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Copper-breaking shames feds

Namgis carver Beau Dick and others journeyed from B.C. to lead a traditional ceremony on Parliament Hill on July 27.

Please see story on page 8.

Photo: David P. Ball

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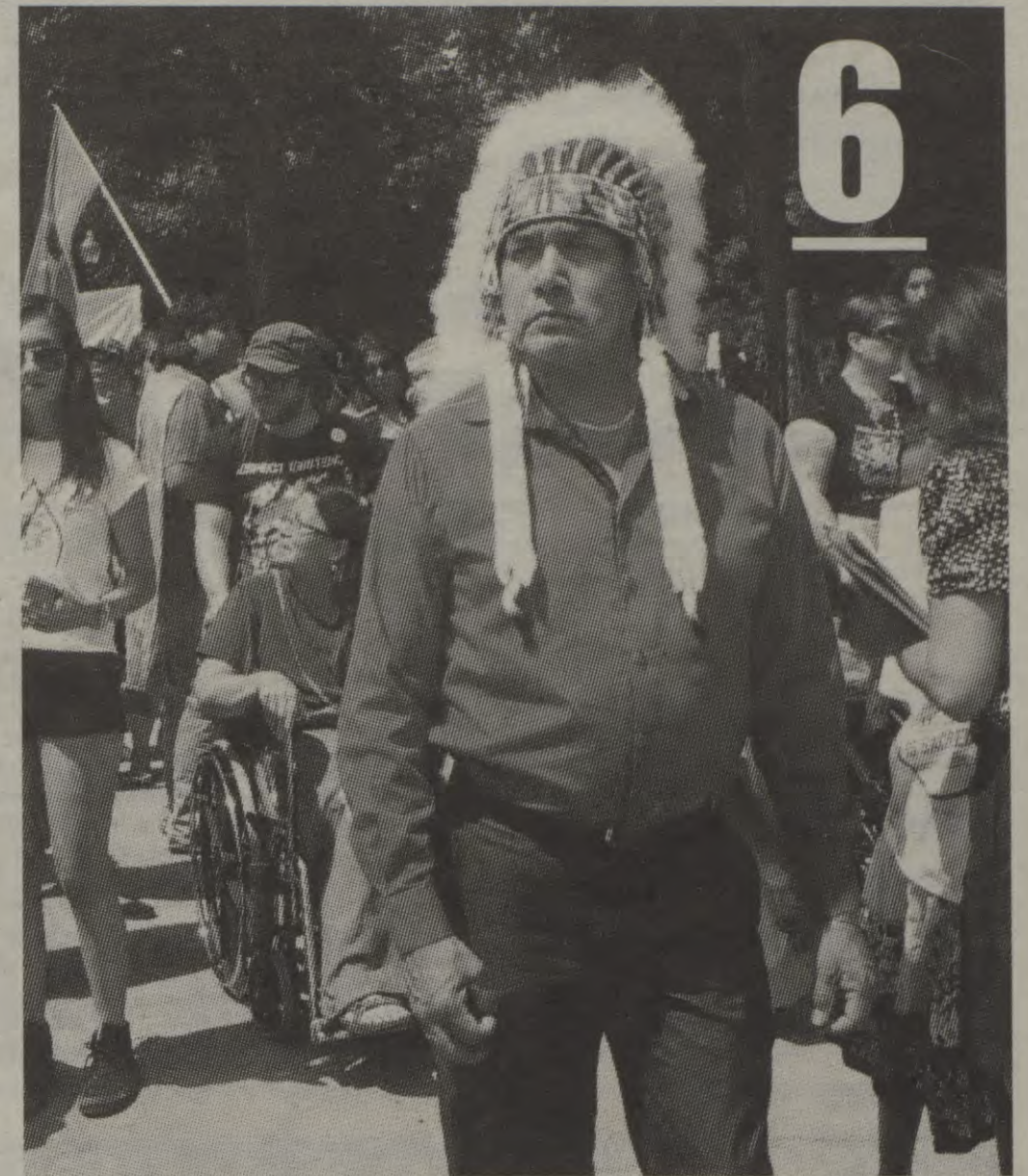
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Members of Grassy Narrows First Nation, along with several hundred supporters, marched through downtown Toronto on July 31. To simulate a wild river, people carried fish cutouts and 1,500 meters of bright blue fabric rippling in the wind. They stopped traffic along University Avenue as they made their way to Queen's Park. Grassy Narrows Chief Roger Fobister Sr., wearing a traditional headdress, led the walkers.



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The Tsuu T'ina First Nation does not need legislation for chief and council to be fiscally accountable to their membership, say leaders. And no legislation will force the Treaty 7 First Nation in southern Alberta to open its financial records in their entirety to the federal government.

Tailings pond breach could impair salmon returns 8

Moose meat or store bought beef will be replacing fish this winter for many First Nations members who get their salmon from the Quesnell River.



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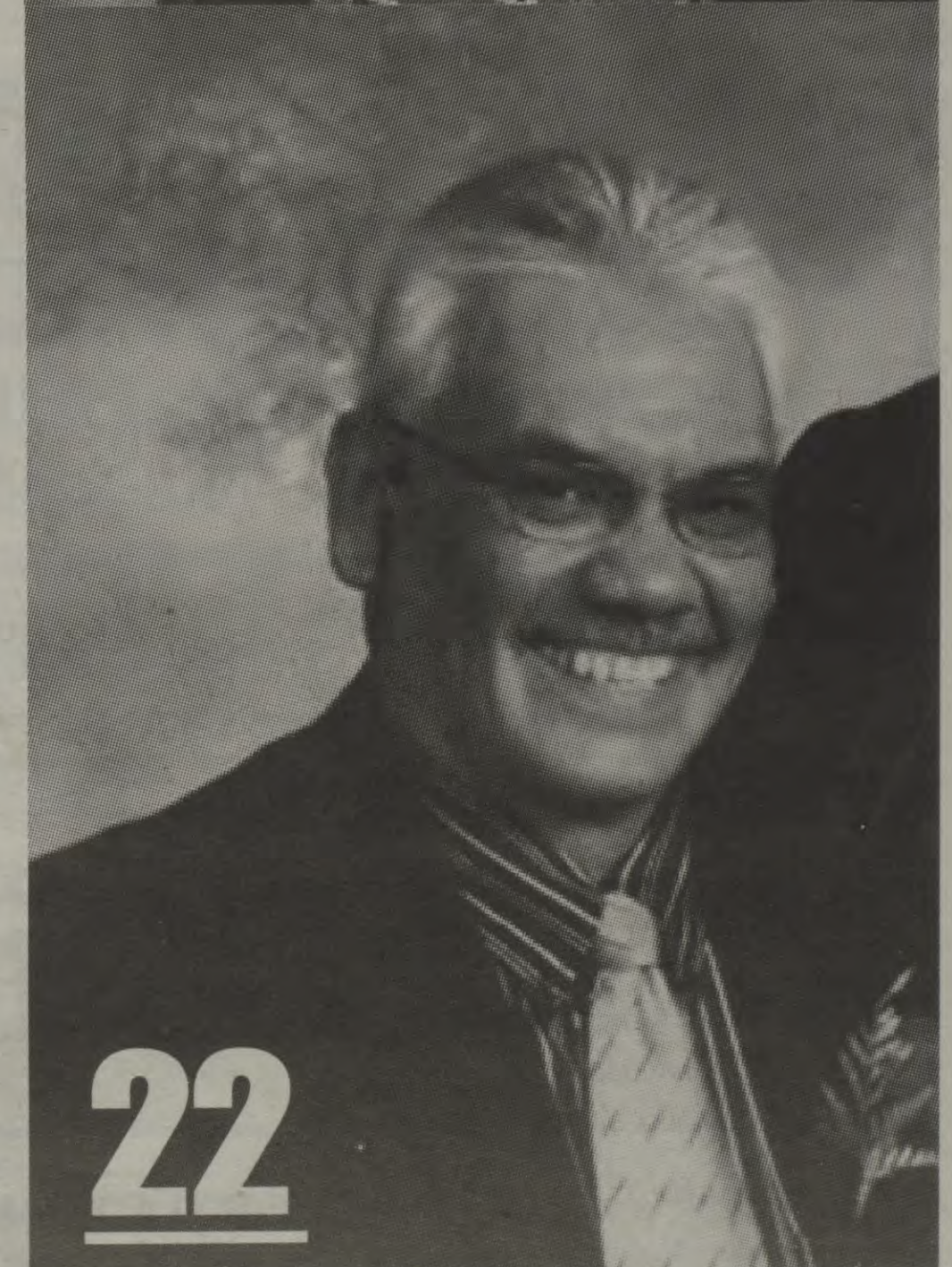
Copper-breaking shames feds 8

Celebrated Namgis First Nation carver Beau Dick was only days from the end of his long journey home from Parliament Hill when his caravan heard the news in Calgary: the Mount Polley mine tailings dam had breached in B.C.'s Cariboo region, dumping nearly 15 million cubic metres of toxin-laden sludge into the Fraser River ecosystem.

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Two years ago, Grand Chief Dr. Stan Louttit sat in a duck blind in northern Ontario with his 20-year-old grandson Warren Hardisty. "It wasn't really hunting. It was education," recalled Hardisty. "He shared his vision and dreams for our people. He spoke for hours and hours as we waited for some geese or ducks. I absorbed all I could so I could carry the same values and extraordinary work ethic my grandpa had."



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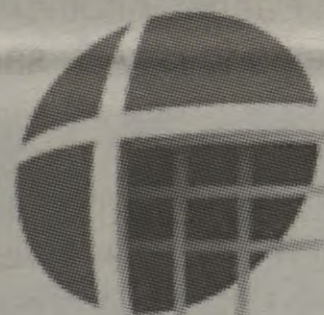
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Harper's willful blindness a danger to Aboriginal women

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is stubbornly refusing to call a national inquiry into the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women, refusing to see that we have a very serious problem here across Canada that desperately needs addressing. He should be held to account for gross incompetence and utter lack of leadership. He is wrong. He lacks vision. His view is dangerous and narrow.

Mr. Harper sees only a string of crimes. The 1,182 missing and/or murdered Indigenous women is no "sociological phenomenon," he said, as 15-year-old Tina Fontaine was pulled from the Red River in Winnipeg, her body found in a bag.

Isn't Mr. Harper the least bit curious to discover why an Indigenous girl like Tina is more likely to come to such a violent end in this country than a non-Indigenous girl? Isn't he the least bit curious to find a way to save other Indigenous women from facing a similar fate?

By refusing to acknowledge that these

"crimes" are rooted in something far greater and systemic, this most powerful man in Canada is willfully compounding injustice. And for what? Is it because he's afraid of what such an inquiry will find? Is he afraid of what such an inquiry will force upon Canada, the mirror put up to the nation's face again to view some ugly truths?

It's not because of the cost of an inquiry. Mr. Harper isn't worried about spending money where he sees a priority. The sad fact of this leader and this government is that Indigenous people, their concerns and their issues aren't a priority for the federal Conservatives. Murdered and missing Indigenous women aren't Mr. Harper's priority. Mr. Harper won't call an inquiry because it will force government into taking some action. It will force government to place Indigenous people in front of other priorities. And Mr. Harper isn't so brave as to do that.

Windspeaker

Enough already

It's exhausting to keep fighting this same fight over and over. Can someone please send a memo to whoever now needs to be informed that using traditional Native headdresses as a fashion accessory is, in fact, an offensive appropriation of Native culture and spirituality?

New Zealand fashion designer Trelise Cooper prominently featured "Indian-style headdresses" in her recent "70s bohemian vibes" fashion show, explaining "It's a fashion thing and I don't mean any disrespect."

This misuse of the headdress—symbolic of leadership, bravery and enormous sacrifice—falls on the heels of similar disrespectful misappropriation by singer Pharrell Williams and reality television personality Khloe Kardashian, who each wore Native headdresses in recent photo-shoots. Fashion house Chanel and Victoria's Secret has used headdresses as part of their shows, also sparking controversy.

Perhaps that's the point now; to just use the headdress to gain headlines and attention to sell product.

For her part, Cooper said she had seen headdresses worn "as a fun thing" during her travels in the United States and Ubiza, an island in the Mediterranean Sea known for its night-life and club scene.

"It was beautiful to be honest," said one of Cooper's supporters of the fashion show. "It's a beautiful culture," added the friend, New

Zealand's Fashion Week managing director Dame Pieter Stewart.

Really? What would this Dame know about the culture headdresses come from to offer such an opinion? Really. We'd like to know. We'd like to know what research Dame Stewart did to offer up this opinion to rationalize her friend's complete and utter disregard of said culture? Who did she consult?

Who is she to provide authoritative approval to use the traditional headdress in such a way?

An article in the ironically named newspaper "The Dominion Post" reports that Dame Stewart "doesn't smile with her eyes. She gives you the distinct feeling she's gentry and you're a nuisance, a small dog that's yapping at her heels." So, we guess a little flap over a few feathers won't mean a lot to her.

Dame Stewart explains that "Designers draw their inspiration from all sorts of things and [Cooper] drew her inspiration obviously from the Indian culture." Oh, well, then. That's OK. Everybody settle down. It's a compliment.

No. There is nothing flattering about misrepresenting a culture, a group of people's beliefs, for your own purposes even if you're inspired by it or just because you want to, even if it serves an artistic purpose (though we believe this fashion choice was more likely about commerce than art).

It's not beautiful to corrupt the world's view of Native culture. So stop.

Windspeaker

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[rants and raves]

Page 5 Chatter

The Alberta Serious Incident Response team will

investigate "allegations of a possible breach of trust" in how police handled the missing person complaint regarding 18-year-old Colton Crowshoe. He was last seen leaving a party in Calgary July 4, and three weeks later his body was located in the city's northeast. Police ruled it a homicide. The agency is looking into interactions between Calgary police and Crowshoe in the days leading up to his disappearance. Crowshoe had been arrested July 2, charged with trespassing and break and enter and released that same day. Family alleges Calgary police dismissed their concerns and requests for help in locating Crowshoe, saying police racially-profiled the young man. The Calgary Herald reported that the family further alleges that Calgary police showed a lack of empathy after Crowshoe's body was found. "Right away, off the bat, they started making all these assumptions," Danielle Crowshoe is quoted saying. "(Police) didn't know Colton ... right away they stereotyped him."

Superstar actor Leonardo DiCaprio visited Fort Chipewyan

in August to research and film an upcoming documentary on the environment. Fort Chipewyan is located amongst the oil sands in northern Alberta. "I'm delighted," said Dr. John O'Conner of the actor's visit. "He tweeted to 11 million people this morning." O'Conner is a well-known advocate for the First Nations people of the region and outspoken on health impacts of the oil sands, including high incidences of a rare cancers. DiCaprio was a part of the documentary the 11th Hour about global warming and is the driver of Green World Rising, short films on climate and solutions to the climate concerns.

The Canadian Press reports that federal officials were

monitoring the "fallout" from the RCMP raid on the shale-gas exploration protesters of Rexton, N.B. The feds were concerned the raid could spark a movement similar to Idle No More. Elsipogtog First Nation members and other like-minded individuals were concerned about environmental impacts of shale-gas development and blockaded a roadway to prevent an exploration company from operating in the territory. On Oct. 17, the RCMP raided the compound of that blockade. A string of emails obtained through Access to Information shows concern about "growing support of protesters by first nation communities and other groups across the country." "An 'Idle No More' like movement of protests is reportedly being planned starting tomorrow," wrote the director of operations for Public Safety Canada, Alain Paquet. Another email notes the "creators of Idle No More in Lethbridge, AB, said via Twitter that they wasted no time in getting a group together to march down the city's main drag Thursday afternoon." The emails demonstrate that Ottawa wants to control aboriginal people, not work toward solutions to their concerns, said one of the protesters. "Canada has to have a better relationship with First Nations people," said Susan Levi-Peters in an article by the Canadian Press.

First Nations are saying tactics are being employed to

silence their voices and concerns over ongoing development of the oil sands after the government of Alberta said they shouldn't be heard at a review of environmental plans for the area, reports the Canadian Press. A panel of the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan has been told the Nations aren't directly impacted by the plan or to hear issues about treaty rights. "The majority of concerns raised by the applicant are not related to the content of (the plan) and are therefore outside the panel's jurisdiction and so must not be considered," said government arguments presented to the panel. Similar arguments have previously been used to limit testimony on individual energy projects held by the province and its industry regulator, allege the bands. "When the nation raises cumulative impacts on treaty rights in relation to individual projects, it is told that LARP is the appropriate place to have these concerns addressed," said Melissa Daniels, lawyer for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. "Now Alberta is arguing that it is inappropriate to raise these concerns with the panel specifically designed to review LARP. "If this isn't in bad faith, I don't know what is."

Land transfers under an Incremental Treaty Agreement with the Homalco Indian Band will create significant economic opportunities, reads a press release from the B.C. government. About 826 hectares on Sonora Island and East Thurlow Island off the east coast of Vancouver Island will be transferred as part of the ITA, providing benefits to Homalco in advance of treaty. The land will be transferred in three stages. The Homalco Indian Band owns and operates Homalco Forestry LP and a bear viewing business, Homalco Wildlife Tours Inc. These land transfers will allow the First Nation to build on current business opportunities and provide new business and training opportunities for their members. "Homalco has worked hard over the past 20 years to build a successful forestry company," said Homalco Indian Band Chief Richard Harry. "This Incremental Treaty Agreement will allow Homalco to realize our vision of integrated resource management that will provide long-term sustainable jobs and income to our people. This is a huge step forward in our treaty process and paves the way for a successful treaty with BC and Canada."

[strictly speaking]

Not exactly a feather in your cap

Located in the sun visor over the steering wheel in my car is an aged and weathered photograph dating back to the 60s. My grandmother and grandfather are proudly standing straight and tall, posing at the Curve Lake Powwow in central Ontario. The interesting thing is my grandfather is wearing a full scale eagle headdress. It's actually quite magnificent looking. The only problem is, wrong part of the country, wrong nation, wrong headgear. But other than that, it's pretty cool.

The recent ban on eagle headdresses at the Bass Coast Music Festival in British Columbia's Nicola Valley has stirred up quite the hornet's nest. Some see it as another politically correct move to ethnically police the fine art of cultural appropriation. Organizers feel the practice of such a sacred and culturally identifiable head gear being worn randomly and without a certain amount of aboriginal awareness isn't quite cricket. The sacred has become



THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

kitche.

Admittedly, it's been a long time in coming. Recently, singer Pharrell Williams apologized publically for wearing one in a photo shoot. Some years ago, when Outkast performed at the Grammys, they did so completely in faux green feathers, loincloths and headdresses. More than just the Natives were restless.

I can understand this position, not for the usual socio-political reasons cited, but simply because wanting to wear these things as a fashion statement is stupid,

with the exception of my grandfather, of course. It's not honouring anything or anybody except the "look at me, I look so cool" Nation, which is far too populous a tribe.

For one thing, I am sure this fascination is tied into the mythological power and glory of the Prairie Indians. Getting sunburned at a folk festival is so strikingly similar to hunting buffalo. Everybody wants to be Lakota, which is fine. If you're Lakota. This also includes the Bloods, Peigans, Plains Cree and other assorted and legitimate

wearers of headdresses.

I don't exactly see a rush of people in the mosh pits wearing the Iroquois gustoweh or a traditional Salish woven cedar hat. I don't think they are considered as cool, which is odd considering that in the Native community, the Iroquois and Salish are regarded as quite cool.

The same principle applies to Native people regarding the wearing of culturally unsuitable attire. It's rare you'll find a Cree man snowmobiling in a Kilt, or a Mi'qmaq lounging around in lederhosen. Or a Dene rocking on in a turban. There's just not much point.

Why my grandfather wore such a creation I never did ask him. It was definitely not part of Anishnawbe tradition. Try walking or running through the central Ontario bush with that object on your head. You'd lose half of the feathers just going to the outhouse. It was definitely designed for the emptiness of the prairies. Primarily, I think he and others of his generation wore

them because that's what the dominant culture expected of older Indian men. It was thought Aboriginal men had three things: a status card, a fluffy headdress, and a case of beer. Luckily, my grandfather only had the first two.

One thing that has me curious, how broad is this ban? For instance, what would happen if a chap from the Blood Reserve in Alberta showed up at the concert, wearing his headdress with the proper authorization. Would he be asked to leave? Might that result in a possible Human Rights case? I can get so complicated. But the reality of the situation is that probably wouldn't happen. Those things are purely ceremonial and quite probably hot and heavy and intelligent people know not to body surf in them to the Tragically Hip.

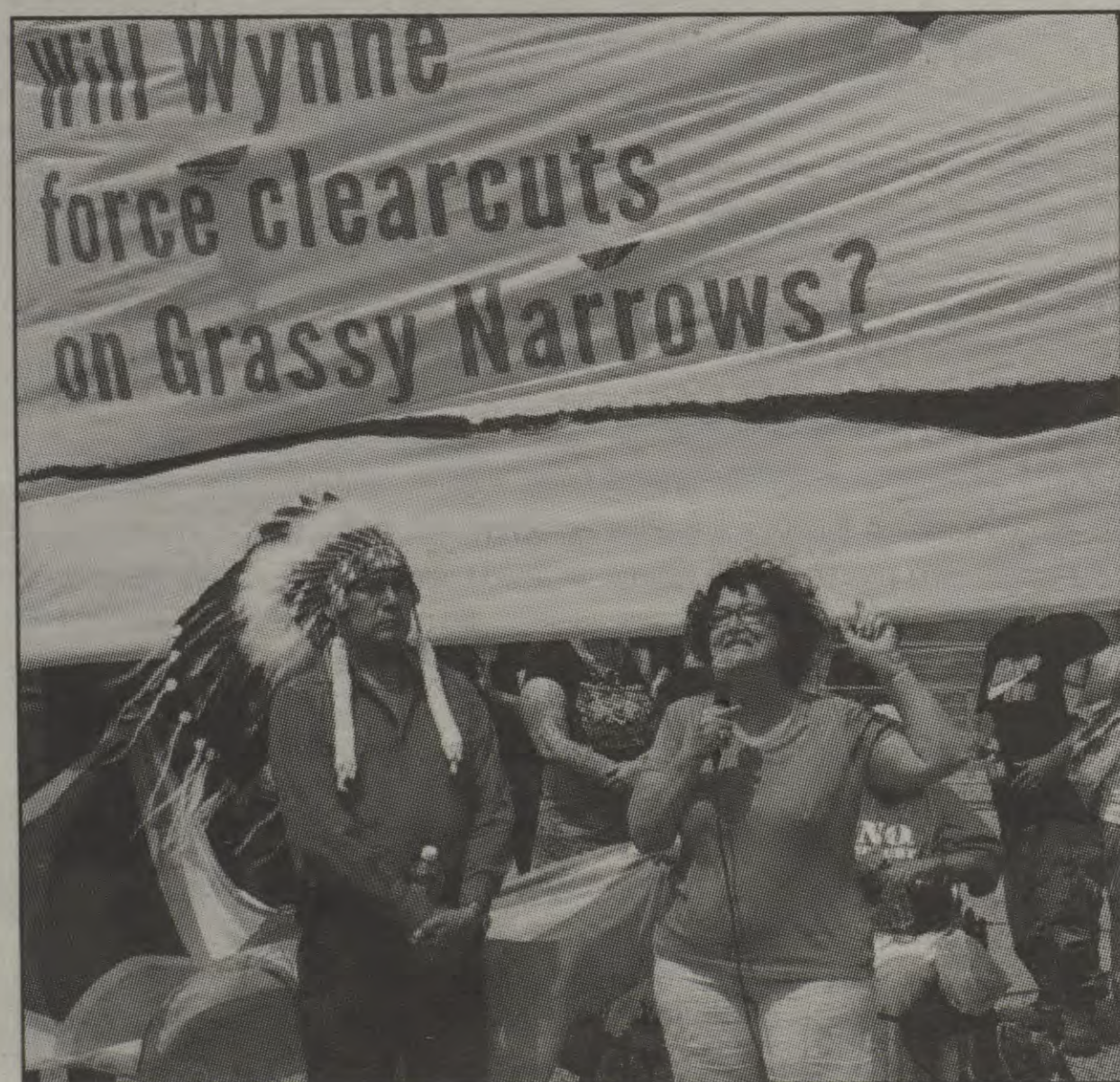
More importantly, imagine sitting behind somebody at a concert wearing a headdress... those things are a bitch to see around.

Fight continues on Grassy Narrows concerns



PHOTOS: BARB NAHWEGAHBOW

Grassy Narrows Chief Roger Fobister Sr. leads the march through downtown Toronto to Queen's Park July 31.



Grassy Narrows Chief Roger Fobister Sr looks on as political activist Judy Rebick addresses the rally at Queen's Park July 31

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

Members of Grassy Narrows First Nation, along with several hundred supporters, marched through downtown Toronto on July 31. To simulate a wild river, people carried fish cutouts and 1,500 meters of bright blue fabric rippling in the wind. They stopped traffic along University Avenue as they made their way to Queen's Park. Grassy Narrows Chief Roger Fobister Sr., wearing a traditional headdress, led the walkers.

The march was one of several activities held during the week to garner support for the First Nation's ongoing fight for the protection of their waters and homelands.

Grassy Narrows people are still suffering from the debilitating neurological impacts of 10 tonnes of mercury dumped into their river between 1962-1970 by a paper mill that was operating upstream. Most survivors are receiving inadequate health care and no compensation, according to an expert report commissioned in 2009 by the Mercury Disability Board. The board's report was released to the public for the first time on July 28 by FreeGrassy.net.

Ontario and Canada have never apologized for even one case of mercury poisoning in Grassy Narrows. The report notes that 65 per cent of Grassy Narrows and White Dog First Nations people diagnosed with Minamata Disease by Japanese experts were not acknowledged by the Mercury Disability Board

which uses outdated criteria developed in the 1980s. The Board includes representatives of both the federal and Ontario governments.

Steve Fobister Sr., a respected Grassy Narrows Elder and former grand chief of Treaty 3 suffers daily from the effects of mercury poisoning. Once a capable hunter and sport fishing guide, 63-year-old Fobister Sr. can now barely walk, trembles so severely that he has difficulty speaking and has lost sensation in his lips and fingers. He has lost his ability to make a living because of mercury poisoning and receives the paltry sum of \$250 a month as compensation.

"By poisoning our river, and then clearcut logging our forests, Ontario has ruined our health and now threatens to destroy who we are," Fobister said.

The Ontario provincial government has made final plans for a decade of clearcut logging on Grassy Narrows' homeland against the community's objections. Scientific studies indicate that clearcut logging in boreal watersheds raises mercury levels in fish above the World Health Organization's limit for safe human consumption. Further mercury may be released if the Ontario government implements its current plan for more clearcutting.

Chief Roger Fobister Sr. said he felt the week in Toronto had been successful in shining a spotlight on his community's concerns. The march was the finale in a week of activities, he said, "but this is not the end of it." He said the government agreed to a meeting to discuss the mercury issue and the clean-up of the river.

Torontonians "provided very good support," he said, pointing to the numbers of people on the march. "I haven't seen anything negative," he said "and even people on the street watching the march have been very supportive. They're curious and haven't made any negative comments."

A recent Supreme Court decision was devastating and a major impact to the people of Grassy Narrows, he said.

"I thought the decision would build on top of the B.C. (Tsilquot'in) decision," Fobister said, and was surprised when the top court ruled in favour of the Ontario government. The decision, he said, threatens Aboriginal and treaty rights and their survival in their own home territory.

"The Supreme Court decision allows the total jurisdiction of the province over even our treaty territory and that jurisdiction comes right up to the border of our community. My own home is just about two or three kilometers from the border," he said. "The province licenses various companies to extract resources from that land and that could happen just two or three kilometers away from our community borders. The Supreme Court doesn't talk about the duty to consult, so any time they want to cut down trees within our territory, they have to ask us now. That duty to consult, we regard, will be in the form of a table for government to government negotiations."

Grassy Narrows is an Ojibwa First Nation located 80 km north of Kenora, Ont. It has a membership of about 1,600 people with just over 900 living in the community.

Mission impossible for next top chief?

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

PETERBOROUGH, Ont.

The Assembly of First Nations is at a critical point as an organization and not only around whom it will choose as its next leader, but also how the leadership contest is undertaken.

There is potential for divisiveness, said Trent University Professor David Newhouse, who lectures on Indigenous politics and Aboriginal governance.

"(The potential leader) needs to be able to bring people together so that the AFN can speak with some authority and some sense of united voice. They need to have a plan how they're going to bring people together and lay out a bit of a vision for the Assembly of First Nations," said Newhouse, who is Onondoga from the Six Nations of the Grand River.

Chiefs and their delegates will be selecting the next leader in a Special Chiefs Assembly to be held in Winnipeg, Dec. 9 to Dec. 11. The national chief will serve three-and-a-half years, fulfilling the end of Shawn Atleo's term. Atleo stepped down in his second term as National Chief on May

2.

Delegates had two other options for choosing the national chief: one in October, which was seen as too soon, and the other July 2015, which could have coincided with the federal election.

"There was a general agreement that it was better sooner than later in terms of choosing a new national chief," said AFN Interim National Chief Ghislain Picard. "The quicker we choose a leader, the more stable politics will be within the AFN."

There are no official takers for the position yet. Nominations open Oct. 14 and close Nov. 4.

Picard said he is considering running, but needs to look at both professional and personal commitments before he makes his decision.

But having been both spokesperson for the organization since Atleo's sudden resignation and now interim national chief, as well as serving under a number of national chiefs, Picard said he has a strong understanding of what the position entails.

"The AFN is certainly going through some hard times," he said, noting there is much diversity within the AFN and

many issues that need to move forward. "The (new) leader has to be able to listen but also to find ways to find some middle ground and balance in the position. That certainly needs to be key; not (be) open to one group over another."

Picard also stresses that a review of the AFN's structure and decision-making process is required and the next leader needs to guide that work.

Not only does Newhouse agree with Picard's assessment that the 32-year-old organization needs to change, but Newhouse contends that Picard would be a strong choice to lead that change.

"He has the skills that can bring people together. He has national perspective. He's grounded in his culture. He speaks his language. He has a lot of experience," said Newhouse.

Newhouse also sees Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Grand Chief Perry Bellegarde and Wab Kinew, director of Indigenous Inclusion at the University of Winnipeg, as strong contenders. Both have expressed interest. In 2009, Bellegarde took Atleo to a record eight ballots. Bellegarde did not run in 2012.

Pam Palmater was Atleo's closest rival in 2012, with Atleo winning on the third ballot and more than doubling Palmater's

vote. Newhouse anticipates Palmater will run again but he does not see her as a viable leader.

"She's quite divisive. I don't think she has the skills to bring people together," he said.

As women contenders go, Newhouse offers up Roberta Jamieson, president of Indspire (formerly the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation).

"The leader needs to be able to build some consensus, needs to be able to walk a fine line between working with government, working with chiefs and ... he has to very clearly show that his alliance is primarily with First Nations," said Newhouse.

Newhouse believes that at this stage of the AFN's existence, the new leader will be taking on two distinct tasks: the internal workings of the organization and battling the Harper government for changes.

Internally, the new leader has to build a broad base of support; forge an agenda driven by two or three key advocacy issues, which needs to be developed both through his leadership and feedback from chiefs; relate to the off-reserve population, which continues to grow; understand Indigenous history while

developing a vision; and be strong in his culture, traditions, and language.

"Treaty is the huge, huge issue internally," said Newhouse. "How do you begin to advance treaty rights? Particularly since the treaty lobby in the west is very strong... and they want that to dominate the agenda."

At the national level, Newhouse says the new leader faces an increasingly divisive environment working with a government that "doesn't seem to listen and has its own agenda and is mistrusted by most Aboriginal people and most First Nations leaders."

Education and economic development are issues that will dominate the federal agenda and will prove to be a difficult battle.

"There's a growing sense that the (residential school) apology was a bit of a shallow exercise," said Newhouse.

Newhouse says that despite the internal struggles AFN is facing, a strong First Nations advocate organization is still needed and it is paramount that AFN bring the public on side.

The road ahead is not an easy one for the new national chief, he said.

"They'll have to walk on water."

Nations hold out on transparency act provisions

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

TSUU T'INA FIRST NATION, Alta.

The Tsuu T'ina First Nation does not need legislation for chief and council to be fiscally accountable to their membership, say leaders. And no legislation will force the Treaty 7 First Nation in southern Alberta to open its financial records in their entirety to the federal government.

When the First Nations Financial Transparency Act became law July 29, Tsuu T'ina submitted 20 pages to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada which accounted for the funding received from Canada and comprises 10 or 11 per cent of Tsuu T'ina's overall budget. As federal dollars do not pay salaries for chief and councillors, those figures were not included in the documents submitted.

"We're providing our members the full funding report," said Tsuu T'ina CEO Peter Manywounds. "The rest of the funds are self-generated by our enterprises."

Over the past 20 months, he says, Tsuu T'ina council has held 11 general meetings, including

four different occasions at which membership has requested and been provided with detailed financial information.

Because Tsuu T'ina already practises transparency with its membership, and because disclosing the details of its complex economic dealings would be damaging in a competitive business environment, Manywounds says chief and council chose not provide that information to the federal government.

Manywounds also points out that Tsuu T'ina expressed its disapproval with the legislation when the federal government proposed it.

Tsuu T'ina First Nation does not stand alone in its opposition to the legislation as is indicated by the less than one-third of First Nations that met the July 29 deadline to either post their financial records on their own Web site or offer them up to AANDC to post on the government Web site.

"We were not party to the design of the law and we were opposed to it from the outset, mainly because we said we wanted to get involved. This being said, we always said we have nothing against transparency and accountability.

It's really a matter of how it's being done and in this case, clearly being imposed against First Nations," said Ghislain Picard, interim National Chief for the Assembly of First Nations.

At this point, he says, the AFN is "trying to concentrate our message around what's being put out there. That seems to be the focus and I would say almost naturally because people will key in on that."

Kwikwetlem First Nation Chief Ron Giesbrecht's payment of \$914,219 in 2013 is one of the figures the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is talking about. And it's the very reason CTF championed the First Nations Financial Transparency Act, says Derek Fildebrandt, Alberta director with CTF. The organization pushed the legislation because of complaints from First Nations members who were having difficulty getting straight answers from their band councils.

"There are other chiefs out there who are being paid exorbitant sums, who are well aware that if it becomes public to their own people and to taxpayers how much they're making that they too will end up in the headlines," said Fildebrandt. He offers this as a

reason why First Nations are not posting their financials. However, he admits to being surprised by the widespread non-compliance.

Fildebrandt contends that chiefs' salaries should reflect those of elected municipal officials.

Picard refutes Fildebrandt's claim. "First Nations chiefs and elected officials don't have the same duties as a mayor of any municipality across the country. It's far more demanding. Chiefs could easily be negotiators, could easily be administrators, or even, at times, social workers. They have to be in the community 24/7, always on the ready."

Picard also challenges the CTF's claim of rampant misuse of federal dollars for salaries. He says AFN's analysis indicates the average salary of an elected First Nations' official as between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

Canadian Press reports that Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt will give First Nations until the end of November to comply before imposing penalties, including withholding federal funding.

"I really hope it doesn't come to that. There are important services that need to be provided. First Nations need the money," said Fildebrandt. "I think it

would be very bad of chiefs to let their own people suffer in order to keep their pay a secret."

Picard said he has heard talk of First Nations taking action if the federal government cuts off funding.

Grand Chief David Harper of Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak says bands are ready to blockade provincial installations, such as pipelines, in their fight against the First Nations Financial Transparency Act.

Manywounds says he would like to see a process put in place for the federal government to accommodate First Nations' concerns.

"We have a very sophisticated operation and we're not prepared to jeopardize what we've achieved so far and where we're headed on behalf of our membership by a one issue piece of legislation that may not be constitutionally (sound) or may infringe on inherent treaty and Aboriginal rights," he said.

Fildebrandt does not believe a Constitutional challenge is valid.

"I cannot see any Constitutional argument that would protect these people from basic disclosure required from any democracy on the planet," he said.

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Copper-breaking shames feds

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

Celebrated Namgis First Nation carver Beau Dick was only days from the end of his long journey home from Parliament Hill when his caravan heard the news in Calgary: the Mount Polley mine tailings dam had breached in B.C.'s Cariboo region, dumping nearly 15 million cubic metres of toxin-laden sludge into the Fraser River ecosystem.

Only days before, the Vancouver Island elder and his group had broken apart large copper shields at the doors of Canada's government, a traditional ceremony of shaming after a breach of law or protocol.

"As soon as we got the news about the tragedy we all burst into tears," he told Windspeaker. "It was an emotional experience.

"It was horrifying, and a testament that this is all real what we're facing. This is just one incident; it's continuous, we don't hear about most of it ... We've been warning these people for a long time now what could happen, that's what we're trying to warn the government about: taking care of our environment and protecting it for future generations."

That message has gained increasing urgency amongst Indigenous people with the federal government's conditional approval of Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline this year, and its ensuing coastal tanker traffic, as well as controversy over recent legislation critics say gutted environmental assessments and fish and waterway protection.

Though most of the trip was by van, Dick, 59, spent the first day on foot, leaving the First Nations House of Learning at University of British Columbia on July 2, where a crowd of roughly 100 people gathered to launch the trip.



PHOTOS: DAVID P. BALL

Namgis carver Beau Dick and others journeyed from B.C. to lead a traditional ceremony on Parliament Hill on July 27.



Celebrated science broadcaster and environmentalist David Suzuki spoke beforehand and voiced his support for the copper-

cutting journey.

Also present for the launch — and also for its conclusion in Ottawa — was Giindajin

Haawasti Guujaaw, former president of the Council of the Haida Nation and a renowned carver himself. The copper plates

taken 5,000 kilometres to Ottawa came from Haida Gwaii.

"This government — any government — now has to be more responsive to our people and to looking after this earth," he said. "We want to quit crying, we want to quit fighting, we want to quit whining, we want to just have a real life. That's what will come from this, but it will come from within ourselves."

Dick explained to Windspeaker that the mining of copper dates back to before the arrival of Europeans, and was mined by the Tsilhqot'in and traded north as a form of medicine — a "gift from the heavens," he said. But occasional Chinese shipwrecks near Haida Gwaii, he said, meant that even larger copper sheets made into decorated shields became a symbol of power and prestige and a record of good deeds.

In potlatch culture, the plates were enlarged when a chief distributed wealth broadly in the community or carried out good works — they became a sort of "credit card," he said, in exchange for mutual aid and favours between leaders.

So to break a copper into pieces — a rite not practiced for decades until Dick revived it — became an act of shaming, banishment and a symbol of a wrong needing to be addressed. Usually, Dick said, just the threat of breaking it was enough to bring feuding factions together. It was a way of "keeping the peace," he added.

"Now it's become more than a credit card. It's used to enforce authority," he explained. "It's a symbol of justice, balance, truth and connectedness with Mother Earth and the Creator."

"Breaking copper is an extreme act of shaming and a challenge, but it also can be repaired ... Quite often things would be straightened out before it got to that point. The threat should have been enough to invoke atonement."

(See Copper-breaking on page 9.)

Tailings pond breach could impair salmon returns

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

T'EXELC WILLIAMS LAKE FIRST BAND, B.C.

Moose meat or store bought beef will be replacing fish this winter for many First Nations members who get their salmon from the Quesnell River.

"A lot of people are saying they're not going to fish. The fish are in the river. They are running," said Willie Sellars, councillor with the T'exelc Williams Lake Indian Band. "A lot of people are not going to have that meat for the coming winter months."

The community's caution around the salmon comes after the Aug. 4 early morning breach

of the tailings pond dam at the open pit copper and gold Mount Polley Mine site, and despite reassurances from the province and First Nations Health Authority that water quality in the river falls within guidelines for human health and aquatic life.

An estimated 10 million cubic metres of water and 4.5 million cubic metres of fine sand with tailings' toxins were released into Polley Lake. The flow of contaminated water continued into Quesnel Lake through Hazeltine Creek, which flows out of Polley Lake.

Imperial Metals Corp., the B.C. mining company that operates Mount Polley Mine, reports the government's positive water quality results "confirm the monitoring undertaken by mine

personnel during regularly scheduled tailing pond analysis."

Immediately following the breach, a state of local emergency was declared and a drinking water ban issued. The majority of the drinking water ban lasted less than a week.

While communication is ongoing now with regular briefings from the province, there was no notification of the First Nation when the breach occurred, said Sellars, who found out about the situation when an employee at the mine site sent Sellars a Facebook post.

T'exelc Williams Lake Indian Band and Xats'ull Soda Creek First Nation were contacted by Imperial Metals Corp. the following afternoon. The mine is located within their traditional territory.

"We got dropped down in the priority list. We raised those issues obviously and I'd like to hope that's never going to happen in the future," said Sellars. "We were pretty discouraged by it for sure... Moving forward we obviously want to be higher on the priority list."

As soon as Sellars found out about the breach, he attempted to get confirmation from the mine. Unable to do that, he informed T'exelc Williams Lake Indian Band Chief Anne Louie and Xats'ull Soda Creek First Nation Chief Bev Sellars and technical staff of the situation.

The breach could not have happened at a worse time as it coincided with the opening of the Quesnel River for band members for annual sockeye harvesting to fill their food-fish quotas.

The First Nations Fisheries Council of British Columbia stated that "record-breaking numbers of salmon are making their way up the Fraser River toward their spawning habitat in the Quesnel system."

The FNHA issued a statement on Aug. 15 saying it was "working closely with First Nations directly impacted by the Mount Polley tailings spill to administer a fish sampling project intended to provide First Nations with independent information and to inform their decision-making."

FNHA would not clarify which First Nations it was working with. Fisheries Council Executive Director Jordan Point said concern for fish health goes beyond this season.

(See Tailings on page 21.)

Appeals Court tidies up ruling on Métis, non-status Indians

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

Both the Métis National Council and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) are lauding the Federal Court of Appeal's decision upholding a lower court ruling that the federal government has jurisdiction over Métis and non-status Indians.

However, in making its unanimous ruling that both groups were covered under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, the Court of Appeal said that non-status Indians were not a distinct group of peoples and that their rights were already included with their existing bands.

Justice Eleanor R. Dawson delivered the decision in her 57-page judgement.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), who had intervener status in the appeal, had asked that non-status Indians be separated from the declaration that was delivered by the Federal Court in the Daniels' case, which stated, "those persons who are Métis and those who are non-status Indians ... are 'Indians' within the meaning of the expression 'Indians and Lands reserved for Indians' contained in s 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867."

"The court agreed with our submission," said Jason Madden, legal counsel for MMF. "Everyone has always acknowledged that Indians are within 91(24) but what they

don't say is that they're a distinct group that needs to be negotiated with through their own representatives... what they say is that those issues are dealt with through their respective Indian-based collective."

Following the lower court decision in January 2013, CAP National Chief Betty Ann Lavallée said that non-status Indians had a place at the negotiating table. But the Court of Appeal has not upheld that.

In a news release issued following the April 17 decision, Lavallée said she was "very pleased ... the federal government conceded at the appeal hearing that non-status Indians fall under federal jurisdiction."

CAP was created in 1971 and has, as part of its mandate, advocacy for non-status Indians and Métis. CAP and the late Harry Daniels launched the case in 1999, challenging the federal government for denying it had a fiduciary duty to non-status Indians and Métis.

The Federal Court of Appeal also addressed a concern that the lower court decision caused.

"The court (of appeal) actually does what the Métis asked them to do, which was to clean up the potential confusion around the definition in Daniels of who the Métis are," said Madden.

Dawson pulled from the more recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada in Powley, Cunningham and Manitoba Métis Federation for her definition of Métis, replacing the view espoused by lower court

Judge Michael Phelan, who referenced a 1980 government definition which defined Métis and non-status Indians as "a group of native people who maintained a strong affinity for their Indian heritage without possessing Indian status."

That definition contradicted the citizenship definition Métis governments across the country have adopted stating that Métis are a distinct people who can trace their heritage back to a historic Métis community.

Dawson reaffirmed the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling that the federal government had a fiduciary relationship with all Aboriginal people, including the Métis.

From that, says Madden, a fiduciary duty flows, which is based on specific facts and specific situations.

"The federal government approach to things has been to historically exclude Métis... but now we have a clear answer," he said. "I think everything will be on the table now, evaluating why (the federal government has) excluded Métis from initiatives."

Dawson made it clear that provincial agreements and legislation with the Métis were not compromised because primary federal jurisdiction over the Métis had been recognized.

Madden expects the federal government will appeal the Daniels decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

At deadline, neither the Department of Justice nor Aboriginal Affairs had issued statements on the decision.

Copper-breaking shames feds

(Continued from page 8.)

Dick admits the federal government likely wasn't paying too much attention to the copper being broken on its doorstep last month, or to the serious message it carries to the Haida. But nonetheless, the journey across the continent was "truly amazing," he said.

"It was not always easy or comfortable, it was tiresome," he admitted. "But what a fulfilment."

"We went to so many places and had so many experiences — the welcomings to Sundances, peyote ceremonies, powwows, all these cultural events ... it is still resonating. History was made."

After a similar copper-breaking ceremony he conducted at B.C.'s Legislature Buildings in Victoria in February 2013, Dick said that Guujaaw encouraged him to take the message of environmental and social brokenness — and the need for atonement and reconciliation — all the way to Canada's capital.

"I'm certain that the government of Canada didn't feel threatened by our little ceremonies," he said. "There was no response, whatsoever, but we'll keep pushing to bring forward this notion of justice, truth and dignity."

At the launch ceremony in Vancouver, Chief Robert Joseph spoke about the copper-cutting journey as part of the historic struggle for healing from the legacy of colonization, work he's advanced through his organization Reconciliation Canada.

He told the crowd that if Aboriginal people and Canadians are to "find a new way forward together," it's going to take effort.

"It's going to take a lot of hard work like this," Joseph said. "One day at a time."

"It inspires them to walk across the country even more strongly and loudly than they would have without your support. They're going to carry this message to others, that ... we all should begin to embrace each other

regardless of race, colour, creed or circumstance. All of us have purpose and value."

Citing not only environmental crises but also cuts to health care, education funding and mental health support, Dick said that he hopes the powerful messages of ceremonies such as copper-cutting and potlatch could inspire people far beyond his nation or even just the continent; the journey wasn't about "First Nations issues," he said, but about issues facing humanity as a whole.

"We talked about what's going on in Palestine, Ukraine and China, all around the world there's upheaval, it's being plunged into chaos," he said. "As First Nations we do have an edge, as we've healed and stepped onto the world stage we have a voice now."

"If we went back to our ways of potlatching and measuring people by how they provided and how responsible they were for looking after the people, I think it'd be a better world for all of us."

Windspeaker News Briefs

The Okanagan Nation Alliance has filed a legal challenge

against British Columbia and the British Columbia Treaty Process. It was sparked by B.C.'s decision to sign an Incremental Treaty Agreement with the Ktunaxa Nation Council to transfer 240-plus hectares of land without consulting ONA. The proposed land contains village site, hunting grounds and heritage sites of ONA and their members. "We offered the province a chance to rectify the situation through a process of collaborative, respectful engagement, but the province rejected this path," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. "Overriding our title and rights to enter into an agreement with another First Nation is no way to achieve reconciliation." The ONA is made up of seven First Nations, including the Osoyoos Indian Band, the Penticton Band, and the Westbank First Nation, as well as the Colville Confederated Tribes of the United States.

The Shubenacadie First Nation in Nova Scotia has changed

its name to something more traditional and will now go by the name Sipekne'katik band. The name is inspired by where wild turnips or potatoes grow, said Chief Rufus Copage. "It's a return to our traditional roots." The Sipekne'katik band also has a new flag.

Outspoken leader Derek Nepinak has won a second term

as Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs on the first ballot of the election held at Swan Lake First Nation. Of the eligible voting nations, 48 cast ballots with 26 votes, or 50 per cent plus one, cast in support of Nepinak, whose contenders were Sagkeeng Chief Donovan Fontaine and the former chief of Black River, Sheldon Kent.

New Brunswick is cancelling a revenue-sharing

agreement with First Nations saying it distributes government resources unevenly. The agreement deals with tax and gaming revenues. A new formula the province plans to present will redistribute the wealth. Chief Joe Sacobie of Oromocto First Nation says his community will lose if the agreement is cancelled, reports CBC News. Oromocto, as well as other nations, received 90 days' notice that the deal would terminate in November, but the impacts would be gradual over the next five years.

The Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) has decided

not to sign an Economic Community Development Agreement with British Columbia for the Gibraltar Mine until the province changes its engagement and benefit-sharing on major projects with First Nations. Shored up by the recent Supreme Court Tsilhqot'in title decision and in the face of the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond disaster, TNG said B.C.'s 'take it or leave it' approach on revenue sharing agreements is unacceptable. TNG wants transparency around the amount of mineral tax revenue that will flow. They say revenues are often low for the amount of risk to First Nations.

TNG wants a role for First Nations to set, monitor and enforce environmental standards. And TNG says the releases First Nations are required to sign to benefit from such agreements, in fact, diminishes their right to compensation in the event of any catastrophic damages. "This comes down to respect. Negotiating with 'take-it-or-leave-it' offers is inconsistent with the direction from the Supreme Court in our title ruling, and offering an agreement without telling us the funding levels is a slap in the face," said Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chair for the Tsilhqot'in National Government.

"First Nations deal with crippling levels of poverty on our reserves. We are not critical at all of other First Nations that have signed ECDAs. We understand the urgent need for economic benefits, even on the insulting terms set down by the province. But the status quo has been shattered. We are not asking for handouts. We are calling for real partnerships. We are calling on the province to sit down with us and work out a new, positive approach to engagement, environmental protection, security levels and benefit-sharing for the Gibraltar Mine."

The Assembly of First Nations acknowledged

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples Aug. 9 as "a time to celebrate the strength, resilience and resurgence of Indigenous peoples and nations around the globe," said acting National Chief Ghislain Picard. "At the same time, it is an opportunity to reflect on this year's theme—'Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of Indigenous peoples'—and the long-overdue and necessary work that we still must do here in Canada to give life to First Nations rights, treaties and title."

"This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Niagara between Indigenous Nations and Great Britain that reaffirmed our nation-to-nation relationship. This relationship has existed for centuries but we must move now and work together to honor and implement the principles of that relationship."

[back to school] Emphasis on safety rated a success at camp loon

By Peter Moon
Windspeaker Contributor

GERALDTON, Ont.

Camp Loon 2014 was "a very successful camp this year," according to Captain Caryl Fletcher, the army officer commanding the Junior Canadian Rangers in the Far North of Ontario.

The annual camp, in the bush north of Geraldton, provided eight days of advanced training for 160 Junior Rangers from 20 First Nations, with an emphasis on safety on the land and water and in personal lifestyles.

"We definitely succeeded in getting the message about safety across," Captain Fletcher said. "We drove it home at all the training sites. You watched them and you could see they listened. They put on their helmet and their gloves at the ATV site without being told to."

"They put on their personal flotation device at the boat and canoe site. They did it naturally and a large percentage of the Junior Rangers at the camp took back home what we taught them about safety and they will pass it on to others."

The Junior Canadian Rangers are a national program run by the Canadian Army for boys and girls aged 12 to 18 in remote communities across the North. In Ontario there are 750 Junior Rangers in 20 First Nations. Nationally there are 4,300 Junior Rangers in 135 communities.

Camp Loon provided a range of training activities that are not normally available to Junior Rangers in their home communities. They included specialized instruction in shooting (both rifle and paintball), boating (power boats and canoes), driving all-terrain vehicles, learning how to swim-to-survive, mountain biking, archery, lacrosse, and traditional arts and crafts.

The camp has been held annually since 2000. The cost of

the camp this year was about \$800,000.

"The army has helped to improve safety in the North, for sure," said Sergeant Chris Kataquapit, a Canadian Ranger from Attawapiskat. "The skills and knowledge gained at Camp Loon are taken back to their communities by the Junior Rangers and more people benefit, even adults. Most of these kids know how to hunt but they don't know safety around guns. The firearms safety training they get here is very useful. They will pass that on to others."

"I can teach others what I learned here," said Junior Ranger Roberta Wood, 14, of Sandy Lake. "I can tell them what I learned about safety and ATVs and power boating and shooting."

In addition to the training, she said, she enjoyed meeting Junior Rangers from other communities and making new friends. She also liked the quality and the variety of the food provided by a military field kitchen.

Like other Junior Rangers she enjoyed the challenge of a confidence-building zip line that launched from a 10-metre high platform and took them 130 metres over a river. "I was scared at first," she said, "but I managed to do it. After that I did it almost 20 times. It was pretty fun."

Northern Ontario has the highest number of Aboriginal drowning deaths in Canada, partly because it has a large Aboriginal population but also because the short summer and cold waters keep people from learning to swim. The camp provided Junior Rangers with a Canadian Lifesaving course called Swim-to-Survive, which provides basic swimming instruction. As a result most went home able to swim.

Sergeant Peter Moon is the public affairs ranger for 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at Canadian Forces Base Borden.




Camp teaches skills unavailable in many First Nations communities.

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our minds
together
and see what
life we can
make for our
children."*

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[back to school]

RBC helps defray education costs

Ten Aboriginal students will receive scholarships from this year's RBC Aboriginal Student Awards Program. The scholarships will offset the costs of post-secondary education during the academic year, including tuition, textbooks, living expenses, and school supplies.

Scholarship winners are Brittany David of Little Black River Nation attending school at the University of Winnipeg - Business Administration; Nicholas Gault, Mi'kmaq attending Dalhousie University in Engineering; Keisha GoodLeaf, Mohawk attending Concordia University - Bachelor of Commerce, Accounting; Louis Harris, Seneca - Six Nations attending school at University of British Columbia - Bachelor of Science, Zoology; Clarissa Hoostie of White Bear First Nation attending school at University of Calgary - Bachelor of Nursing; Sam MacLeod, Ojibwe attending school at University of Toronto - Master of Information; Tatiana Ruiz, Soda Creek Indian Band - Shuswap attending school at Thompson Rivers University - Business Administration; Andre Schaub, MÈtis attending school at the University of Alberta - Engineering; Kelsey Spence, Métis attending Capilano University - Business Administration and Robert Voudrach, Inuit of the Western Arctic attending school at Aurora College in Business Administration.

This year's winners include a student who hopes to become a Biomedical Engineer to help bring positive change to the global public health sector and another who dreams of building an Aboriginal child care center after completing her degree in

Business Administration.

"While many Aboriginal students are eager to pursue post-secondary education, some might not be able to, due to financial constraints," said Chinyere Eni, national director, Aboriginal Markets, RBC. "We strongly believe investing in education fosters strong and healthy Aboriginal communities. Our awards program helps students overcome financial barriers so they can focus on their education, no matter what they choose to study."

Applications for the 2015 RBC Aboriginal Student Awards Program will be accepted from December 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015. Eligibility criteria and more information can be found at rbc.com/careers/aboriginal_student_awards. In honour of the late Corinne Mount Pleasant-Jetté, a prominent member of the First Nations community who was instrumental in leading the launch of the RBC Aboriginal Student Awards Program, as of January 2015, one of the RBC awards will be named "The Corinne Mount Pleasant-Jetté Leadership Award". This award will be given to one of the 10 winners who demonstrates leadership skills in their community and acts as a change agent for Aboriginal communities.

Since 1992, RBC has supported Indigenous students through the Aboriginal Student Awards Program. RBC will award each recipient up to \$4,000 annually, for a maximum of four years, for post-secondary education. RBC also continues to invest in the Aboriginal students selected by considering those interested in careers in financial services for an opportunity to work at RBC.

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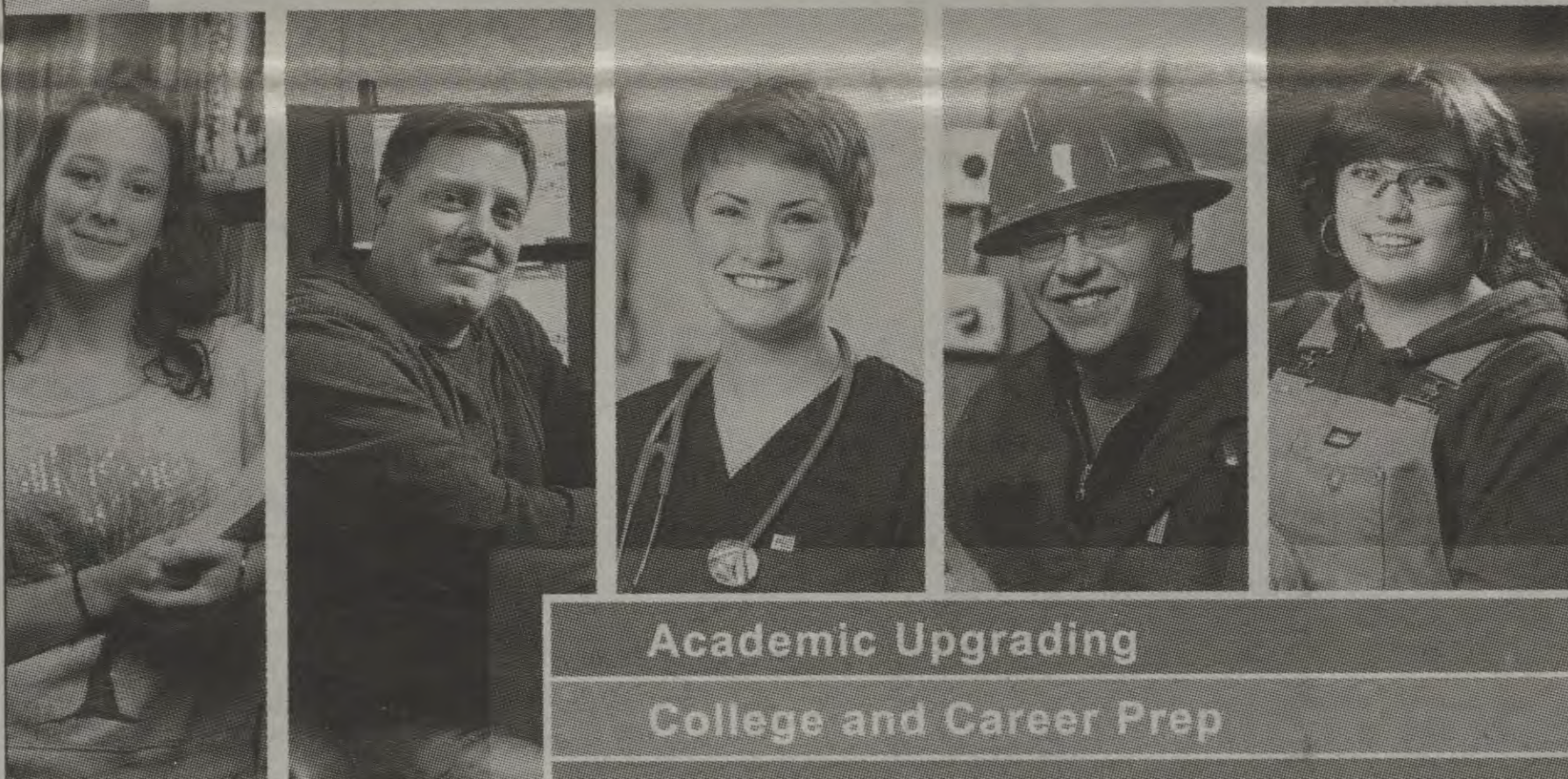
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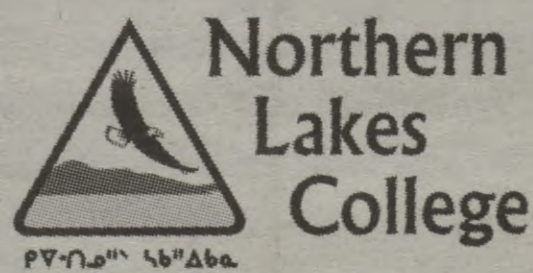
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Raven's Eye: Special Section providing news from BC & Yukon

The T'Sou-ke First Nation continues to implement its 100-year vision

for its 250-member community with a new business. Three greenhouses are growing wasabi seedlings over the next 15 months. The Pacific Coast Wasabi enterprise will help the community achieve economic self-sufficiency. T'Sou-ke Nation is located on 67 hectares near Victoria on Vancouver Island. T'Sou-ke has been going green in its operations, moving to solar power and electric vehicles. Profits from the wasabi farm will expand an organic community garden and fund an oyster farm project in the Sooke Basin. They are partnering to develop a \$750-million wind power project and are looking to wave power from the ocean to create energy. A recent Globe and Mail article reports the Nation has cut its energy bills by 75 per cent.

The Splat-sin First Nation near Enderby will share revenues

from the Cranberry Creek hydroelectric project, located 25 km south of Revelstoke, thanks

to a new agreement with the province. "The Cranberry Creek area is of high cultural value to Splat-sin and the Secwepemc Nation," said Wayne Christian, chief of Splat-sin. "This agreement confirms our interests in the resources of the area. We expect all clean energy development to be developed responsibly and sustainably in partnership with First Nations."

It's up to First Nations leaders in British Columbia to decide if their representative

on the executive of the Assembly of First Nations should remain in her role now she has declared as a Liberal Party candidate for the next federal election.

But according to Ken Young, a former advisor to former AFN national chief Phil Fontaine, B.C. Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould could tempt the wrath of the ruling Conservative Party and inspire a funding cut to the organization. "The AFN should not be seen to be financing any political party, directly or indirectly," wrote Young in a

letter. "This ... must be dealt with or else it might be expected the Conservative government will take action against the organization in the form of withholding any financial obligations it might have with the AFN." Isadore Day, chief of the Serpent River First Nation, also complained that AFN "fiscal resources are funding a formally announced candidate." But Ernie Crey, an advisor to the Sto:lo Tribal Council, said Wilson-Raybould is being targeted by "old warhorses" in the AFN that he alleges drove out Shawn Atleo as national chief. Atleo resigned suddenly in May, and was often criticized for having too close ties to Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office.

A spokesperson for the federal Aboriginal Affairs department states there is no funding cut planned for the AFN and Wilson-Raybould's political ties are not relevant to the organization's funding agreement.

Wilson-Raybould will take a leave from her role when the election writ is dropped, and if she is not the successful candidate in the election, will

return to her role with the BC-AFN after the election.

Nuxalk Chief Wally Webber is happy that a traditional mask that was used as a Super Bowl wager by the Seattle Art Museum will be used in Bella Coola for a potlatch

in September. It's only a temporary visit back to the community, however. The ceremonial mask was used for the wager in January, because it was reminiscent of the Seattle Seahawk's logo, said the museum. Depending on the outcome of the game, the SAM would trade the piece to a Denver museum for limited display. The concept of using the mask in this way offended the Nuxalk and the wager was rescinded. "It was an insult to us, putting that mask up for a bet, a wager. But now they know that they shouldn't be doing stuff like that," Chief Webber told The Globe and Mail. "I'm pretty sure that these museums have a manual on how to deal with stuff like this, but someone didn't pay attention to it." The potlatch is expected to attract more than

1,000 visitors on Sept. 27.

A small piece of land located in the Grange Harbour at Salt Spring Island is causing big headaches

to the developers of Grace Islet. First Nations want it protected because it is a burial place, but the private property owner has begun constructing a home there. "First Nations heritage sites, burial site and sacred sites continue to be desecrated and destroyed," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. "The BC Heritage Conservation Act is fundamentally flawed and simply does not protect our most important, valued and sacred—our ancestors' remains." The Capital Regional District was asked to turn Grace Islet into protected parkland, but they have refused, said Phillip. "If this was a non-First Nation gravesite, protection would be afforded to it," he said. Phillip said it's time for the province to step up to ensure First Nations heritage and burial sites are afforded the conservation and protection they deserve.



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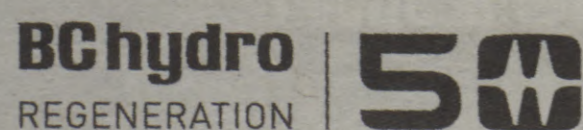
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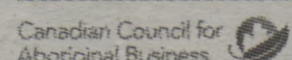
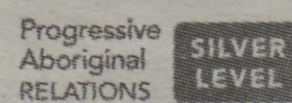
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GDS11-255

Yuquot is more than a place; it's a feeling



Chief Mike Maquinna welcomed guests to Yuquot (Friendly Cove) Aug. 3 and invited them to share a meal of salmon and potato salad to cap this year's Summerfest camp out, the theme of which was Youth.

The young people had collapsed their tents, packed up their belongings and were heading back to Gold River on the Uchuck freighter, a two-hour boat ride from the remote place they had called home for the last week or so, free from their technology, free to live with nature.

Margarita James of The Land of Maquinna Cultural Society welcomed guests to the Birthplace of British Columbia, describing the history of the Summerfest event. It was back in 1992 when it all began with Ambrose Maquinna hoping to re-vitalize the connection to the traditional territory of the Mowachaht on Nootka Island. The community had been moved away from the area in the mid-1960s. There is only one family that lives there now year-round.

It was also Ambrose's dream to create a place where his nation could welcome the world once again. He saw Yuquot as an economic development opportunity, where the youth could be ambassadors, could provide guided tours and tell the history of the place from the Mowachaht perspective. Yuquot is steeped in history. This was Ambrose's day, said an emotional Margarita.

Friendly Cove is the place where Captain James Cook first came ashore on the West Coast of Canada, and before Cook, the Spanish traded with the people there. It's the only place in Canada where Spain had a settlement.

It's all this history, and the history since time immemorial of the Mowachaht people, that gives Yuquot that special appeal. As Margarita told the visitors, it's more than a place, it's a feeling.

She described how the people were once known as the Nootka, when European ships were told to go around the island, a phrase that sounded like the word Nootka. The people are known the world over now as the Nootka people, and Margarita embraces it, saying Yuquot is filled with the Nootka spirit.

She provided two special guests from Parks Canada with books that told about the area. It was Melissa Banovich's first time to Yuquot and her husband and two young children collected pebbles from the beach as she toured the six cabins now located at the site.

John McCormick has been lucky enough to visit Yuquot many times, he told the crowd. The Mohawk from Kahnawake, in fact, had made a promise to Maquinna during one visit and he fulfilled that promise on this trip.

McCormick presented Maquinna with a Mohawk warrior flag, saying the meaning of the flag is often misrepresented, but it represented a belief in something. Maquinna told McCormick that he would treat the flag with respect and would fly it with good intentions.

The luncheon was held in the church among amazing carving and totems, stained glass and brass plaques that reminded guests that the area was once almost the site of a huge European war over the resources there and that peace was negotiated by another chief named Maquinna more than 200 years ago.



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Public Notice

Merrick Mainline Project: Information on the NEB's Regulatory Process, Participant Funding

On 04 June 2014, Nova Gas Transmission Limited (NGTL) filed a project description with the National Energy Board (NEB or the Board) for the proposed Merrick Mainline Project. The proposed project will be an extension of the NGTL System and will facilitate the connection of the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin gas supply to markets in BC, the Pacific Northwest and emerging liquefied natural gas export markets via the NOVA Inventory Transfer market hub.

If you are interested an information session to learn more about the NEB Hearing Process, how to participate, and the participant funding process (see below), please call our toll free number at 1-800-899-1265, or email MerrickMainlineProject.ProcessHelp@neb-one.gc.ca.

To receive updates about the Merrick Mainline Project, please visit the NEB web site at www.neb-one.gc.ca and fill out the Merrick Mainline Project subscription form on the NOVA GAS Transmission Ltd. - Merrick Mainline Project page.

Participant Funding

The NEB is making funds available under its Participant Funding Program to assist landowners, Aboriginal groups, incorporated non-industry, not-for-profit organizations, and other interested persons to participate in the regulatory process of Nova Gas Transmission Limited (NGTL)'s proposed Project.

The purpose of participant funding is to help interested persons review and comment on the proposed project. Interested persons are encouraged to review information on the proposed project before submitting an application for funding. **To receive funding, interested persons will have to apply for and be accepted as an intervenor in the NEB's regulatory process for this project.** Funding must be used to prepare for and participate in the hearing process, which will be announced by the Board at a later date.

A funding review committee, independent of the regulatory process, will consider all applications for funding and make recommendations on the allocation of funds.

Funding applications should be submitted as soon as possible. Funding will only be awarded for hearing related activities conducted after your application has been approved. Please review the Participant Funding Program Guide to determine when and how to apply for funding and what funding will cover.

The *Participant Funding Program Guide*, including the *Application for Funding Form* and the *Contribution Agreement* can be found on the Board's website (www.neb-one.gc.ca/pfp).

For more information, contact:
Participant Funding Program Coordinator
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Saskatchewan Sage: Special Section providing news from Saskatchewan



PHOTO: METISNATION.CA

Monument recognizes Métis contribution in wars

A monument that will have all the names of Métis veterans that fought in 1885, the First World War, the Second World War, and Korea was unveiled at this year's Back to Batoche Days. "The monument speaks to the great respect we have for those who fought for our rights here on the battlefield of Batoche and for the rights and freedoms of all Canadians in global conflicts. While their numbers may be dwindling, this monument will enshrine the memory of their great deeds forever," said Métis National Council President Clement Chartier as he unveiled the monument on July 19. The Back to Batoche festival is widely recognized as the biggest Métis cultural event in Canada. It draws more than 5,000 visitors daily.

Houses built on First Nation for sale to anyone

The Whitecap Dakota First Nation is using the First Nations Land Management Act to build homes for sale, available to anyone. Construction began in May on four 1,190 square foot homes on the First Nation's west side. These houses are the first of 10 to be built with a starting price of \$371,000. Anyone who buys a house will technically be taking over a 99-year lease of the land, which will roll into perpetuity upon the lease's completion. This is how the First Nation has managed to sell the property without surrendering the land back to the federal government. Chief Darcy Bear said the decision to build the houses was due to a perceived need for on-reserve employee housing. This is the first phase of a larger commercial housing project agreement that Whitecap Dakota has entered into with Valley River

Development Corp., operated by Joe LaPointe. In addition to building more homes on the First Nation in the future, the band has zoned between 40 and 60 acres for a business park for about 10 new businesses. Those who buy into those commercial spaces will operate on a 49-year lease. Bear and LaPointe expect the new homes will be finished in December 2014. Construction on the remaining six that comprise phase one will begin in spring of 2015.

Agreement to help develop Aboriginal workforce for mines

Parkland College has signed two agreements that will help prepare students to work in Saskatchewan's mining industry. Parkland College will join forces with Carlton Trail College and International Minerals Innovation Institute on multi-year projects, which will include developing an Aboriginal workforce for the mines and processing facilities. The first project funded by IMII is an Introduction to Mining course, which will train students for a number of specific entry-level positions while preparing them for further education in occupations related to the minerals industry. Parkland College will also deliver a training course designed for electricians. Funding from IMII will bring SIAST's Electrician Applied Certificate Enhanced program to the college's industrial campus in Esterhazy. These agreements are among eight projects being rolled out by IMII with a focus on safety, environment, and developing specialized training for the mining industry. IMII is providing over \$822,000 in funding for this pair of education and training projects.

Band seeking recognition through court action

The John Cochrane Band filed a statement of claim in Saskatoon Court of Queen's Bench in August alleging Chief Perry Bellegarde, acting as executive authority for the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, has improperly blocked the band's membership claim. In September 2009, the claim says, FSIN's joint executive council and Indian Government Commission unanimously approved the John Cochrane Band's request to join the FSIN. However, at the fall assembly in October 2009, the resolution ratifying membership was "improperly" removed from the agenda. The John Cochrane Band, also known as the Kaministikominahiko-skak Cree Nation, has been fighting for years for recognition. Its members say they historically claimed and occupied Cumberland Island, which became the home of Cumberland House Cree Nation in the 1960s after "a forced amalgamation of five groups of Cree Nation peoples living in the Cumberland areas," according to the claim. Recognition as a First Nation would carry financial allocations such as gaming revenues from the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and legal advocacy funds available through FSIN. The band is claiming \$2.5 million in lost gaming revenues since 2009 and \$500,000 in legal advocacy funds. The band is also asking for damages for "lost opportunity" in land and resource negotiations, social programs and other benefits, totalling \$2 million plus interest from October 2009.

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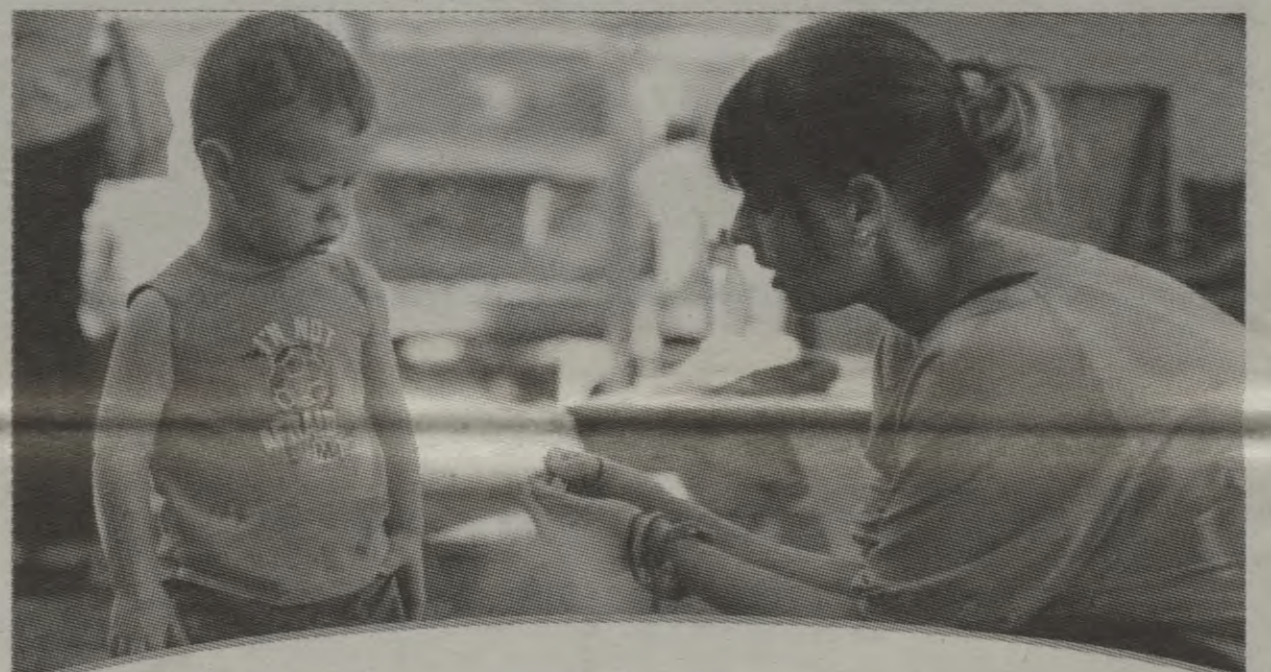
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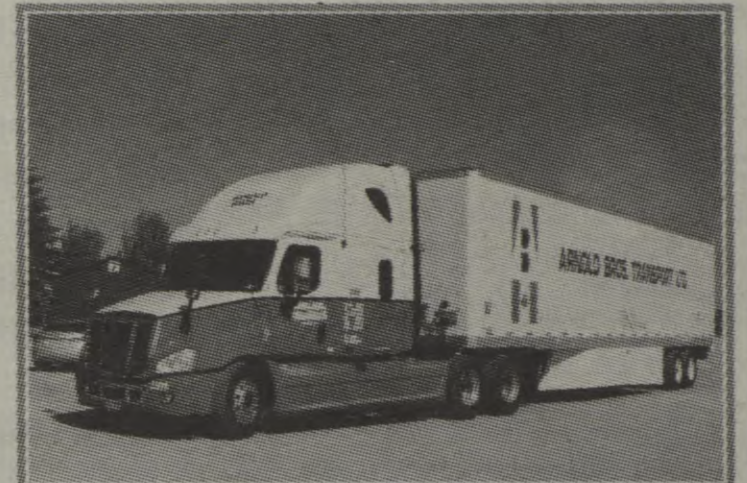
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Manitoba Pipestone: Special Section providing news from Manitoba

Monument commemorates murdered, missing Aboriginal women

Less than a week after the unveiling of a monument at The Forks, the historic junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, to recognize the 1,200 missing and murdered Aboriginal women, the body of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine was found wrapped in a bag in the Red River. Fontaine had been in the care of Child and Family Services and was reported missing Aug. 9. The monument, hourglass-shaped and human-sized, is meant to represent a woman. There is an opening near the top that allows sunlight through. "The light and the darkness pass through without judgment in an endless cycle. There is neither a beginning nor an end," said Nahanni Fontaine, a special adviser for the government on Aboriginal women's issues. The two-metre-high granite statue was a project led by the Manitoba government. Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister Eric Robinson has renewed his call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The federal government has rejected the idea.

Alberta unit to investigate RCMP shooting at Norway House

An independent team from Alberta will be investigating the circumstances surrounding the RCMP shooting of Evan Cromarty, 20. Cromarty was at a baseball tournament at Norway House when he was shot on July 20. He had allegedly been fleeing police when he ran onto the field. He was air-lifted to a Winnipeg hospital with undetermined non-life threatening injuries. Cromarty faces a number of charges including aggravated assault, one charge of breaking and entering, four charges of uttering threats and weapons charges stemming from an incident at Norway House. CBC News reports that Norway House Chief Ron Evans said the shooting has escalated tensions between RCMP and First Nations people in the community. Premier Greg Selinger spoke with Evans on Sunday night about ordering the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team to look into the matter.

Flood assistance program for fishermen

The provincial government is creating an assistance program for fishermen affected by flooding on Lake Manitoba. The program will specifically target those living in First Nations communities, which Infrastructure Minister Steve

Ashton acknowledged are often the hardest hit by flooding. Ashton and Northern Affairs Minister Eric Robinson announced the program in late July following a tour of flood-affected areas in southern Manitoba. The government is also in talks with Ottawa about providing First Nations in the Interlake area with a "rapid flood-fighting arsenal." The fishermen's assistance program will apply to the Dauphin River and Lake St. Martin fisheries that have been affected by the operation of the Lake St. Martin emergency channel. The program will provide compensation for lost fishing opportunities while also reimbursing the cost of damaged nets and docks. An estimated \$3.5 million will be paid out by the government through the program.

Live broadcast for opening of CMHR

Singer-songwriter, educator, artist and social activist Buffy Sainte-Marie and Ottawa-based Juno-Award-winning and Polaris-nominated electronic artists A Tribe Called Red will be part of the opening ceremonies and outdoor concert for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Sept. 19 and Sept. 20 in Winnipeg. The opening ceremonies and Canadian Concert for Human Rights will

highlight Canada's rich cultural diversity and celebrate Canadians' contributions to the cause of human rights. The two-day free festival—called RightsFest—will be broadcast live on Rogers' City and OMNI Television networks, and on Canada's Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is the first museum in the world solely dedicated to the evolution, celebration and future of human rights.

Settee awarded Lehotsky Scholarship

Kevin Settee, 23, is the 2014 Lehotsky Scholarship recipient for his contribution to Winnipeg's West End community. "Kevin Settee grew up in the West End, and has been working to improve his community by being a role model for youth, volunteering, and being a community organizer, all while battling health issues and working towards his degree at the University of Winnipeg," said Mayor Sam Katz in a news release. Settee has planned and participated in a variety of different awareness walks, including the All Nations Medicine Walk for sexually-exploited women and girls. He coaches lacrosse and volunteers at inner city schools conducting sweat lodges and pipe ceremonies, and is a role

model for the Aboriginal Men's Anti-Violence Campaign against domestic violence. Students are nominated by community members, and the award is granted by a committee that includes a member of City Council and representatives from New Life Ministries.

York boats keep Metis history alive

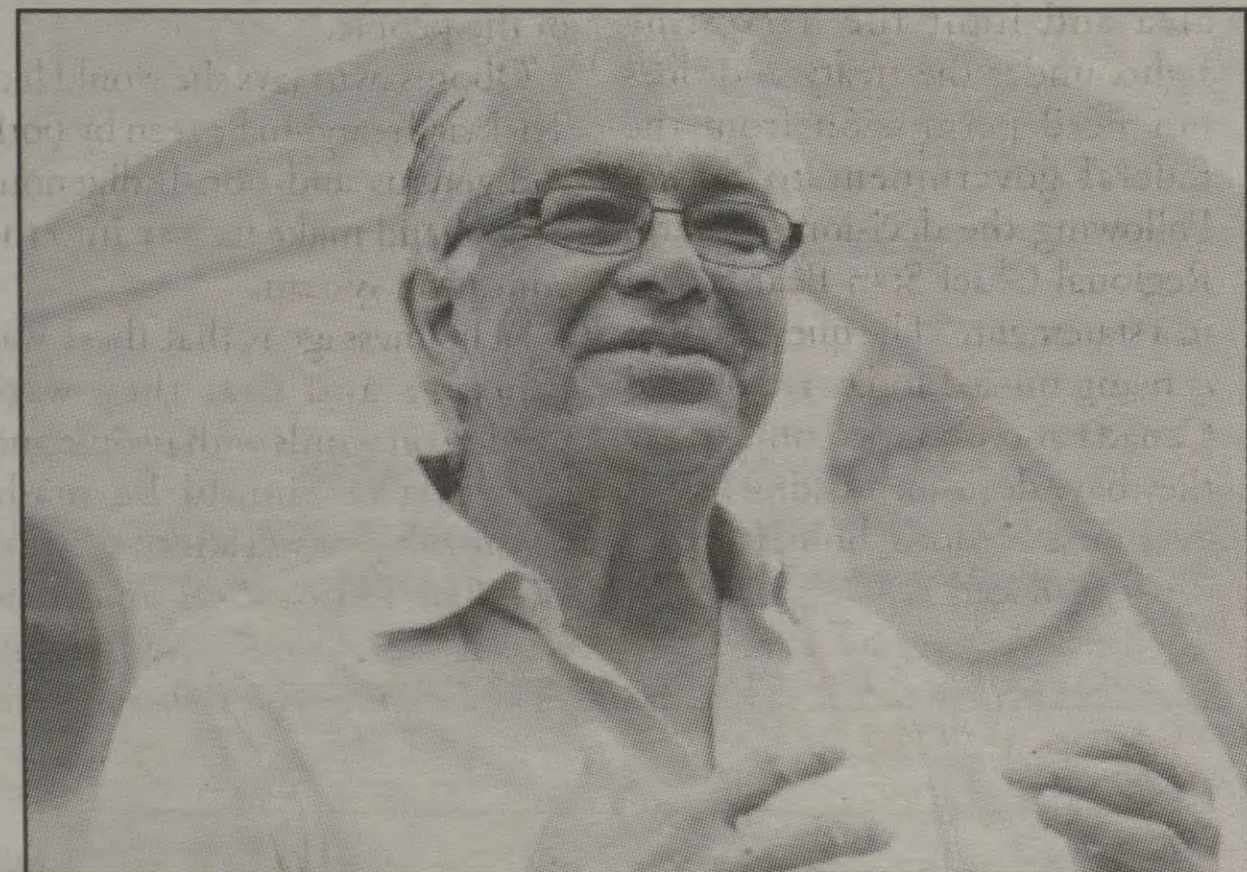
Three York boats were launched at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site in July as part of the federal government's investment to help Métis communities preserve their history and culture and present their heritage to all Canadians. Parks Canada is developing public programming around the York boats at Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site, which will be implemented in 2015. At approximately 14 metres in length, York boats usually had a crew of six to eight men (including a steersman), many of whom were Red River Métis, and could be rowed or operated under sail. York boats could carry up to six tonnes of cargo. "York boats were crucial to the fur trade, and these modern examples represent our government's investment in Métis culture and history in Manitoba," said Selkirk-Interlake MP James Bezan in a news release.

Compiled by Shari Narine

Before and After the Horizon challenges perspectives



Thunderbird by Saulteaux artist Wally Dion is part of the Before and After the Horizon exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto.



Saulteaux artist Robert Houle at the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, August 2014.

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

"It's about time they showed the wonderful image-making and history of the Anishnabe people," said artist Bonnie Devine about the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) and its exhibition, Before and After the Horizon.

"It's part of the art history of Ontario. It makes me happy. But I also wonder, why did they take so long?"

The exhibition features Anishnabe artists of the Great Lakes had its official opening on

July 30 and was attended by about 300 people. It runs until November 25. Before and After the Horizon provides an expansive look into the artists' values, beliefs and the political struggles against colonial invasion.

The work is organized thematically and explores six concepts of shared relevance to Anishnabe people—place, cosmos, church, contested space, cottager colonialism and many worlds.

The show combines traditional art objects from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s with what is called contemporary art by artists like Norval Morrisseau, Robert Houle, Arthur Shilling and Carl Beam, among others.

The traditional art objects, such as the carved wooden bowl with thunderbirds or the floral beaded leggings and carved blackstone pipe, all have cards that read 'maker unknown'.

The work is breathtaking in its beauty and its brilliance.

"There is so much content in this show," said Devine, "spiritual content, historical content. There is anger, there's passion, there's a lot of truth. Some of it is historical objects and some of it is completely out there, intellectual engagement with politics and social issues. This is

the role of the artist, to bring these things to life. A lot of the work says, I want to tell my story and I want to tell it so I can teach you."

Saulteaux artist Wally Dion tells the story of the Thunderbird and its enduring presence in contemporary society. Dion's imposing work titled Thunderbird was done in 2008 using computer scraps to create an image familiar to the Anishnabe. It's clever in its recycling of modern-day hi-tech refuse to tell the story of the Thunderbird, a being as ancient as the world itself. And in so doing, Dion tells the viewer that the Indigenous people of this land are alive and their values and beliefs are still relevant in contemporary society.

Anishnabe artist Frank Shebageget created a large mobile of hundreds of model planes made of balsa. It's titled Beavers and refers to the floatplane that has enabled colonial incursion into the most isolated territories of the Anishnabe. The work evokes images that are haunting. Workers fly in to extract resources and destroy traditional hunting and trapping grounds. Children flown out to residential schools, away from their families, their communities and their culture.

(See Before on page 21.)

Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

Annual camp provides special training activities

Camp Loon, located in the bush north of Geraldton, provided eight days of advanced training for 160 Junior Rangers from 20 First Nations, with an emphasis on safety on the land and water and in personal lifestyles. The camp has been held annually since 2000. The Junior Canadian Rangers is a national program run by the Canadian Army for boys and girls ages 12 to 18 in remote communities across the North. In Ontario, there are 750 Junior Rangers in 20 First Nations. Nationally there are 4,300 Junior Rangers in 135 communities.

AFN supports COO for inquiry into student deaths

The Chiefs of Ontario have received support from the Assembly of First Nations to push the provincial government to hold an inquiry into the deaths of seven young people attending high school since 2000 in Thunder Bay. A resolution was passed at the most recent AFN General Assembly. The Chief Coroner of Ontario ordered a joint inquest into the deaths but the inquest was delayed because of the lack of First Nations representation on the Thunder Bay jury roll. "The loss of these seven youth has caused fear and apprehension in (Nishnawbe Aski Nations) and the continued delays to get this inquest underway are unacceptable and very distressing for the families of these youth and their communities," said NAN Grand Chief Harvey Yesno. However, in an email to CBC, the Ministry of the Attorney General said, "Public inquiries are not meant to serve as substitutes for, or supplements to, inquests under the Coroners Act. The coroner has already determined that an inquest is appropriate for investigating these tragic deaths."

Supreme Court decision gives province jurisdiction on First Nations land

In a decision that Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy calls "a breach of Canada's obligations to uphold international laws/standards and [one that] undermines Indigenous laws that have already been in place for centuries," the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled the Ontario government does not need federal approval to permit industrial logging on a First Nation's traditional lands. Grassy Narrows appealed after Ontario's highest court ruled in March 2013 that the province has the right to take up treaty land for forestry and mining. "Thus, when the lands covered by the treaty were determined to belong to the province of Ontario, the province became responsible for their governance with respect to matters falling under its jurisdiction ... subject to the terms of the treaty," Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin wrote in the decision. "It follows that the province is entitled to take up lands under the treaty for forestry purposes." Beardy said First Nations will continue to challenge government action on their lands. "The question that is being missed today is how did Canada and Ontario come to say they have decision-making power over First Nations' homelands in the first place?" said Beardy in a statement.

Hunger strike brings attention to Grassy Narrows

A one day hunger strike by Elder Steve Fobister Sr. to bring attention to the historical mercury contamination in his home of Grassy Narrows has received government commitment. Fobister began his hunger strike on July 28 as a means to push the province to acknowledge that Grassy Narrows residents continue to suffer from mercury poisoning 40 years after a Dryden paper mill dumped the toxin into the

Wabigoon-English River system. The following day Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer stated he was concerned for Fobister's health and pledged to "personally work to get the approval of the Wabaseemoong First Nation and the federal government to conduct such a review." Zimmer said all parties to the Mercury Disability Board would have to agree to reforms. Zimmer also said the government would also "explore the options for more on-site treatment (for mercury-related illness) for Grassy Narrows First Nation residents."

Premier Kathleen Wynne said she is committed to dealing with the Grassy Narrows mercury issue.

Métis lawyer recognized for his influence

Jason Madden, partner with Pape Salter Teillet LLP of Toronto, has been named by Canadian Lawyer magazine as one of the Top 25 Most Influential in the justice system. Madden was recognized as one of five in the category of Criminal Law/Human Rights for his work on behalf of the Metis people of

Canada and his work in the Daniels V. Canada case. "Inclusion in the Top 25 talks to a level of respect, the ability to influence public opinion, and to help shape the laws of this country and others, contributions to the strength and quality of legal services as well as access to justice, and social and political influence and involvement," explains the magazine. One hundred and twenty nominations were received.

Compiled by Shari Narine

Obomsawin first Indigenous filmmaker in TIFF Masters

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

Alanis Obomsawin's latest endeavour is making its world debut at the Toronto International Film Festival as the first work by an Indigenous filmmaker to be included in TIFF's Masters program.

"I'm very honoured. I think it's wonderful," said Obomsawin, who is the writer/director for *Trick or Treaty?*

"I always think the more people seeing the film, the better place we get. It's helpful to all our people and especially the ones whose story it is about."

"It's a prestigious program within the festival. The film will qualify for critics and audience awards," said National Film Board of Canada publicist Jennifer Mair. *Trick or Treaty?* is a NFB production.

TIFF calls the Masters program "a line-up of the most inspiring, audacious, and original filmmakers working in cinema today." The films being screened are receiving their Canadian, North American or world premiere.

Trick or Treaty? is an 84-minute documentary film centred on the James Bay Treaty (Treaty No. 9). But while it chronicles the speaking engagements of Dr. Stan Louttit, grand chief of the Mushkegowuk Council, whose grandfather Andrew Wesley is one of the signatories to Treaty No. 9, it also raises questions generally about treaties and unfulfilled promises.

Obomsawin includes the 44-day hunger strike undertaken by Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence; the birth of the Idle No More movement; and a group of six young people, led by David Kawapi, who marched 1,600 km from Whapmagoostui on Hudson's Bay to Ottawa in March 2013.

Trick or Treaty? couldn't be more timely in its release as it follows the Supreme Court's

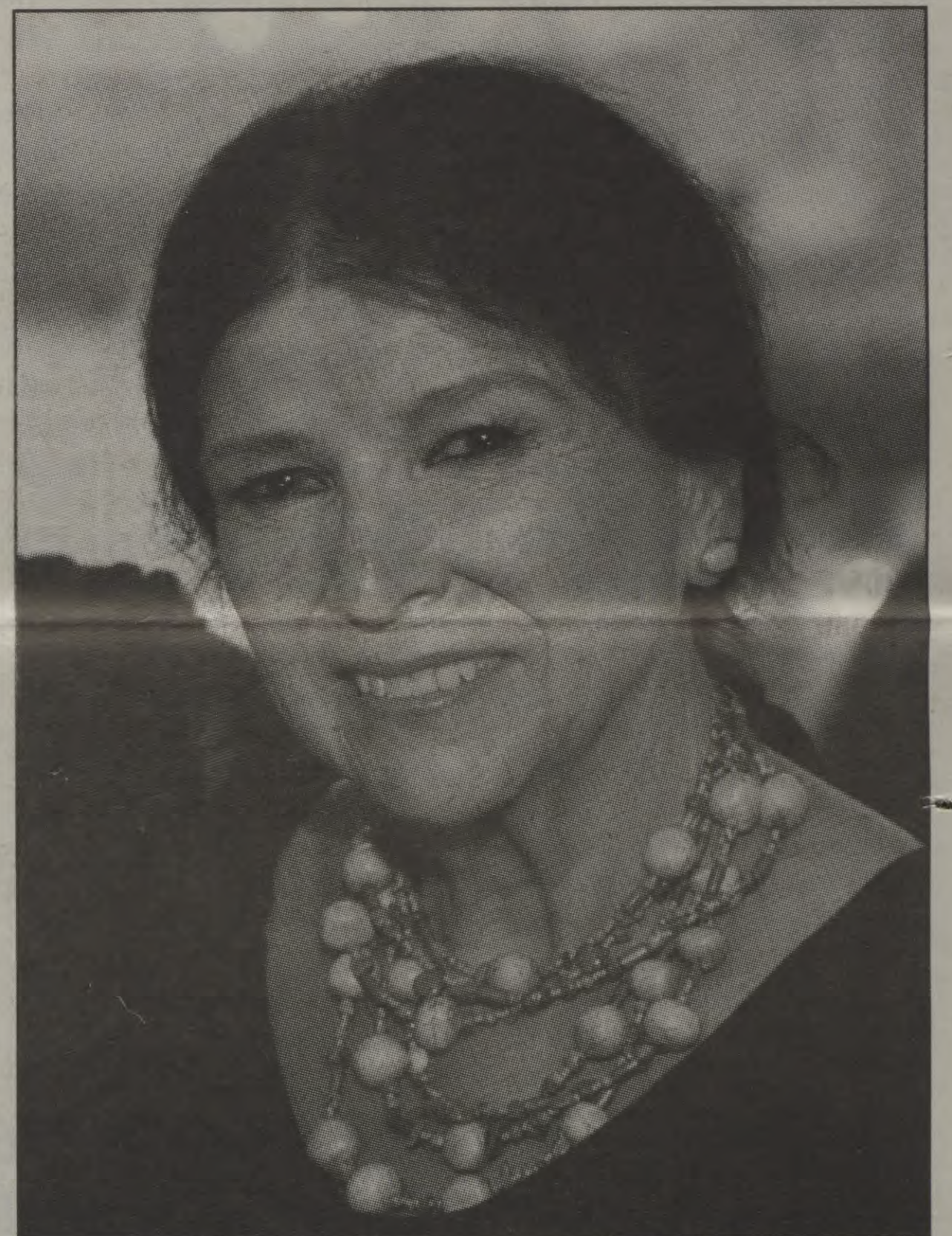


PHOTO: NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

Writer/director Alanis Obomsawin's latest film *Trick or Treaty?* will receive its world premiere as part of the prestigious Masters program at the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

decision on the Grassy Narrows First Nation, which says, under Treaty 3 Ontario has the power to take up lands in the Keewatin area and limit the harvesting rights under the treaty and does not need permission from the federal government to do so. Following the decision, Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy said in a statement, "The question that is being missed today is how did Canada and Ontario come to say they have decision-making power over First Nations' homelands in the first place?"

That is the very question *Trick or Treaty?* examines. The documentary proposes there are two treaties: one which is oral and understood by the First Nations leaders and one which was written.

"I have a lot of interest in

treaties and how they got people to sign treaties," said Obomsawin. "It's really terrible because they were really playing on the naivety of the people."

Obomsawin says she would like *Trick or Treaty?* to be seen by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and make its way into the education system.

"The message is that there was injustice and that they were playing on words with people and that justice should be made because they're still affected by the fact that this treaty was signed the way it was," said Obomsawin. "They should have rights to their natural resources and their land and they should be part of decision-making when it comes to any kind of development of resources."

(See *Trick or Treaty?* on page 18.)

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[health] Healing Foundation shutter its doors at month's end

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

LANTZVILLE, B.C.

After almost 14 years of receiving funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation in order to provide quality service for residential school and intergenerational survivors, the Tsow-Tun Le Lum Society, which operates a substance abuse treatment centre on Vancouver Island, is back to piece-meal funding.

They have not been able to accept any new registrants for the program since May 2013.

"The Aboriginal Healing Foundation provided adequate budget to deliver excellent programming," said society Executive Director Yvonne Rigsby-Jones. "The closure is really devastating."

Tsow-Tun Le Lum used the last of its funding from AHF in December 2013. And like other projects, including the 11-healing centres throughout the country that received AHF funding, they will now rely on dollars from other sources, such as Health Canada, Correctional Services Canada, or provincial governments. And the mandates will change as they will no longer strictly serve residential school survivors.

At the end of September, the AHF will cease to exist. This past year has seen the organization, which set up its operations in 1998, work with a skeleton staff, said Executive Director Mike DeGagne, who already has a position elsewhere. AHF will maintain a web presence until September 2017, which will allow public access to its

resources.

DeGagne said the AHF will be passing its materials, documents and in-depth research to the Legacy of Hope Foundation in accordance to an agreement reached between the two organizations.

The Legacy of Hope Foundation is mandated to carry out public education about residential schools. AHF was established as part of the federal government's response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People's final report in 1998 with \$350 million to support community-based healing initiatives for Aboriginal people impacted by physical and sexual abuse in residential schools. Over the years, AHF's total budget was topped up by \$165 million plus interest.

DeGagne expects to hand over approximately \$500,000 in unused revenue to the Legacy of Hope Foundation, which should allow that foundation to operate without any other funding for at least two years.

The discontinuation of AHF will have an impact on residential school survivors and their descendants, said DeGagne. Along with the loss of high quality new research is the loss of highly trained employees.

"We had an incredible network of hundreds and hundreds of workers in the community that were trained and brought along to use their skills to help survivors," he said. "Those people dispersed everywhere and there isn't a focus anymore for residential school issues."

That will certainly be the case with Tsow-Tun Le Lum, said Rigsby-Jones. The centre will no longer be able to offer its five-

week residential program for residential school survivors and their descendants, which included a one-week intensive session with a psycho-trauma therapist.

Now, new Tsow-Tun Le Lum programming will focus on mental health and addictions, such as alcohol and drugs. Family violence and suicide ideation will also be included in programming.

"I believe a lot of it is still rooted in the residential school experience," said Rigsby-Jones.

For this coming year, Tsow-Tun Le Lum received funding to continue the traditional and cultural aspects in its programming. But unlike when the society was receiving annual funding from AHF, there is no guarantee that next year's funding will allow for the same inclusion.

"All the research done verifies how important this is. People really benefit when tradition and culture is included in the teachings," said Rigsby-Jones.

If AHF cannot be revived, DeGagne said the model that it operated under needs to be used. AHF received \$510 million from the federal government and awarded \$535 million to the community to fund residential school survivor-related projects.

"We were able to manage the money and grow the funds through investments. We gave every dollar and more to the community and we were able to exist and do research just out of the interest," he said.

DeGagne adds that AHF's operational model should also be followed as it "operated in a real consultative way with First Nations, Metis and Inuit."

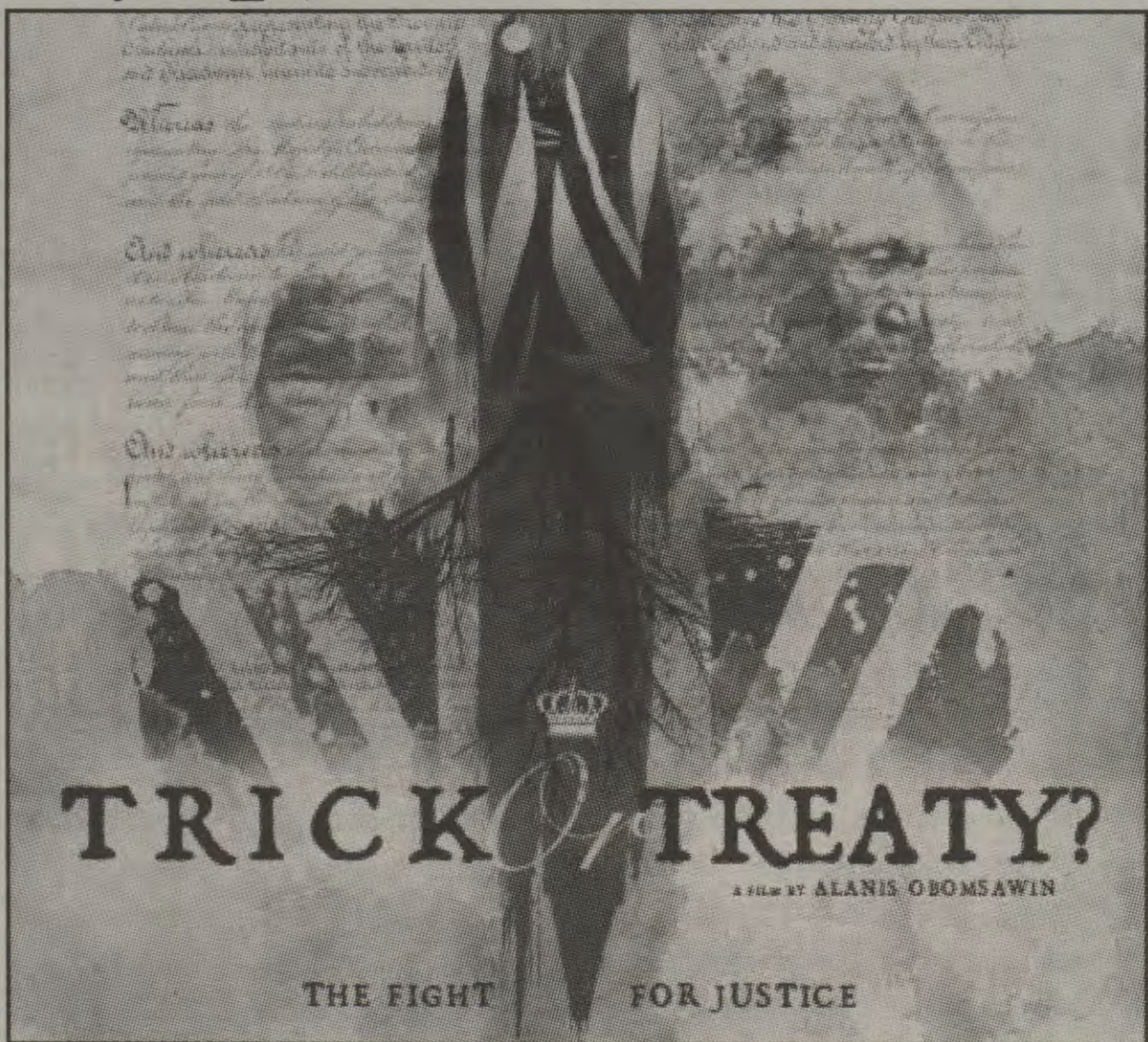
Trick or Treaty? premieres at TIFF

(Continued from page 17.)

Obomsawin is proud of the title her work has garnered her as an activist filmmaker. In 1967, NFB producers Joe Koenig and Bob Verrall invited Obomsawin to join as a consultant for a film about Indigenous people. Her passion to tell her people's story and discovering how wrapped up that story is in treaty is what inspired her to get behind the camera.

Trick or Treaty? is one in a series of five films that Obomsawin has been working on since 2010. Trick or Treaty? is preceded by The People of the Kattawapiskak River (2012), which looks at the housing crisis faced by the Cree of James Bay, and Hi-Ho Mistahey!, which had its world premiere at TIFF last year and was nominated for the Canadian Screen Award for Best Feature Length Documentary (2014).

Obomsawin says the footage shot for Trick or Treaty? was unique to that film and not much ended up on the cutting room floor. There is bonus footage for



Trick or Treaty? promotional poster

the film as well.

Obomsawin says she is pleased with the final product.

"This is a lot of work and a lot of research, and it's working with people and making sure the truth is there," she said.

Trick or Treaty? will receive its first screening on Sept. 5, the second day of TIFF. It will be shown in the TIFF Bell Lightbox. TIFF runs from Sept. 4 to Sept. 14. It runs again on Sept. 6 at the AGO Jackman Hall.

Health Watch

Compiled by Shari Narine

Monument commemorates murdered, missing Aboriginal women

Less than a week after the unveiling of a monument at The Forks, the historic junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, to recognize the 1,200 missing and murdered Aboriginal women, the body of 15-year-old Tina Fontaine was found wrapped in a bag in the Red River. Fontaine had been in the care of Child and Family Services and was reported missing Aug. 9. The monument, hourglass-shaped and human-sized, is meant to represent a woman. There is an opening near the top that allows sunlight through. "The light and the darkness pass through without judgment in an endless cycle. There is neither a beginning nor an end," said Nahanni Fontaine, a special adviser for the government on Aboriginal women's issues. The two-metre-high granite statue was a project led by the Manitoba government. Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Minister Eric Robison has renewed his call for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women. The federal government has rejected the idea.

Alberta unit to investigate RCMP shooting at Norway House

An independent team from Alberta will be investigating the circumstances surrounding the RCMP shooting of Evan Cromarty, 20. Cromarty was at a baseball tournament at Norway House when he was shot on July 20. He had allegedly been fleeing police when he ran onto the field. He was airlifted to a Winnipeg hospital with undetermined non-life threatening injuries. Cromarty faces a number of charges including aggravated assault, one charge of breaking and entering, four charges of uttering threats and weapons charges stemming from an incident at Norway House. CBC News reports that Norway House Chief Ron Evans said the shooting has escalated tensions between RCMP and First Nations people in the community. Premier Greg Selinger spoke with Evans on Sunday night about ordering the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team to look into the matter.

Flood assistance program for fishermen

The provincial government is creating an assistance program for fishermen affected by flooding on Lake Manitoba. The program will specifically target those living in First Nations communities, which Infrastructure Minister Steve Ashton acknowledged are often the hardest hit by flooding. Ashton and Northern Affairs Minister Eric Robison announced the program in late July following a tour of flood-affected areas in southern Manitoba. The government is also in talks with Ottawa about providing First Nations in the Interlake area with a "rapid flood-fighting arsenal." The fishermen's assistance program will apply to the Dauphin River and Lake St. Martin fisheries that have been affected by the operation of the Lake St. Martin emergency channel. The program will provide compensation for lost fishing opportunities while also reimbursing the cost of damaged nets and docks. An estimated \$3.5 million will be paid out by the government through the program.

Live broadcast for opening of CMHR

Singer-songwriter, educator, artist and social activist Buffy Sainte-Marie and Ottawa-based Juno-Award-winning and Polaris-nominated electronic artists A Tribe Called Red will be part of the opening ceremonies and outdoor concert for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Sept. 19 and Sept. 20 in Winnipeg. The opening ceremonies and Canadian Concert for Human Rights will highlight Canada's rich cultural diversity and celebrate Canadians' contributions to the cause of human rights. The two-day free festival—called RightsFest—will be broadcast live on Rogers' City and OMNI Television networks, and on Canada's Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is the first museum in the world solely dedicated to the evolution, celebration and future of human rights.

Settee awarded Lehotsky Scholarship

Kevin Settee, 23, is the 2014 Lehotsky Scholarship recipient for his contribution to Winnipeg's West End community. "Kevin Settee grew up in the West End, and has been working to improve his community by being a role model for youth, volunteering, and being a community organizer, all while battling health issues and working towards his degree at the University of Winnipeg," said Mayor Sam Katz in a news release. Settee has planned and participated in a variety of different awareness walks, including the All Nations Medicine Walk for sexually-exploited women and girls. He coaches lacrosse and volunteers at inner city schools conducting sweat lodges and pipe ceremonies, and is a role model for the Aboriginal Men's Anti-Violence Campaign against domestic violence. Students are nominated by community members, and the award is granted by a committee that includes a member of City Council and representatives from New Life Ministries.

By Sam Laskaris

King announces retirement

After 10 seasons of playing professional hockey in various leagues, Colt King has called it quits. King, a 31-year-old Ojibwe from Thunder Bay, Ont., announced his retirement via Twitter on Aug. 14.

"With a heavy heart I have made the decision to hang 'em up and retire from the game that I love," King said. King had spent the past two seasons toiling for the Central Hockey League's Missouri Mavericks. During his pro career King also played for two other CHL franchises, the Colorado-based Rocky Mountain Rage and the Rapid City Rush in South Dakota.

King had been drafted in the fourth round of the 2001 National Hockey League Entry Draft by the Colorado Avalanche. But he never played a game in the NHL.

As a pro, besides the CHL, he also had stints in three other minor leagues in North America. He suited up for the American Hockey League's Rochester Americans, the East Coast Hockey League's Augusta Lynx and Utah Grizzlies, and with the Port Huron Flags in the defunct United Hockey League. King also spent one season, 2011-12, playing in England with the Sheffield Steelers.

"I have thought long and hard about what the right thing to do is for myself and my family," King added in his retirement tweet. "We feel the right thing to do is to move on and start a new chapter in our life. This has easily been the hardest decision I have ever had to make."

Coach becomes Hall Of Famer

Oshweken's David General will be entering the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame this fall. General will be inducted into the hall during a ceremony that will be staged on Nov. 8 in New Westminster, B.C.

General is one of eight individuals that will be inducted into the hall this year. He is being inducted via the builders category. General is being honoured for his coaching efforts.

In 1992 he led the Six Nations Arrows to the Minto Cup, the national Junior A lacrosse title. The Arrows defeated B.C.'s Coquitlam Adanacs 4-3 in their best-of-seven Canadian championship series.

General was also on the coaching staff for the Six Nations Chiefs when they captured the Mann Cup, the national senior men's crown, in both 1995 and '96.

More Native coaches

The number of Aboriginal coaches now working in the National Hockey League has doubled this off-season. That's because Bryan Trottier and Rocky Thompson have been hired as assistant coaches by the Edmonton Oilers and Buffalo Sabres, respectively.

There are now four Aboriginals working as either head or assistant coaches in the NHL.

Trottier, a Metis who has won the Stanley Cup seven times (six as a player and once as a coach), will work in Buffalo alongside Ted Nolan, an Ojibwe, who is the Sabres' head coach.

Craig Berube, a Cree who is the Philadelphia Flyers' head coach, is the other Aboriginal coach currently employed by an NHL franchise.

Trottier, who was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1997, was a member of the New York Islanders' dynasty that captured four consecutive league championships from 1980-83. He also won back-to-back titles with the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991 and '92.

Trottier was also an assistant coach with the Colorado Avalanche when they won the Stanley Cup in 2001.

Trottier last worked as a coach in the NHL more than a decade ago. He was the New York Rangers' head coach until he was fired more than halfway through the 2002-03 season.

As for Thompson, he too is a former pro player. But he appeared in only 25 NHL contests and spent the majority of his pro playing days in the minors.

For Thompson, this marks his first NHL coaching gig. He spent the past four seasons working as an assistant coach with the Oklahoma City Barons, the top affiliate of the Oilers.

Prior to that Thompson coached in the junior ranks. He was the assistant coach of the Western Hockey League's Edmonton Oil Kings from 2007 through 2010.

First Nation granted team

Manitoba's Fisher River Cree Nation has been granted an expansion franchise into the Keystone Junior Hockey League.

The Fisher River Hawks will ice a Junior B squad during the league's 2014-15 season, which begins in October.

The River Hawks will play their home contests at the Bryden Cochrane Sr. Sports Complex, located on the First Nation. With the addition of the River Hawks, the Keystone circuit now consists of nine clubs.

Team B.C. spikes Saskatchewan's top squad legacy



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Team B.C. Girl's after they took the volleyball gold at the North American Indigenous Games

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

REGINA

A week-long battle for the over-all team award at this year's North American Indigenous Games went right down to the wire.

And in the end, British Columbia edged the host Saskatchewan entry by picking up one medal more.

B.C. athletes captured a total of 160 medals (63 gold, 49 silver, 48 bronze) at the Games, which concluded on July 27 in Regina. Saskatchewan competitors finished off with 159 medals, though they did have more gold medals (72) than B.C.

Ontario placed third in the team standings, accumulating 149 medals.

About 3,600 athletes from across Canada and the United States competed in this year's NAIG. They were representing 20 teams (provinces, territories or states).

This marked the eighth time the games have been held since they were first staged in 1990.

Saskatchewan has traditionally been a power at the NAIG, having won six of the previous seven team titles. Manitoba was the only other squad that had won the team award before, at the 2002 NAIG staged in Winnipeg.

Lara Mussell, B.C.'s chef de mission, said she knew her squad would be in the running for the over-all team award.

Teams are allowed to bring a maximum of 500 athletes and coaches/support staff to the NAIG. B.C. was represented by about 375 athletes and it also had about 100 coaches or staff members.

"We knew B.C. is one of the Big 5 teams," Mussell said, adding Saskatchewan, Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba also

traditionally comprise the largest contingents. "Generally you expect those teams that have the most athletes will also get the most medals."

The sports contested were archery, athletics (track and field), badminton, baseball, basketball, canoeing/kayaking, golf, lacrosse, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and wrestling.

"I believe we medalled in every sport with the exception of lacrosse," Mussell said.

The B.C. boys' under-16 lacrosse squad just missed out on a medal, placing fourth in its category. And the male under-19 squad from B.C. finished fifth in its division.

Mussell believes one of the main reasons for the B.C. successes at NAIG was because of the various championships and camps that have been organized the past three years by the provincial Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council.

The championships and camps focused on the sports that are contested at the NAIG.

"Boy, did it pay off," Mussell said.

Besides winning the most medals, Team B.C. was also the recipient of the John Fletcher Spirit Award. This accolade is presented to the contingent that demonstrates the spirit of teamwork, fair play, respect and integrity through the NAIG.

"We thought that was more meaningful than the over-all medal count," Mussell said. "We were promoting that award to our coaches and athletes all week."

This marked the first time in the Games' history that the same club that won the over-all team award also was presented with the spirit award.

"I feel we're a part of history times a million," said Samantha Horth, a Metis who was a

member of the gold-medal winning girls' under-19 volleyball squad.

Horth, who is gearing up for her first year at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, B.C., added her volleyball squad felt it played a significant role in the medal standings. That's because its gold-medal match was the last event staged during the week-long NAIG.

"It pushed us over from being in a tie (with Saskatchewan)," said Horth, who lives in Cloverdale and is a member of the Coquitlam Ducks Volleyball Club.

The girls' under-19 volleyball tournament featured 16 teams. B.C. went undefeated, winning all nine of its matches in the event.

B.C. defeated the Quebec-based team Eastern Door and the North 3-1 (26-24, 25-16, 25-27, 25-10) in the gold-medal contest.

"Of course, that was our goal, to get into the final game," Horth said.

All 10 Canadian provinces and three territories had representatives at the NAIG. The American contingents were from Wisconsin, Washington, New York, Connecticut, California, Florida and Colorado.

The NAIG have been held sporadically since they were first staged in 1990 in Edmonton. At times there have been just two or three years between the Games.

But six years had elapsed since the last event was held in Cowichan Valley, B.C. in 2008.

The Games were also supposed to be staged in Milwaukee in 2011. But organizers cancelled that event a year beforehand.

Since no other city was willing to step up and stage the multi-sport competition on short notice, it was decided to simply move on and plan for the 2014 edition of the Games.

Judge decides for privacy on IAP documents

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

Although presenting the Ontario Superior Court with opposing viewpoints as to what should become of statements obtained through the Independent Assessment Process, both the IAP chief adjudicator and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission agree that Justice Paul M. Perell's decision is a victory for privacy.

"I am pleased with Justice Perell's decision, which affirms that promises of confidentiality were properly made to claimants in the Independent Assessment Process. The court has issued a clear statement confirming the privacy of claimants and others identified in compensation claim records," said Chief Adjudicator

Dan Shapiro in a statement.

On Aug. 7, Perell released his decision which called for the destruction of documents obtained through the IAP following a 15-year retention period. He also ordered that the federal government destroy all IAP documents it has in its possession after 15 years and that any other parties, which would include the four churches that signed the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, or individuals destroy the IAP documents in their possession immediately after the completion of the IAP hearings.

The federal government had opposed the destruction of all IAP documents, stating that Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada retain the documents for a set period of a time, after which documents determined to have "historical or

archival value" be transferred to Library and Archives Canada.

"...Involuntary disclosure of the IAP documents would be a grievous betrayal of trust, a breach of the IRSSA, and it would foster enmity and new harms, not reconciliation," wrote Perell. "Destroying the IAP documents is more likely to foster reconciliation, one of the goals of the IRSSA. It is the survivor's story to tell or not to tell and it is the survivor's individual decision that must be respected."

Perell ordered that a notice program be put in place during the retention period to reach IAP claimants and provide them with the option of archiving their statements, with all personal information and information about alleged perpetrators blacked-out.

Julian Falconer, counsel for the TRC, says Perell's decision is a

"robust one" for privacy, however, the TRC is concerned with the notice program, details of which have yet to be worked out.

"So much depends on the content and who administers and the funding of the notice program that frankly the jury's out on this decision until we know what that looks like," he said.

Falconer adds that the TRC is adamant that the notice program not be the responsibility of the federal government, which "does not have a good record of community engagement."

The TRC and the National Research Centre have been directed to provide application to the court in the next few months as to what the notice program should consist of.

Falconer points out that neither the TRC nor the Indian Residential School Adjudication

Secretariat, which conducts the IAP hearings, will be in operation 15 years down the road.

"The NRC's function is an archival one. With the proper leadership, with the proper funding, clearly in our view the NRC is the logical player in this. Who else should be involved is another question," he said.

There will not be "blanket access" to the IAP documents once archived, says Falconer, but a tiered access, which will protect privacy interests.

"On the other hand, the way privacy legislation works ... more and more information is accessible as we as a society see privacy interests reducing as time marches on, or generations, or as needs arise in the face of some unforeseeable circumstances, such as the massive denial of the residential school experience or anything like that," said Falconer.

Team B.C. spikes Saskatchewan's top squad legacy

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

REGINA

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This marked the eighth time the games have been held since they were first staged in 1990.

Saskatchewan has traditionally been a power at the NAIG, having won six of the previous seven team titles. Manitoba was the only other squad that had won the team award before, at the 2002 NAIG staged in Winnipeg.

Lara Mussell, B.C.'s chef de mission, said she knew her squad would be in the running for the over-all team award.

Teams are allowed to bring a maximum of 500 athletes and coaches/support staff to the NAIG. B.C. was represented by

about 375 athletes and it also had about 100 coaches or staff members.

"We knew B.C. is one of the Big 5 teams," Mussell said, adding Saskatchewan, Ontario, Alberta and Manitoba also traditionally comprise the largest contingents. "Generally you expect those teams that have the most athletes will also get the most medals."

The sports contested were archery, athletics (track and field), badminton, baseball, basketball, canoeing/kayaking, golf, lacrosse, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and wrestling.

"I believe we medalled in every sport with the exception of lacrosse," Mussell said.

The B.C. boys' under-16 lacrosse squad just missed out on a medal, placing fourth in its category. And the male under-19 squad from B.C. finished fifth in its division.

Mussell believes one of the main reasons for the B.C. successes at NAIG was because of the various championships and camps that have been organized the past three years by the provincial Aboriginal Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council.

The championships and camps focused on the sports that are contested at the NAIG.

"Boy, did it pay off," Mussell said.

Besides winning the most medals, Team B.C. was also the recipient of the John Fletcher Spirit Award. This accolade is presented to the contingent that demonstrates the spirit of teamwork, fair play, respect and integrity through the NAIG.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

The NB Petro Hawks captured the senior men's crown at the Canadian Native Fastball Championships

"We thought that was more meaningful than the over-all medal count," Mussell said. "We were promoting that award to our coaches and athletes all week."

This marked the first time in the Games' history that the same club that won the over-all team award also was presented with the spirit award.

"I feel we're a part of history times a million," said Samantha Horth, a Metis who was a member of the gold-medal winning girls' under-19 volleyball squad.

Horth, who is gearing up for her first year at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, B.C., added her volleyball squad felt it played a significant role in the medal standings. That's because its gold-medal match was the last

event staged during the week-long NAIG.

"It pushed us over from being in a tie (with Saskatchewan)," said Horth, who lives in Cloverdale and is a member of the Coquitlam Ducks Volleyball Club.

The girls' under-19 volleyball tournament featured 16 teams. B.C. went undefeated, winning all nine of its matches in the event.

B.C. defeated the Quebec-based team Eastern Door and the North 3-1 (26-24, 25-16, 25-27, 25-10) in the gold-medal contest.

"Of course, that was our goal, to get into the final game," Horth said.

All 10 Canadian provinces and three territories had representatives at the NAIG. The

American contingents were from Wisconsin, Washington, New York, Connecticut, California, Florida and Colorado.

The NAIG have been held sporadically since they were first staged in 1990 in Edmonton. At times there have been just two or three years between the Games.

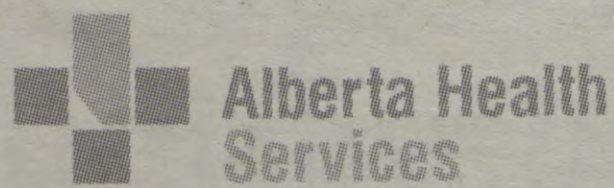
But six years had elapsed since the last event was held in Cowichan Valley, B.C. in 2008.

The Games were also supposed to be staged in Milwaukee in 2011. But organizers cancelled that event a year beforehand.

Since no other city was willing to step up and stage the multi-sport competition on short notice, it was decided to simply move on and plan for the 2014 edition of the Games.

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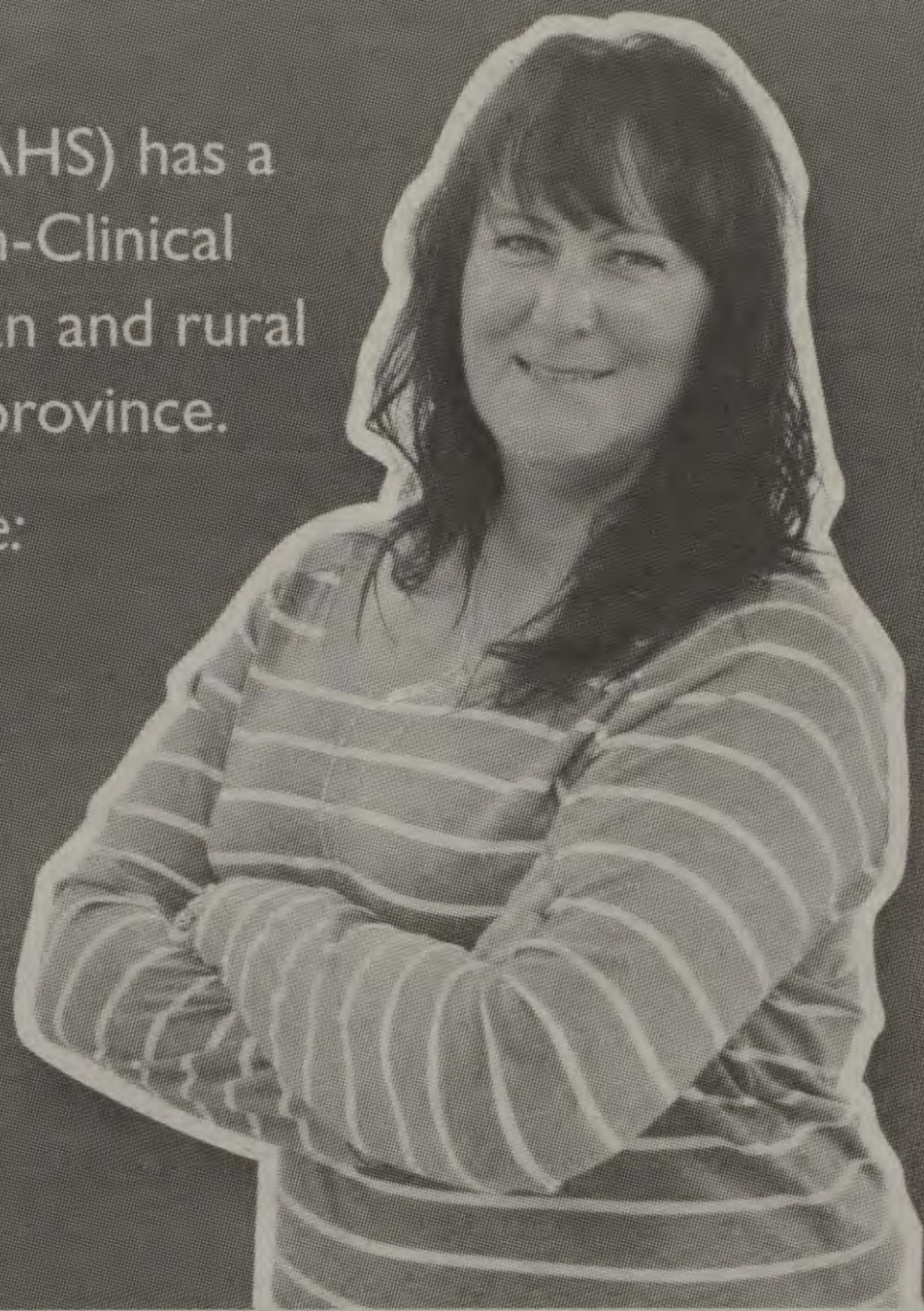
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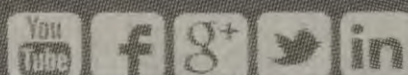
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[careers & training] Tailings pond breach could impair salmon returns

(Continued from page 8.)

"The toxins in the river could impact the habitat to the point of impairing the salmon's migratory success and future spawning. We're going to need to be vigilant in the post-crisis stage with clean up and monitoring," he said in a news release.

As clean-up work begins on site, Sellars said the bands want to have their own people involved.

The province reports that Imperial Metals Corp. will be footing the bill for clean-up.

On Aug. 18, the province announced that an independent engineering investigation and inquiry into the Mount Polley tailings pond breach will be conducted. Independent third-

party reviews of all 2014 Dam Safety Inspections for every tailings pond at a permitted mine in the province would also be taking place. The B.C. government said the investigation has the support of the Xats'ull First Nation and Williams Lake Indian Band.

"Under the order, those inspections must be reviewed by an independent qualified third-party professional engineer from a firm not associated with the tailings facility. All information obtained under this order will be provided to First Nations and made public," states the news release issued by BC Ministry of Energy and Mines.

Environment Canada is also conducting an investigation into the spill.

Before and After the Horizon

(Continued from page 16.)

Robert Houle is a Toronto-based Anishinaabe-Saulteaux artist and curator who has three pieces in the show. Parfleche for Norval Morrisseau is done in shades of blue with an abstract representation of the Thunderbird seeming to hover in the sky over the water. Houle knew Morrisseau since the 1970s and had a deep respect for his work and his spiritual strength.

Parfleches were often used as medicine bags by the Plains Indians and this painting is a fitting and celebratory homage to the late artist whose Anishinaabe name was Copper Thunderbird.

In an interview with Houle following the opening, he said he was pleased about the exhibition. But, "things have not changed very much in terms of how the larger society defines us," he said. "The colonial thinking is so ingrained. It's such an integral

part of their psyche for the simple reason that if you're growing up white, you see things a certain way—the way the nation was built, the way the nation has built its national norms. Nobody, except for us, sees things differently. We have to point out our exclusion because they don't even understand the exclusionary things that happen."

Andrew Hunter, curator at the AGO, said one of the things the exhibition has brought is a realization that the institution has to be consistently engaged "with this complex and difficult dialogue about the colonizer and the colonized, between the newcomer and the established cultures. One of the great things about a show like this," Hunter said, "is it challenges everyone whether you're First Nation or not to think about the place of creative work in daily life...art is about solving issues or challenging ideas."



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Candidate will possess a Post Secondary Degree in Business, Administration, Political Science or equivalent combination of related education, training and managerial experience; a minimum of 5 years experience working with First Nation organizations in a leadership capacity. The applicant must have experience in management of multiple departments and a working knowledge of various levels of government and stakeholders.

Candidate must possess strong negotiation, communication and public relation skills with extensive knowledge of First Nation needs, issues, concerns and aspirations.

Candidate must possess a valid Driver's license and provide a clear criminal record check. The successful candidate must be willing to travel extensively to conduct Tribal Council business.

Applications Deadline: **September 09, 2014 at 5:00 PM**

Provide three letters of reference with resume, please mark **CONFIDENTIAL**, and address to:

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[footprints] Stan Louttit

Grand chief advocated

for treaty relationship

By Dianne Meili

Two years ago, Grand Chief Dr. Stan Louttit sat in a duck blind in northern Ontario with his 20-year-old grandson Warren Hardisty.

"It wasn't really hunting. It was education," recalled Hardisty. "He shared his vision and dreams for our people. He spoke for hours and hours as we waited for some geese or ducks. I absorbed all I could so I could carry the same values and extraordinary work ethic my grandpa had."

The take-away for Hardisty was: no matter what you were doing, make sure you saw it through to the end to the best of your abilities.

Louttit lived these teachings, continuing his third consecutive term as Mushkegowuk grand chief even as he received chemotherapy treatment after his cancer diagnosis in the fall of 2012. After his family had been told he had weeks to live, Louttit's time came a few hours later, and he lost his fight early on June 10. He was 64.

Devoting his life to politics, he held numerous leadership positions over 30 years and received awards for his work in effecting change. He transformed the lives of James Bay coastal people, said Timmins-James Bay MP Charlie Angus in his House of Commons tribute to the respected leader, and fought for education, health and housing. Above all, though, he wanted Canada held accountable for commitments made when treaties were signed.

"He loved music and storytelling, and even the Montreal Canadiens," Angus joked, emphasizing Louttit's sense of humour and ability to make people around him feel comfortable.

Louttit regularly educated

First Nations and non-First Nations people about treaty relationships, according to a Wawatay News article, in a presentation he called "The Real Agreement as Orally Agreed to," which chronicled the history and nature of the document his grandfather signed in 1905. Based on oral history, consultations, and extensive research, he developed it with Nipissing University professor John Long, author of the book, Treaty No. 9.

Last summer, the Mushkegowuk Council launched a lawsuit against the Ontario and Canadian governments, citing oral promises made in the diaries of treaty commissioners of the day which were not written in the agreement, the Wawatay News article continues. In the fall of 2013, Louttit also announced his council was launching a 'Peoples Inquiry' into the suicide crisis assaulting Mushkegowuk communities in the face of government inaction.

Championing a better life for his own and all Aboriginal people, Louttit even endeared himself to midwife Christine Roy, demonstrating his devotion to those just being born. One of his many achievements included "powering through road blocks that kept women in remote northern communities from having their babies at home" she wrote in her Facebook tribute.

For decades women of Attawapiskat were flown out to have their babies in southern hospitals until Roy, backed by Louttit and others, advocated for a midwifery program there. "Stan held this 'file' very much at heart and he made sure it moved forward. He saw the return of birth on Cree territory as an essential ingredient in the healing path and taking back

what was wrongly taken away," she said. "He spoke eloquently and with great emotions about life and birth on the land, and the work of the midwives in the past. His dedication to see this return was essential."

He, himself, was born on his family's traditional homelands at Lake River, about 160 km north of Attawapiskat, as a Fort Albany First Nation member, before moving to Moose Factory as a teen. Louttit lived there for the past 50 years and was made an honorary member in acknowledgement of his contributions to the community.

In 1988, he received the Ministerial Award and the Governor General's Medal of Bravery in recognition of his efforts during the Winisk flood. Luke Gall, in a Facebook post on Louttit's memorial page, recalled how Louttit risked his life in 1986 to save others, especially his handicapped mother.

"She had lost her legs due to diabetes ... Stan was there to help and put her on the helicopter," he wrote.

Louttit worked at the Moose Factory General Hospital and was chairperson of Mushkegowuk Council from 1992 to 1993. He was twice elected as Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) deputy Grand Chief from 1994 to 1999. He acted as CEO for Moose Cree First Nation before assuming his role as Mushkegowuk Council Grand Chief in 2003, representing the seven communities of Attawapiskat, Kashechewan, Fort Albany, Moose Cree, Taykwa Tagamou, Chapleau Cree and Missanabie Cree.

Instrumental in bringing awareness to the water situation in Kashechewan in 2005, he brought the Attawapiskat



Grand Chief Dr. Stan Louttit and his wife, Sharon.

housing crisis into the limelight. In 2011, he was awarded an Honourary Doctorate of Education by Nipissing University in a nod to his leadership and service to

Mushkegowuk Peoples and all Aboriginal people throughout Canada.

The leader leaves behind his wife of 40 years, Sharon, and four daughters.

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