013 still living

in Third World conditions. Many reserves still don't have running water, economic development, social stability, proper medicare or medical technology to take care of our sick, or proper education. We are overcrowded, our houses are run down, and we don't have the dollars to repair them."

Though some critics questioned the effectiveness of Robinson's second hunger strike, it did achieve a face-to-face meeting with Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt.

"The meeting was frank but positive and focused on the need to work together to make progress on the treaty relationship and living conditions on reserve, particularly in the areas of education, housing and economic development," Aboriginal Affairs stated afterwards. "The minister acknowledged Grand Elder Robinson's commitment to raising awareness of First Nation issues and encouraged him to consume food and water, stressing that real progress will only happen when the parties work together."

Robinson gave Valcourt "credit" for what he said was "a lot of hope" for positive change in reserve conditions. But the Grand Elder also took offence with the minister for, as he recalled, "laughing at" his suggestion of talks based on a nation-to-nation understanding, as recommended by the Royal

Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

"He said, 'Raymond, I'll make a deal with you: If you end your hunger strike now, I'll visit you on your reserve. How's that?'" Robinson recalled. "What good was this visit to my reserve going to be, to see me? Is he going to bring his magic wand and 'Poof! Here's a hospital; Poof! Here's business infrastructure; Poof! My reserve's got running water and hydro."

"Many ministers have come to reserves across Canada. They go visit, and put it all over the paper. That's a good story, ain't it? But nothing changes. It's just a photo op. Kind words, full of optimism and hope, but an empty box."

One critic who was decidedly unimpressed with Robinson's hunger striking is Ernie Crey, senior policy advisor for Sto:lo Tribal Council in B.C. Crey has been outspoken in his desire to see the Idle No More movement become more organized, strategic, and engaged in Canadian politics.

"These dramatic, grand gestures — 'I'm going to starve myself to death unless the Prime Minister agrees to talk to us' — are not going anywhere," said Crey. "They won't bring about the change people want."

"Where Raymond is concerned ... it was an effort to prompt a meeting that's already taken place,

and the Prime Minister has agreed to hold yet another meeting with First Nations leaders. I'm not trying to disparage him, but let's get serious here. If you want to do something to improve the lives of Aboriginal people, these dramatic gestures ring hollow to me."

While there were conflicting reports about why Robinson ended his recent fast—failing health or successful pressure from Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo—Crey believes that the real reason was that the Elder had simply lost credibility with an ill-planned action.

"I think Raymond spent all of his political capital," Crey added. "Him giving up on it — having not thought it through to its logical conclusion and not having a context or larger strategy — that type of thing can't be effective... I don't have any animosity to Raymond, or for that matter to people loosely associated with Idle No More. I'm sympathetic; but if you want to achieve these things you've set for yourselves, you're not going to get there doing what you're doing. Get organized, get involved in the mainstream political life of this country, and there's lots of lessons out there to learn from groups that have already done it, who have been successful in advocacy."

(See *Elder* on page 22.)

Dam protest escalates with arrests, hunger strike

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

Opposition to the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project in Labrador continues with Innu workers shutting down the construction site alleging racism, two weeks after the arrest of eight Inuit leaders at another protest against the dam.

The latest setback for Crown Corporation Nalcor came at the end of the workday on April 18 when Innu employees blocked other staff from leaving the project claiming they had faced racial slurs from a project manager.

A company supervisor reportedly stormed off the site shouting, "Bunch of f—king Indians on the site; can't do no f—king thing," said Amanda Benuen, an Innu cleaning employee who told CBC News she overheard the racist comments. Within a day, the company had apologized to Innu leaders.

"Nalcor undertook an immediate investigation of the allegations," the firm said in a statement. "As a resolution to this issue, Nalcor has removed the person from the work site. We are committed to a positive and respectful partnership with the Innu of Labrador and we look forward to moving ahead

together with this important development."

The incident came only two weeks after RCMP arrested eight Inuit who were blocking a major highway leading to the dam site on April 5, one of them an elder with cancer who launched a nearly week-long hunger strike in custody.

Jim Learning, 74, said signing his undertaking conditions barring protest would trump his Inuit treaty rights. The dam site lies on territory claimed by the NunatuKavut Community Council (NCC), an Aboriginal group not recognized by the government.

"It is tragic that our father has had to risk death through hunger to protest the destruction of his homeland and culture, of NCC territory and culture," said Learning's daughter, Carren Dujela. "How do you tell your children their grandfather is in jail and on a hunger strike? With tears in your eyes and pride in your heart."

But RCMP said that the protesters were uncooperative and disrupting traffic—snarling vehicles on the TransLabrador Highway for up to a kilometre, it said—and preventing workers from accessing the Muskrat Falls project. Police charged them with obstruction. Learning was eventually released from custody,

but those arrested must still face their charges in court; they have vowed to continue protesting until government recognizes their claim to the land and enters negotiations.

The arrests are the latest development in a series of protests attempting to open talks with the Newfoundland and Labrador government over the \$7.7 billion hydroelectric dam, which remains popular in the region, supplying power to major urban centres in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, despite the lack of consent from NCC.

"The Muskrat Falls hydroelectric development and transmission lines are in the heart of our traditional territories," Todd Russell, NCC president, told Windspeaker. "It's the area where we hunt, where we fish, where we have built homes, where our people have trapped."

"People have serious and very fundamental environmental concerns with the dam. It is in an area that is very close to many of our people. People have concerns about the impacts on fish and wildlife, and the fact that it will destroy our river. People are also concerned, of course, that this is being done without any regard for our Aboriginal rights. There's laws in this country that are supposed to protect our rights, as well as those who want

to move ahead with development."

The Aboriginal group was once known as the Labrador Métis Association. But in 2006—after new scholarly research proved their long-held insistence that they were direct descendants of Inuit communities that interacted with European settlers on the Atlantic coast since at least the 17th century—the group changed its name to the NunatuKavut Community Council, fuelling its decades-old land claim over sizeable territories in the province.

NunatuKavut means "Our Ancient Land," but the group's territorial claim remains unrecognized by the government, which hopes to develop lucrative industrial projects in the area, such as Muskrat Falls. The community is asserting its land claim under the Labrador Inuit treaty signed in 1765, as well as Aboriginal rights based on the community's long presence in the region, and "cultural continuity with our Inuit ancestors," Russell said.

"We've always been Inuit descendants. That's a fact that's never changes," Russell explained. "We're mixed-bloods, just like many populations in Canada, the United States or around the world."

"We are the ancestors of the

historical Inuit that existed along the coast of Labrador—the same blood that flowed in the veins of our ancestors is the same blood in us today. Nothing has changed in terms of the people; the people are still here, we still occupy this land... They have no regard for the Aboriginal peoples that live here."

One prominent supporter of the Muskrat Falls project is former lieutenant-governor John Crosbie, who argues that, despite some opposition to the project, the province should advocate for it as an important revenue source.

"I don't give a damn what anybody else thinks about it," he told CBC. "I think this is a risk worth taking."

"Now that I'm out of the lieutenant-governorship and have the right to express my own views, I'm going to be very supportive."

Despite the arrests, the NCC released a statement on its Web site promising it was undaunted in its opposition to the Muskrat Falls dam.

"On behalf of all the people of NCC, we thank everyone for their commitment and participation in this weekend's protest," the group stated. "It was a great show of solidarity, strength and determination. We should all be very proud. This fight for rights continues."

'Treated like terrorists' said former chief following raid

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

BURNS LAKE, B.C.

An occupation of the Burns Lake band office in northern B.C. ended dramatically on April 7 when between 30 and 50 RCMP officers stormed the building—some allegedly with firearms drawn—to evict seven protesters holed up inside, including four children, who were demanding the chief's resignation and an Aboriginal Affairs audit of band finances.

Albert Gerow, chief of the 101-member First Nation—who is married to former BC NDP leader Carole James—told Windspeaker that calling in the police was “never an easy decision to make, but nonetheless, it was one that definitely needed to be made,” because the protesters were illegally occupying the office since March 25, impeding day-to-day operations, and allegedly nailing shut the daycare's emergency exit.

Protestors say they are still reeling after the occupation's abrupt end, alleging that one police officer aimed a loaded gun at the 12-year-old son of protest spokesperson and former councillor Ryan Tibbetts, leaving his child traumatized. One of the band's two elected councillors called the massive police response “uncalled for.”

“[Tibbetts'] 12-year old son was in there with him,” Burns Lake Councillor Ron Charlie said. “His son couldn't go to school the whole week. He was crying all the time. One officer had a gun and raised it at him; he saw the police officer raise the pistol to them.”

“For him to get that many police officers for a couple people occupying the band office, it blows my mind... They wouldn't allow me across the crime tape; they said it was a crime scene, but they allowed Chief Gerow in the building. They pretty much treated me like a criminal, not allowing me to access the building.”

B.C. RCMP did not respond to several interview requests about the incident. But Gerow told Windspeaker that Tibbetts and other protestors have exaggerated their accounts of the raid. He insisted that it is police “protocol” to draw their firearms when searching a building.

“There was a lot of misinformation provided by this group after that incident,” Gerow said. “At the time police entered the building there was no way of knowing whether there would have been one protestor or as many as 25 to 30. Thankfully there were only a few. They left the building when requested to do so, and no arrests were made.”

The First Nation's band office, located in a former school building in the town of Burns Lake, is not actually inside any of

the four reserves that make up Burns Lake Indian Band, also known as Ts'il Kaz Koh. The band is a member of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council. But simmering tensions between on- and off-reserve membership boiled over in the months since band elections last October.

The office occupation began on March 25, escalating months of brewing tensions. Charlie, newly elected to council, accused Gerow and fellow Councillor Dan George—who live off-reserve—of lacking financial transparency, ignoring the needs of reserve residents (about 35 people), and shutting him out of band decisions. Gerow, in turn, retorted that Charlie had not shown up for meetings or his job for months.

The divisions came to a head in January, when a relative of Gerow's alleged that Charlie had bribed him with a job promise during the 2012 election campaign, a claim Charlie disputes as a set-up to remove him from office.

With only two councillors and the chief in charge of Burns Lake band's affairs, the schism deepened when Charlie demanded the chief's resignation in February—backed by his father, former chief Gusgumgoot (Rob Charlie), and Gerow's unsuccessful election rival, former councillor Ryan Tibbetts.

“They're not being transparent,” Councillor Charlie said. “One of the questions I have is who are Albert, Dan and myself accountable to when things like this arise at the band office?”

“The members are not being consulted with band business... That's one of the reasons I ran for the 2012 elections: the members were in the dark... The members and myself have lost all faith in the guy.”

But Gerow believes that sour grapes lie underneath what he sees as an attempted coup, citing the links between Councillor Charlie, his father's 22 years as chief, and Tibbetts' failed leadership bid last year. He cited a number of economic projects and job training programs as evidence he has served the interests of on-reserve residents, while critics say he has focused on economics at the expense of the community and the land.

“In my mind, it's purely politically driven,” Gerow said. “Ever since [the election]—when they weren't successful—there's been this small group of people who've begun a campaign to try to oust Councillor Dan George and myself.”

“We have worked tirelessly to improve the conditions for our on-reserve members... Right from day one, anyone who knows us in the local community knows the dedication and hard work George and I have done to improve the band.”

With the eviction of the occupation, however, the tensions

have in no way subsided. When Councillor Charlie arrived for work the day after the protest ended, he received a letter notifying him he had lost his job as Education and Youth Coordinator for the band, in effect cutting his salary by two-thirds.

“In the letter, it said I have actively and openly engaged with supporters of the protest,” Charlie told Windspeaker. “I was just making sure of the health and safety of members while they occupied the band office.”

“They're people I've known my whole life. I was there for support, like any band councillor should be. That's what I was elected for. I didn't man the occupation of the building.”

He said that his concerns over the band's financial affairs—and what he sees as off-reserve leaders shutting reserve residents out of their decisions—led him to run for office. Upon his election, however, he alleges he received no orientation, nor job description, and was repeatedly asked to sign band council resolutions that Gerow and George had already drafted, without input. He called for Aboriginal Affairs to conduct a third-party audit of band finances, but Gerow told Windspeaker he has promised to commission an independent audit.

In some ways, the rift in Burns Lake also touches on controversial federal legislation, Bill C-27, which imposes penalties on First Nations that do not disclose leaders' salaries and band expenses to the public. An announcement in March about the law's enactment led to clashes in Winnipeg. For Charlie, transparency is why he ran for office, and he won't give up.

“Members kept coming up to me, wanting to know what's happening, and to see what deals were happening,” Charlie told Windspeaker. “So I requested some financial information, just to be transparent. Like with members, they started ignoring my requests.”

For Charlie's father, Gusgumgoot—who was part of the occupation—the police raid has dampened his trust in police and in the band's leadership. During his time as chief, Gusgumgoot said he even faced blockades of the road to his house, but resolved them without resorting to calling police.

“I just don't feel safe in this town anymore,” he said. “We were treated like terrorists.”

“They were armed to the teeth... I wish there were media there; it was an all-out war against us. For me, it was eerie. One wrong move and ‘Boom!’ One wrong move would have caused somebody serious damage. Who would have witnessed anything? If one of us made a move, we would have been having a funeral last week.”

Windspeaker News Briefs

ESKASONI FIRST NATION HAS RECEIVED

notice that income earned from its communal fishery will now be considered tax exempt. This is a reversal of an earlier decision from the Canada Revenue Agency that saw fishers taxed on income earned from the commercial fishery established after the 1999 Marshall decision. Donald Marshall, a Mi'kmaq who had been charged with fishing eels out of season, fishing without a licence, and fishing with an illegal net, successfully argued to the Supreme Court that treaties from the 1760s gave him a right to catch fish for sale and excused him of fisheries regulations. “The major change we've seen in the law over the past few years is that reserve-based businesses, or income derived from reserve-based businesses, will generally be considered to be tax-exempt even if the activity that gives rise to the income, in this case fishing, takes place off reserve,” said Max Faille, a lawyer for the Eskasoni. “What the courts are really saying is that First Nations can embark in a successful business based on reserve but they can still do business outside the boundaries of the reserve—do business with people off-reserve like other people can—and that it still deserves protections under the Indian Act.” He said the decision could have further impacts down the road.

CONST. ANDY YUNG, THE WILLIAMS LAKE

RCMP officer who punched a First Nations teen in the face, has been acquitted of an assault charge. On April 22 a judge ruled that Yung acted reasonably during the arrest of an 18-year-old girl in 2011. “It's been a hard, long year-and-a-half. We thought we were going to get justice. And everything just didn't go the way we thought it was going to go,” said the teens mother. Yung admitted he punched the girl in the face while she was handcuffed in the back seat of his cruiser because she was drunk, agitated and had her legs wrapped around his head. Though the girl said Yung punched her six times, the judge found her testimony to be inconsistent and evasive.

MARIA TALLCHIEF, THE DAUGHTER OF AN

Osage Indian father, and who lived on-reservation in Oklahoma until the oil rich family moved to New York, has died at age 88. Tallchief achieved renown with the New York City Ballet under choreographer George Balanchine. Described by the New York Times “as one of the most brilliant American ballerinas of the 20th century, she achieved acclaim in the title role of Stravinsky's ‘Firebird’ dazzling audiences with ‘her speed, energy and fire.’” For more information about the dancer, look to her autobiography entitled “Maria Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina.”

JOURNALIST LAURA STONE REPORTS THAT

former chief of Roseau River First Nation, Terrance Nelson, an also ran in the Assembly of First Nations election for national chief, was feeding the federal government information about the Idle No More movement. The plans of First Nations leaders were included in five emails, all forwarded to the department of Aboriginal Affairs on Dec. 30, 2012. Nelson said he did it as “a warning to Canada not to get stupid.” One email was from Derek Nepinak, grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, which said INM “will escalate to various levels of violence and confrontation.”

INCIDENCE OF HYPOTHYROIDISM AMONG

children born in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii spiked in the four months after the catastrophic Fukushima nuclear-reactor meltdown in a post-tsunami Japan March 2011, a U.S.-based research project reveals. These occurrences were up by as much as 28 per cent than in 36 other U.S. states during the same period the previous year. Radioiodine isotopes were detected among the massive amounts of fallout dispersed from Fukushima just days after the meltdowns. The research paper noted that I-131 levels up to 211 times above normal were measured in U.S. precipitation in the five Pacific states. Congenital hypothyroidism, a rare condition that affects one newborn in 4,000, can cause severe brain and growth problems. Iodine deficiency is a common cause of the condition, and iodine-131 present in nuclear fallout is a risk factor for hypothyroidism. The peer-reviewed research paper, conducted on behalf of the Radiation and Public Health Project, was published in the March edition of the Open Journal of Pediatrics.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. David Warner was released from a Spokane hospital and transferred to a long-term care facility in April. The Native professor had been in critical condition since being severely beaten in a mall parking lot March 30, which left him with serious head injuries. Four people have been arrested, including two WSU students. The instructor in the Critical Culture, Gender and Race Studies department underwent surgery to remove part of his skull to relieve pressure and treat bleeding on his brain. Reports have said the 41-year-old was trying to break up a fight, was punched in the face and hit his head and left there. He was found unconscious by mall police.

Groundswell of support needed to motivate feds

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

Getting Canadians involved in an issue that transcends racial lines is the only way the federal government will move ahead on a call for a National Public Commission of Inquiry into violence against Indigenous women and girls.

"This is an issue that belongs to the broader society," said Ernie Crey, advisor to the Sto:lo Tribal Council and former social worker. He was speaking to the 400 delegates at a joint Assembly of First Nations and Native Women's Association of Canada forum held in Edmonton April 9 and 10.

Crey called for a national working committee comprised of Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. "This government will not hold a national and public inquiry because a handful of people are demanding it Once they see a groundswell of support for a national and public inquiry, they will change their minds."

Both Shawn Atleo, national chief of the AFN, and Michelle Audette, NWAC president, pledged to continue to support community and regional events that would lead to safer communities as well as a national inquiry.

Sitting on a panel that discussed the next steps forward were Members of Parliament Niki

Ashton (NDP Churchill) and Carolyn Bennett (Liberal St. Paul's), who were appointed in March by the federal government to a special parliamentary committee on missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

The idea for the committee came from Bennett and the committee's formation received unanimous support from Parliament. However, that committee is not enough, said Ashton. "The NDP ... will be pushing ... that nothing less than a national public inquiry will suffice."

She referred to the numbers of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls as a "national epidemic."

Figures collected from NWAC by scouring newspaper articles indicate that more than 600 Aboriginal women and girls have either gone missing or been murdered over the past two decades.

Bennett said it was a "preventable epidemic."

She called for direction from the Aboriginal community in moving the special parliamentary committee forward.

"I want to make sure that you will help us to build a work plan that is meaningful to you. This will not work top down. It's got to be bottom up."

While the movement continues to force the federal government to hold a national inquiry, delegates were encouraged to do work in



PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Liberal MP Carolyn Bennett (right) acknowledges Native Women's Association of Canada President Michelle Audette for the work her organization has undertaken along with the Assembly of First Nations.

their communities as preventive measures.

Steven Point, chair of the advisory committee on the safety and security of vulnerable women which provides guidance to the implementation of the recommendation from the Missing Women Commission of Inquiry held in British Columbia, said that young women leaving home, many leaving the reserves for the first time, needed to be prepared for city living. He said that the issue of violence against women was an issue that concerned everyone.

Ashton condemned the federal

government for not only dragging its feet on a national public inquiry but also for cutting funding for programs that address family violence.

"They have cut the very programs and the very supports that could be there to try and find the solutions," she said.

Both AFN and NWAC have been consistent in their call for a public federal inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. Last year, a petition, which now has 8,000 signatures, began circulating.

Delegates were presented with a workbook developed by the

AFN and NWAC to provide input into developing a national action plan. The information is to be "used to develop a plan that is grounded in the experiences of Indigenous women and national in scope, with concrete recommendations for various levels of governments, agencies and individuals to end violence and make our communities safer."

Recommendations from the forum, as well as input following the forum, will be incorporated into a draft national action plan, which will then go to communities and leaders for further input.

Vancouver Island band abandons key consultation process

By David P. Ball

Kwakiutl Indian Band has rejected B.C. government attempts to negotiate a "new relationship" with First Nations, saying that talks had failed to respect its right to refuse consent to industrial development on their territories.

Only weeks before the launch of the provincial election campaign, Kwakiutl—located around Port Hardy near the northernmost tip of Vancouver Island—announced its abandonment of both a provincial Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA), as well as its withdrawal from an alliance of several nations jointly negotiating with B.C., Nanwakolas Council.

"The consultation process established under the SEA framework agreement doesn't promote accommodation or stopping of what Kwakiutl didn't want to have happen within our territories," Casey Laroche, the band's Economic Development manager, told Windspeaker. "Not just logging, anything. It could be an airport, mining, parks permits."

"Not one opposition response was ever taken seriously or resulted in anything. It does not promote shared decision-making

of the Kwakiutl with their lands, the waters that belong within their territory. That goes against the 'New Relationship' here in B.C."

The decision to publicly criticize the province's approach could be a setback as the province heads towards a May 14 election, having been preceded by a raft of announcements about new agreements and negotiations with First Nations, hoping to shore up Aboriginal support.

The majority of B.C. is unceded, but Kwakiutl is one of only 14 nations that negotiated a series of agreements collectively known as the Douglas Treaties, because they were overseen by then-governor and fur trader James Douglas, known as the "father of British Columbia."

Since the band is not part of the government's push to sign modern treaties with First Nations in the province, much hope was placed in the \$2.26 million consultation process under the Nanwakolas SEA.

"The Nanwakolas strategic engagement agreement establishes protocols and procedures that both the Nanwakolas First Nations and B.C. agree meet joint responsibilities for consultation, as defined in Section 35 of the

Canadian Constitution," explained Robin Platts, a spokesperson for B.C.'s Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation. "That is the purpose of the agreement. It results in efficiencies and more effective engagement for both parties."

And though a Kwakiutl statement complained about provincial Tree Farm Licenses issued to Western Forest Products—allowing the logging company to cut nearly a million cubic metres of timber from Kwakiutl territory, netting \$60 million—because the band saw it as a claim of ownership over the forests, Platts replied that 94 per cent of B.C. "is considered Crown land," managed "on behalf of taxpayers." Hence, the government's collection of nearly \$1 million in stumpage fees.

But Kwakiutl rejected any claims that their traditional territories are owned by B.C., and now says it is more free to assert its title and rights under the band's 1851 treaty, as well as demand that logging and resource extraction only proceed with Aboriginal consent.

"The consultation process is very, very faulty," Laroche said. "There's been a failure of the provincial government when it

comes to the Kwakiutl treaty of 1851, or to acknowledge and give life to the treaty. It goes against the 'New Relationship.'

"The two governments—especially Canada, the provincial government, and nations that have pre-confederation treaties—need to sit down and work out how to share decision-making over Kwakiutl title to the lands, their aboriginal rights, and equally important, their Douglas Treaty rights."

Not only will Kwakiutl now be outside the SEA process and treaty-signing process alike, but Laroche said that a litany of lawsuits in recent years forcing the government to honour the Douglas Treaties are a sign of hope for the band.

"The series of court victories ... have affirmed that treaty does exist," he said. "Given that the provincial government did not exist when this treaty was done, [Canada] has a special role to come in on a tripartite basis to discuss how to give this treaty life—to honour the treaty. We're hoping that those discussions will re-emerge, and will be fruitful."

Kwakiutl Chief Rupert Wilson offered colourful words against the Nanwakolas process, accusing it of being a "Kafkaesque bureaucratic nightmare" that had

proven itself "compromised" and "too problematic" to ensure First Nations' interests were respected.

Interview requests to the Nanwakolas Council office—which employs roughly a dozen people—were not returned by press time, and Platts told Windspeaker he was not authorized to express government opinion on the matter because of election campaign rules.

But the Nanwakolas Council Web site states that its name means "a place we go to find agreement" in the Kwakwaka'wakw language, and asserts that the body "serves as the vehicle through which the member First Nations regionally pursue land and marine resource planning and management and resource-based economic development activities."

"The member First Nations have had, since time immemorial, a cultural connection with their traditional territories that is critical to the maintenance of their community, governance and economy. This cultural connection gives rise to Aboriginal rights, title and interests throughout their traditional territories."

Kwakiutl was the only member of Nanwakolas Council that had signed a Douglas Treaty.

Donny Parenteau — [windspeaker confidential]

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

Donny Parenteau: I value honesty as the most valuable asset to have in a friendship. Without this your friendship becomes nothing more than a lie and I strongly believe the world has enough of this.

W: What is it that really makes you mad?

D.P.: Anything you do that hurts my family. You want to hurt me, fine, I can take it, but you will cross a line with me if you ever hurt my family.

W: When are you at your happiest?

D.P.: I am happiest when I am with my family first and second when I am on stage. I have learned this lesson the hard way by putting music first and family second and it cost me.

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

D.P.: Moody.

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

D.P.: This is a tough one but this is what comes to my mind first. My mother I admire most for all she has done for our family. The sacrifice she made to help get us a better home is what really blows my mind. Back when I was four years old we lived in a two-bedroom home in the city of Prince Albert, Sask. with no running water or sewer. My mother wanted better as much as my father did. My father took care of all the bills

he could off his wage. My mother, who worked minimum wage back then, managed to save up \$300, which took her one year to do. She had applied for a brand new low-income house that cost \$12,500. But the one thing she needed to get the loan approved was the \$300 down payment. It was done and we moved to a brand new three-bedroom home. I will never forget what she had done for us, and also the look on our father's face when she showed him the paper to sign that put us into our new home. My father was so proud of what my mother accomplished. There is a special song I wrote for my mother called "Momma Taught Me Love" that was my gift to her. I love ya, Mom.

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

D.P.: Say goodbye to my father who we lost in 1990 after a short battle with cancer.

I made Dad a promise as they closed the casket that I would do my best to make him proud and that I would take the family name as far as I could. This promise has been taken farther than I could imagine when I was told my latest CD BRING IT ON was placed into a time capsule in the Legislative building in Regina, Sask. to be opened in 100 years. My CD was the only CD placed into the time capsule and what gives me great pride is the fact that my family name will be spoke 100 years from now again after my life is done.

W: What is your greatest accomplishment?

D.P.: My greatest accomplishment was the birth of our little girl Julianna. She totally changed my life for the better and made me realize I want to live my life the way I want to be remembered.

W: What one goal remains out of reach?

D.P.: The one goal that still remains out of reach is what I cannot control. This is to have a Number 1 hit on Canadian radio. Is it still possible? Yes, anything is possible. If it happens it was meant to happen and if not I am good with that too.

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

D.P.: I would be a police officer in my City of Prince Albert. This is what I wanted to do if the opportunity of music was never offered. I'm grateful music came calling.

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

D.P.: The best piece of advice I ever received was to never judge a person until you meet them.

W: Did you take it?

D.P.: Yes, I did take that advice, and still use it to this very day.

W: How do you hope to be remembered?

D.P.: Ah ha, I was waiting for this one. I want to be remembered as a person who believed in dreaming and one who accomplished those dreams. I want

to be remembered as a family man who loved his family more than himself. I want to be remembered as a person who was always willing to give when asked and a person who was extremely grateful for the talent that was given to him that was never abused. I want people to remember me in my songs I wrote. I want to be remembered as a person that was full of life, loved to laugh and lived everyday like it was his last.

Donny Parenteau first began his musical journey with a fiddle at the age of 14 and, after mastering that instrument, moved on to teach himself numerous others, including the mandolin, acoustic and electric guitars and a double-neck mandocaster guitar. At 19 he was playing professionally. Parenteau began life in Prince Albert, Sask., the youngest child of four. He finished high school and began his professional music career that afforded him the opportunity to perform with a long list of country music stars, include Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, George Jones, Charlie Pride, Loretta Lynn, Charlie Daniels, Hank Williams Jr., Reba McEntire, Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill and Shania Twain. Some of his appearances were on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The Grand Ole Opry, Crook and Chase and, Nashville Now. Parenteau's achievements include three JUNO nominations. He performed at the 2010 Cultural Olympiad at the Olympics in Vancouver, and he

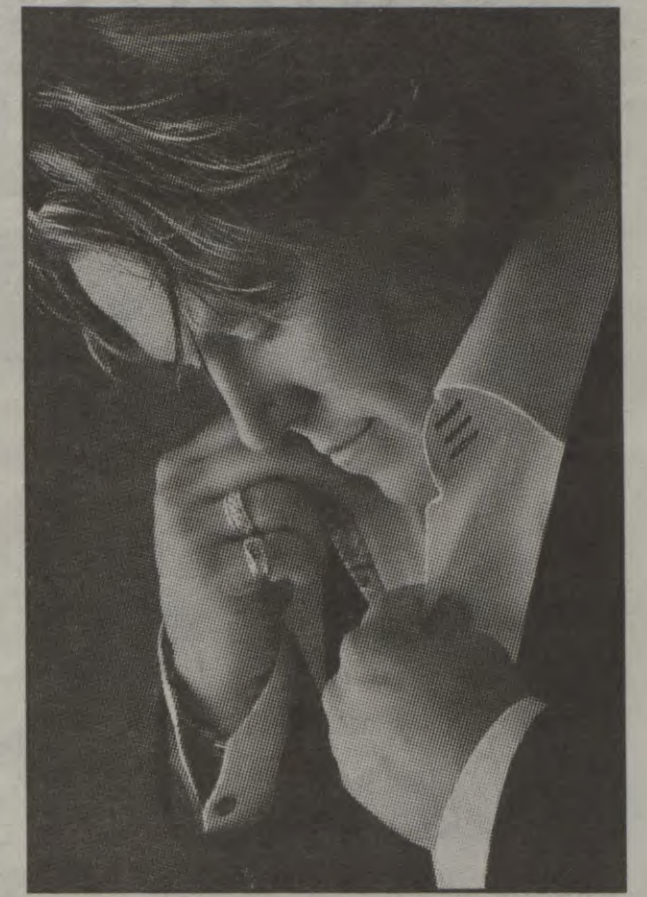


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Wawmeesh George Hamilton

received the 2012 SCMA Achievement Award for his tour entitled, "It Starts with a Dream". Parenteau received a grant from the Saskatchewan Arts Board to take his tour to communities throughout Saskatchewan. He works to help students identify their dreams and teaches them the steps they can take to fulfil them. The tour includes motivational speaking engagements and song writing workshops in rural and First Nations schools, along with musical performances in communities. Parenteau has also loaned his name and talent to Telemiracle by performing, as well as co-writing with Brad Johner, the theme song entitled "You are the Miracle." This March he opened his first music school in his home town of Prince Albert.

OUR PICK

Artist— Bob Chartrand
Song— Ditch the Chick
Album— Rebel Blues
Year— 2012
Available on iTunes



It may be a Friday night or maybe even a Saturday and you are itching to get out and have a little fun. You enlist your significant other and maybe a few friends to go out to seek that escape through a little music and dance. It may be a community hall or a local bar somewhere with faces that are familiar where you feel completely at home. The

band takes their place and strikes up their first song as you await your beverage order. Bob Chartrand and his band have been doing this for a while and though his album Rebel Blues might not win any big time music awards, it delivers what anyone seeking to have some fun and forget their work week troubles are needing. Bob has grassroots appeal with a country theme that rocks and even simmers with some soulful blues sensibility that makes him everyone's night out band. The songs relate themes anyone can identify with, including some fun relationship advice on the upbeat *Ditch The Chick*. There is a balance in Bob's songs driven by a twangy guitar, some warbling harmonica and straight forward rhythms that will appeal to everyone, driving them to the dance floor. Bob understands his audience, and songs like *Where's the Free in Freedom* demonstrates that. *She Lies* gives you that slow dance moment while at the other end of the spectrum, *Good Day To Ride* would be best described as a foot-stomping romp. Bob Chartrand is an all around good time rockin' country artist doing it his way with a little blues, as the album title indicates. Bob's Rebel Blues make you feel good. It's not fancy but its good and what's not to like? The music award I'd give Rebel Blues would be for being one of the most authentic music releases.

Review by : K. Kanten

[radio's most active]

ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

SONG	ARTIST	ALBUM
Mirror Me	She King	Single
The Beat	Elisapie	Travelling Love
Fight For You	Ali Fontaine	Diamond In The Rough
Inside My Head	Davidica	Single
Chains	Crystal Shawanda	Just Like You
Nowhere Fast	Keith Secola	Life Is Grand
Makin' My Way	Gary Farmer & The Trouble Makers	Under The Water
Hard Hearted Woman	Billy Joe Green	String Twister Hits & Misses
Carry Me	George Leach	Surrender
Take a Picture	Joey Stylez	Single
Girl Thing	Kim Erickson	Single
Red Winter	Drezus	Red Winter
How Can I	Mark Jacob	Single
Idle No More	Marc Merilainen	A Beautiful Darkness
Brand New	Jace Martin	Falling Stars
Start All Over Again	Ashley Robertson	Start Again
No More	Plex Featuring Lase	Single
Your Song	C-Weed Band	Forever
If This Is Love, I Hate It	Sherry St. Germain	Kick Out The Lights
Culture Shock	Sinuupa	Culture Shock

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



Raven's Eye: Special Section providing news from BC & Yukon



On April 6th a feast was hosted by Chief Adam Dick (Kwaaksistala) in Victoria, B.C.

As part of the feast dancers wearing masks helped tell a Kwaxkwaka'wakw (Kingcome Inlet) story.

All photos:
Bert Crowfoot

Windspeaker

Scholarship Search Tips!

- When fishing for scholarships, cast the widest net you can, focusing on your area of specialty while applying for general scholarships/bursaries anywhere you're eligible. Admissions offices will often have listings, but internet searches are also effective, and many applications can be completed online.

- Criteria and eligibility vary from place to place but once you've completed a first application, the second one invariably goes faster. It is mainly a gathering and organization of information for the sponsor awarding the scholarship, so checking carefully to meet the criteria and goals listed by the organization will increase success.

- Always try and keep copies of documentation, such as letters of support, to use for multiple submissions. Many scholarships can be completed online.

- Read guidelines thoroughly and check biographies of past winners.

- Remember to make deadlines – even the strongest candidates will be eliminated if they file too late – this demonstrates commitment and responsibility! And if you don't make it this year – your chances can only increase with time and experience for next year.

- Many sponsors learn who their students are and maintain a supportive relationship, which can even include summer employment opportunities.

- Everyone likes to back a winner! List past scholarships and bursaries received, for that "snowball effect".

The following list of scholarships and bursaries has been compiled by Windspeaker with the kind assistance of participating companies, schools and foundations. For a complete and up-to-date listing of Aboriginal scholarships and bursaries please check our online listings located at: www.ammsa.com.

NATIONAL

ConocoPhillips Aboriginal Awards Program

Deadline June 30th of each year.

The Aboriginal Awards Program has been developed to provide financial assistance to Aboriginal students pursuing high school upgrading and post-secondary education. Award amounts are designated according to the educational level you are pursuing:
Secondary School/Academic Upgrading \$1,000
College or Technical Institute \$2,000
University \$3,000

The award amounts are granted on an annual basis with students being required to re-apply each year for continued funding. Awards may be used to cover portions of tuition, books or living expenses.

Eligibility

You may apply to the ConocoPhillips Aboriginal Awards Program if you meet the following criteria:

1. You are of Aboriginal ancestry
2. You are a Canadian citizen
3. You are enrolled in an eligible program, on a full-time basis
4. You demonstrate promising academic qualifications
5. You require financial assistance to pursue your education

Application process: Please send your completed application along with your proof of acceptance and most recent transcripts to the following address:

Please send your completed application along with your proof of acceptance and most recent transcripts to the following address no later than **June 30th**:

Attention: Aboriginal Awards Program
Stakeholder Engagement
ConocoPhillips Canada
P.O. Box 130, Station "M",
401 - 9th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 2H7
Direct Phone: (403) 260-1655
Fax: (403) 532-3404

Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award

Deadline: July 27

Every year since 2003 the Native Women's Association of Canada coordinates the Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award (previously a scholarship) that is awarded to four young Aboriginal women in the amount of \$1,000.00 dollars each in accordance with the four directions (North, East, South and West). This Student Award is NWAC's way of supporting Aboriginal women strive for their academic goals, as well as recognizing the dedication and commitment that they are making toward the well-being of their sisters and their communities. The Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award is facilitated through the

Youth Program of the Labour Market Development Department and is made possible by the generous donation of Helen Bassett.

KPMG's Aboriginal Scholarship Program

KPMG's Aboriginal Services is proud to offer five \$1,500 scholarships

The scholarship program is designed to recognize the Aboriginal community and offer financial assistance to Aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutions across Canada.

Selection Criteria

Weighting will be proportionally focused on the following categories:

- Future plans to support the Aboriginal community
- Future career plans
- Current and/or projected financial situation
- Current involvement in the Aboriginal community and other organizations
- Grade point average

Requirements of Scholarship Recipients

- Willing and available for media interviews
- Willing and available to be photographed
- Provide permission to be referenced and quoted in KPMG and/or KPMG approved material, websites and publications

Provide permission for use of photos in KPMG and/or KPMG approved material, websites and publications

How to submit your application

1. Provide it directly to your local KPMG adviser

2. Email to: aboriginalservices@kpmg.ca

3. Mail to: Penny Eggett,
National Marketing Coordinator
KPMG MSLP
333 Bay Street, Suite 4600
Toronto, ON M5H 2S5

TransAlta Aboriginal Bursary Program

In keeping with our commitment to provide educational support to the Aboriginal community in Canada, on an annual basis TransAlta offers up to seven bursary awards in the amount of \$3000 each for those entering college or university programs on a full time basis. Additionally, TransAlta offers three awards in the amount of \$1000 each for those in a trades program.

Eligibility Criteria

1. You are an Aboriginal person, and provide proof of your status
2. You are enrolled in a fulltime post secondary or trades program and will maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout your program
3. You have a plan for achieving your education and career goals
4. You commit to updating TransAlta on your progress throughout the duration of your studies
5. You complete and provide the information as requested by TransAlta

Deadline: September 15

You must submit the application form and all requested documentation by September 15th to be considered. Additional information and a copy of the application form can be found on the website: www.transalta.com/communities/aboriginal

Contact Information:

Lynn Calf Robe, Aboriginal Relations Coordinator
TransAlta
Phone: 403 267 2557
Fax: 403 267 2005
Email: lynn_calfrobe@transalta.com

Altalink Aboriginal Scholarship Program

In 2007, Altalink launched its Aboriginal scholarship program. This scholarship program is designed to recognize the Aboriginal community and offer financial assistance to Aboriginal students attending post-secondary institutions by offering four \$2,000 scholarships.

ELIGIBILITY:

This scholarship is open to all students who are Métis or members of Treaty 6, 7 or 8 and are currently enrolled in a post secondary institution.

HOW TO ENTER:

Applicants can enter one of two ways, online or by mail. All applications must be received in full by November 30.

Online application

To apply online, applicants must fill out the online form please go to www.altalink.ca

In addition to this application form, applicants must arrange to have a copy of their official transcripts sent to:

ATTN: Megan Wolfinger
Altalink
2611 3rd Ave SE
Calgary AB, T2A 7W7

A scholarships valued at \$2,000 will be awarded to a student from each of Treaty 6, 7, 8 and Métis.

Recipients will be selected in January of 2013 and will be directly notified. Only successful applicants will be notified. Students will be selected for the awards based on financial need, scholastic achievement, community involvement and career and life goals.

Be sure to complete all the required questions and provide your official transcripts to us. A complete application will increase your chances of selection.

Application deadline is November 30

Norman Taylor Memorial – Aboriginal Financial Management Scholarship and Bursary Program

Norman Taylor was a member of the Ucluelet First Nation on the West Coast of Vancouver Island. He was one of the founding members of the AFOA Canada serving as the founding President and later the Chief Advocacy Officer.

Bursaries Deadline: July 26

Bursaries are available to Aboriginal students attending university or college as a full-time student in an academic program such as Business Administration, Business Management, Accounting, Commerce and/or other finance related programs. Bursaries are open to AFOA members and non-members. Four bursaries in the amount of \$1,000 each will be awarded.

Scholarships Deadline: July 26

Professional Development Scholarships are available to AFOA members who wish to take AFOA's AFM courses or AFOA management certificate courses on a one-off basis for professional development reasons, or to attend AFOA's National Conference. The Professional Development

2013 Aboriginal Scholarship Guide

An Insert Exclusively From Windspeaker.

Scholarship is intended to offset full registration costs for AFOA courses and/or registration and travel related costs to attend the National Conference (February 2014 in Halifax, NS). Scholarships: Two applicants who wish to enroll in one on-line AFOA course – scholarship value of up to \$800 each. Two applicants who wish to attend the AFOA National Conference – each scholarship includes conference registration (value up to \$800) and travel related costs (up to \$2,000).

Application forms, program guidelines and eligibility criteria can be obtained by visiting www.afoa.ca

or by calling AFOA Canada at 1-866-722-2362.

ATCO Pipelines Aboriginal Education Awards Program

The ATCO Pipelines Aboriginal Educational Awards Program is aimed at supporting Aboriginal students from First Nations and Métis communities in close proximity to our facilities. Successful applicants will demonstrate a balanced lifestyle and commitment in the pursuit of education. These awards, bursaries and scholarships are awarded to select students who demonstrate leadership capabilities and strive to be role models in their schools and communities.

This program was launched in 2011 and saw 26 students from across the province receive awards.

There are three different awards available:

- Merit Award - Ten merit awards of \$500 to be granted each year;

- Must be attending High School (completing grades 10-12); Maximum one award per applicant

- Bursaries - Ten bursaries of \$1000 to be granted each year; Must be registered in a recognized trade/community/technical college diploma or certificate program; Preference will be given to those enrolled in a program relating to the natural gas industry; Maximum one award per applicant per calendar year; Must re-apply to be considered for subsequent years

- Scholarships - Five scholarships of \$1,500 to be awarded each year; Must be registered in a university program intended to lead to a bachelor or graduate degree; Preference will be given to those enrolled in a program relating to the natural gas industry; Maximum one award per applicant per calendar year; Must re-apply to be considered for subsequent years

Eligibility

All applicants must be enrolled full-time in a secondary or post-secondary educational program and be Canadian citizens of Aboriginal ancestry and originate from within 50km of ATCO Pipelines facilities. ATCO employees and/or their children will not be considered for these awards.

How to apply

Downloadable [Application Form](#) (pdf - 79k)
The deadline to submit an application is **August 1st annually**. Applications received after that date will not be considered during the review and selection process.

The following information must ALL be included in the application package in order to be regarded for any one of these awards:

- A completed application form
- One reference letter from a teacher, faculty member, employer or other community leader
- A short essay (minimum 250 words) describing why you are a suitable candidate for the award

- Proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester in a secondary or post-secondary institution Official transcripts from a secondary and/or post-secondary institution in which you are currently enrolled must be ordered and sent directly to ATCO Pipelines.

Mail or deliver completed application packages, and direct official transcripts, to: **Corporate Communications ATCO Pipelines**

#1300, 909 – 11th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2R 1L8

SELECTION

All applications will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of representatives from various departments within ATCO Pipelines. Committees will be established each year specifically to review candidate submissions for this program.

Strategic Alliance of Broadcasters for Aboriginal Reflection (SABAR) Scholarship

Deadline: May 17.

SABAR is pleased to offer our first annual Scholarship to an Aboriginal student in Journalism or Radio/Television Arts. SABAR is particularly proud to play an important part in supporting the development of a future community leader who may have the potential to help us meet our primary goal of increasing Aboriginal reflection in Canadian broadcasting.

Eligibility

1. First Nations, Inuit or Métis permanent Canadian resident;
2. Desire to follow a path to a career in the broadcast industry;
3. Enrolment in Canadian post secondary Journalism or Radio and Television Arts Program or Equivalent Certified Training Program; and
4. Interest in acting as an ambassador for the broadcasting industry and serving as a role model for other Aboriginal people to encourage them to pursue careers in broadcasting.

Guidelines:

One scholarship valued at \$5,000.00 will be awarded. This award may be applied to academic and/or living costs.

Scholarship winners are eligible for continued scholarship awards each year they continue in their approved programs in the amount of \$2,500.00 annually to a maximum total scholarship value of \$10,000.00.

For more information: www.sabar.ca

ECO Canada Scholarships

ECO Canada is pleased to launch the 2012 Newalta Aboriginal Environmental Scholarship. The scholarship, generously sponsored by Newalta, will award \$2,500 each to three Aboriginal students across Canada.

Closes: May 14

Eligibility:

To qualify for the Newalta Aboriginal Environmental Scholarship, applicants must:

- * Be a Canadian resident Aboriginal individual who is First Nation status or non-status, Métis, or Inuit

- * Be 30 years of age or younger, with a high school diploma

- * Have been accepted into an environment-related program at a Canadian post-secondary institution for the fall of 2012

- * Submit a 500-word description of their environmental values, leadership, or vision

- * Demonstrate their accomplishments and ambitions in the areas of environmental protection, resource management, or environmental sustainability

- * Provide a reference letter describing the applicant's character and highlighting any involvement in community-related environmental projects

- * Please note if you are not already an ECO member, you will be asked to register for a free account before you are redirected to your application form.

All applications must be submitted by **May 14**.

For more information or for assistance with your application, contact **Rebecca Dickson at scholarships@eco.ca or 403-233-0748**.

Scholarships are awarded to individuals who

have shown leadership in their communities in the areas of environmental protection, resource management, or environmental sustainability. Students are chosen based on the reference letter and essay they submit about their environmental accomplishments and ambitions. The award is provided for the first year of tuition in an environment-related program, including but not limited to: engineering, sciences, social sciences, and mathematics. Browse our Program Directory for more information on environment-related programs.

GE Foundation Scholar-Leaders Program in Canada

The GE Foundation Scholar-Leaders Program in Canada is a unique program that provides financial support and skills development opportunities for up to 5 accomplished first-year undergraduate students from recognized institutions who are pursuing degrees in the fields of engineering or business/management and are Canadian resident Aboriginal individuals who are either First Nation status or non-status, Métis or Inuit

Why Apply?

- A \$4000 per year scholarship for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years of your undergraduate program

- An opportunity to be mentored by a business leader at GE in Canada

- Participation in GE Foundation Scholar-Leaders activities, including a specially designed leadership development seminar at GE Canada in Mississauga, Ontario

- Participation in community development projects

Who Can Apply?

Only applicants who meet the eligibility criteria described below will be considered for the award

Aboriginal peoples who:

- Are Canadian residents

- Are first-year full-time undergraduate students at a recognized Canadian university

- Are studying engineering or business/management

- Have high academic performance, as demonstrated by first semester university results and high school transcripts.

- Demonstrate financial need

How to Apply?

Click on the link at the bottom of the page and complete the online application.

The application form including essay must be submitted online by 11:59pm EST on **March 15 each year**.

All Supporting Documentation must arrive via post by **March 15** to:

GE Foundation Scholar-Leaders Program in Canada

Institute of International Education

809 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

USA

Supporting Documentation – In addition to your application form, the following documentation is required:

1. Certification Page with original signature (downloaded from online application)

2. High school transcripts – official copy, may be sent directly by high school

3. First semester university results (if available) – official copy, may be sent directly by university

4. Two letters of recommendation (see instructions on form which can be downloaded from the online application)

5. Proof of Aboriginal ancestry – photocopy of Band/Treaty card; Métis membership card; Inuit Beneficiary card. Students who are non-status First Nation may send a photocopy of the band card issued to parent or grandparent.

English translations must accompany any documents not in English.

Incomplete application materials or application materials received after March 15 will not be considered. Application materials will not be returned to applicants.

What is the Selection Procedure?

A selection committee will evaluate all applications. Each applicant's motivation and academic potential will be assessed.

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

If you have any questions, please contact IIE:

Email: gefslp-canada@iie.org

Phone: 1-800-486-0308

Fax: 1-212-205-6466

Complete the GE Foundation Scholar-Leaders Application Here:

apply.scholarshipandmore.org/

Canadian Nurses Foundation

Canadian Nurses Foundation (CNF) is the only national foundation solely committed to promoting the health and patient care of Canadians by financially supporting Canadian nurses engaged in higher education, research, master's, PhD and Nurse Practitioner levels. In 2009 and 2010, CNF provided scholarship awards to a total of 32 Aboriginal scholars.

Interested candidates must apply by July 1. To find out how, visit www.williscollege.com

Any Aboriginal student in Canada who wishes to apply may do so directly through Willis College by July 1st. The candidate selection will be made by the Dr. William Commanda Scholarship Board of Trustees and will entitle the winner to attend the program of his/her choice at any of the Willis College campuses across Ontario.

Selection Process

Basis of Selection

The Selection Committee is looking for candidates with proven intellectual and academic ability, integrity of character, interest and respect for fellow human beings, ability to lead, demonstrate leadership and creativity in the areas of environmental stewardship and sustainable relationships, appreciation for education, and initiative to use their talents to the fullest.

Method of Selection

A Selection Committee, consisting of representatives of the Dr. William Commanda Scholarship Board of Trustees, will choose the successful candidate. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

Method of Application

The completed application, with all the required information must be forwarded to:

Selection Committee Dr. William Commanda Scholarship Board of Trustees

c/o Willis College of Business, Health & Technology

85 O'Connor Street

Ottawa, ON K1P 5M6

The applicant must:

- (i) Have a minimum of Grade 12 high school or be of age of 19 and over; and

- (ii) Provide a transcript of marks from a previous academic institution.

Payment of Award

The successful candidate will be presented with the award and a commemorative certificate at The Dr. William Commanda Scholarship Award Annual General Assembly, which is held each summer at Willis College Ottawa campus.

Canada - US Fulbright Program

Deadline: November 15

Student must be American or Canadian with Native Heritage and attending a post-secondary education institution studying countries relations between other countries.

Value of award is \$15,000.00 for student and \$25,000.00 for faculty members enrolled in graduate studies.

For more information contact:

350 Albert Street, Suite 2015,

Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 1A4

Ph: (613) 688-5540

Fax: (613) 237-2029

E-mail: info@fulbright.ca

web site: www.fulbright.ca

"The Scholarship" was announced in January 11th, 2010. The Scholarship carries a nominal value, at the time of announcement, of \$110,000.

The scholarship will accommodate one Aboriginal person, per location, to take one



Scholarships in Broadcasting

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- First Nations, Inuit or Métis permanent Canadian resident;
- Desire to follow a path to a career in the broadcast industry;
- Enrolment in Canadian post secondary Journalism or Radio and Television Arts Program or Equivalent Certified Training Program; and
- Interest in acting as an ambassador for the broadcasting industry and serving as a role model for other Aboriginal people to encourage them to pursue careers in broadcasting.

\$5,000 scholarship will be awarded in 2013

One scholarship valued at \$5,000.00 will be awarded.

This award may be applied to academic and/or living costs.

Scholarship winners are eligible for continued scholarship awards each year they continue in their approved programs in the amount of \$2,500.00 annually to a maximum total scholarship value of \$10,000.00.

Application deadline: May 17, 2013

Full scholarship details and application forms are available online:

www.sabar.ca/scholarships-internships

SABAR is pleased to offer our annual Scholarship to an Aboriginal student in Journalism or Radio/Television Arts. SABAR is particularly proud to play an important part in supporting the development of a future community leader who may have the potential to help us meet our primary goal of increasing Aboriginal reflection in Canadian broadcasting.

Please visit www.sabar.ca for more on our organization and our initiatives. Follow SABAR on twitter: @sabarnews or on facebook: /sabarnews



Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May

Check online for complete listings at www.ammsa.com



Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation (CMSF):

The CMSF Awards program was started in 1989 to identify, recognize and reward well-rounded students who combine distinguished talents with character, leadership potential, and a commitment to the community.

The CMSF National Awards

The CMSF National Award is our most prestigious scholarship. It is awarded after a rigorous process, which includes the written application and extensive interviews. A description of the National Awards follows: Up to 35 National Awards are offered to students bound for one of our 25 participating Canadian universities. The top National Award is valued at up to \$8000 cash and up to \$8000 in annual tuition for up to four years of full-time study, plus up to \$7500 in summer program funding over the course of a degree.

The CMSF Finalist Awards

CMSF Finalist Award are valued at \$2,500 and are one-time entrance awards tenable at any accredited university in Canada at which the recipient gains admission and enrolls in a full-time program of study. A Finalist Award is offered to every finalist who participates in National Selections but is not offered a CMSF National Award.

The CMSF Provincial Awards

CMSF Provincial Award are valued at \$1,500 and are one-time only entrance awards tenable at any accredited university in Canada at which the recipient gains admission and enrolls in a full-time program of study.

All Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) Awards inquires contact:

Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation (CMSF)

53 Yonge Street, 5th floor

Toronto, ON M5E 1J3

1-866-544-2673

Website www.cmsf.ca

Garfield Weston Merit Scholarships for

Colleges (GWMSC)

Deadline: March 27

Eligibility:

- 1) Be in the final year of study for a high school diploma OR be an adult in the work force.
- 2) Must NOT be university degree or college diploma graduate within the last 3 years.
- 3) Demonstrate an academic ability that will ensure success in their chosen course of study.
- 4) Demonstrate leadership potential.
- 5) Present a record of service to the school and/or community.
- 6) Demonstrate an interest in his/her selected field of study.
- 7) Be accepted at an accredited community college for 2-4 year diploma studies in the academic year after selection.

National Award:

Up to 50 available annually

For each National Award the colleges make a tuition grant of up to \$4500 per year. In addition to this, the GWMSC offers up to \$8000 per year as a stipend.

The National Award is renewable for up to 4 years of diploma studies only at our participating colleges.

To renew the National Award, award holders must:

- 1) Show continued evidence of character, leadership and service
- 2) Maintain an acceptable academic record under a full course load

GWMSC Regional Award:

Up to 30 available annually @ \$4000 Award

GWMSC Provincial Award:

Up to 25 available annually @ \$2500 Award Regional and Provincial Awards are one-time awards for use at any accredited community college in Canada.

All GWMSC Awards inquires contact:

Web Site: www.garfieldwestonawards.ca

Sir John A. MacDonal graduate fellowship in Canadian History

This scholarship is awarded to a student enrolling in a doctoral program in Canadian history at an Ontario university. The value of

award is \$8,500.00 and can be renewed for three consecutive years to a maximum of \$25,500.00.

For more information contact:

The Graduate Studies Office at Ontario Universities or

The Ministry of Education and Training Student Affairs

PO Box 4500

189 Red River Road, 4th Floor

Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 6G9

Phone: (807) 343-7257 or 1-800-465-3957

Gil Purcell Memorial Journalism Award - The Canadian Press

To a Native person studying journalism.

Value: One scholarship of \$4,000

Eligibility: Native ancestry.

Studying journalism at a Canadian university or community college.

Deadline: November 15 of each year.

Mrs. Deborah McCartney

Administrative Assistant - HR

The Canadian Press

36 King Street East

Toronto, ON M5C 2L9

Tel: 416-507-2132

Fax: 416-507-2033

E-Mail: dmccartney@cp.org

The Canadian Medical Foundation Dr. John Big Canoe Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: Applications and supporting documentation for the 2009/2010 academic year must be received by October 2010.

During each year of the program, a \$2000 scholarship may be awarded to an undergraduate Aboriginal student enrolled in the last or second to last year of study in a Canadian school of medicine who has demonstrated both strong academic performance and outstanding contributions to the aboriginal community in Canada.

Applications and supporting documentation to:

Marie-Jeanne Schoueri, Office Manager

The Canadian Medical Foundation,

1867 Alta Vista Drive,

Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7

Phone: (613) 520-7681

Toll Free: 1-866-530-4979

Fax: (613) 520-7692

Email: marie-jeanne.schoueri@cmf.ca

Web site: www.medicalfoundation.ca

Canadian Medical Association Special Bursary Program for Undergraduate Aboriginal Medical Students

Deadline: October 9

The bursary is awarded based on financial need and will provide a maximum of \$4000 per academic year to each successful applicant. A total of up to \$40,000 in bursaries may be awarded in each academic year of the program. Given that financial resources are often limited by the end of the academic year, bursaries will be awarded at this time. Bursary recipients will also receive memberships in the CMA, the relevant division of CMA (provincial or territorial) and the Native Physicians Association in Canada.

Applications and supporting documentation to:

Marie-Jeanne Schoueri, Office Manager

The Canadian Medical Foundation,

1867 Alta Vista Drive,

Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7

Phone: (613) 520-7681

Toll Free: 1-866-530-4979

Fax: (613) 520-7692

Email: marie-jeanne.schoueri@cmf.ca

Web site: www.medicalfoundation.ca

Heroes of our Time Scholarships - Assembly of First Nations

Sponsored by: Assembly of First Nations

Eligibility: First Nations Citizen

Value: TBA

Deadline Date: June 1 each year

Tommy Prince Award

Walter Dieter Award

Omer Peters Award

Robert Smallboy Award

James Gosnell Award

Applications submitted to:

Selection Committee - Heroes of Our Time

Awards

The Assembly of First Nations - Education

Sector

473 Albert Street - Suite 810

Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4

Toll-Free: 1-866-869-6789

Phone: (613) 241-6789

Fax: (613) 241-5808

Tom Longboat Award

Sponsored by: The Aboriginal Sport Circle

Eligibility: Nominations are invited from all levels of sport. To be eligible, nominees must meet the following criteria:

Must be of Aboriginal descent

Must have amateur status in the sport which they are nominated

Must be for athletic achievements within the awards calendar year

Must submit a completed Nomination Form to the appropriate Provincial/Territorial

Aboriginal Sport Body on or before the annual deadline.

Value: TBA

Criteria: Currently enrolled/accepted in medical program, demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, involved and committed to extra-curricular activities

Deadline Date: January each year.

For more information contact :

Aboriginal Sport Circle at

Email: m Trudeau@aboriginalsportcircle.ca

Ph: (613) 236-9624 ext. 223

website: www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca

Federal Student Work Experience Program (FSWEP)

FSWEP replaces the Federal Summer Student Employment Program

Offers full-time high school, CDGEP, college, technical institute and university students the opportunity to apply for student jobs with the federal government.

Application forms are available at student career offices at colleges, GEGEPS, technical

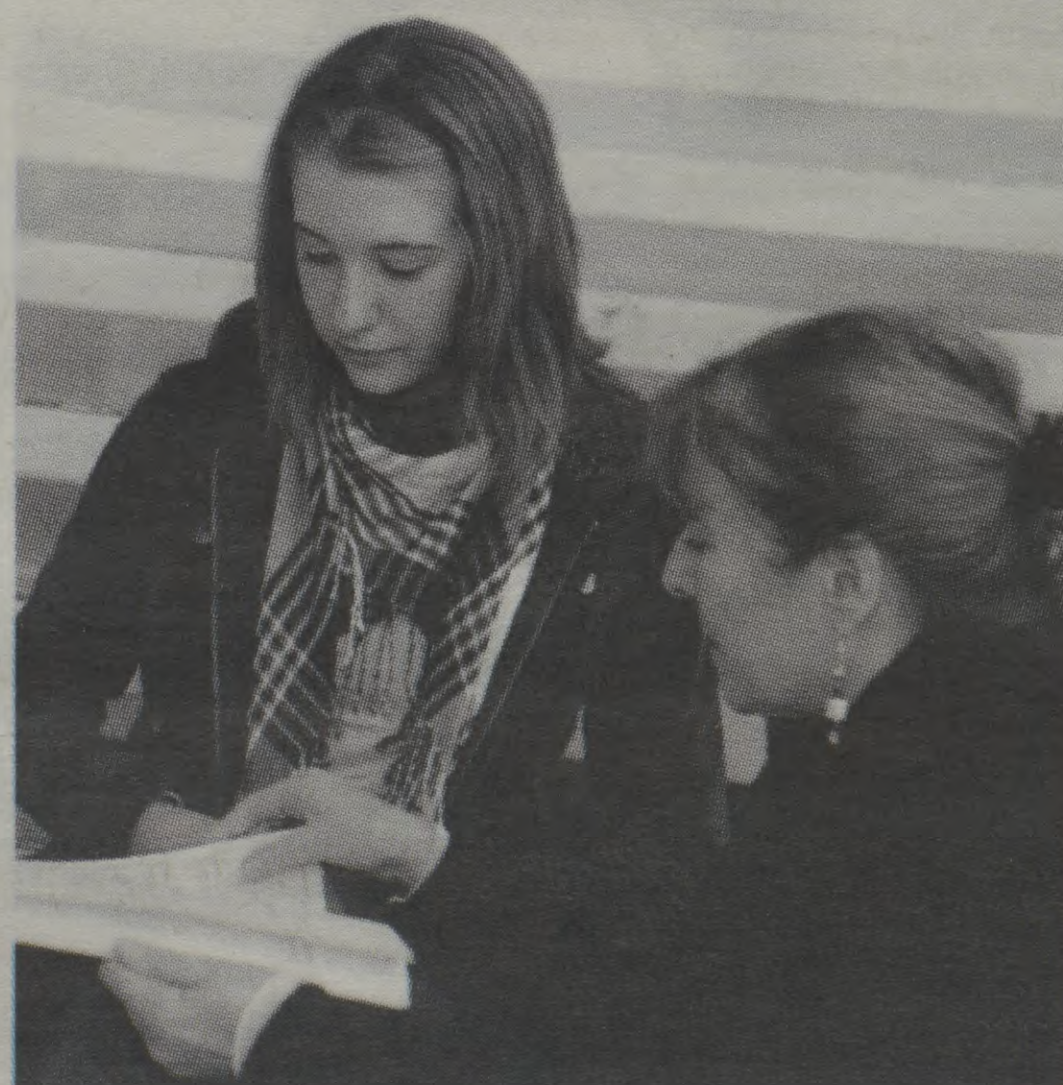
MACEWAN

See the strength in everyone.

Neglect, abuse, emotional distress, family breakdowns: prepare for a rewarding career helping at-risk children, youth and their families manage emotional and behavioral problems.

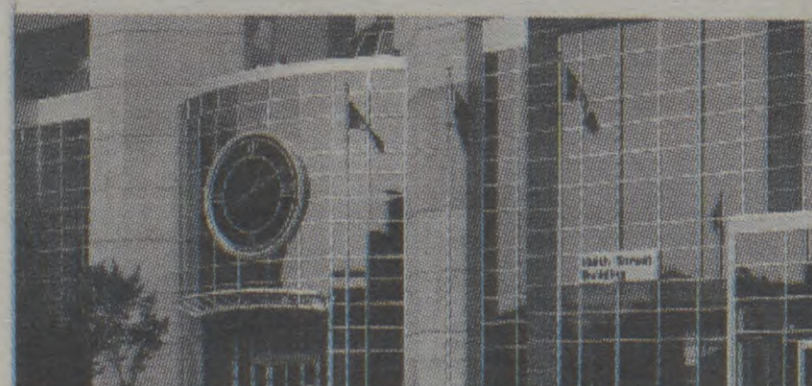
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in the field.

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MacEwan.ca/CYC



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driver.recruitment@siemenstransport.com

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (GDI-SUNTEP) is recruiting students for Fall 2013

SUNTEP is a four year accredited Bachelor of Education program, offered by the Gabriel Dumont Institute in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and the University of Regina.

- SUNTEP offers smaller classes, tutoring and counseling support, accessible instructors and an on-campus location.
- Specializations are Reading/Language Arts, Cross Cultural Education and Indigenous Studies.

If you are Métis and interested in teacher education, please come and see us at College West Building, Room 227, University of Regina, or contact us at the number below. First Nation students with band support are welcome to apply.



Gabriel Dumont Institute

GDI-SUNTEP Regina
CW 227, U of R
3737 Wascana Parkway
Regina, SK S4S 0A2
Phone: 306.347.4110



www.gdins.org

institutions and universities, Human Resources Centres of Canada, and PSC Regional and District offices.

Canada Trust Scholarship for Outstanding Community Leadership

Full tuition plus \$3,500 toward living expenses. Guaranteed offer of summer employment at Canada Trust.
Deadline: October 31
Contact: 1-800-308-8306

Investing in the future growth of Aboriginal Youth - Canadian National

CN makes awards available to Inuit, status or non-status Indian or Métis students entering or enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program in Canada that leads to a career in the transportation industry. This includes fields such as engineering, business, computer science, communications and technical studies.

Deadline: June 1 of each year.

For more info. contact your band office, friendship centre or college of your choice.
Web Site: www.cn.ca/en/careers-offer-scholarships-aboriginal-awards.htm

To obtain further information or an application form, please contact:

Aboriginal Awards Program

c/o Indspire

70 Yorkville Avenue, Suite 33A

Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B9

Telephone: 1-800-329-9780 (toll-free)

CN Scholarship For Women

Deadline: October 15 each year

CN encourages women to pursue non-traditional careers in areas such as trades, technology and operations. To date, participation by women in these fields has been limited. This is a special CN initiative aimed at promoting employment equity in Canada. Scholarships are awarded annually to women in selected community colleges and institutes of technology across Canada.

Web Site: www.cn.ca/en/careers-offer-scholarships-women.htm

Educational Awards Program - Husky Oil

Deadline: May 31

Awards announced: July 31

Up to 7 Aboriginal students are selected each year.

Awards of up to \$3,000 per year will be granted to cover a portion of tuition, books, or living expenses.

Aboriginal people (Inuit, Métis, Status and Non Status Indians) who meet the following qualifications:

- * Canadian citizen

- * in need of financial assistance

- * demonstrate serious interest in furthering their educational and career development

Preference will be given to applicants whose residence is located on or near one of Husky's exploration, development or operation sites. Individuals pursuing academic post-secondary studies at a university, community college or technical institute are eligible to apply.

Diversity and Aboriginal Affairs

Husky Oil Operations Limited

P.O. Box 6525, Station D

Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G7

RBC Aboriginal Student Awards

Deadline: January 31

Ten (10) awards of up to \$4,000/ year for four (4) years at university or two years at college.

- * You are a permanent resident or citizen of Canada

- * You have been accepted to or are currently attending an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada

- * You maintain a full course load that leads to a recognized degree, certificate or diploma

- * You require financial assistance to pursue your education

A committee of Aboriginal academics and RBC representatives review all completed applications and makes the final selection of the award recipients primarily based on personal and academic achievements and individual financial need. Successful applicants are notified of the committee's decision by June 15 of each year. All decisions of the committee are final.

You will receive up to \$4,000 per academic year for educational and living expenses for a maximum of four years. To receive the full amount for all years of study, you must attend an accredited post-secondary institution, remain in the program of study we awarded the scholarship for and maintain a full-time course load and good academic standing. RBC requests confirmation of your full course load and good academic standing at the beginning of every fall and winter semester. This confirmation will be collected in a way satisfactory to RBC. You will receive the first half of your scholarship at the beginning of the fall semester. If you maintain a good academic standing, you will receive the balance in January. Please note that RBC reserves the right to change or discontinue this program at any time. We will honour commitments already in place if the program changes or ends.

Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-780-2188

Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-780-2188

Mail:

RBC Aboriginal Student Awards

C/O Aboriginal Link

PO Box 50058, 17-2595 Main Street

Winnipeg, MB R2V 4W3

www.gotoapply.ca/RBC

CMHC Housing Awards: Housing for Youth

Individuals, firms, institutions and government agencies that are delivering programs that improve choice, quality or affordability of housing for youth may be nominated for a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Award. Awards and honourable mentions are given to those individuals or groups that have achieved excellence in one of five categories: financing and tenure, technology and production, planning and regulation, concept and design, and process and management.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Social and Economic Policy and Research

700 Montreal Road Room C7-417

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7

Phone: 1-800-668-2642

Web: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

Polaris - Northern Star Program

This awards program recognizes the creative and innovative environmental actions by youth who have had an impact within their communities.

Young people up to 25 years of age may be nominated for an award. Completed forms are due by March 31 of each year.

For more information and a nomination form, call the Action 21 National Office toll free at: 1 800 668-6767.

Department of Justice Canada Entrance Scholarships for Aboriginal Students

The Department of Justice Canada has made available three-year scholarships to Métis and non-status Indian students who wish to attend law school. Each year, ten or more pre-law scholarships will be made available to Métis and non-status Indians, to cover the cost of attending a summer orientation program offered by the Native Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon and a summer French language pre-law orientation program at the University of Ottawa.

In September, ten or more three-year law school scholarships will be made available to Métis and non-status applicants to defray their living costs, textbooks, tuition fees, and other costs. The Department of Justice Canada is accepting applications for the summer pre-law program until 1 April, and applications for the law school scholarships until 1 June. Students interested in both programs must forward two separate applications.

For further information and application forms, contact:

**Program Assistant,
 Legal Studies for Aboriginal People Program,
 Department of Justice Canada,
 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8**

Similar financial assistance is available from Indian and Northern Affairs for registered Indian and Inuit students.

Sears Canada Inc. Scholarship:

Deadline: June 1

Ten scholarships of \$1,000 are available to children of Sears employees. Applications are available from and submitted to:

Canadian Awards Program,
 International & Canadian Programs Division,
 Association of Universities and Colleges of
 Canada,
 Suite 600, 350 Albert Street,
 Ottawa, Ontario K1R 1B1
Web: www.aucc.com

Chevron Canada Resources

Deadline: January 31

Number of scholarships varies, value up to \$5,000

Available to students of Aboriginal heritage interested in undertaking a period of study in public administration and/or community affairs involving drug/alcohol education and rehabilitation. Special consideration given to residents of Northwest territories and other areas of concern.

Parent must be Chevron employee

Apply to: Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

**#201, 130 Albert Street,
 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4**

Phone: (613) 238-3525

TD Bank and First Nations Bank of Canada

Aboriginal Education Awards

Deadline: March 31

Value: Five awards of \$1,000 each. Recipients will also receive consideration for summer employment and full-time employment once education is complete.

Criteria: Applicants must be of Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Inuit, Métis); full time student at recognized Canadian post secondary institution pursuing a program relevant to a career in banking such as business, economics, computer science, math and sciences; in need of financial assistance to

further educational goals.

Apply to:

Award Coordinator

Toronto Dominion Centre

201 Portage Avenue

P.O. Box 7700

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3E7

J. Michael Waldram Fellowships - The Canadian Model Forest Network and the Canadian Institute of Forestry

The Canadian Model Forest Network, together with the Canadian Institute of Forestry, has awarded J. Michael Waldram Fellowships of \$1000 each to three students in resource management programs in British Columbia and Quebec.

The J. Michael Waldram Fellowship was first awarded in 2008 and is given annually to assist Aboriginal youths pursuing studies in natural resource management at the college or university level.

This award honours Mike Waldram, General Manager of the Manitoba Model Forest from 1993 to 2006. As General Manager, Waldram strove to enhance the participation of Aboriginal peoples in the model forest and in forest resource management.

The Canadian Model Forest represents Canada's 14 Model Forests, in a shared vision of advancing sustainable forests and sustainable communities.

Contact:

David Winston, President, CMFN

Phone: 613-258-8400 or dwinston@cmfn-rcfm.ca

AMEC Aboriginal Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship

Deadline: January 15

Value: \$5,000

In conjunction with AMEC, CEMF offers up to one \$5000 Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship annually to young Canadian Aboriginal women who are proven leaders and

active in their community to encourage them to pursue a career in engineering. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited Canadian undergraduate engineering program of study and be:

1. In their first year, or

2. In their second year, or

3. In the first term of their third year, immediately prior to the December deadline. Scholarships are based primarily on demonstrated community leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities. Special emphasis is placed on leadership to recognize and encourage continued contributions to Canadian society.

Work experience may also be considered. High marks are not one of the criteria for this scholarship.

Applicants must be willing to act as role models and promote engineering as a career choice to young Aboriginal girls - each Scholarship winner will be required to make at least one presentation to a high-school level audience

Unleash your Potential

BVC provides a nurturing environment for our community of Aboriginal learners.

Our Aboriginal Centre offers:

- Student support programs and activities
- Cultural teachings
- Academic assistance for student success
- Access to an Elder for cultural and spiritual consultation
- Information about financial aid and scholarships



BOW VALLEY
COLLEGE

FIND OUT MORE

bowvalleycollege.ca | 403-410-1786

New South Campus
ABORIGINAL CENTRE
 Grand Opening Celebration
June 21, 2013

Aboriginal scholarships and bursaries available.
 Contact Angele Patry for more details apatry@bowvalleycollege.ca

NEW ADDRESS: 345 - 6 Avenue SE, Calgary, T2G 4V1

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**EDUCATION FOR
 THE REAL WORLD**



of Aboriginal youth. Scholarship funds may be used by the winner as she wishes. Successful applicants will be paid in two installments - \$3,000 within approximately four months of the application deadline date and \$2,000 twelve months after the first installment, upon submission of:

1. Confirmation in writing of continued enrollment in engineering prior to payment of the first installment and proof of promotion to the next year or term of engineering study.
2. A written report to CEMF prior to payment of the second installment which shall include:
 - a. A written update of community and extra-curricular involvement demonstrating leadership qualities,
 - b. Proof of having made at least one presentation to a high-school Aboriginal audience including a letter of confirmation from an attending teacher,
 - c. Proof of promotion to the next year of engineering study.

The Foundation reserves the right to not issue a scholarship in any given year. A Committee appointed by the Foundation will select the winners, with the Judges being both engineers and non-engineers. The Committee's assessment will be based on all of the information provided with the application. Any application that is incomplete in any way will be rejected prior to judging and another application will not be accepted until the following year. The decision of the Judges will be final.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be Canadian Aboriginals with permanent residence in Canada. In accordance with the Constitution Act, 1982, Part II, Section 35(2), an Aboriginal applicant is an Indian, Inuit, or Métis person of Canada, or a person who is accepted by one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as a member of their community.

The following will be accepted as proof of ancestry:

- * A certified copy of a Status or Treaty card;
- * A certified copy of a Métis membership card;
- * A certified copy of an Nunavut Trust Certificate card, roll number or any other proof accepted by Inuit communities;
- * Proof that an ancestor's name has been entered
- in the Indian Register according to the Indian Act, or
- on the Band list of an individual Band, or

- on the Inuit roll;
- * Evidence of an ancestor who received a land grant or a script grant under the Manitoba Act or the Dominion Lands Act;
- * Written confirmation of Aboriginal ancestry from the Department of Indian Affairs;
- * A Statutory Declaration by an Applicant attesting to Aboriginal ancestry, supplemented by letters or documentation supporting that Declaration

- from an official or a recognized native organization, or
- from a relative in the Aboriginal community, or
- from the Applicant describing involvement with Aboriginal issues.

All applicants must be enrolled in a Canadian university accredited engineering program. Previous AMEC Scholarship Winners are not eligible to apply although unsuccessful applicants may re-apply in a subsequent year if they qualify.

There is no limitation on the number of applications from any university or program. All applications must be submitted by all applicants directly to:

**The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation
AMEC Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship Award
P. O. Box 370, 1-247 Barr Street
Renfrew, Ontario
K7V 4A6
www.cemf.ca**

The Department of National Defence Security and Defence Forum (SDF)

SDF Aboriginal Scholarship Program

Value: \$10,000

Number available: The Security and Defence Forum has set aside up to \$10,000 a year to fund Aboriginal scholars. The exact number and value awarded annually will depend on the number and quality of applicants.

Scholarship funds may cover tuition fees and or expenses related to a degree program, including - but not limited to - support for distance learning.

Deadline: The 2006 competition is now closed.

Objective: The Security and Defence Forum Aboriginal scholarship is intended to help develop and promote scholarly interest in

contemporary Canadian security and defence issues among members of the First Nations (status or non-status), Inuit, and Métis Canadians. Security and defence issues include, but are not limited to:

- * Failed or failing states
- * Terrorism
- * Weapons of Mass Destruction
- * Regional flashpoints
- * Canadian Forces Transformation, including integrated and unified approaches to operations
- * The Defence of Canada
- * Canada-United States defence relations
- * The Canadian Forces' international role
- * The Integrated Defence, Diplomacy and Development ("3D") approach to conflict and post-conflict situations
- * Defence procurement and management
- * National Defence's support to other government departments and agencies

In addition to financial support for security and defence studies, the Security and Defence Forum also introduces recipients to the Policy Group of National Defence Headquarters and provides award recipients with the opportunity to have their research circulated within the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Forces.

Fields of study: Social sciences/humanities studies relating to current and future Canadian security and defence issues, including their political, international, historical, social, military, and economic dimensions. Research in the pure or applied sciences is ineligible. Applicants must explain in their proposal the relationship of their study/research plans to Canadian security and defence issues.

Eligibility:

- * Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents at the time of application and be of either a member of the First Nations (status or non-status), Inuit or Métis.

* Applicants must, as a minimum requirement, hold an Honours Bachelor's degree (four year program) or its equivalent before taking up the award.

Duration:

One academic year, and can be used to assist students in continuing their graduate studies at university and/or to purchase technology required to assist distance learning

Eligible institutions: Graduate scholarships are tenable only at Canadian institutions.

For more information: For complete information

and application form please visit the DND website. If you wish to have an application form emailed to you, **please contact awards@aucc.ca**
Ph: (613) 563-1236 — Fax: (613) 563-9745
Aboriginal:
www.aucc.ca/scholarships/dnd/aboriginal_e.html

Indigenous Scholarship Program - Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown

Value: \$2,000

Number: 4 awards in 2009

Deadline: N/A

Conceived and established in 2003 by Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown, the Indigenous Scholarship Program sets aside program funds for every room night spent at the hotel by a member of Canada's Aboriginal Community.

Each year, the hotel will award at least one scholarship to First Nation youth that are pursuing a post-secondary education. Open to all Aboriginal students, the Indigenous Scholarship Program considers a number of criteria in awarding scholarships including financial situation, academic achievement, community involvement and career aspirations. The Indigenous Scholarship Program is managed by Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown with recommendations from an Executive Education Committee and input from an Advisory Board made up of representatives from Canada's Aboriginal Community.

Eligibility: Any Aboriginal student currently enrolled at or, accepted to a post secondary institution.

Application: Application form and eligibility criteria for the Indigenous Scholarship Program can be obtained by calling the Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown at 1-800-663-9151.

Web site:

holidayinnvancouverdowntown.com

CSA Spaceflight and Life Sciences Training Program Scholarship

The trainee(s) will be sponsored by the Canadian Space Agency and will receive:

- * round trip transportation between their home in Canada and the Orlando International Airport in Florida
 - * accommodation in the Cocoa Beach area
 - * local transportation to and from the Kennedy Space Center
 - * a daily meal allowance, which should also cover some other expenses
- Eligibility

- limited to currently enrolled full-time undergraduate students who:

- * are pursuing their first undergraduate B.Sc. degree in a life science program at a recognized university

* have a minimum cumulative average of 75% at the time of application

* will have completed their second or third year of study (first year or second year of study in the case of Quebec students, called, respectively, U1 and U2 by the Quebec Ministère de l'éducation) by the start of the training program

* are proficient in English (score of at least 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, TOEFL);

* are Canadian citizens, who have or can obtain a valid Canadian passport and are at least 18 years of age

Web Site: www.space.gc.ca/slstp

Email address for inquiries: slstp@space.gc.ca

CSA Space Exploration Scholarship -

www.space.gc.ca/ses

Email address for inquiries: ses@space.gc.ca

How to Apply

Application materials include:

1. A completed Space Life Sciences Training Program Application Form (pdf document).
2. A 500-word typed double spaced essay which will be used to evaluate the applicant's experience and written communication skills. The essay should contain three parts:

1. A paragraph covering the classroom, laboratory and research experiences of the applicant in the life sciences,

2. A paragraph demonstrating the applicant's knowledge of space research, interest in space life sciences, and

3. How the Training Program will further their career goals. The applicant's full name must appear on each page of the essay.

3. TWO completed Reference Request Forms (pdf document) from people familiar with the academic and/or research record of the applicant. References can be sent a) directly by the referee or b) by the applicant. If sent by the student, the reference must be submitted in a sealed envelope with the referee's original signature over the seal. References sent by both submission methods must arrive by the stated deadline.

4. An official transcript from every college, cégep, and university attended, up to and including the fall of the current academic year. Grade notifications in possession of the applicant will not be considered.

PATHWAYS TO INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT



The University of Manitoba is home to a dynamic community of Indigenous students, faculty and staff. Each year we welcome over 2,000 Indigenous students, and each year many Indigenous graduates return to their communities as leaders and role models, visionaries and innovators.

At the U of M we strive to ensure that First Nations, Metis and Inuit values are acknowledged, embraced and infused into life on our campuses.

Our Pathways to Indigenous Achievement plan is based on four directions that harness the power of education to transform communities and the lives of young people. By working with a variety of partners and communities, we are creating a centre of excellence in Manitoba for Indigenous education and research.

Sarah Flattery, Ojibway student, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources

For more information, please visit:
UMANITOBA.CA/INDIGENOUS



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Please note that SLSTP is presented in English and applications must be submitted in English only.

Completed application materials must be postmarked by January 31 and mailed to:

SLSTP
Space Science Program
Canadian Space Agency
 6767 Route de l'Aéroport
 Saint-Hubert, QC J3Y 8Y9
 Marion Neiman
 CSA Scholarships Coordinator
 Project Manager/Consultant
 Lansdowne Technologies
 Suite 1001 - 275 Slater Street
 Ottawa ON K1P 5H9
www.lansdowne.com

Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program

Cultivating Tomorrow's Environmental Leaders Every day, in communities across Canada, young people are actively demonstrating their passion for the environment through the important work they accomplish. These dedicated young Canadians are emerging as tomorrow's environmental leaders and advocates.

Toyota Canada Inc. and Earth Day Canada established the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program to help cultivate and nurture this environmental leadership. The Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program encourages and rewards graduating high school students and Québec junior college students who have distinguished themselves through environmental community service, extracurricular and volunteer activities, and academic excellence.

Because environmental issues are increasingly being tackled through multidisciplinary approaches, future environmental leaders will come from a broad range of academic backgrounds. The Toyota Earth Day Scholarship is offered to students entering their first year of post-secondary studies in the discipline of their choice, to prepare themselves for the career of their choice.

The Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program grants 15 awards of \$5000 each annually, to be applied directly towards tuition, books, room and board (where applicable) or other educational expenses for the first year of post-secondary full-time studies in Canada.

Regional panels of community, business and environmental leaders will select the winners who best meet the selection criteria. Awards will be granted in five geographic areas:

- Atlantic Canada - 2 awards
- Québec - 4 awards
- Ontario - 4 awards
- Western Canada/Northwest Territories/Nunavut - 3 awards
- British Columbia/Yukon - 2 awards

A national winner - selected from the 15 regional winners - will also be awarded an Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award and a Panasonic CF50 ToughbookT notebook computer. The National Award Ceremony will be held in Toronto on Earth Day (April 22), 2013

Application Deadline: Jan 31

For applications and more information please visit: www.earthday.ca/scholarship

Alliance Pipeline Aboriginal Student Awards Program

Number: One
 Value: Cost of tuition, books and supplies to a maximum of \$4,000 per academic year.

Deadline: January 10

Eligibility: Aboriginal students who are residents of Saskatchewan, Alberta or British Columbia; enrolled in, or have applied to a technical school, college or university, in a program relevant to the oil and gas industry; relevant programs include: mechanical engineering technology, instrumentation engineering technology, electrical engineering technology, power engineering, mechanical engineering or business administration.

Coordinator, Aboriginal Student Awards Program

Alliance Pipeline Ltd., #400
 605 5th Avenue South West
 Calgary, Alberta T2P 3H5
 E-mail: awards@alliance-pipeline.com
 Website: www.alliance-pipeline.com

Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarships Awards Program

Value: \$3,500 (maximum for college) and \$4,500 (maximum for university)
 The awards are designed to cover tuition, textbooks, supplies and other compulsory fees.

Deadline: June 30 of each year

Imperial Oil Resources offers four individual education awards each year to any person of Aboriginal ancestry entering post-secondary studies. The purpose of the awards program is to encourage people of Aboriginal ancestry to pursue undergraduate post-secondary educational studies in disciplines relevant to the petroleum industry. Applicants must reside in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories or the Yukon for at least one year immediately prior to applying for the award.

Application form, full program guidelines

and eligibility details can be obtained by calling Imperial Oil Community and Aboriginal Affairs at 780-639-5194.

Jennifer Robinson Memorial Scholarship - Arctic Institute of North America

Value: One scholarship of \$5,000.
 The Jennifer Robinson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduate student in northern biology who best exemplifies the qualities of scholarship that the late Jennifer Robinson brought to her studies at the Institute's Kluane Lake Research Station.

Eligibility: Applicants must submit: a brief description of the proposed research (two to three pages), including a clear hypothesis, relevance, title and statement of the purpose of the research, the area and type of study, the methodology and plan for evaluation of findings. A collaborative relationship or work should be briefly identified; three academic reference letters; a complete curriculum vitae with transcripts; and a list of current sources and amounts of research funding, including scholarships, grants and bursaries.

The scholarship committee looks for evidence of northern relevance, and a commitment to field-oriented research.

Deadline: January 10

Executive Director
Arctic Institute of North America
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220-7515
Fax: (403) 282-4609

Jim Bourque Scholarship - Arctic Institute of North America

Value: One scholarship of \$1,000.
 The Jim Bourque Scholarship is awarded to a Canadian Aboriginal student who intends to take, or is enrolled in, post-secondary training in education, environmental, traditional knowledge or telecommunications. The scholarship is open to mature students and matriculating students alike.

Eligibility: Each applicant must submit, in 500 words or less, a description of his or her intended program of study and the reasons for the choice of program. In addition, applicants must: include a copy of their most recent high school or college/university transcript; a signed letter of recommendation from a community leader (e.g., Town or Band Council, Chamber of Commerce, Métis Local, etc.); a statement of financial need, indicating funding already received or expected; and proof of enrollment in, or application to a post-secondary institution.

Deadline: July 18

Executive Director
Arctic Institute of North America
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220-7515
Fax: (403) 282-4609

Lorraine Allison Scholarship - Arctic Institute of North America

Value: One scholarship of \$2,000.
 Eligibility: The Lorraine Allison Scholarship is open to any student enrolled at a Canadian university in a program of graduate study related to northern issues, whose application best addresses academic excellence, a demonstrated commitment to northern research, and a desire for research results to be beneficial to northerners, especially Native northerners. Candidates in biological science fields are preferred, but social science topics are also considered. Scholars from Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut are encouraged to apply.

Each application must contain: a two-page description of the northern studies program and relevant projects being undertaken; three letters of reference from the applicants' current or past professors; a complete curriculum vitae with academic transcripts; and a list of all current sources of research funding.

Deadline: January 10

Executive Director
Arctic Institute of North America
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220-7515
Fax: (403) 282-4609

Northern Resident Scholarships - Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

Value: Four (4) awards of \$10,000.
 The Northern Scientific Training Program is sponsoring four scholarships, valued at \$10,000 each, for students identified as long-term residents of Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon, or the Provincial North, enrolled in full-time, post-secondary programs at the undergraduate level at a Canadian college or university.

Northern Resident Award - Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

Value: Eight (8) awards of \$5,000.
 The Northern Scientific Training Program is sponsoring eight (8) scholarships valued at \$5,000 each for students identified as long term residents of Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Yukon or the Provincial North, currently enrolled in master or doctoral-level programs at a Canadian university.

#Research Support Opportunity in Arctic

Education for whatever path you take.

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LEARN. DO. SUCCEED.

AT NAIT, people matter. We promise relevant knowledge, real skills and rewarding careers to our students. We deliver on that promise every day.

We offer scholarships and bursaries for aboriginal students enrolled in our full-time, part-time and apprenticeship programs. Our aim is to support and recognize students just like you.

We believe in empowering Alberta's aboriginal community by supporting access to education and rewarding student achievement.

For more information:
www.nait.ca/scholarships
 Email awards@nait.ca
 Phone 780.491.3056



A LEADING POLYTECHNIC COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS

The complete Aboriginal Scholarship Guide is online at: www.ammsa.com



GRIEF SUPPORT CERTIFICATION TRAINING

If you are, or would like to work with dying or grieving people, THIS TRAINING IS FOR YOU



During this training you will:

- Find ways to alleviate emotional and spiritual suffering as life ends
- Receive advanced knowledge of grief and grief responses
- Advance therapeutic counselling skills
- Apply experiential activities to help and heal physical, emotional, mental and spiritual effects of grief
- Receive Certification to offer Grief Support and Education to individuals, groups, families and communities



Approved for national and international certification and recertification with Can. Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation
CACCF & ICADC 40 CEU'S

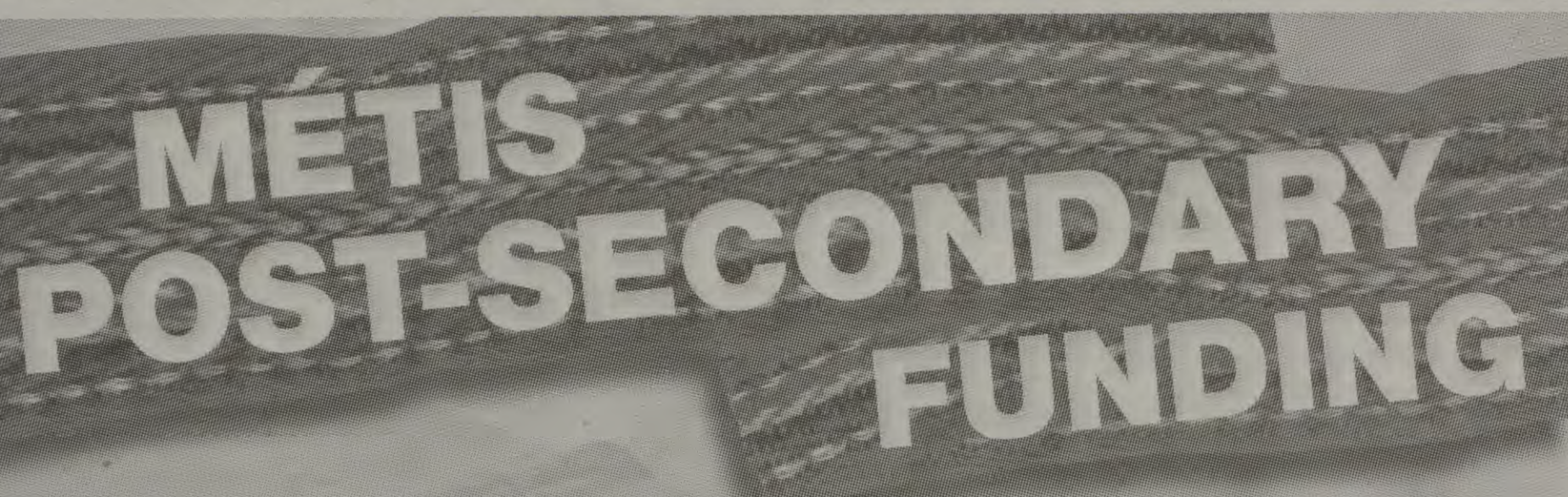
Star of the North Retreat Centre, St. Albert, AB June 10-14, 2013
Option 1: No room, 5 lunches, \$1942.50 with GST Option 2: With room and meals, \$2152.50 with GST

Next TRAUMA RECOVERY CERTIFICATION TRAINING: August 14-20 and October 21-27, 2013, St. Albert
Cost for both modules includes meals and rooms \$4,474.50 with GST
Cost without accommodation available • Split Option and 160 CACCF credits available

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Métis Training To Employment Services can provide support to Métis students entering:

- » The final two semesters of a university degree, a college diploma or a technical institute program;
- » The first and second year of technical training in a Registered Apprenticeship Trade;
- » A certificate program of one year or less;
- » A college diploma or technical institute program for up to two years in length if the training results in an occupation designated as being in high demand;
- » The financial contribution for eligible clients may include tuition, mandatory books and supplies and income support.

Métis Scholar Awards are also available to students at a number of post-secondary institutions across Alberta. Contact Métis Training To Employment Services, or your school for more information on awards at:

- » Grant MacEwan University
- » NorQuest College
- » Portage College
- » University of Alberta
- » University of Lethbridge
- » NAIT
- » University of Calgary
- » Mount Royal University
- » Grande Prairie Regional College

For more information, contact:
Métis Training to Employment Services
1-888-48-MÉTIS (1-888-486-3847)
www.metisemployment.ca



Canada
Rupertsland Institute
Métis Centre of Excellence

Environmental Studies - Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
The Meteorological Service of Canada (a division of Environment Canada) sponsors a unique research support opportunity by providing accommodation, facilities, and services at the High Arctic Weather Station (HAWS) at Eureka on Ellesmere Island, to graduate students at the masters or doctoral level. Preference will be given to environmental research proposals in the physical or biological sciences.

Deadline: March 31
Application materials will not be accepted by fax or email.
Mail complete packages to:
Canadian Northern Studies Trust Awards Program
Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
17 York Street, Suite 405
Ottawa, ON
K1N 9J6
www.acuns.ca

James W. Bourque Studentship in Northern Geography - Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
Value: One scholarship of \$10,000.
Eligibility: The James W. Bourque Studentship is awarded for research on subjects relating to northern geographical research. While applications are normally from students in geography departments, careful consideration is given to students in related fields. In making its decision, the Management Committee is guided by academic record, potential for development, and the applicant's interest in, and commitment to, advancing the knowledge and appreciation of the geography of northern regions. If you apply to the James W. Bourque Studentship in Northern Geography and to the Studentship in Northern Studies only one set of official university transcripts and reference letters is necessary.
Deadline: January 31
Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies
17 York Street, Suite 405
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9J6
Phone: (613) 562-0515
Fax: (613) 562-0533

Intelligent Sensing For Innovative Structures (ISIS) Canada Research Scholarship for Aboriginal People in Engineering
Value: One scholarship of \$5,000 per year.
Intelligent Sensing for Innovative Structures (ISIS Canada) is a Network of Centres of Excellence funded by the federal and provincial governments, the university communities and the private sector. The mandate of ISIS Canada is to develop a new generation of sophisticated civil engineering structures for the 21st century.
Eligibility: In order to be eligible, applicants must be graduates in engineering or applied sciences at a Canadian university or be currently enrolled in a degree program, and must be registered in, or intending to proceed to, graduate study in engineering or applied sciences. The scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period and may be renewed for a second year at the discretion of the awarding committee.
Deadline: March 31
ISIS Canada - Scholarship Committee
University of Manitoba
A250 Agricultural and Civil Engineering Building
96 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2N2
Attention: Mrs. Kim Archer
Web: www.isiscanada.com/students/scholarships.html

Intelligent Sensing For Innovative Structures (ISIS) Canada - Research Scholarship for Women and Aboriginal People
Value: One scholarship of up to \$5,000.
Eligibility: Applicants must: be women or be of Aboriginal ancestry; be engineering graduates or currently enrolled in a degree and intending to pursue graduate studies; be seeking solutions to the deterioration of steel reinforced concrete; and be in third year civil engineering or above.

Deadline: March 31
ISIS Canada - Scholarship Committee
University of Manitoba
A250 Agricultural and Civil Engineering Building
96 Dafoe Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3T 2N2
Attention: Mrs. Kim Archer
Web: www.isiscanada.com/students/scholarships.html

National Union Scholarship for Aboriginal Canadians
Value: One scholarship of \$1,000.
Eligibility: The award is open to all Aboriginal Canadian students who plan to enter the first year of a public post-secondary education institution full-time, and who are children of, or foster children of, a National Union member. The award is given to the writer of the best 750-1000 word essay on "The importance of

quality public services in enhancing the quality of life of Aboriginal Canadians."
Deadline: June 30
Scholarships
National Union of Public and General Employees
15 Auriga Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B7
Phone: (613) 228-9800
Fax: (613) 228-9801
Email: ltrepanier@nupge.ca

National Union Scholarship for Visible Minorities
Value: One of \$1,000.
Eligibility: The award is open to all visible minority students who plan to enter the first year of a public post-secondary educational institution full-time, and who are the children, or foster children, of a National Union member. The award will be given to the writer of the best 750-1000 word essay on "The importance of quality public services in enhancing the quality of life of visible minorities."

Deadline: June 30
Scholarships
National Union of Public and General Employees
15 Auriga Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B7
Phone: (613) 228-9800
Fax: (613) 228-9801
Email: ltrepanier@nupge.ca

Indspire Awards
(formerly National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation)

Fine Arts:
Two deadlines annually on May 1 and November 30

OFIC Bursary:
For Mature Aboriginal Women with Dependant Child(ren) Residing in an Urban Setting in Ontario: Deadline May 1
Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP)
PRE-LAW Bursary Award: Deadline May 15

Oil and Gas Aboriginal Trades & Technology
Two deadlines annually on May 1 and November 30

Aboriginal Health Careers:
One deadline annually on June 1

Post-Secondary Education Awards:
One deadline annually on June 1

Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program (Inspire)
Imperial Oil has formed a partnership with Indspire to manage its Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program (ASAP).
The purpose of the awards program is to encourage and assist people of Aboriginal ancestry to pursue post-secondary educational studies in disciplines relevant to the petroleum industry.
Please apply on-line at Indspire's post-secondary education bursary awards program or contact Indspire at 1-800-329-9780.

Aboriginal Health Careers Program Scholarship (Indspire)
Deadline: May 1
Provides support for students who are pursuing accredited health studies leading to employment in the health professions and who have demonstrated the potential for academic success.
Eligible fields of study: medicine, nursing, dentistry, biology, chemistry, physiotherapy, pharmacy, clinical psychology, laboratory research and technology and any other health field in which a study of the hard sciences is a pre-requisite.

Aboriginal Veterans' Scholarship Trust - Canada (Indspire)
For students engaged in fields of study that support and contribute to Aboriginal self-governance and economic self-reliance. For more information check out the web site Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust.

Business, Sciences and General Education Program (Indspire)
Value: Varies from \$1,000 to \$8,000
Eligibility: Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Métis, Inuit) attending a Canadian Community College (CEGEP) or university (first year or returning students); registered in programs such as business, health sciences, new and advanced technologies (not limited to these). Priority is given to students enrolled in business and sciences.
Deadline: June 1

Diane Fowler Leblanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship (Indspire)
Value: The amount of each scholarship is based on the individual needs of each candidate (tuition, course materials, living expenses, daycare, travel) up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year for three or four years, depending on the institution's course requirements.
Eligibility: The scholarship is open to all Aboriginal people, including Métis, Inuit, and

Search the 500+ bursary and scholarship listings by region and by school!

The complete Aboriginal Scholarship Guide is online at: www.ammsa.com

Status and Non-Status Indians, interested in studying at the Bachelor of Social Work level at a recognized educational institution in Canada.

The Alberta Museology Internship (Indspire)
Value: Varies.

Two four month internships at the Provincial Museum of Alberta for Aboriginal students pursuing a career in ethnology, natural history or Canadian history.

Arts Scholarship Program (Indspire)
Deadline: March 31.

Value: Based on Budget needs. All areas related to the visual, performing, media, graphic and literary arts. Award decision based on merit of project, quality of training and financial need. Art work samples will need to be sent with application.

Petro Canada Education Awards for Native Students (Indspire)
Deadline June 15

Five education awards of up to \$5,000 are available to native students of Canadian or Inuit ancestry entering or enrolled in post-secondary programs where studies can be applied in an industrial setting in the oil and gas industry. Selection is based on financial need, academic performance and potential, appropriateness of studies to industry, and future aspirations.

Contact individual schools for application forms.

Shell Canada Aboriginal Scholarship Program (Indspire)

Preference will be given to studies in business, science and engineering.

CIBC Achievers (Indspire)

Fields of study an unlimited.

TransCanada Pipelines Leadership Awards (Indspire)

With these awards, TransCanada Pipelines is helping Aboriginal students prepare themselves to play leading roles in the fields of engineering, business and commerce, law, science and technology, environment and communications.

BP Canada Aboriginal Young Achievers Scholarship (Indspire)

Priority for these scholarships may be given to students who are pursuing careers in business, engineering, environmental studies and physical sciences.

Great-West Life Business Education Scholarship (Indspire)

This scholarship was created to help Aboriginal

students from across Canada to succeed in the areas of business and entrepreneurship.

TD Bank Financial Group Scholarships (Indspire)

Through its support of the scholarship program, TD Bank Financial Group is helping to make it easier for Aboriginal students to realize their educational goals.

UGG Agricultural Scholarships (Indspire)

UGG is pleased to provide scholarships to encourage Aboriginal students from the Prairie Provinces to pursue careers in fields related to agriculture.

The CN Aboriginal Scholarships (Indspire)

These scholarships provide funding assistance to Aboriginal students from across Canada who are engaged in studies that will prepare them for careers in the transportation industry such as engineering, business, computer science, communications and technical studies.

Suncor Energy Foundation "Shared Achievements" Aboriginal Scholarships (Indspire)

These scholarships were created to assist Aboriginal students who are pursuing post-secondary education in business, teaching and science, particularly engineering, earth sciences, natural resource management, environmental studies and computer science. Preference will be given to students from Central and Northern Alberta, Northeastern and Southwestern British Columbia and the North West Territories.

3M Canada Aboriginal Health Education Awards (Indspire)

With these awards, 3M Canada is making a positive contribution to the lives of Aboriginal students who are pursuing careers in fields related to health care.

Sun Life Financial Careers in Health Awards (Indspire)

With these awards, Sun Life Financial is providing increased opportunities for Aboriginal students to receive training and education for careers in health care.

Weyerhaeuser Aboriginal Scholarship (Indspire)

Weyerhaeuser is pleased to offer scholarship assistance to Aboriginal students who are pursuing careers in business and science.

Contact individual schools for application forms.

Indspire Head Office
P.O. Box 759
2160 Fourth Line Rd.

Six Nations of the Grand River
Ohsweken, ON, N0A 1M0
Toll free: 1-800-329-9780
Phone: (416) 926-0775
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Deadline: October 15

Number of Awards: The number of awards is dependent on the sponsors of the program. In 2010 we disbursed 140 awards, 95 were scholarships and 45 were bursaries.

Award Amount: Scholarships for post-secondary applicants range from \$2,500 - \$5,000. Bursaries for high school applicants are \$750.

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2. Proof of Heritage includes: copy of Indian Status Card; copy of Métis membership card; copy of Inuit beneficiary card; parent/grandparent heritage information & documents showing your relationship to them (long-form birth certificate, baptismal records.); letter of acknowledgement from First Nation, Métis Association or Inuit Agreement Administrator.

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Windspeaker's Aboriginal Scholarship Guide only lists the portion of the funding currently available to Aboriginal students. There are many more listings posted online at www.ammsa.com.

This online list is updated throughout the year as new information becomes available.

If you would like to add/update scholarship information from your school or organization please forward the information via email to us at: market@ammsa.com

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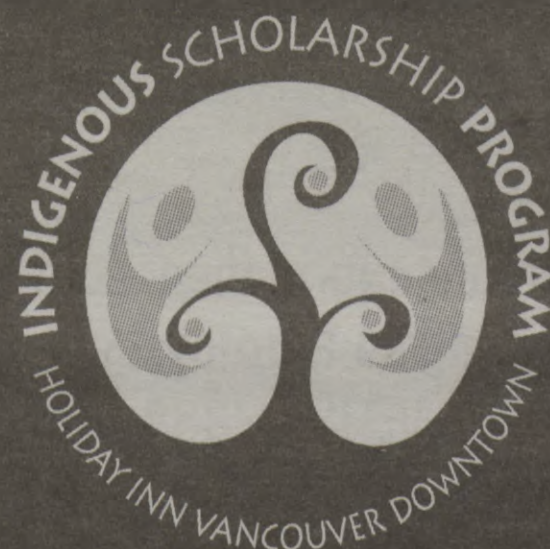


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Raven's Eye: Special Section providing news from BC & Yukon



A group of influential Indigenous leaders joined Chief Maureen Thomas and the Council of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation in the signing of an International Treaty to protect land, water and Indigenous ways of life against tar sands projects. With ratification from nations opposed to Keystone XL, Enbridge Northern Gateway, Enbridge Line 9 and now Kinder Morgan, the International Treaty to Protect the Sacred from Tar Sands Projects effectively closes off all exits for tar sands oil to international markets. The treaty was created by the Yankton Sioux and Pawnee Nations and has since been signed by more than 10 Indigenous Nations since its creation in January 2013. The Tsleil-Waututh is the first Nation to sign the Treaty opposing Kinder Morgan. Standing from right to left: Deborah Parker, Vice Chairwoman of the Tulalip Tribes, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Hereditary Chief Phil Lane Jr. of the Ihanktonwan Dakota and Chickasaw Nations, and Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn-A-in-chut Atleo. Seated from left to right: Jewell James of the Lummi Tribe and Chief Maureen Thomas of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Tsleil-Waututh, a First Nation community in the lower mainland

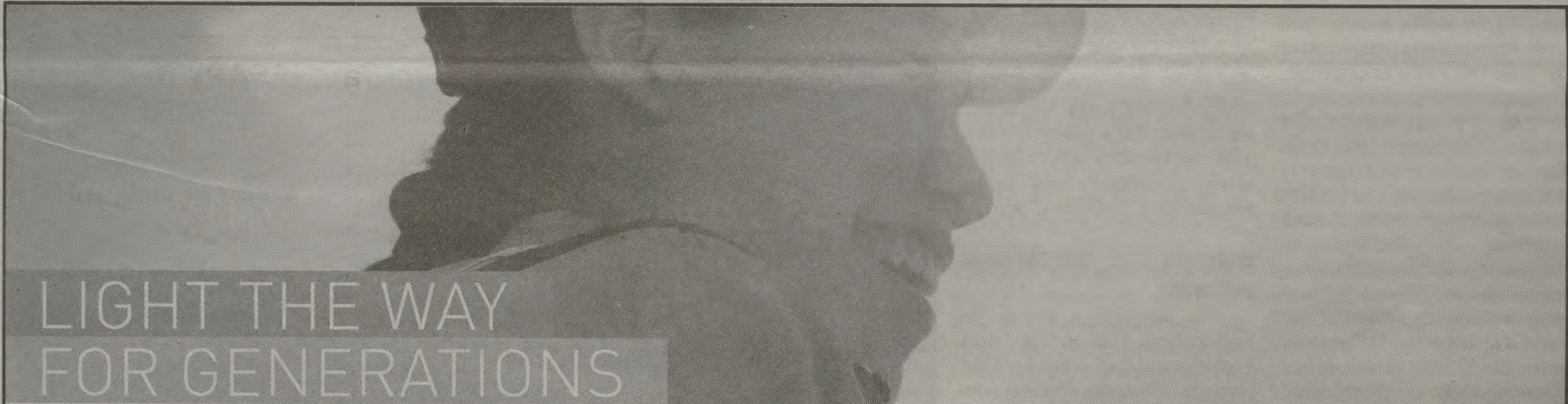
of British Columbia, wants a moratorium on any new pipelines until an emergency-response protocol can be improved. The demand was made after Suncor Energy Inc. failed to notify Tsleil-Waututh First Nation, located along the Burrard Inlet, after a spill of about 225 barrels of a soybean-based diesel fuel at the company's Port Moody location. Some of the spill entered the inlet. The company said the product is not environmentally hazardous. Tsleil-Waututh said the BC Ministry of the Environment did not notify the community until four days after the spill, and the company did not contact the community at all. "That lack of communication is unacceptable. The point is something has spilled and will have an impact or an effect on the lands and the water," said Tsleil-Waututh spokesperson Carleen Thomas. The ministry said it doesn't notify the public unless there is an imminent risk to health or safety. It requires the company to notify local governments, including First Nations. A Suncor spokesperson said both

provincial and federal regulators were notified immediately of the spill. Thomas said the spill demonstrates that BC is not prepared to deal with these kinds of incidents. "This makes me wonder how many of these small spills happen on a daily basis that British Columbians aren't aware of." Tsleil-Waututh Nation is opposed to the expansion of pipelines and increased tanker traffic through the Burrard Inlet and the Salish Sea. The nation is actively opposing Kinder Morgan's proposal which would see the transport of crude oil along its Trans Mountain pipeline expanded from its present level of 300,000 barrels per day to 890,000 barrels per day. It would also result in more than 400 oil tankers entering Burrard Inlet each year.

On April 10, Tsawwassen First Nation members voted

for 23-year-old Bryce Williams—again—to make him their chief. It's the second time in seven months that Williams has been elected to the position, having the first time overturned because of a discrepancy with the advertised election date.

(See Raven's Eye on page 21.)



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Saskatchewan Sage: Special Section providing news from Saskatchewan



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER/RALPH GOODALE

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medals awarded (stand alone cutline) Cree Elder Tony Cote with Lieutenant-Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield was one of two recent recipients of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. Both Cote and Métis educator and social worker Rose Richardson of Green Lake received recognition for a lifetime of service to their communities.

First Nations declare state of emergency

The 11 First Nations of File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council declared a state of emergency April 16 as water levels rose near their communities and mass flooding was anticipated. They are seeking resources to mitigate the upcoming flood season. "The current (provincial disaster assistance program) system is failing our First Nations communities," said Edmund Bellegarde, chairperson of the FHQTC, in a news release. "The provincial program imposes barriers for our First Nations to access adequate funding and puts our citizens' basic needs at risk. There are serious health issues as a result of flooding impacts, such as families forced to live with mold." The federal government funds the assistance program. "We are working with the province of Saskatchewan and First Nations to ensure communities are prepared for potential floods," said an Aboriginal Affairs spokesman. "In order to help mitigate flood damages and in preparation for spring 2013, our government has provided funds to over 60 Saskatchewan First Nations for preparedness activities."

Jonathan no longer vice-chief for FSIN

The first woman to hold an executive position with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations has lost her position as First Vice Chief. On April 17, the FSIN's Appeal Tribunal ruled in favour of Sheldon Wuttenee, who challenged the results of the Oct. 25, 2012, election, which saw Kim Jonathan win the position. Jonathan had 457 votes to Wuttenee's 448. The tribunal found that errors were

made by Chief Electoral Officer Loretta Pete Lambert, which interfered with the democratic process and set aside the election results. Given the decision, a vacancy has been created in the Office of the First Vice Chief in accordance with the FSIN Election Act. The Election Act calls for a by-election to take place if more than 18 months is left in the term. Jonathan had been elected for a three-year term.

Improve educational outcomes

The Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People was delivered in the Legislature on April 15. The report, Voice, Vision and Leadership: A Place for All, is the work of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the provincial government. Research and consultation undertaken by Métis Nation – Saskatchewan was incorporated into the report. The three-member task force, chaired by Gary Merasty, was launched in March 2012 with a mandate to focus on four key areas: early childhood, prekindergarten to Grade 12, post-secondary, and labour-force attachment. There are 25 recommendations covering issues such as an early childhood strategy, literacy, education funding and skills training. There are short, medium and long-range recommendations. Merasty said some action could be taken immediately. The province's 2013-14 budget provides \$3 million for task force recommendations as well as an additional \$22.2 million for initiatives intended to support improved First Nations and

(See Sage Briefs on page 15.)



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Manitoba Pipestone: Special Section providing news from Manitoba

Métis education and employment outcomes. This includes \$3.8 million to support the First Nations and Métis Education Achievement Fund, as well as an increase of \$1.5 million for Adult Basic Education on-reserve.

FSIN report indicates educational funding disparity

At the end of March, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations released a report indicating that First Nation education receives 40 to 50 per cent less funding for instruction than provincial schools. The report found that First Nations schools also receive 18 per cent less for basic instruction and 14 per cent less for operations and maintenance. The FSIN report compared on-reserve schools in the North Battleford area with the nearby Living Sky school division. "It is time for the federal government to stop ignoring the fact that our First Nation students are, and have been chronically underfunded for a very long time, and that the government has an obligation to ensure that our students are funded at an equitable rate so that they have the tools to reach their full potentials," said FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird in a news release. The province is lobbying the federal government on behalf of First Nations, calling on Ottawa to provide equitable funding for on-reserve schools.

Another delay in murder trial

Nine years following the death of 25-year-old University of Saskatchewan student Daleen Bosse, the man accused in her murder has yet to stand trial. On April 15, Douglas Hales, 34, opted for new legal representation and the trial has been adjourned until February 2014. Hales was arrested in connection with Bosse's death

in 2008 after her body was found in a secluded area just outside Martensville, and charged with first-degree murder and offering an indignity to human remains. The trial has been plagued by delays, with Hales now onto his seventh attorney. No reasons for the change were given in court.

Alliance to push tougher stand for rights

An Assembly of First Nation's hosted National Treaty Forum held at Whitecap Dakota First Nation at the end of March has resulted in the creation of a new National Treaty Alliance that would take a tougher stand on treaty rights. "There's a growing sense that something needs to happen – that people need an alternative," said Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. Nepinak said the new group would be open to First Nations that have signed modern comprehensive land claim settlements. However, the thrust of its membership would be Nations that long ago signed treaties entitling them to rights such as reserve lands, annual payments and hunting and fishing privileges. The national forum was a follow-up to a meeting in January with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Bomb threat at casino leads to arrest

A 38-year-old man will make a return appearance in court on May 23 on charges related to a bomb threat at the Dakota Dunes Casino on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. The casino was evacuated on April 6 after the threat was received. It was re-opened two-and-a-half hours later. According to RCMP, members of the Saskatoon detachment responded around 8:20 p.m. after a threat was made. The building was

evacuated, though there were no injuries immediately reported. During their investigation, RCMP identified a suspect, and with the help of the Warman detachment, the man was located at a Saskatoon hotel and arrested without incident. He is charged with uttering threats, mischief and public mischief.

Action taken against Contribution Funding Agreement

The Peepeekisis Cree Nation is refusing to re-sign its Contribution Funding Agreement with the federal government while Onion Lake Cree Nation has signed the CFA under duress. "We met with AANDC officials on a number of occasions to renegotiate the current CFA," said Peepeekisis Chief Michael Koochicum in a written statement, "but our requests fell on deaf ears." Onion Lake Chief Wallace Fox said membership also considered not signing but opted for signing under duress. At issue, said Fox, is that the new agreement removes clauses that protect treaty rights and includes a clause that ties First Nations into following any subsequent policy or legislation changes brought in by Ottawa that impact the contribution funding agreement. Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations has sent a letter to its 74 members, advising them to notify the minister they were forced to sign the new deal. FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde has called the CFA "blackmail."

Provincial budget provides funding relief

Targeted funding for programs and initiatives that benefit First Nations and Métis received a 6.2 per cent budget (See Sage Briefs on page 15.)

Nations opposed to peat mining in Interlake region

In mid-April, the Fisher River Cree Nation, the Peguis First Nation and area cottagers planned a public demonstration near the Berger Peat Moss Ltd. mining worksite. The demonstration was to protest the provincial government's recent decision to uphold the licenses for Berger Peat Moss and Sun Gro Horticulture Canada Ltd. to extract peat moss near the shore of Lake Winnipeg. Fisher River is charging the government with failing to consult adequately with First Nations regarding the impact peat mining in that area will have on Aboriginal and treaty rights. Last year, the nation undertook its own comprehensive study of the proposed peat mining of the area, consulting with independent environmental scientists, peat moss experts from around the country, and those living in the area. A promised meeting with the province to discuss the results of that report never occurred. Despite concerns repeated by both First Nations and the cottagers, the government went ahead with the approvals.

First Nations interested in land along The Forks

The Brokenhead Ojibway, Buffalo Point, Rolling River, Wuskwi Sipiik, Sapotaweyak Cree and the Opaskwayak Cree First Nations are interested in Parcel 4, a gravel patch of vacant land at The Forks. The city-owned land, across from the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, was to be sold to a private company last year to develop a waterpark but because of controversy the company withdrew its proposal. The Forks Renewal Corporation and the City of Winnipeg recently announced they are undertaking a planning initiative to decide what to do with the land, which has been used for years as a parking lot. The Treaty Land Entitlement Committee (TLEC) of Manitoba has issued a news release stating several First Nations have a "keen interest" in developing that land, claiming it fits to have a First Nations presence at the historic site. The Forks, where the Red and Assiniboine rivers merge, has been an important place for First Nations for 6,000 years, according to historians. After the arrival of Europeans, it became a key meeting place for First Nations and fur traders. The Manitoba TLE framework agreement was signed in 1997 between Canada, Manitoba and the TLEC to address the outstanding land entitlement owed to the treaty First Nations.

Lawsuits filed for 2011 flood

Dauphin River First Nation has joined Little Saskatchewan, Pinaymootang and Lake St. Martin First Nations in suing the Manitoba government over the 2011 flood which has left most of the community near Lake Winnipeg uninhabitable. Dauphin River is claiming \$100 million in damages, according to court documents obtained by CBC News. That takes the First Nations claims against the government for the 2011 flood up to \$1.3 billion. Court documents indicate that the Manitoba government faces nearly a dozen more flood lawsuits dating back to 1997. The \$950 million class action lawsuit filed in April 2012 by the four First Nations claims the government was negligent in its operation of a number of water-control structures, including the Shellmouth Dam and the Portage Diversion, causing excessive flooding in their reserves as a result.

Flood protection for First Nations needed

A recently released report on the 2011 flood says the Manitoba government needs to improve flood forecasting and protection for First Nations. The government struck an independent task force more than a year ago to take a critical look at the province's flood forecasting, preparedness, response, public communications and operation of flood control structures. The report says the province had to choose between the forced flooding of Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin or continue to let the water rise on the Assiniboine river and flood that area. The province chose to flood the lakes anticipating less damage. However, 7,100 people, mostly Aboriginal, were forced from their homes due to the inundation of redirected water into Lake Manitoba. About 2,000 still remain displaced. The report also says the province should urge the federal government, which has primary responsibility for First Nations, to develop an emergency management plan for flooding on reserves. Manitoba experiences some level of flooding every spring as melt water flows in from as far away as the Rocky Mountains.

Little Saskatchewan reserve to move to higher grounds

The federal and provincial governments have reached a deal to split the cost of rebuilding the Little Saskatchewan First Nation reserve on higher ground, two years after residents were flooded out. The \$12-million deal will provide 40 homes, plus a building for a church, which will help 200 of the 360 residents of the reserve head home, said Manitoba's Aboriginal Affairs Minister Eric

(See Pipestone on page 16.)

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In partnership with the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), the Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan (AFCS) requests applications for the 2013-2014 Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY) Program.

The objective of CCAY is to enable participation of urban Aboriginal youth in programs and services to reduce barriers to participation in the economy.

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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

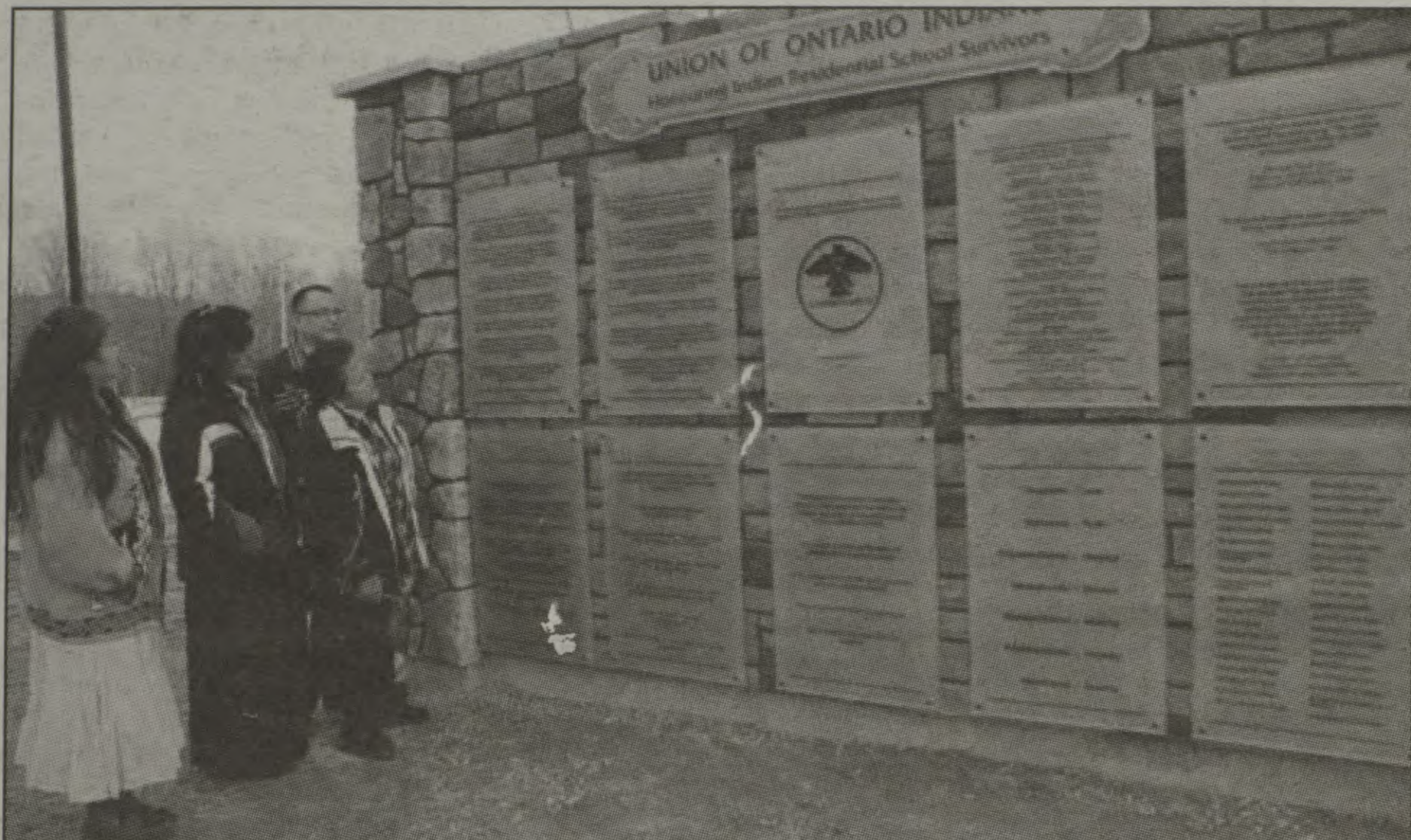


PHOTO: UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS

Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee stands with survivor Charlotte Contin and her daughters Dot and Judy from Henvey Inlet First Nation at the Union of Ontario Indians monument that honours survivors of the Indian Residential Schools System.

Anishinabek Nation honours residential school survivors

The Anishinabek Nation unveiled a monument to honour thousands of its citizens who have felt the impacts of Indian residential schools. "This memorial is part of the 'Honouring Our Children, Families, and Communities affected by Indian Residential Schools Project,'" said Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee in a news release. "We will also be developing much-needed educational resources that document the truth about those schools, the children who attended them and the inter-generational trauma that resulted." The ceremony, which took place on March 25 at the Union of Ontario Indians head office, also marked the launch of a narrative picture book and online education

resources.

Keewatin reversal a disappointment

Last month, the Ontario Court of Appeal released its unanimous decision reversing the trial judgment of Justice Mary Sanderson in the Keewatin case from Treaty 3 territory. This decision came less than two months after lengthy oral arguments in late January. The Court of Appeal ruled that the province has the right to "take up" treaty land for mining and forestry and does not need the federal government's approval. The Grassy Narrows First Nation challenged Ontario's right to permit industrial logging on its traditional lands, saying it infringed on their hunting and trapping rights under a treaty they signed in 1873. "On behalf of First Nations in Ontario, I wish

to express my disappointment with the Keewatin decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal. This was a unique opportunity for the Canadian judicial system to support the true spirit and intent of important treaty rights. Instead, the court fell back on dubious and one-sided jurisprudence from over 100 years ago. It seems that nothing has changed in Canada. The Canadian governments and their courts are wrong if they think this kind of dismissal will put First Nations in their place and create certainty in the resource development sector. Nothing could be further from the truth. As long as the spirit and intent of the treaties are disrespected, the only result will be uncertainty and unrest," said Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy, in a news release.

Aamjiwnaang and

Bkejwanong First Nations partner with Northland Power

The Aamjiwnaang and Bkejwanong First Nations have entered into a partnership with Northland Power Inc. to develop the 100 Megawatt Grand Bend Wind Farm Project, located near Grand Bend. "We are seeking to put forth a new development model thinking out of the box that will maximize the economic benefit to the First Nation for future generations to come," said Aamjiwnaang First Nation Chief Chris Plain, in a news release. "With great effort, time, and commitment has come the launch of the Grand Bend Wind Farm partnership," said Chief Burton Kewayosh Jr. of Bkejwanong First Nation. The Grand Bend Wind Farm will include up to 48 2.3 MW Siemens Turbines. The Ontario Power Authority has awarded the wind project a 20-year contract under Ontario's Feed-in-Tariff for renewable energy. Northland Power, an independent power producer founded in 1987, produces 'clean' and 'green' energy.

MNO program to provide support for Métis victims

The Métis Nation of Ontario has added a new program. The goal of Victim Services is to expand the range and variety of culturally relevant victim services available to Métis women and children in Ontario. Based on consultations, the program is a support system to be integrated with mainstream victim services programs in order to help the understanding of who Métis people are and the underlying issues and histories that surround them. The new program is founded on 10

principles: the human right to safety, gender equality, cultural responses, personal accountability, integrated approach, coordinated response, voices of women, prevention, evaluation and accountability. "We look forward to contributing further and prioritizing direction in addressing violence against Métis women provincially," said MNO Vice-Chair and Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario spokesperson Sharon McBride, in a news release.

Documentary outlines benefits of partnership between First Nations, industry

A documentary chronicling the development of partnerships between Brunswick House First Nation, Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, developer Hydromega, and the town of Kapuskasing has been released by the Ontario Waterpower Association. The documentary entitled *Our Heritage, Our Future - the Kapuskasing River Waterpower Project*, outlines the benefits and challenges of building First Nation and industry collaboration in developing waterpower opportunities. "The Kapuskasing River Project has generated social and economic benefits for the municipality, First Nations and surrounding communities," said David Oraziotti, minister of Natural Resources, in a news release. "This project will create significant socioeconomic benefits for our communities for generations," said Jason Batise, economic development and technical services advisor with Wabun Tribal Council.

Saskatchewan Sage Briefs

increase in the 2013-14 Saskatchewan budget. The Ministry of Economy is to receive a \$3.1-million increase to \$29.8 million, which represents an 11.8 per-cent increase in funding for First Nations and Métis initiatives and institutions, including \$1.5 million to help eliminate Adult Basic Education waiting lists; \$1.5 million to accelerate essential skills training and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies' Aircraft Maintenance Engineer Training program is to receive \$150,000. "The overall spending lift for First Nation and Métis files is higher than the overall lift of the budget, and I think it speaks to the importance of First Nation and Métis people to this government and our commitment to making opportunities available for them to be engaged in the economy," said Jim Reiter, minister responsible for First Nation, Métis and Northern Affairs

New president, board chair for FNUniv

After serving less than two years as president of First Nations University of Canada, Doyle Anderson has resigned stating family health as the reason. Anderson was appointed in 2011. Juliano Tupone, the university's current vice president of finance and administration, has been named acting president. Tupone comes from the Sweetgrass First Nation. FNUniv also named a new board chair with the appointment of David Sharpe, who assumes the responsibility from Della Anaquod who has served in this role since 2010. Jocelyne Wascase-Merasty of Kahkewistahaw First Nation, assumes the vice chair position.

Program available to Métis businesses

SaskMétis Economic

Development Corp. has signed an agreement with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to deliver a grant contribution program to Métis businesses in Saskatchewan. The Métis Assistance Program will be similar to the former business contribution program that had been delivered by Aboriginal Business Canada. The MAP program will provide funding for eligible business project costs. SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation was created in 1987 to finance the start-up, purchase and/or expansion of viable Métis-controlled small businesses in Saskatchewan. It has disbursed over 1,200 loans for \$32 million for over 630 Métis-owned businesses in Saskatchewan.

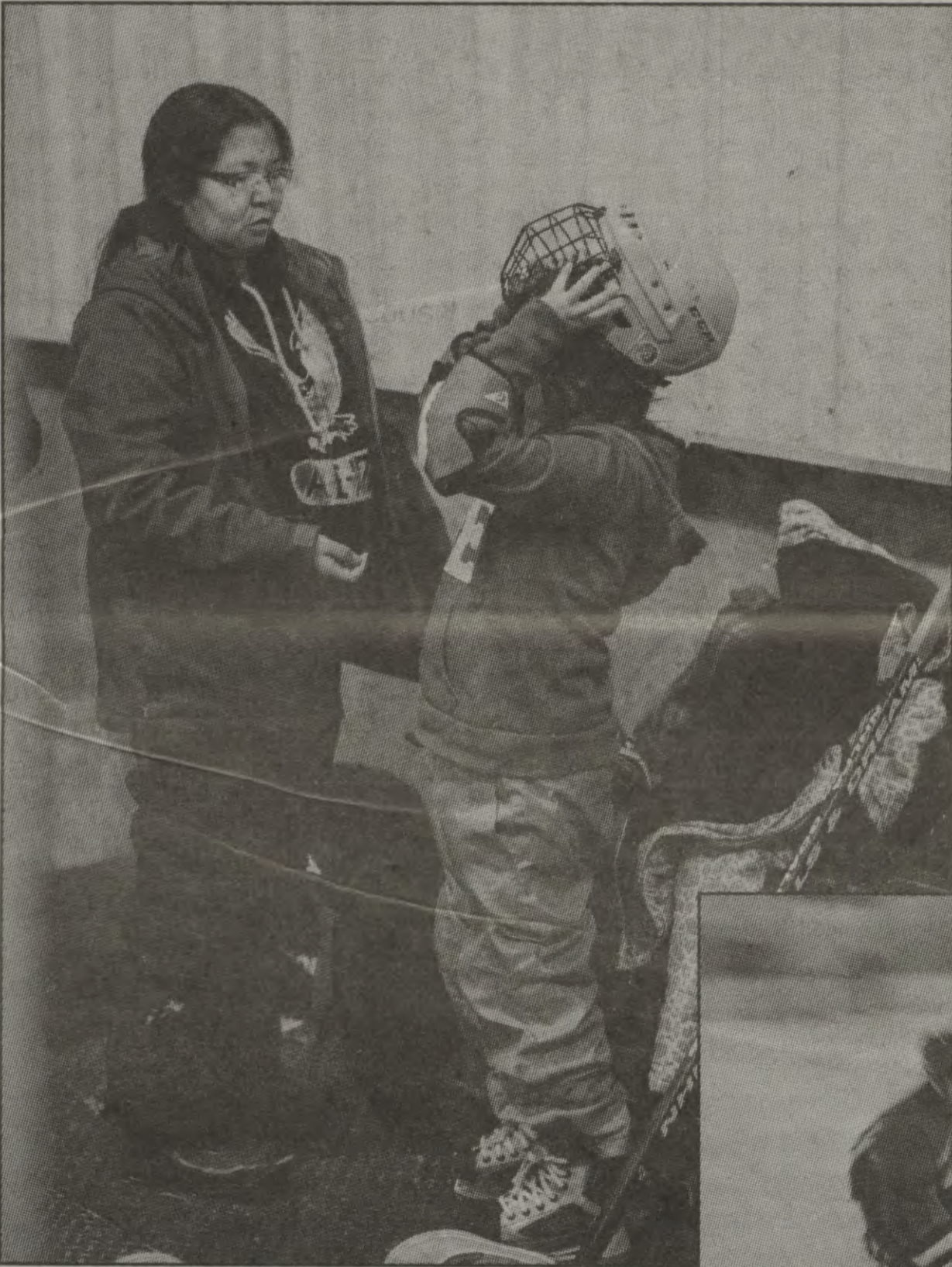
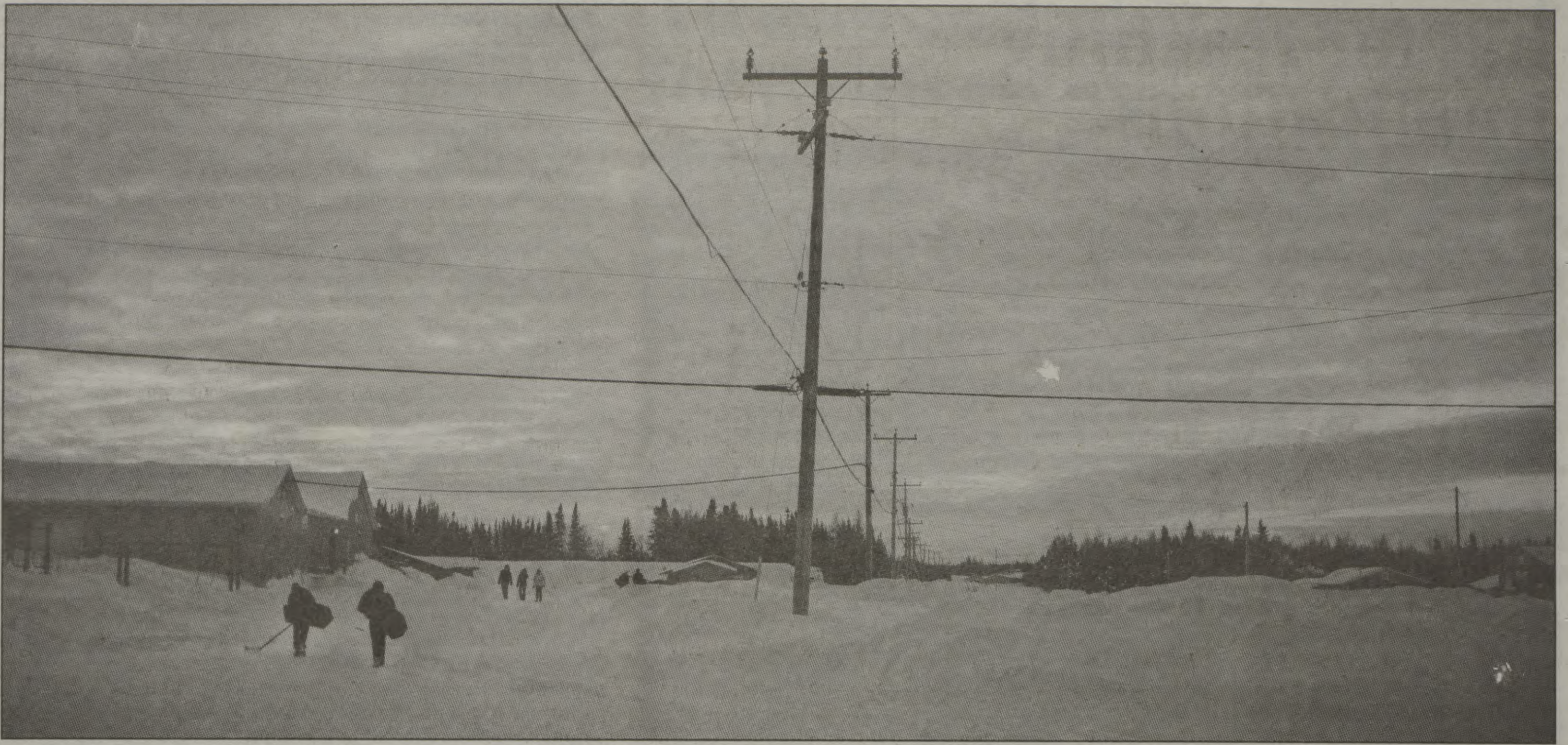
U of S launches new website

The University of Saskatchewan has launched a

new Web site that brings together all of the university's Aboriginal initiatives, lists all of the events, resources and programs affiliated with the university's Aboriginal academic and community activities, and outlines partnership activities. It also provides an overview of U of S's English River facilities, located on a First Nation reserve. It also provides an interactive Aboriginal Engagement Map, showing activities, academic and cultural programs, services and events that are happening on campus and in other Saskatchewan communities. "Aboriginal youth are the fastest growing segment of the population in the country, and Saskatchewan has one of the highest populations of Aboriginal people in Canada," said Candace Wascase-Lafferty, director of First Nation and Métis engagement at the U of S, in a news release.

Pipestone Briefs

Robinson in an interview with Canadian Press. An agreement signed between the First Nation and the province in December laid the groundwork for this deal. Little Saskatchewan already owns eight parcels of land on higher ground in the flood-prone Interlake, purchased years ago by leaders who anticipated a move was inevitable. An agreement now must be reached with the Rural Municipality of Grahamdale on the selection of lands for the settlement. In addition to setting up a new reserve for the evacuees, there is also work to be done on the existing reserve. It will remain reserve land but is too heavily flood damaged to be useful. Additional issues include ownership of mineral rights, access and third-party interests on the new reserve parcel of land, along with a community plan to lay out the new housing, and large scale sewer and water projects.



By James McDonald
Photographer

Kitchenuhmaykoosib

During the second week of February I was in the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Native Reserve on Big Trout Lake (500 miles north of Thunder Bay) covering the hockey for development program run by Right to Play Canada's PLAY program and the head coach that they brought with them, former NHL player and coach John Chabot.

The program brings coaches, players, and instructors into communities that may not have access to them as readily as others might, and conducts both hockey and off ice programs to engage the youth within the community.

In Kitchenuhmaykoosib, a great deal of focus revolves around the hockey rink.

Hockey plays a dominant role in the day-to-day lives of children and adults alike, with tournaments, outside programs and inter-reserve play. Watching hockey being played and taught in the community, it is difficult not to see the community's love of the game and skill that they play it at.

Jordan's Principle decision has far-reaching implications

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

PICTOU LANDING FIRST NATION, N.S.

The successful argument of Jordan's Principle in federal court could have major implications for other battles First Nations are waging for equity in funding and service.

On April 4, the Federal Court of Canada ruled that Jordan's Principle is legally enforceable and not simply a policy, as the federal government had been claiming.

"The court agreed with our arguments that it is a responsibility that the federal government has assumed and therefore they can be held accountable," said Paul Champs, lawyer for the Pictou Landing Band and Maurina Beadle.

The band and Beadle challenged the federal government to support Beadle's son Jeremy Meawasige, a severely disabled youth, at the same level of support Jeremy would receive if he were living off reserve. Jeremy lives with his mother Maurina on Pictou Landing First Nation. Champs invoked Jordan's Principle, a concept which received unanimous support from the House of Commons in 2007. Jordan's Principle was developed in response to a Manitoba case involving Jordan Anderson, a severely disabled First Nations child who remained in hospital due to jurisdictional disputes between the federal and provincial governments over payment of home care services. Jordan died at age five without being able to live in a family environment.

"It's absolutely an awesome, awesome decision for us. It's like justice has finally been done in this situation," said Philippa Pictou, director of Pictou Landing Health Centre.

The commitment to funding ensures that the First Nation can provide Jeremy's care.

"Having that security makes a huge difference. Up until now we're constantly under threat of not being able to provide (funding and care)," said Pictou.

Jeremy's situation came to the fore when his mother suffered a stroke in 2010 and couldn't care for him. The band stepped in to provide the services so Jeremy could remain at home and would not need to be institutionalized outside of his community. The band asked the federal government to reimburse its costs. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada refused to provide funding at an equivalent rate.

Since the decision was rendered, Pictou said she has been inundated with emails from other First Nations and families who are in similar situations as Jeremy.

"This case has established a way to determine the normative level of care by looking at what the legal obligation is for the province to provide care to people in exceptional circumstances. Before that there wasn't any laid-down process of how you went about doing it," said Pictou.

Pictou also believes that the decision by Justice Leonard S. Mandamin could impact more than children needing care.

"He also said that the band council is obligated to provide assisted living and home care programs in a similar way that the province is so that also opens it up for us to look at ... providing the same kind of benefits people would have living off reserve and looking to pressure (the federal government) to get proper funding to do that," said Pictou.

Mandamin did not set a monetary figure for the federal government for reimbursement of care but instead said the matter was to be negotiated between the government and the band. Pictou said that over the course of almost three years, care for Jeremy has averaged \$6,000 to \$8,000 per month.

Champs said this decision which upholds Jordan's Principle goes beyond health care for disabled children living on reserve.

In his ruling, Mandamin stated, "Jordan's Principle is a mechanism to prevent the First Nations child from being denied equal access to benefits or

protections available to other Canadians as a result of Aboriginal status.... I do not think the principle in a Jordan's Principle case is to be read narrowly."

"I think this case is the first to start breaking down those walls between on reserve and off reserve," said Champs.

Champs is also counsel for the child welfare case that is part way through its scheduled 14-week hearing by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal.

"We have expressly relied upon Jordan's Principle in the human rights tribunal case for child welfare services and we think this federal court judgement will definitely support that case," he said.

Champs is arguing Jordan's Principle is the discrepancies that exist in the funding for welfare services on reserve compared to what is available off reserve. The Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Caring Society filed a complaint with CHRT in 2007 stating that discrepancies exist in the funding for welfare services on reserve compared to what is available off reserve. Legal wrangling kept the claim from moving forward until a recent federal court victory which forced the CHRT to hear the claim.

Champs said they hope to make their closing arguments by mid-fall.

Champs said Jordan's Principle could "arguably" be used for education funding as well. First Nations have long held that the federal government funds children who receive their education on reserve at a lower rate than which provinces fund their students.

Jeremy's case was argued in court in June 2012, with the decision rendered 10 months later. The federal government has until May 3 to file a notice of appeal with the Federal Court of Appeal.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada spokesperson Michelle Perron said the department is "currently reviewing this decision to determine the most appropriate next steps."

Health Watch

By Shari Narine

New substance abuse strategy in context

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse has launched a national strategy on prescription drug abuse. "The Assembly of First Nations welcomed the opportunity to be part of the development of this national strategy along with other Indigenous organizations," said AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo in a news release. The strategy, entitled, First Do No Harm: Responding to Canada's Prescription Drug Crisis, was developed around five streams of action: prevention, education, treatment, monitoring and surveillance, and enforcement. Together these action streams aim to prevent prescription drug-related harm to individuals, families and communities; educate and empower the public and promote healthy and safe communities; and promote appropriate prescribing and dispensing practices among healthcare practitioners, all while providing a contextual lens to First Nation, geographically remote, isolated and rural populations. The document acknowledges that key concepts must be used as the context for recommendations as applied to First Nation people and include historical and cultural context; social determinants of health; trauma and intergenerational trauma; cultural competency and safety; Elders and Indigenous knowledge; remote, isolated and rural communities; and jurisdiction and governance, whether at the individual, family, community, provincial or national level. As reported by Health Canada in 2011, First Nation communities participating in a national survey between 2008-2010, reported that alcohol and drug use and abuse was considered to be the number one challenge for community wellness faced by on-reserve communities.

Violence against women prevention funded

Six recipients are receiving funding from the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund from the Yukon government. The projects funded are designed by and delivered for Aboriginal women to help prevent violence in their communities. Four one-year projects will each receive \$25,000, while two projects that will span two years will receive a total of \$50,000 each. "These six projects utilize innovative approaches to preventing and reducing violence in the lives of Aboriginal women in the Yukon," said minister responsible for the Women's Directorate Elaine Taylor in a news release. "This includes engaging men who choose not to be violent and an Elder mentor program to assist Aboriginal women at the women's shelter and in second stage housing." Since the development of the Prevention of Violence Against Aboriginal Women Fund in 2004, the Women's Directorate has contributed about \$1.5 million towards projects. The fund was established to help address the disproportionate levels of violence experienced by Aboriginal women in the Yukon. Due to a high demand for monetary support, the fund was doubled to \$200,000 annually in 2009.

Federal Safe Streets and Communities Act a concern

B.C.'s provincial health officer has released "Health, Crime and Doing Time: Potential Impacts of the Safe Streets and Communities Act (Former Bill C-10) on the Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia." The report, which was developed in response to federal legislation, finds that the Safe Streets and Communities Act will increase the likelihood that youth will be imprisoned, and that Aboriginal people, especially youth and youth in government care, are a vulnerable population that will be disproportionately affected by the act. "We are concerned that the new federal legislation represents a step backwards and creates circumstances that will likely result in still more Aboriginal youth and adults in prisons, and lower health status for Aboriginal people in correctional facilities, as well as their families and communities," said Dr. Evan Adams, deputy provincial health officer, in a news release. Aboriginal people represent approximately five per cent of the population of B.C., but represent over one-quarter of admissions into B.C. correctional centres. The report makes nine recommendations, including that the act be either revoked or substantially amended to ensure that it recognizes the unique history and context of Aboriginal people in Canada, and considers the mental, physical and emotional health and wellness of Aboriginal offenders. Other recommendations include improving collaboration between the health and justice sectors and with Aboriginal people; focusing on the prevention and diversion of crime; and undertaking comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of the effects of the act.

Regina HIV findings startling

A pilot study of First Nations people in Regina that looks at HIV prevention, sexual activity and drug use indicates that almost half of those who tested positive for HIV didn't know they were infected. The survey, funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, found that of 1,045 people who gave blood samples, five per cent tested positive for the virus. The survey was conducted between December 2011 and June 15, 2012, with the help of the Aboriginal community, Regina health providers and AIDS groups. According to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health there were 186 HIV cases reported in 2011 and 81 per cent were Aboriginal people.

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By Sam Laskaris

Sisters lead Louisville

Thanks to a pair of Native American sisters, the Louisville Cardinals women's basketball team recently had its share of supporters on both sides of the border. Shoni and Jude Schimmel, who grew up on Oregon's Umatilla Indian Reservation, are members of the Cardinals' squad that advanced all the way to the NCAA women's championship match. But in the end the sisters and their teammates were defeated by the University of Connecticut Huskies 93-60 in the national final. The championship match was held April 8 in New Orleans.

The Huskies were the clear favourite in the championship contests. Heading into the 64-team national tournament, UConn was one of the four teams seeded first for its regional championships. As for the Huskies, they were ranked fifth in their regional tournament.

The sisters though will have another shot at a national title next season. Shoni, who is a junior this season, has one year of collegiate eligibility remaining. Jude, a sophomore this year, can play two more seasons with the Cardinals. The siblings were key members of the Louisville side this season. Shoni led the club in scoring, averaging 14.2 points per game. Jude averaged 5.7 points per game but she was one of the team's top passers, ending up with 107 assists on the season, behind her sister only who had 136 assists. The Cardinals ended up with an over-all record of 29-9 this season.

The Schimmels and the Cardinals became fan favourites, especially among Native hoops fans, because they pulled off several upsets during the NCAA tournament. Louisville started off with a predictable result, downing Middle Tennessee, ranked 12th, in its opening contest. The Cardinals then reeled off four upsets in a row to advance to the national final.

For starters, there was a 76-63 triumph over fourth-ranked Purdue. And then the team started creating its share of headlines after eking out an 82-81 triumph over top-ranked Baylor in a third-round match. Louisville kept on rolling by taking out second-ranked Tennessee 86-78 in its regional final, earning a spot in the Final Four in New Orleans. The Schimmels sparked their team to yet another upset, as Louisville defeated another Number 2 seed, the California Bears, 64-57 in its semi-final match.

Hall of famer

Canadian wheelchair basketball player Richard Peter, who retired after winning a gold medal at last year's London Paralympics, has become a hall of famer. Peter, a member of British Columbia's Cowichan Tribes, and the rest of his 2012 Paralympic champion teammates were among those inducted into the Wheelchair Basketball Canada Hall of Fame. The team was honoured on April 13 in Montreal, the site of this year's Canadian Wheelchair Basketball League championships.

Peter, 40, announced his retirement this past September, after helping Canada defeat Australia 64-58 in the gold-medal match at the London Paralympics. Peter, who was a member of the national team since 1994, ended up winning four Paralympic medals during his career. He was on the Canadian teams that also won gold medals at the 2000 and 2004 games, which were staged in Australia and Greece, respectively. And in 2008 he helped Canada win the silver medal at the Beijing Paralympics in China.

Brothers win awards

Brothers Greg and Brad Leeb concluded their professional hockey careers with a bit of hardware. The Leebes, who are Cree, are from Red Deer, Alta. They both spent this season playing in England, with the Coventry Blaze, members of the Elite Ice Hockey League. They opted to play together in England this year—prior to that they were also teammates for four seasons in Germany—so they could also study at Coventry University.

The Leebes helped the Blaze to a third-place finish in their post-season run this season. Coventry defeated the Cardiff Wales 11-5 in the bronze-medal match. The brothers—Greg is 35 and Brad is 33—both announced their retirement from pro hockey at the conclusion of the season.

Both Leebes shone offensively for the Blaze this season. Greg finished second in team scoring with 56 points, including 17 goals, in 59 matches. Brad ended up third in team scoring with 50 points, including a team-high 24 goals, in 57 contests.

Greg Leeb ended up winning three team awards. He was selected as the Player of the Year, the Players' Player of the Year as well as the Coach's Player of the Year. Brad Leeb also ended up receiving an award, for having the best plus-minus rating with the Blaze.

All eyes on Saskatchewan for rodeo event



Barrel racer Cherie Davies is looking forward to competing in Canada. PHOTO: SUBMITTED

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

REGINA

Aboriginal rodeo participants will once again have an opportunity to challenge for various national titles in Canada. The Canadian Indian Rodeo (CIR) national finals are scheduled for Oct. 10 to 12 at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

"This is something that is about 20 years overdue," said CIR president Beatle Soop.

But this won't be the first time a Canadian rodeo championship for Aboriginal competitors has been staged.

Soop, a Regina resident, was one of the organizers of a national final that was held in 1991 in Lethbridge, Alta. But he doesn't have fond memories of that event.

"A blizzard hit and nobody showed up for the first two days," Soop said. "A lot of money was lost then. We didn't have enough sponsors and we relied on gate admissions, which is wrong. I was one of the people who lost his shirt."

Soop said it will cost about \$190,000 to stage this year's national event. Organizers are hoping to secure enough sponsors to make the event a success.

"Right now we're working on that," Soop said. "And we're still looking for a title sponsorship. We're looking for that title sponsorship and then we think that other sponsors will come in after that."

A total of 14 events will be staged at the national finals. This includes the eight disciplines that are considered the major events at rodeos. They are bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, bull riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, team roping, ladies' barrel racing

and ladies' breakaway roping.

There will also be four events for junior competitors. There will be varying age groupings for these events but they will primarily feature participants aged 16 and under.

The youth events will be junior steer riding, junior bull riding, junior girls' barrel racing and breakaway roping.

And there will also be two events—team roping and breakaway roping—for senior competitors, who are 50 and over.

At the national finals, all of the events are expected to feature a dozen participants. In order to qualify for the Canadian championships, competitors must fare well in either a new CIR tour being created across western Canada or in events on the established North American Indian Rodeo Association.

Six events are planned for this year's Canadian tour. The plan is to stage two events in northern Alberta, two others in southern Alberta and two in Saskatchewan.

As of mid-April, however, only three events had been confirmed and announced.

The first one was the Swan River First Nation Rodeo, a two-day event, June 30 and July 1, which will be held in Kinuso, Alta.

Saskatchewan's Peepeekisis First Nation is also scheduled to host an event from July 26 to July 28. And then the Queen City Rodeo is set for Aug. 2 to 4 in Regina.

"We're looking at three or four other sites right now," Soop said. "We're hoping in the next two to three weeks to confirm where they'll be."

Cherie Davies, a barrel racing competitor for Sundre, Alta., is thrilled Aboriginal rodeo participants in the country now have their own national

championships. In previous years they would aim to take part in a prestigious Native rodeo in Las Vegas.

"It's a huge expense to get down there," Davies said of the American event. "It's definitely nice to have something here in Canada. And it also gives the young ones something to strive for here."

Soop is one of nine individuals on the CIR board. He's confident he can spearhead the organization into having a successful national championship, unlike the one he was a part of in 1991.

"I was 22 years old back then," he said. "I'm a lot more educated now. I know now rodeos don't make money from their gate admissions. No rodeo can do that."

This year's national finals will be staged during the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend. Soop is confident the event will be well attended. Capacity at Prairieland Park is 2,000 people.

"We're going to fill that place up this year," he said. "It will be a sellout."

Soop believes even more tickets would be sold if they were available.

"The idea is if we sell out this year and we had a lot of people that wanted to get in, we may move it to where the (Saskatoon) Blades play hockey," he said.

The Blades, members of the Western Hockey League, play their home games at Credit Union Centre, a facility with more than 11,000 seats.

Organizers are hoping to make the CIR national final an annual event. For the first few years at least, the plan is to keep the championships in the same city.

"For now we'd like to keep it in Saskatoon and grow it there," Soop said.

[education]

Education disparity is unspeakable discrimination, says Martin

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

National Chief Shawn Atleo and former prime minister Paul Martin shared the stage at the University of Toronto's Hart House Theatre on April 18 for a lecture hosted by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

Dean of OISE, Julia O'Sullivan moderated the discussion and said in her opening remarks that "First Nations education is the most important and pressing educational priority in Canada for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians."

As Canada's largest and most influential faculty of Education, OISE has a "special responsibility to lead in this area," said O'Sullivan. The theatre was filled to capacity with 450 people and hundreds more around the world following the webcast.

Martin blasted the federal government when he compared funding for on-reserve and off-reserve schools. Kids at schools off-reserve are getting funding anywhere from 20 to 40 per cent per capita more than the kids at on-reserve schools, Martin said.

"Can that be anything else but the most unspeakable kind of discrimination against the youngest and most vulnerable members of our society?" said Martin, the anger evident in his voice. The government says they want to build a strong economy, he said, "but how can you possibly build a strong economy when you underfund the education of the youngest, the

fastest growing segment of our population. What kind of country are you building?"

Our children are waiting for the adults to sort this out for them, said Atleo. Access to equitable funding for education needs to be coupled with access to basic needs, like clean drinking water and proper housing, he said.

Atleo reflected on the era of the residential schools and government policy that sought to "kill the Indian in the child." His own grandmother, he said, went through the residential school system, a system "which under the guise of education sought not to support and empower, but to take away and divide." First Nations communities are working hard to repair the damage caused by the schools, he said.

"Education should be a tool of liberty, not a tool of oppression," said Atleo.

Martin applauded the efforts of "the phenomenally courageous [Aboriginal] people out there...fighting odds the likes of which most of us can never even contemplate, and they're succeeding. What Canada's First Peoples, what the Inuit and the Metis have done in the course of the last decade with very little help, to be quite honest, is simply extraordinary and something of which we should be proud." Martin was critical of the lack of media attention to the successes of Aboriginal people.

Atleo said the vision for education has not changed since the 1970s when the rallying cry was for "Indian control of Indian education." It's been updated, he

said, to "First Nations control of First Nations education" so that First Nations leadership can design education that works for the people in their respective territories. Our people are very diverse, Atleo said. "Over 50 languages, we're in every corner of the country, 633 First Nations and very different experiences in different parts of the country." He emphasized that what might work for one area will not necessarily work for another.

Martin said a lot of Canadians will ask, "How could you possibly know how to control your own education?" In his travels across the country, he said, he's met with many impressive First Nations, Métis and Inuit educators, experts in every facet of education who understand what has to be done. He contrasted this with the federal government who has no responsibility for education and thus, they have no education experts. Bureaucrats who have "absolutely no education background or education skills" are asking the likes of Shawn Atleo to report to them. "This is crazy. It is paternalistic," said Martin, "but it is also just counterproductive."

Martin has also become convinced that it is imperative to bring in cultural traditions and values into any educational program designed for Aboriginal people. "What [First Nations people] are saying is, if you want to be confident in your own identity, if you want to be confident in who you are, then you should be taught in the things that are familiar to you. When you teach business in a

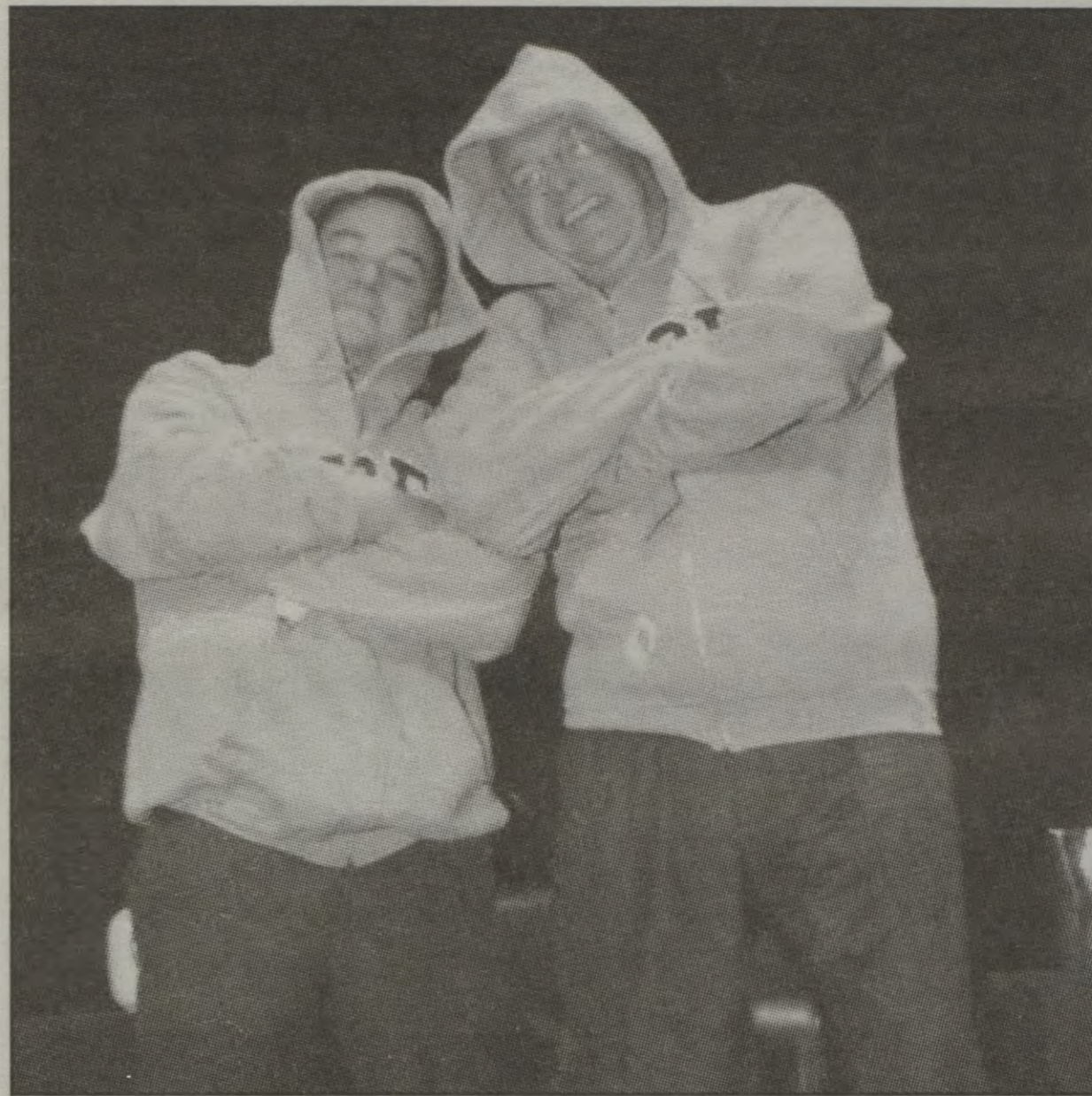


PHOTO: BARB NAHWEGAHBOW

National Chief Shawn Atleo and former Prime Minister Paul Martin model the hoodies presented to them by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at a First Nations Education lecture April 18.

Canadian course, you don't teach the American experience. Why shouldn't it be true for them?...It's about time that we began to understand that kind of thing."

First Nations education cannot be discussed in isolation from all the other challenges facing First Nations people, said Atleo. He talked about the high suicide rates, poverty, the need to participate in the economy, the ongoing struggle for recognition of Aboriginal and treaty rights as enshrined in the Constitution.

"We have a bigger conversation that has to take place," he said, "and one that is long outstanding." He spoke about

the large energy resource projects being proposed that may not go ahead, "because Indigenous people are standing up, they're stepping forward, they're speaking out and [saying] we need to give our free, prior and informed consent," before those projects can proceed. It has to be a process of sitting down nation-to-nation, treaty by treaty and reconciling with one another between our jurisdictions.

Atleo asked Canadians to recognize this deeper challenge where four per cent of the population is reaching out to ask for help "to transform the lives of our children."

Reaction mixed to MOU on education

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

THUNDER BAY, Ont.

Grand Chief Harvey Yesno is "optimistic" that a newly signed agreement between the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the federal government and the province of Ontario is more than just "the backslapping and the media photo opp" that some of NAN's chiefs are concerned that it may be.

Yesno said there has to be results that flow from the Memorandum of Understanding signed April 9 which seeks to address five specific areas of concern: student support services, curriculum, governance and administration, human resources, and parental participation.

Although education on reserves falls under federal jurisdiction, Yesno said NAN drew the province into the negotiations because many NAN youth are seeking education in urban settings. And when students

make that jump, they are either undereducated coming from their reserve or overwhelmed going into a school system that contains no First Nations components. Overwhelmed can also describe teachers who spend time in any of NAN's 32 fly-in communities. Those teachers are not properly prepared and leave quickly. That lack of teaching continuity for students becomes an issue in how they achieve.

"Just to get by, to learn how to read and write, that's not good enough. Our kids should have the same opportunities like anybody else... that's my vision and goal. Whether this is going to achieve it or not, this is a beginning," said Yesno.

After the first year, all three parties will report on what has been accomplished. That will be the time to reassess the situation and to determine whether resources have been put in place to address the issues raised in the MOU, he said.

Tripartite MOUs in other provinces, whether education,

health or child welfare, have not had consistent results. Yesno said the federal and provincial governments laud the MOUs.

"But I really like to listen to First Nations and see what they're assessment is...and so far it's been mixed. In some places it's really a battle to try and resource some of these initiatives that have been identified," he said.

There is also the added issue of jurisdiction. First Nations fall under federal jurisdiction, so bringing provinces into agreements skews that responsibility, say some.

Delegating responsibility to the provinces is the federal government's intention, says Ottawa-based lawyer Charlene Desrochers, who practises Aboriginal law. Desrochers is also a member of the Constance Lake First Nation, part of NAN.

She said the federal government wants to be the funder of services (to First Nations), not a provider of services," she said. Tripartite agreements open that door, she says, citing a Supreme Court

decision called NIL/TU,O.

NIL/TU,O is federally funded Child and Family Services in British Columbia and provides services to seven First Nations. It is the result of a tripartite agreement between those First Nations, the province of BC and the federal government. At issue was whether NIL/TU,O workers fell under provincial jurisdiction and could be certified by the union. The Supreme Court upheld the decision that the organization's operations, and therefore labour relations, fell under provincial jurisdiction.

Desrochers says there is a changing landscape. The Supreme Court's decision in regards to NIL/TU,O further states, "By virtue of the memorandum of understanding and the tripartite agreement, the federal government actively endorsed the province's oversight of the delivery of child welfare services to Aboriginal children in the province.... I see this neither as an abdication of regulatory responsibility by the federal

government nor an inappropriate usurpation by the provincial one. It is instead an example of flexible and co-operative federalism at work and at its best."

"(The federal government) want to give money to the provinces and the provinces will provide the services. And when they're incorporating First Nations into these tripartite agreements, (they're saying) the province will then give money to the First Nations to deliver the services. Almost like municipalities," said Desrochers.

That is not what Yesno is after. "Our overall goal obviously as a Nation is we want to be more autonomous as we build capacity in moving forward," he said. "How long is that going to take?"

He said services are needed now, particularly with education.

"I think that's contributing to our situation of the hopelessness that young people have, in particularly taking their lives, because there's really no hope for a job, to raise a family and so on," said Yesno.

Spence receives new award for going above and beyond

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

FERGUS, Ont.

"I know what it takes for a person to stand up and be alone," said Jack Frimeth, founder and organizer of the Aboriginal Heritage Festival held annually in Fergus, Ont. Addressing the audience at the Wellington County Museum on April 20, Frimeth said, "We felt that Chief Theresa Spence took that stand and by herself," Frimeth said.

Inspired by the Idle No More movement, the festival committee decided to establish an Aboriginal Heritage Award "to be presented to an Aboriginal person who has exhibited achievement and accomplishment beyond that which would normally be expected towards the benefit of Aboriginal people."

Frimeth announced Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat as the first recipient of the award.

"For 44 days [during her famous fast] starting in December, Chief Theresa Spence was the face of Idle No More," he said. She "galvanized that whole movement."

Along with his colleague Naomi Smith, Frimeth visited Chief Spence at Victoria Island

during her fast and felt the energy, the power, unity and brotherhood amongst those gathered there.

"Everyone felt as one," Frimeth said, "and there was one person who made all that possible, that made it all happen and that was Chief Theresa Spence."

His group chose to ignore the negative media reports.

"I don't know what's true, what's not true," he said. "I don't live in Attawapiskat. I can't tell you what's going on there." Chief Spence's actions spoke louder and truer than any of the controversy and negativity.

As Spence rose and made her way to the podium to give the keynote address, the hundred or so people gathered rose to their feet and greeted her with thunderous applause. Spence introduced herself in Cree and with her spirit name, "she who speaks the truth". The handful of speaking notes she had were soon abandoned and she told the audience she preferred to speak from the heart.

"You can't eat diamonds or drink oil," she said, as she urged people to protect the land. "The land is our way of life," she said. Directing her remarks particularly to the Cub Scouts sitting in the front row, "It's your way of life too. You use the land just as much as we do but you



PHOTO: JASON JENKINS

Chief Theresa Spence of Attawapiskat speaks at the Aboriginal Heritage Festival in Fergus, Ont. April 20.

use it in a different way."

She said people have to work together; that the struggle is not just about First Nations anymore. It's about Canadian citizens too. Mother Earth is giving people signals. She's being disturbed too much, said Spence. She commented on the farmland she'd seen in the area and said the farmers too must have environmental concerns.

Spence gave a quick lesson on what being a chief was all about. Twenty-four hour days, seven days a week, phone ringing in the

middle of the night, and dealing with any and all crises involving community members, government or the mining company.

For example, she said, DeBeers has launched a lawsuit against Attawapiskat community members. Spence went to court even though DeBeers told her the dispute was not with the leadership.

"This is what they don't understand," she said. "They expect the leadership to abandon or neglect their people.... As a

chief, I have to be there to protect them and stand by them."

Talking about her fast at Victoria Island in Ottawa during the winter, Spence spoke about the power of prayer. On a day she felt especially alone, even though she was surrounded by people, she went to the river by the Parliament Buildings to pray and tell the Creator she couldn't continue alone. Shortly after, two men arrived to fast with her—Jean Socks from New Brunswick, and Manitoba elder and former Chief Raymond Robinson.

One of the subjects she discussed with Robinson, who became like a brother to her, was how the government controls First Nations with the Indian Act.

"We have to have a different way," she said, "because the Indian Act, it's not working. It's never gonna work...you don't feel like a person." She encouraged Canadians to learn about First Nations history, especially about the treaties.

"Once you understand the treaty," she said, "you will respect us. We will respect each other because it's about partnership. It's supposed to be teamwork, not one-sided."

Following her talk, a long line-up of people waited to congratulate Spence and to have their photo taken with her.

Raven's Eye Briefs

(Continued from page 13.)

Both times Williams defeated former long-time chief Kim Baird, this time by only 20 votes. "He beat me fair and square," tweeted Baird on election night. After her first loss to Williams, Baird had been widely rumored to be interested in the position of chief commissioner of the BC Treaty Commission. Baird had led Tsawwassen to the first treaty finalized under the BCTC process. It came into effect in 2009. On April 12, however, Bernard Valcourt, minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, announced the reappointment of Sophie Pierre as chief commissioner, with agreement from all the principals of the BC Treaty process: Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations

Summit. In a blog, posted April 13, Baird said she was disappointed in losing the election. "Yes I'm disappointed, who wouldn't be — especially after all I've given to my community for over 22 years?" Baird writes she is now wondering what will be next for her. "It will be challenging to find a job that is as diverse and fulfilling as my last one—and one I can invoke my passion. So in the interim, I will pick up a few short term consulting contracts while I figure out what to do when I grow up." In a press release issued April 11, Williams thanked Baird for her commitment to the community, which is "reflected in the promising future that we look forward to. I wish her all the best, and hope she will continue to contribute to building TFN's future for many years to come."

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Elder Raymond Robinson

(Continued from page 8.)

Robinson retorted that his experience in band politics for more than 30 years—including stints in economic development management, on boards of directors, and hammering out industry deals—led him to give up on that system.

"I've done it all in terms of politics," he said. "I know my way around that mind frame."

"I've had my fill of politics; that's where I learned that there's no spirituality or life in these meetings... I learned one thing in this political journey: when we are in office, we might make decisions for the benefit of our people, but we always seem to make them at the intellectual level, based on the materialism of this world. We never, most of the time, come from the spiritual aspect of it: the heart. We never make decisions based on what the heart wants."

Crey's hope for public figures like Robinson, as well as those

involved in Idle No More, is to take more time to ponder political effectiveness.

"If you want to have a say, you have to get involved," Crey replied, likening political involvement, such as lobbying politicians, to the bitter taste of Buckley's cough syrup. "If you're not willing to do those things, but you're willing to go to a shopping mall or sit on a railway track, that Member of Parliament says, 'Maybe they're my constituent, but they never phoned me.'"

"Anyone that was politically literate could have told them that the Conservative government of Canada was not going to withdraw their legislative agenda, or repeal the parts of the omnibus bill that concerned First Nations. The way you get it withdrawn is you elect a different government."

Robinson, who was born in Churchill, Man. where his Air Force father was a station manager, moved to Cross Lake First Nation in the mid-60s at 19.

And though he confessed to deep-seated anger towards the racism he experienced in residential school, and in various communities, he urged Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike to reflect on how to make love a driving force.

"Let's honestly look at ourselves," Robinson urged. "Do we come from respect every single moment of our life? Do we utilize peace when we meet people and make decisions? Let's not fool ourselves and say, 'Yes we do.' If we went by these rules, by this conduct, our world wouldn't be where it is. That's why our world is so chaotic."

"The Red Road teaches us to have kindness, mutual respect, humility, honour, to help out our neighbours, and to pick up the person that has fallen... It only takes one spark; when people see that spark, they're drawn to it, and it keeps lighting and lighting and lighting. The world is coming to one light."

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[footprints] Nathan White

Father struggles

with a terrible grief

By Alo White with Dianne Meili

Alo White of Naotkamegwanning First Nation in Northwestern Ontario enjoyed hearing his son Nathan sing traditional Anishinaabe songs after he was initiated into his community's Midewin lodge.

"Tatibonhanaqwet, Edward Nathan White, was 23 years old, a non-drinker and he never did drugs," said Alo. "Right away he wanted to learn the Midewin songs."

That fall and winter, when the two travelled to ceremonies, Nathan would record his father singing on his cell phone recorder as they drove. That was how he learned. At one ceremony, Nathan sang eight songs in a row without stopping. Exhausted and perspiring after singing the last note, he was rewarded with handshakes and hugs from onlookers who appreciated his accomplishment.

"He was a great singer with a beautiful voice," Alo said, so much so that the famous Whitefish Bay Singers accepted him to join them on their powwow rounds the following summer.

In his home community of Onigaming, Nathan helped many of his friends, counselling them about their drinking or drug addictions. He volunteered at almost every community event, including being the arena director at the Onigaming traditional powwow. He bought himself a car in January 2012 and enjoyed taking his little nieces and nephews for rides around the rez.

The next month, Alo went away for a weekend while Nathan looked after his house. A snowstorm kept Alo away for an extra night and the two texted each other that evening. Nathan's last text to his father was 'I love you dad'. "I didn't think twice why he would text like that as I always told my kids I love them and they always tell me that right back," Alo noted.

When he arrived home, police had blocked off the driveway. Alo pushed past them to see a body covered in the snow. He wiped the snow away and recognized his son.

"I remember calling my brother Tommy and the rest is like a dream, a nightmare. I don't really remember what happened after that. It's all a blur.

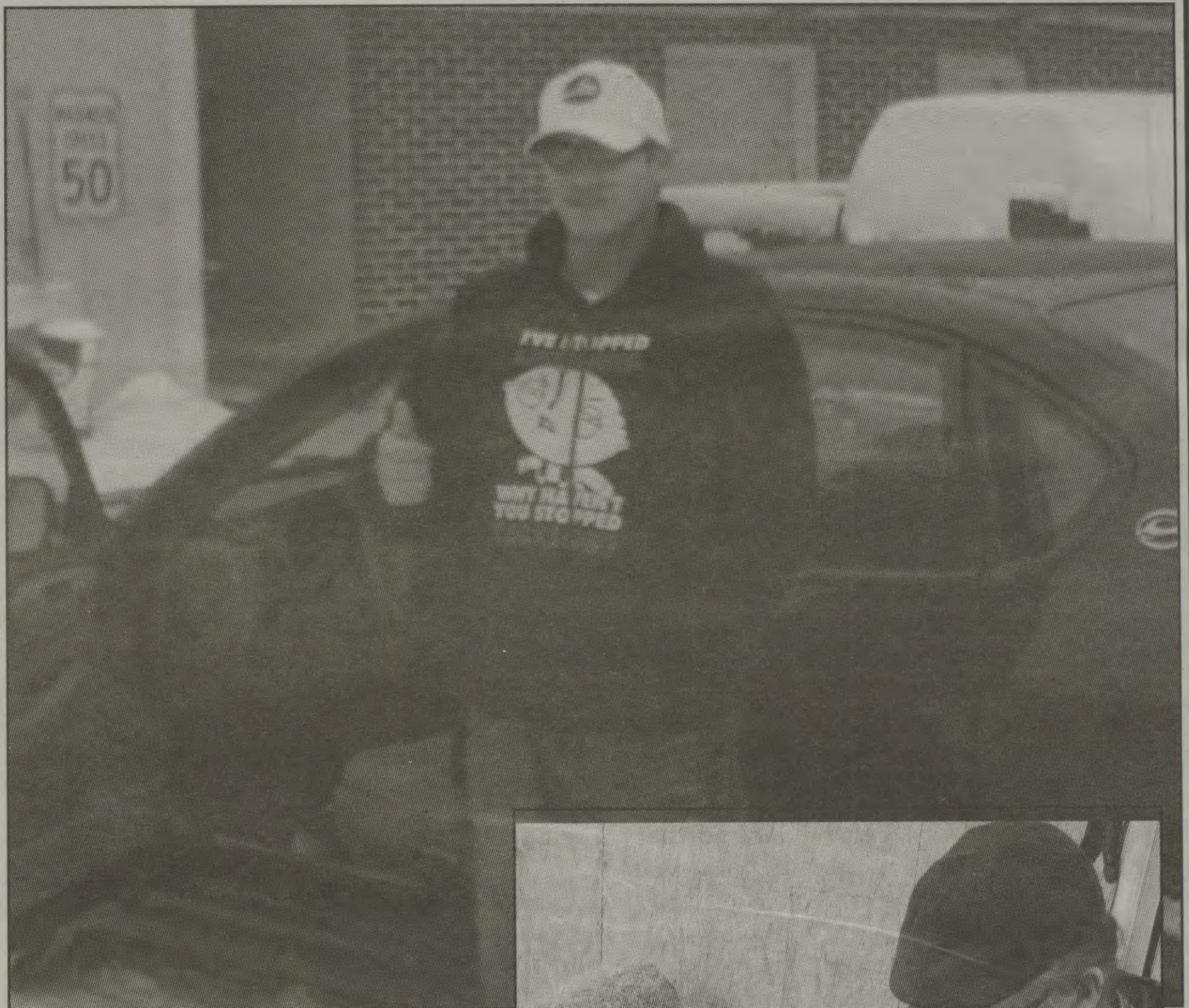
"I thought I knew death. I thought I knew what grieving was because I have lost many people in my life, including parents, siblings, nieces, nephews and lifelong friends. But let me tell you, there is nothing in this world, no grief at all, that can compare to the grief of losing a child. It is unlike any other grief and it never goes away.

"My sisters organized people from the community who had lost children to come and speak to us. Every night of the wake and funeral, members of the community came and shared what they had been through – shared their coping strategies and their feelings. It was through these teachings that I learned I am not alone, that my feelings of anger and blame—toward myself and others—were normal. They spoke about being mad at Creator, about turning away from traditions and religion. They also said telling a person to 'stay strong' is maddening. They told us it was okay to cry. They told us 'you don't ever get over it, you learn to live with it.'

"Listening to the stories of the people closest to me really helped me. I've had to go into therapy and that has since helped me. I spend time with my grandkids and my kids; that also helps. And I've started a new project recording Elders in Treaty 3 to try to preserve the songs for future generations. That is helping.

"Today is the one-year anniversary of my son's passing. I understand that this pain will never leave me. I am still angry. But I'm learning to live with it. Part of me looks forward to that day very much when I will get to see my boy again. I've lost the joy in life. I don't allow myself to be happy, because how can I be, when my son isn't here enjoying his life? And in the meantime though I try to do some good for kids, myself, my community and for the future before it's my turn to leave this earth.

"I moved out east temporarily after we lost our boy. Because he took his life at my house, I couldn't live there anymore. I live off-reserve in a northeastern Ontario town. There are hardly any Anishinaabe that live here and it's strange after living my whole life on the rez.



Nathan White

"One thing I notice is there aren't never ending funerals and tragedies here like on the rez. Is it like this in other non-Native towns? I wonder how the neighbors around me would cope if the young people in this town were taking their lives every few months like they are in Treaty 3 communities? I wonder why my home community seems to be in a constant state of struggle, grief, and tragedies?

"I don't know any statistics about this. All I know is my life, and what I've seen. In my community my cousin also lost her son to suicide. My brother committed suicide. My nephew committed suicide. A few weeks ago two young people in neighbouring communities took their lives. Looking back, at least a dozen or more of my day school buddies also committed suicide.

"Why is this happening? If it's not suicide, it's diabetes or addictions. I am from Naotkamegwanning, and Nathan and my girls and their mom live in Onigaming. In these two communities alone, it's like every month or so we hear about someone passing away. Is it just

me, or does that not seem like an unusual amount?

"I know I will never 'recover' from the loss of my son. Day by day, it doesn't get any easier. The nights continue to be especially hard. But I cope. I live for my children. I devote my life to helping people, especially youth, with depression and anger issues. And I record Elders. It's all I can

do.

"I write this today in memory of my son 'Tatibonhanaqwet'. Edward Nathan White. I love you my son."

The above was adapted from Alo White's blog on Divided No More, a site shared by guest writers and inspired by the #IdleNoMore movement.



Alo White, Nathan's father

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

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Healing the focus of justice program



PHOTO: JENNIFER VALIQUETTE

Elder Terry McKay and Program Coordinator Mark Marsolais who are with the Odawa Aboriginal Community Justice Program, Odawa Friendship Centre in Ottawa.

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

On April 19, the Odawa Friendship Centre held a thanksgiving and unveiling ceremony at Ottawa's Elgin Street courthouse attended by about 300 people.

"We wanted to publicly acknowledge our partnership with the courts and give thanks to them, the Crown Attorney's Office and all our other supporters," said Mark Marsolais, a citizen of Whitefish River Ojibway First Nation in Ontario with over 20 years' experience in the justice system.

Marsolais is also the coordinator with the Odawa Aboriginal Community Justice Program (OACJP), a diversion program for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people charged with summary conviction offences in Ottawa. The maximum penalty for such offences is six months imprisonment, a fine of \$5,000 or both.

Three years ago, the Odawa Centre decided to tackle the problem of Aboriginal over-representation in the criminal justice system. Discussions with the Crown Attorney's office resulted in the OACJP.

"The individual is pulled from the collective justice system and into our diversion program and their charges are dealt with through a traditional justice program."

The focus is on healing rather than punishment, he stressed.

"We look at the whole person and not just as someone with charges. What we've found is they're suffering from such intense trauma from past experiences with residential school or the child welfare system or both."

The individual appears before a Justice Circle and a healing plan is designed that may include treatment for addictions, counselling, working with an Elder, and ceremonies such as sweat lodge.

"It's a ground-breaking program that sets a new standard," said Marsolais, "not just in Ottawa, but nationally and even internationally."

APTN was there to cover the April 19 event and, according to Marsolais, it marked the first time cameras were allowed in the courthouse. Elders Annie St. Georges (Algonquin) and Terry McKay (Tsimshian) presided over the ceremony. McKay has been with the OACJP since its inception.

"We also wanted to unveil our new signs that will be posted in the courts," Marsolais said. Posters were designed with Aboriginal art work that gives information about the OACJP, including contact numbers, in English, French and Inuktitut.

"No one's allowed to put signs up in the courts," said Marsolais. "It's unheard of. This is an important first that will increase people's access to our program."

Aboriginal people going through the system often plead guilty because they don't understand what's happening, have trouble with the English language or don't have access to a lawyer. Posting the signs, continued Marsolais, "shows the trust that's built up in our relationship with the courts. We've demonstrated competency and commitment and that goes a long way."

Ottawa has an Aboriginal population of about 40,000 people. About 150 people have gone through the OACJP since it started. Program participants are given three to six months, depending on individual circumstances, to work on their healing plan before appearing again in court. Their charges are dismissed provided they have upheld their part of the commitment.

Marsolais acknowledges that their clients sometimes relapse, but "they come back to us for help, usually before they go anywhere else. The healing process takes a long time," he said, "but our program is making a difference."

When truth isn't what it used to be

The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America
By Thomas King

Review by Christine McFarlane

Have you ever really looked at history and the stories behind them? Do you question if these stories are fact or myth or accept them as the absolute truth? You would like to think that what you are reading in your history books is truth, but...

In "The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America," author Thomas King looks at the stories behind such events as the 1861 Almo massacre by the Shoshone-Bannock, the meeting of Pocahontas and Captain John Smith, the Rebellion of 1885 with Louis Riel, the 1876 Battle of the Little Bighorn with George Armstrong Custer, and many other stories and he points out the inconsistencies in each.

In the stories, we are made to believe facts that are based on tales someone has made up and told someone else. The massacre in the town of Almo did not happen, because at that time in history attacks with such a large number of casualties did not go without mention. Newspapers at that time made no mention of this so-called massacre, nor is there record of this in the National Archives or in the records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs that are kept for various states and territories.

King argues that it was not until 66 years after this supposed event that a plaque was erected in the town of Almo as part of "Exploration Day," which is an event that is designed to celebrate Idaho history and promote tourism in the area.

Similarly, there is the story of how Captain John Smith was saved by Pocahontas. It makes a great story for Disney where a beautiful maiden saves a hero. However, at the time of this meeting, there is questionable evidence as to the background of



Smith and how he had been saved before by other beautiful women, not to mention the fact that in 1607, he was 27, and Pocahontas would have only been 10, maybe 12 years old.

History, as Thomas King points out, "may well be a series of stories we tell about the past, but the stories are not just any stories. They're not chosen by chance. By and large, the stories are about famous men and celebrated events. We throw in a couple of exceptional women every now and then, not out of any need to recognize female eminence, but out of embarrassment. And we're not easily embarrassed."

History is not always what we are taught to believe. King argues that our concept of history is often thought of as something grand happening, a national chronicle built upon by authenticities and truths that are

melded together into narratives that explains how we get from one end to the other. This very fact is interesting because the stories we read in textbooks are presented as truth and we are taught not to question the stories that are told to us. To do so, goes against the accepted norm.

"The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America" is a book that once you pick up, you cannot put down. It takes you on a historical journey of examining the stories we are told throughout history, speaks about the relationship between non-Natives and Natives throughout the centuries, and has you wondering how we might tell a new story for the future. Thomas King fans will not be disappointed!

The Inconvenient Indian is published by DoubleDay Canada and is 288 pages.

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