

NJ. OR. NA. 40

Library and Archives Canada  
Bibliothèque et Archives Canada



3 3286 53433396 4

# Wind speaker



4587 1 10/31/2007 (P) 4/5  
Library and Archives Canada Legal Deposit  
Serials Records Unit/Classe  
395 Wellington St  
Ottawa ON K1A 0N4

Canada's National Aboriginal News Source

Volume 24 No. 10 • January 2007

plus G.S.T.  
where applicable

\$5.00

www.ammsa.com

Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

ISSN 0834 - 177X • Publications Mail Reg. No. 40063755

Windspeaker • Established 1983

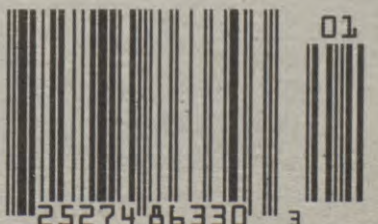


## Hardly heard on the hill

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice needed a bullhorn to be heard over the catcalls and boos on Parliament Hill on Dec. 5 as the Chiefs of Ontario organized a protest of Conservative Party policies and actions. The protest kicked off the Assembly of First Nations' year-end special chiefs assembly.

Photo: courtesy Assembly of First Nations

PAP Registration  
# 9337  
Subscription rate:  
\$50.00+GST





# A million ways to celebrate the energy of Canada's first peoples.

Petro-Canada has always believed that our country's most valuable resource is the energy of talented people. That is why we have reached over \$1 million in providing scholarships to salute those who stand first among our first peoples. They, by their hard work, dedication and energy are the deserving recipients of a Petro-Canada Aboriginal Education Award.



## 2006 Petro-Canada Aboriginal Education Award Recipients



*Terri-Leigh Aldred*

*Christa Brittain*

*Ami Brosseau*

*Janine Chartrand*

*Lisa Dewit*

*Matthew Dunn*

*Catherine Fagan*

*Leanna Farr*

*Robyn Gervais*

*Bernice Hookimawillillene*

*Natasha Marshall*

*Tara Monkman*

*Lillian Patrick*

*Jocelyne Rankin*

*Ryan Renn*

*Greta Sittichinli*

*Michelle Toulouse*

*Joelle Vautour*

*Jennifer Wermie*

*Douglas White*

*Publisher*

**Bert Crowfoot**

*Editorial*

1-780-455-2700

E-mail: edwind@ammsa.com

*National News Editor*

**Paul Barnsley**

*Features Editor*

**Cheryl Petten**

*Staff Writers*

**Laura Stevens**

**Dianne Meili**

*Production*

**Judy Anonson**

*Advertising Sales*

1-800-661-5469

E-mail: market@ammsa.com

*Director of Marketing*

**Paul Macedo**

*Alberta, N.W.T.*

**Shirley Olsen**

*Toronto, Ottawa-Hull, Montreal,*

*Manitoba, Maritimes*

**Keven Kanten**

*BC, Yukon, Saskatchewan*

*Rural Ontario and Quebec*

**Brad Crowfoot**

*Accounts*

**Carol Russ • Hermen Fernandes**

*Circulation*

**Nicole Lockyer**

## AMMSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President*

**Noel McNaughton**

*Vice President*

**Rose Marie Willier**

*Treasurer*

**Chester Cunningham**

*Secretary*

**Harrison Cardinal**

*Member at Large*

**Leona Shandruk**

Monthly Circulation: 25,000

Guide to Indian Country (June): 27,000

Windspeaker 1-year subscription: \$50.00+GST

Windspeaker is politically and financially independent.

### COPY RIGHTS

Advertisements designed, set and produced by Windspeaker as well as pictures, news, cartoons, editorial content and other printed material are the property of Windspeaker and may not be used without the express written permission of Windspeaker.

Letters to the editor and all undeliverable Canadian addressed copies can be sent to:

Windspeaker

13245 - 146 Street,

Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4S8

E-mail: edwind@ammsa.com

### MEMBERSHIPS

Magazines Canada

Alberta Magazine Publishers Association

## ADVERTISING

The advertising deadline for the February 2007 issue of Windspeaker is January 18, 2007.

Call toll free at

1-800-661-5469

for more information.

We acknowledge the assistance of the Government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program toward our mailing costs.

Canada

## Features

### Fontaine optimistic 8

As the first year of the Conservative Party of Canada's reign comes to an end—a year that saw the end of the Kelowna plan and other potentially huge initiatives—the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) national chief sounds anything but gloomy.

### Language & culture a fading masterpiece 9

Guest columnist: I used to hear the old people talk about how we, as Anishinaabek, were losing our language. I thought it was a silly thing to say; I will never lose my language. But of course, 50 years later, I see the Elders were right.

### Residential school agreement approved 10

On Dec. 15 Ontario Superior Court Justice Warren Winkler signed off on the agreement that would eventually see former residential school students receive a common experience payment (CEP) of \$10,000, plus \$3,000 for each year they spent in the schools.

### Discrimination found in corrections 11

Correctional Investigator Howard Sapers, the federal ombudsman for prisons, reported last month that the number of Aboriginal people in Canada's prisons is growing. He also found evidence of discrimination against Aboriginal inmates in a number of areas.

### Residential school claims rejected 12

As many as 500 residential school survivors across Canada have recently received letters from the federal government telling them that their application for the \$8,000 early payment has been rejected. Windspeaker finds out why.

## Departments

[ rants and raves ] 5

[ what's happening ] 7

[ strictly speaking ] 9

[ radio's most active ] 13

[ windspeaker confidential ] 16

[ birchbark ] 18

[ raven's eye ] 19

[ careers & training ] 20 to 25

[ footprints ] 26

The Nisga'a Nation of northwestern British Columbia is mourning the loss of its chief of chiefs, Dr. Frank Calder, who passed away on November 4, 2006 at the age of 91. Throughout his lifetime Calder was a pioneer in the cause of Aboriginal rights around the world.



Windspeaker is published by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA) Canada's largest publisher of Aboriginal news and information. AMMSA's other publications include:

*Alberta Sweetgrass* — The Aboriginal Newspaper of Alberta

*Saskatchewan Sage* — The Aboriginal Newspaper of Saskatchewan

*Business Quarterly* — Canada's Aboriginal Business Magazine





**BOOK A FRESH & EXCITING ENTERTAINER & SPEAKER FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT:**

**Aboriginal  
STAGE HYPNOTIST  
SCOTT WARD**

Toll Free: 1-877-347-0663  
Office: (780) 641-4225  
Fax: (780) 669-7996  
www.scottward.ca  
bookings@scottward.ca

**Workshops:**

- Team Building
- Hoopdancing In Your School
- Career Development
- Self Hypnosis
- Youth Empowerment



**WALLACE & CAREY INC.**

AN INDEPENDENT CANADIAN DISTRIBUTOR SERVING THE RETAILER SINCE 1921

**DISTRIBUTION SPECIALISTS, LEADING THE INDUSTRY IN FILL RATE**

- Timely delivery service, multiple ordering options, including utilitran "on line" buying.
- Great savings year round on promo select 2.0 offers, different vendors featured bi-monthly
- Featured suppliers to March 2, 2007 on selected items, Hershey, Cadbury Adams, Wrigley, Nestle, Kelloggs. We offer savings and innovations.

Contact your local Wallace & Carey branch for more details. Ask our friendly staff how you can set up an account and receive the benefits of our many services now!

- British Columbia ..... 1-888-880-0607
- Northern Alberta ..... 1-877-453-1500
- Southern Alberta ..... 1-800-661-1504
- Saskatchewan ..... 1-800-266-4437
- Manitoba ..... 1-877-260-5502
- Ontario ..... 1-800-387-3907

www.nait.ca/part-time

**NAIT**

**ABORIGINAL BUSINESS OWNERS**  
improve your business savvy

**business management workshops**

	EDMONTON (Series #2)	CALGARY (Series #2)	COLD LAKE FIRST NATIONS (Series #1)	BLOOD TRIBE (Series #1)	SLAVE LAKE (Series #2)
January 19, 20 & 21, 2007	Intro to Income Tax for Small Business BMCP913	Employee & Labour Relations BMCP911	Human Resources Management BMCP909	Business Law BMCP905	Personal Finance Principles BMCP919
February 23, 24 & 25, 2007	Employee & Labour Relations BMCP911	Personal Finance Principles BMCP919	Business Law BMCP905	Marketing BMCP907	Business Communications BMCP901
March 9, 10 & 11, 2007	Personal Finance Principles BMCP919	Business Communications BMCP901	Marketing BMCP907	Financial Planning & Cash Management BMCP910	Intro to Payroll Processing BMCP917

FEE: \$50 per course OR \$150 for all six courses

For more information or to register contact  
Michelle | p. 780.471.8815 | e. msteinha@nait.ca



**AUTO  
ACCEPTANCE  
GROUP**

**ABORIGINAL AUTOMOTIVE CENTRE**  
Your original Aboriginal auto specialist

**1.866.362.0868**

**\*\$500  
GIFT CERTIFICATE  
OR CASH BACK**

*\* Must meet all credit requirements*



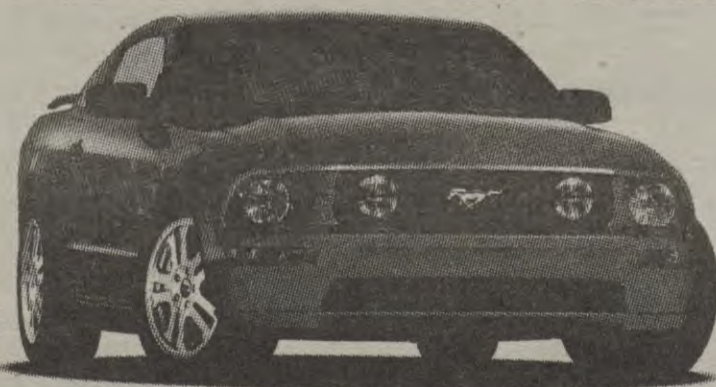
Apply on the internet at :[www.autoacceptancegroup.com](http://www.autoacceptancegroup.com)

**ANYONE CAN AFFORD A VEHICLE WITH THE RIGHT PAYMENTS**

**Cars, trucks, vans, suv's, economy or luxury vehicles.**



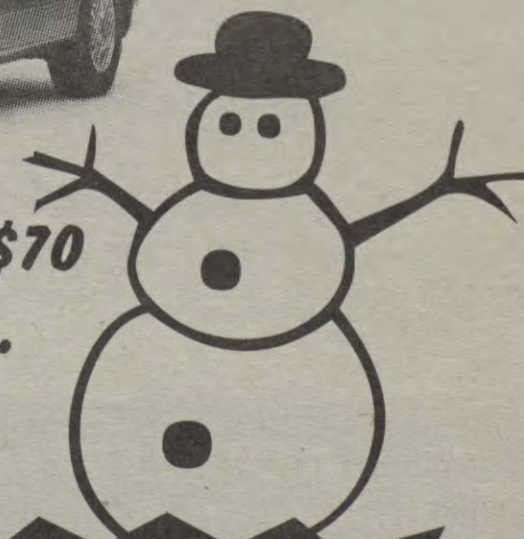
Payment plans starting at \$85 weekly on all Trucks.



Payment plans starting at \$60 weekly on all cars.



Payment plans starting at \$70 weekly on all mini-vans..



**NO PAYMENTS for 3 months\***

Over 800 vehicles

Over 10 YEARS SERVING ABORIGINAL CLIENTS



All applications are approved!

FREE DELIVERY ANYWHERE IN CANADA

**FORD, CHEVROLET, GM, JAPANESE & EUROPEAN - ALL MAKES AND MODELS BOTH NEW AND USED**

## Irony sufficiency

Genuine truth and real justice have a way of bubbling up to the top every once in a while, no matter how much of an inconvenience that may be to those in positions of power and influence — and their spin doctors.

We don't know of any word in any Indigenous language that equates to "schadenfreude," a German term describing the glee one sometimes takes from the misfortunes of others, but we have observed several examples of just desserts being served this month. And we've found it hard on occasion to suppress a sense of smug satisfaction.

RCMP Commissioner Giuliani Zaccardelli's mostly distinguished 36-year career came to a sudden end in early December. We've got nothing against him and take no comfort in his misfortunes. We see it as his bad luck that he was the top man during that rare occasion when some accountability actually gets applied. But the RCMP as an institution has had something like this coming for a long time.

Maher Arar, a Canadian of Middle Eastern heritage and appearance, was handed over to a state that practices torture. He was imprisoned in a filthy little cell and exposed to unimaginable physical and psychological horrors for almost a year. The RCMP could have done something to either prevent that or to cut it short. They didn't. And the top Mountie paid the price for it. We'd like to think that everyone else who had a role to play in this debacle would also pay a price, but we aren't going to hold our breath.

Many pundits expressed surprise that the RCMP would be involved in this kind of behavior, this policing by racial stereotype. We found that amusing. Another one of Canada's dearly held national myths was looking a little tattered, but as usual no one seems to want to notice.

Aboriginal people have a little experience dealing with the Mounties. Guess who wasn't surprised at all by the Maher Arar saga? You don't have to be a historian to know that the RCMP has an extensive track record of oppressing those who challenge the Canadian establishment. That's their job. It's what they were created to do. From the Northwest rebellion to the Winnipeg general strike through the "red scare" of the 1950s and 1960s and down through the decades, Mounties make trouble for those who disagree with the Canadian establishment and want to do something about it. It seems that anyone seeking to ensure that the deeds of Canadian officials actually match their words is seen as especially offensive.

Heck, they even spied on Tommy Douglas.

Speaking of policing by stereotype, Gary McHale alleges that — get this — the police are giving Aboriginal people preferential treatment in Caledonia. He got himself arrested on Dec. 16 to make that point.

When we were in Caledonia for McHale's march in protest of "two-tier policing" in October, we asked McHale where he'd been when Aboriginal people had been systemically discriminated against in just about every Canadian institution during the last century or so. If you were genuinely against injustice, wouldn't you be against all injustice, we asked.

McHale said that wasn't his concern. Our lawyer friends would call that willful blindness. We'd use much stronger terms.

He was arrested for "breaching the peace," which is not a Criminal Code offense. He spent the night in the local jail and was released, vowing to sue the OPP.

It probably didn't happen but we admit to a certain amount of schadenfreude at the prospect of McHale experiencing first-hand the over-representation of Aboriginal people in Canada's jails for a day, say, by having a large Mohawk cellmate named Butch.

And in other news we were amused at first, and then alarmed, to see Prime Minister Stephen Harper declare that the French-speaking people in Quebec — the Quebecois — are a nation within Canada.

We saw the kind of trouble he was unleashing with that political gambit. We were shocked that the prime minister apparently didn't.

Either way this looks bad. Either Harper was thinking of Indigenous peoples when he made this decision and intentionally decided to leave them out, thus making a strong statement that he believes that Canadians of European heritage are worthy of nation status while Indigenous peoples are not, or he wasn't thinking of Indigenous peoples at all.

Another source of amusement this month was watching some chiefs try to oppose the abolition of Section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act. If the Conservatives can get this done, grassroots people will finally have a way to seek justice for arbitrary treatment at the hands of their chiefs.

Even if the chiefs have a point in arguing that the government of Canada should respect the Aboriginal right of self-government by working as equals with the chiefs in pursuing this goal, the bottom line is that a vote against ending the Section 67 shield is a vote for discrimination. And it's a vote against accountability, let's not forget.

Those chiefs who have exploited the holes in the Indian Act to consolidate their hold on power and reward their friends while punishing their enemies are about to run into a brick wall — we hope. As journalists, we look forward to the end of secrecy now that the investigative powers of the Human Rights Commission will be available to grassroots First Nations' people.

In the game of give and take that must exist in the world of self-government negotiations, we urge Indigenous leaders to give Canada this one as a sign of good faith.

After that it will be Canada's turn. Recognition of Indigenous nations and Indigenous rights would be a great reciprocal act of good faith on the prime minister's part. Assuming, of course, that some Aboriginal leader can get his attention for a couple of minutes.

— Windspeaker

## Carnage in the woods

Dear Editor:

I am a hunter, fisher and gatherer. I am Aboriginal.

The Creator gave my ancestors a wealth of gifts from which to make a living and the laws to govern the ways in which to exercise this sacred privilege.

I exercise this honor in my daily life mindful of the laws passed on to me by my parents and by my grandparents before that, and as I now teach my children.

My ancestors taught me as they learned from their ancestors the cultural code of conduct in taking a fish, a deer, or moose and any other resource I may need for subsistence.

It is heartbreaking to witness the carnage during this present hunting season. The evidence of waste and disrespect of the Creator's gifts for sustenance lies in the garbage dumps and is seen in the hunting practices along the highways.

It appears there are no laws or regulations or conscience or respect for wildlife and safety.

The garbage dumps are filled with almost complete carcasses of deer — only their hindquarters and strips of choice cuts along the spine taken.

These deer have been killed only for a quick beer-drinking barbecue after a day of "successful" hunting with grandiose stories of expert sportsmanship as well as tales of heroic hunting skills.

The hunters are assured that the take home trophies, duly tagged by license, stand waiting along the highways to be shot and killed simply by driving up to tame animals.

We cannot condone this travesty.

I myself have gone hunting this year. I can honestly say I have had up to 12 deer in my sights but I felt I was not hunting. I couldn't pull the trigger. But I thanked my brother, the deer, for the offer.

I moved my hunt to the wilderness, where the highway animals regained their maximum human encounter instincts and survived fairly, and with the respect of my own failure to deserve a gift from the Creator.

It is a simple law of conservation, yet total in human conscience. Take what you need, use it all, give to the neighbor not so fortunate, and respect the gift from the Creator.

My ancestors taught me this law in simple words: "It is not your skill as the hunter; it is a gift from your brother, the animal being."

This is the law of my ancestors.

My respectful opinion,

— Clifford Bob  
Nestor Falls, Ont.

## Who's a "nation?"

Dear Editor:

Maybe someone should put the stupid notion that Quebec is a distinct nation to rest by forwarding the media and governments a position like this.

"Canada is a Nation within First Nations; Quebec is a nation within a Nation within First Nations."

That should be the end of the argument. Both Canada and Quebec know this is the real truth in this land today.

Sincerely,

— Gerald McIvor  
Winnipeg, Man.

*E-mail us at  
edwind@ammsa.com  
or write to the editor at  
13245-146 St.  
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S8*

## [ rants and raves ]

### Payouts a red herring?

Dear Editor:

In May 2005 I watched in dismay as our promised settlement package became yet another government study. I am apprehensive of this new settlement as being just another hollow promise. The newspapers are heralding this to all Canadians as atonement by the government for past wrongdoings at the residential schools as if it were a done deal and the cheques were being cut. The fact is that not all the judges have approved it, as yet, with two still undecided.

If they do approve it there is the appeals process, which could stall this settlement package in legal limbo for years. All this while federal and provincial Indian and Métis programs are being eliminated with funding cuts in the billions of dollars for this year alone. We must be forever vigilante against what our forefathers called "the cunning of the white man" who pours honey in our ears and who appears to give with one hand but actually takes with the other. To sit back and quietly wait for the government to make good on this latest promise is to court even greater disappointment while our advances to date are being reversed.

A red herring is also known as a smoke screen or a wild goose chase.

Signed,

— Darell Gaddie  
Red Deer, Alta

Residential school survivor: 1963-69

### Double-speak at best

Dear Editor:

Politics gets dirty, literally, when politicians play the optics game with the environment when they should be supporting solutions. The new Conservative government's Environment Minister Rona Ambrose proposes a \$300 million, four-year study to review 500 toxic chemicals. However, there are 23,000 chemicals on the official list of problematic chemicals. Just as Minister Ambrose pushed global warming targets out to the year 2050, she is pushing thousands of chemicals off to the side. You know environmental management is in trouble in Canada when a plan — to create a plan — may be underway that misses most of the point.

I've been an industrial scientist and still do some serious scientific work. To deal with dangerous materials there are professional standards such as: Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System Standards (WHMIS), health and safety standards, professional society standards and environmental laws. Violating these has financial, professional, legal and often personal health consequences. Professional approaches to management should be supported and improved.

For decades, Environment Canada and numerous provincial agencies worked to contribute to scientific standards and regularly update them. Today, Minister Ambrose is muzzling her ministry's scientific opinion on gas emissions and she is performing an end-around on both the scientific and professional community that works to manage dangerous materials. The end result: 98 per cent of problematic materials are off the list but Ambrose gets a photo op to claim she is against toxic chemicals — Orwellian double-speak at its best. And at a cost of only \$300 million, though some might argue it would be better spent through existing professional agencies.

— Eugene Parks  
Victoria

# New name just one of changes at Cross Canada Auto Credit

For the past eight years, National Automotive Credit Services Inc. has been working to help its clients overcome financial obstacles and get the vehicles they need. Now the company has a new name—Cross Canada Auto Credit—and has made a host of other changes that will help it better serve its growing client base including the North West Territories.



The change in name was done to better reflect what the company has become, Andy Boyce, President, explained. The company has expanded its list of potential lenders and has a staff that can offer clients even more financial expertise than before.

"What we offer is faster turn-around and decision times in terms of applications, immediate responses, whether they are approved or declined," Boyce said.

The new and improved company can also offer its clients a larger vehicle inventory to choose from, thanks to its affiliation with the Birchwood Automotive Group, a Winnipeg-based company with a vehicle inventory of more than \$50 million worth of new vehicles and close to 1,000 used vehicles on hand at any one time.

The vehicles available through Cross Canada Auto Credit include both brand new automobiles and used vehicles six years old and newer. Clients can purchase all makes and models of vehicles, whether domestic or import, at prices ranging from \$8,000 to \$50,000, and every vehicle Cross Canada Auto Credit sells comes with a warranty, which is recognized by most major service stations and garages across the country.

"It's pretty much every manufacture and make of vehicle—trucks, vans, cars, sport utilities," Boyce said.

Through Cross Canada, any client with a telephone and Internet access can shop for a car from the comfort of their own home. The company is currently in the process of creating a new Web site to go

with its new name and expanded services. Once it's up and running, people will be able to view its entire vehicle selection online and submit online applications 24-hours-a-day. But that doesn't mean that until then customers have to buy a vehicle sight unseen.

"Clients basically tell us what they're looking for in a vehicle, what type of driving that they do, and we suit the vehicle to their needs. We will also e-mail them pictures of the complete vehicle, inside and out, engine compartment and everything, so that they know what they're getting. Because when we deliver a vehicle we're the ones at the risk because the client is not obligated to sign any documents until they actually see the vehicle. So even though we're spending the money in getting that vehicle to the client, to their doorstep, that's one of the reasons why we're very careful to make sure that we are selecting what the client wants," Boyce said.

"In some cases, the client may not be able to get the vehicle that they want due to its affordability and a limited loan amount that's given for the first time or to re-establish their credit. So then we consult with the client to see what other vehicle might suit their needs, just to get them by for about a one year period of time, at which point in time their credit is established or has been re-established. And then we can take that vehicle back in trade and we give them something that they initially wanted."

Boyce's goal isn't just to sell cars. He

and his staff work to build ongoing relationships with their clients, providing advice and support to individuals who need to get their financial houses in order before they can even think of buying a vehicle.

"We offer free credit counselling on an ongoing, continuous basis for our customers," Boyce explained.

The company currently has an office staff of five who are trained as both credit analysts and credit consultants.

"The people that we have, they've been trained in terms of what we do, in terms of what we need for our customers, in terms of analyzing their credit situation and looking at their profile and seeing which lender best suits their needs to guarantee the absolute lowest possible rates and match up a vehicle that will suit their needs that falls within the lender's guidelines at the same time," Boyce said.

"What we do on the phone, we consult with the individual. We review their credit with them, we get back to them within 24 hours to let them know what is needed to continue with their approval."

If, for some reason, the application can't be approved, the relationship between Cross Canada Auto Credit and the client doesn't end there, Boyce explained.

"We consult them and let them know what not to do and what they can do in the meantime to repair their credit situation."

In cases where an individual's debt is overwhelming, the company's credit counsellor may suggest they declare

bankruptcy. Once bankruptcy is declared, Cross Canada staff can help the client to re-establish their credit.

Boyce and his staff provide clients with information about what to do and what not to do in order to re-establish a good credit rating. For instance, Boyce said, many people aren't aware that, every time a credit check is done on an individual, it has a negative affect on his or

her credit rating.

"A lot of people don't know that every time they make an inquiry, whether it's for a credit card or store card or no payments till this at this store and that store, every time a credit bureau is pulled your score rating gets dropped. If you have an unpaid ticket and it goes to a collection agency, it affects your credit. We advise people of that."

The credit counselling Cross Canada Auto Credit provides does more than just help clients buy a car or truck. By helping them get their credit situation under control, the company helps them get all their finances in order, and helps many people get to the point where they no longer need the company's assistance to get a loan from a lender.

"I personally have clients that are so happy to see that they started out at a very high interest rate of 29 per cent and today I'm able to get them loans at eight per cent. They can even go to their own banks now and sit down and get a loan," Boyce said.

Cross Canada Auto Credit approach has resulted in a number of long-term relationships being forged between the company and its clients.

"We get lots of referrals. We get lots of repeat customers. We have customers whose family members require vehicles and they call us," Boyce said.

**For more information about Cross Canada Auto Credit call them toll-free at 1-888-333-8404 or e-mail Boyce and his staff at [crosscanada@mts.net](mailto:crosscanada@mts.net).**

Formerly "National Automotive Credit Services Inc."

**Serving Our Nation**

# CROSS - CANADA AUTO CREDIT

**The Autos You Want! The Financing You Need!**

"IF IT CAN BE ACHIEVED, WE WILL ACHIEVE IT"

Tania Carol Andy Sherra Elaine


*We aim to make your buying experience the easiest car purchase you have ever had. Give us the chance to show you how easy buying a car can be.*

**WIN**  
This genuine 100% Leather Harvey Davidson Jacket

All applicant's are automatically entered into a free draw to win. Applications must be faxed in between December 31st, 2006 and January 31st, 2007. The winner shall be announced in the March 2007 Windspeaker.

**Guaranteed Top Quality Vehicles.  
Guaranteed Lowest rates and prices with O.A.C.  
All vehicles safety inspected for all provinces.  
Warranty included with every purchase.**

**TOLL FREE 1.888.333.8404 or (204) 582 - LOAN**

<p><b>NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE</b> Dec. 31, Witchehan First Nation, SK (306) 883-3638/883-2094</p> <p><b>COWBOY SOCIETY ROUND DANCE</b> Dec. 31, Sweetgrass First Nation, Sask.</p>	 <h1>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</h1>					
December 31	January 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

**2006 INTERNATIONAL INDIAN FINALS RODEO**  
Dec. 28-30, 2006, Hobbema, Alta. - (306) 823-4718/696-2315 or (780) 585-0777

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE**  
Dec. 31, 2006, Witchehan First Nation, Sask. - (306) 883-3638/883-2094

**COWBOY SOCIETY ROUND DANCE**  
Dec. 31, 2006, Sweetgrass First Nation, Sask.

**HEADLINES THEATRE PRESENTS "METH"**  
Jan. 15 - Feb. 28, 2007, Vancouver, B.C., (604) 871-0508; www.headlinestheatre.com (see ad on page 15)

**NORTHERN ALL RESERVE 8 BALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
Jan. 20-21, 2007, North Battleford, Sask. - (306) 386-3196/441-2583; (306) 398-3798/481-6421

**WINTER WARM UP MEN'S ABORIGINAL HOCKEY**  
Jan. 20-21, 2007, Indian Head, Sask. - (306) 791-8699/527-2778

**SYMPOSIUM ON ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
Jan. 23-25, 2007, Saskatoon, Sask. - to register contact abc949@mail.usask.ca or allery.carrier@fsin.com

**IN A WORLD CREATED BY A DRUNKEN GOD**  
By Drew Hayden Taylor  
Jan. 24-28, 2007, Edmonton, Alta. - (780) 459-3960

**OUR TRADITIONS FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED OBJECTS**  
Jan. 25, 2007, Calgary, AB - www.animatedobjects.ca

**WEESAGEECHAK BEGINS TO DANCE XVIII**  
Jan. 25-28, 2007, Toronto, Ont. - (416) 531-1402

**DOTC WINTER FESTIVAL 2007**  
Jan. 26-28, 2007, Brandon, Man. - (204) 988-5394/729-3631

**4<sup>th</sup> TREATY ELDERS MEMORIAL ROUND DANCE**  
Jan. 27, 2007, Sweetgrass FN, Sask. - (306) 667-5657/937-2990

**ICE-BREAKER CURLING CLASSIC**  
Jan. 27-28, 2007, Whitecap Dakota FN, Sask. - (306) 466-4959/477-0908

**CASINO RAMA FIRST NATIONS CAREER FAIR**  
Jan. 30, 2007, Rama, Ont. - www.casinorama.com; (705) 326-6914 (see ad on page 14)

**CANADIAN CHALLENGE SLED DOG RACE**  
Jan. 31 - Feb. 4, 2007, Prince Albert, Sask. - (306) 763-1539

**HOOP DANCERS 2007 WORLD CHAMPION TITLE**  
Feb. 3-4, 2007, Phoenix, Ariz. - (602) 252-8848; www.heard.org

**YOUTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
Feb. 4-6, 2007, Regina, Sask. - (306) 956-6934/6918

**TALKING STICK FESTIVAL**  
Feb. 4-11, 2007, Vancouver, B.C. info@fullcircle.ca

**AFN HOUSING & WATER POLICY FORUM**  
Feb. 6-8, 2007, Toronto, Ont. - (866) 869-6789, Ext. 309

**AFN NATIONAL HOUSING & WATER POLICY FORUM**  
Feb. 6-8, 2007, Toronto, Ont. - (866) 869-6789, Ext. 309

**CCAB GALA DINNER**  
Feb. 13, 2007, Toronto, Ont. - (416) 961-8663

**ANNUAL AFOA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
Feb. 20-22, 2007, Vancouver, B.C. - 1-866-775-1817 (see ad on page 7)

**NVIT DREAM MAKERS CAREER FAIR**  
Feb. 21, 2007, Merritt, B.C. - 1-877-682-3300, Ext. 343; or www.nvit.ca; info@nvit.bc.ca (see ad on page 20)

**NAFA NATIONAL FORESTRY CONFERENCE**  
Feb. 27 - March 1, 2007, Ottawa, Ont., (613) 233-5563; www.nafaforestry.org (see ad on page 16)

**CONFERENCE ON FETAL ALCHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER**  
March 7-10, 2007, Victoria, B.C. - (604) 822-524

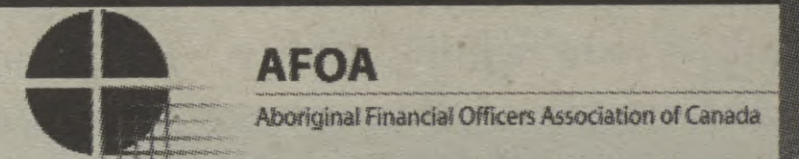
**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**  
March 16, 2007, Edmonton, Alta. - 1-800-329-9780

**YOUTH HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**  
March 23-25, 2007, Prince George, B.C. - (250) 562-6555; hic.unn@shawbiz.ca

**ABORIGINAL HOUSING FORUM**  
April 2-3, 2007, Calgary, Alta. - 1-888-777-1707

INCLUDE YOUR EVENT BY  
FAX (780) 455-7639 or E-MAIL market@ammsa.com

## Announcing a National Conference for ABORIGINAL MANAGERS, FINANCIAL OFFICERS AND ELECTED LEADERS



### Taking Control of Accountability A Focus on Objectives, Performance and Results February 20-22, 2007 - Vancouver

We hear about accountability virtually every day of our working lives but what does it actually mean for those managing finances, administration and programs in Aboriginal communities and organizations? For many, the word accountability carries negative messages. Yet the concepts and practices underlying accountability are essential to good performance, getting results and being successful. Effective accountability practices are also critical to those pursuing self-government. Come to the AFOA National Conference and let's take control of accountability and focus our efforts on objectives, performance and results.

- **Invited keynote speakers include:** National Chief Phil Fontaine, Honourable Jim Prentice, Honourable Gordon Campbell, Grand Council Chief John Beaucage, Union of Ontario Indians, Chief Denis Meeches, Long Plain First Nation
- **Workshops include:** \*Success Stories Series - Communities with a success story that resulted in improved management, performance and governance - Kettle and Stoney Point First Nation - Long Plain First Nation - Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation \*Financial Management Series - Investment Management - Pension Plans - Borrowing Strategies - First Nations Financial Reporting: CICA Study \*Healthy Workplace Series - Leadership Strategies - Building Effective Relations Between Elected Leaders and Management - Women in the Workplace \*Self Governance Series - The Role of Traditional Governance - Creating Wealth and Employment in Aboriginal Communities - Miawpuke First Nation; a Unique Approach to Self-Government \*Aboriginal Management Series - Housing Management - Effective Human Resource Management - Strategic Planning - Comprehensive Community Planning \*Beginners Series - Remedial Management Plans - IT Software - An Introduction to Performance Reporting **AND MORE...**

View the program and register on line at [www.afoa.ca/conference/2007](http://www.afoa.ca/conference/2007) or call toll free 866.775.1817

# Fontaine sounding optimistic

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

As the first year of the Conservative Party of Canada's reign comes to an end—a year that saw the end of the Kelowna plan and other potentially huge initiatives—the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) national chief sounds anything but gloomy.

Phil Fontaine passed on his best for the holiday season during a conference call with reporters working for Aboriginal media on Dec. 15. The year-in-review interview was bolstered by a decision that morning by Ontario Justice Warren Winkler who said the residential school compensation deal brokered by the AFN was clear to proceed.

“Mr. Justice Winkler made his decision today in Toronto. So he and a number of other judges said yes, the agreement is fair and just and we should proceed. So we're pretty pleased about that,” Fontaine said. “We're satisfied with developments during this past year. We're pleased with some of the developments. We regard them as wins.”

But he quickly acknowledged that not all is rosy.

“We're feeling some uncertainty in a number of areas. The uncertainty we feel has to do more with the relationship with the Harper government than anything,” he said. “We're concerned with what we see as a preoccupation with formal equality and treating everybody the same as opposed to accepting the fact of collective rights and the unique place of First Nations in the country.”

In fact, the national chief did something he said he'd never do when he spoke to a group of several hundred chiefs and their supporters who mounted a protest on Parliament Hill on Dec. 5 during the first morning of the three-day special chiefs assembly.

When some First Nation workers were fighting hard to

lobby against the First Nations governance act in 2002 and 2003, Fontaine was criticized for not joining in the fight. He said at the time that protesting was not his preferred way of getting results.

Windspeaker asked if his presence at the Dec. 5 protest should be interpreted as an indication that these are desperate times that call for desperate measures.

Not at all, he replied.

“I still believe that the most effective way to bring about change is through negotiation. Here I'm referring to the historic and special relationships that our people have with government. We always approach our issues on a government-to-government basis. That's the relationship that must prevail in everything that we do with all governments in Canada,” he said.

“As far as the event on the hill, this was a rally that was organized by the Chiefs of Ontario. I was asked to speak there. I did so. But so did Minister Prentice and other parliamentarians. I wanted to make the point as effectively as I could that the most pressing issue for us was poverty. This was an opportunity for me to speak to the launch of the national campaign to eradicate poverty in our communities. I thought The Hill was an appropriate place to do that.”

But some chiefs are definitely ready to lean hard on the government in a very public way. During the chiefs' assembly, a resolution was passed calling for a national action day in June 2007.

“This is a decision that was taken by the chiefs in assembly. What's expected of us is that we will help, that we will facilitate this day and it'll happen regardless of the government in power. It's really a call to action on the part of all Canadians to do right by our people,” the national chief explained.

Fontaine was asked what he saw as the most politically significant moment of the past year.

“You mean besides my re-

election?” he joked.

He went on to say that cabinet approval and the more recent court certification of the residential schools settlement agreement was clearly the high point.

As for low points, Fontaine spoke of his “deep disappointment” with the federal government on the United Nations draft declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples.

“They told us they were going to oppose this declaration. We couldn't understand why they took this position. The reasons they gave didn't hold water. It's an aspirational document. It's neither a convention nor a treaty and it's clear no matter what they were saying to us, because the courts have ruled on this matter—domestic law will prevail on international law.

He called the decision to not follow through on the Kelowna process “another real disappointment.”

But he said comments made by

*“We're feeling some uncertainty in a number of areas. The uncertainty we feel has to do more with the relationship with the Harper government than anything.”*

—Phil Fontaine

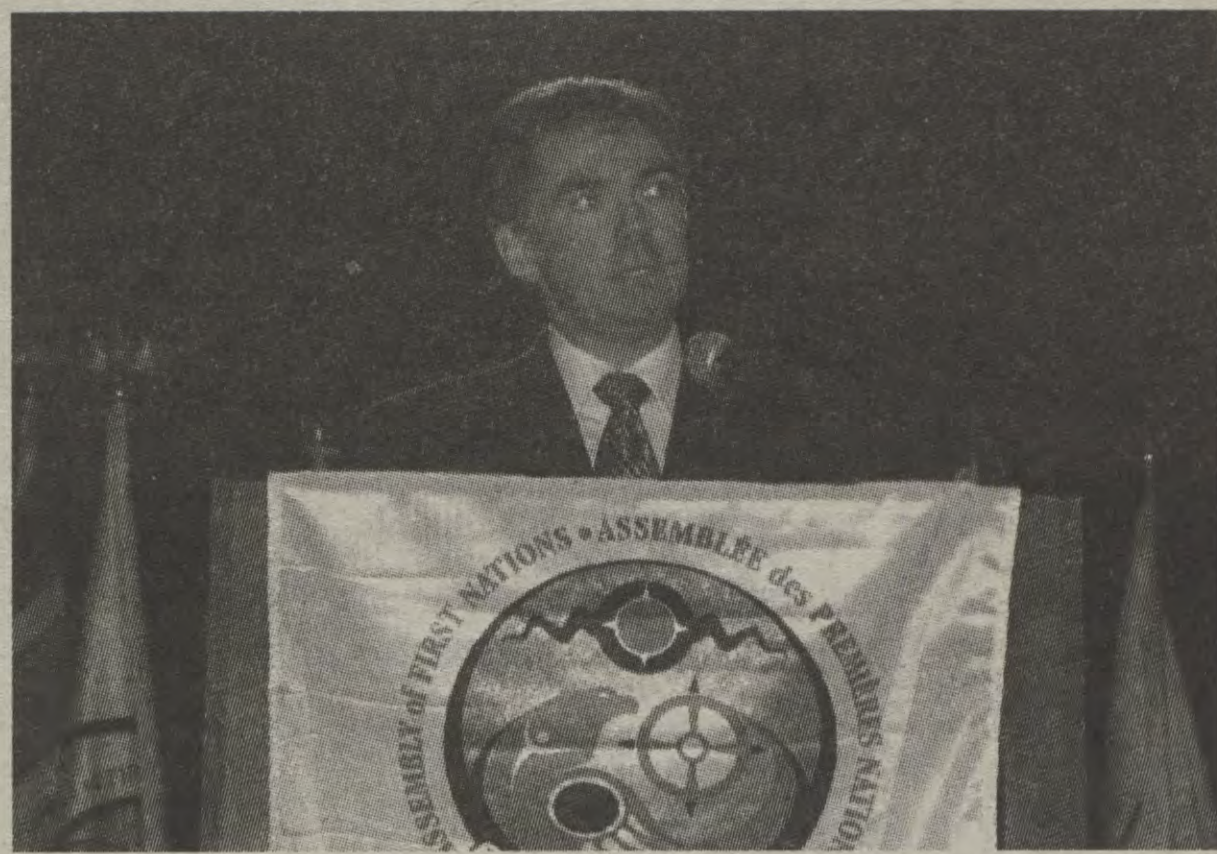
Prime Minister Stephen Harper that are friendly towards the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), the 10th anniversary of which was marked in November, present a possible opportunity to follow up on the issues in the Kelowna plan.

“I believe that we will be able to convince the Harper government to have a very serious and careful look at RCAP to see if we can use that as the basis for future work and development related to First Nations that goes beyond Kelowna,” he said.

Fontaine said one of the initiatives the Conservative government did get behind was the development of a safe drinking water strategy for First Nations. It found that the situation was even worse than the government initially thought it was.

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice said there were 21 communities in crisis when he launched his experts' committee to look into the problem. Fontaine said that committee found that there were more than 21 communities facing serious problems and he said the committee also recommended that funding levels be increased to deal with the situation.

“So I'm hoping that this



RUSSELL DIABO

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice received a luke-warm reception from the chiefs when he addressed the assembly on Dec. 7.

government will not stick to its position that they put to us when the minister announced his emergency intervention. Minister Prentice said money's not the issue here, it's really about determining standards, it's about determining who has responsibility in terms of who has jurisdiction and whether there's

with rumors that a Cabinet shuffle is coming early in 2007 and that the Indian Affairs minister will be moved. But he didn't have any hard information to pass on.

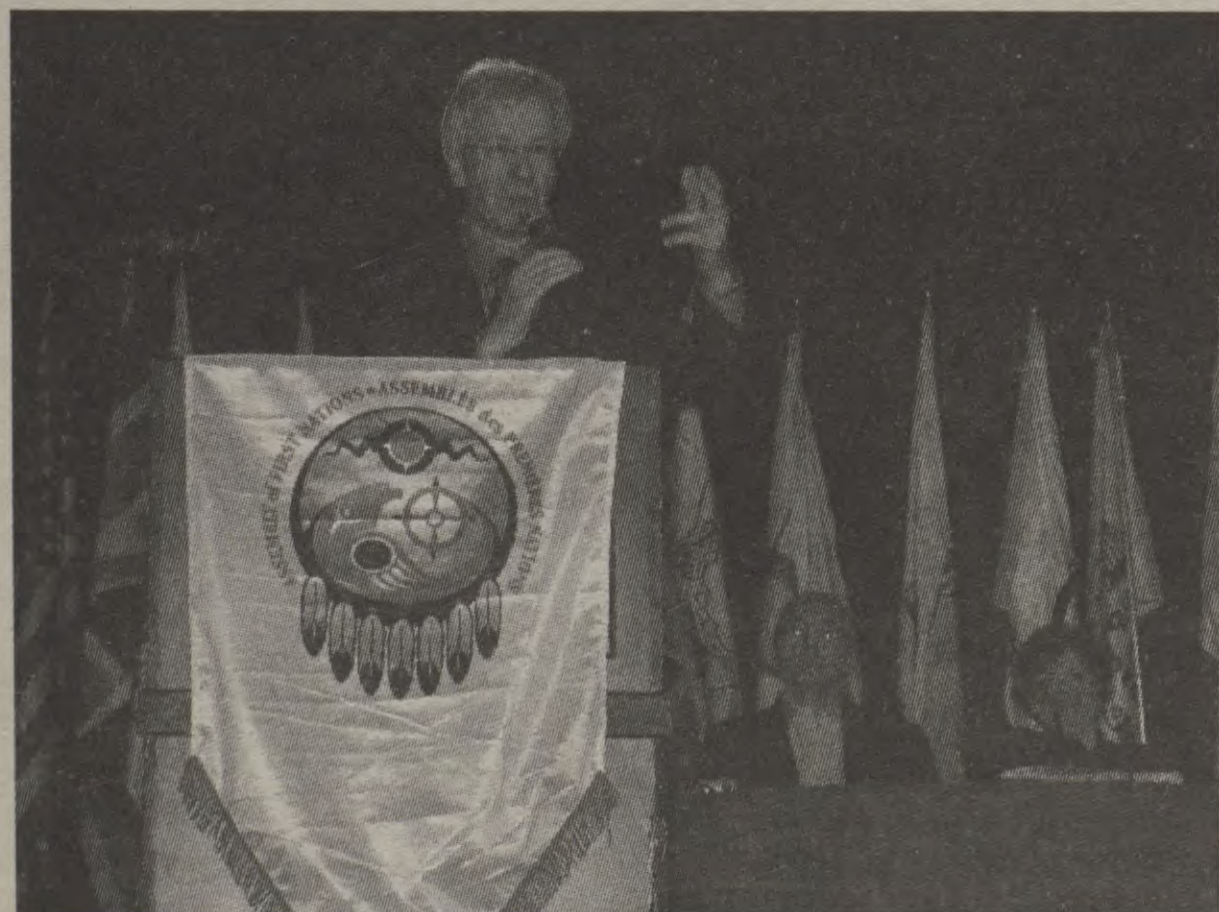
“We're just as much in the dark as you are. We have a good working relationship with Minister Prentice. I was asked before how I saw Prentice and I said he's a very able person, he's honorable and I regard him as a friend. That doesn't mean that I agree with everything the Harper government has done with respect to our issues. Our commitment is to work with them as best as we can,” he said.

During his opening speech to the delegates, Fontaine was unusually aggressive in his criticism of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), a group with which Prentice has worked more closely than have previous ministers.

“It is also deeply insulting when the government supports a puppet organization, of questionable representation, with a straw man for a leader, who slams First Nations leadership,” Fontaine told the chiefs. “Especially when we are the ones — and I mean all of us — who have worked so hard to develop strong, evidence-based arguments for change. We are ready. It seems that this government is not.”

Fontaine was asked if he'd ever been told by Prentice why the government was dealing with CAP.

“We can only speculate why he's made that decision. Our position is clear. They don't have a definable constituency. I don't know where [CAP leader] Patrick [Brazeau] receives his mandate. We know that there's no presence in the West. We understand that they've been largely a service organization, especially in the East, meaning that they deliver programs. That's something that we don't do. We're a political organization and we maintain that position very carefully,” he said. “Why the decision has been done, we don't know.”



RUSSELL DIABO

Newly elected Liberal leader Stephane Dion's Aboriginal policy is getting cautiously-worded kudos from AFN analysts



# Let's hope all the activity was worth it

It's finally official — or as official as it can get until the cheques actually clear.

One point nine billion dollars to the tens of thousands of Native people who were physically, sexually and emotionally abused at residential schools by those in the service of God — hopefully it will provide a little bit of karmic closure, perhaps.

The deal will give the survivors a lump sum of \$10,000 each, plus \$3,000 for each year spent in the schools. That will buy a lot of therapy and band-aids I suppose. It's better than the decades of run-arounds they have experienced. But is that what this is all really about?

What has me puzzled is the government seems to be footing all these compensation bills and, while they are more than culpable, I don't see many of the churches cracking open their cheque books to help make this regrettable part of history go away.

I do recall that there have been some apologies from various religious denominations, but I have it on good authority that

don't add up to much in a court of law. Maybe I'm a little cynical. Maybe I'm a lot cynical. We destroyed your life . . . sorry — that's about it. Geez,

if life were that easy, I'd be a much happier man. It's that absolution of sins thing that probably lets them sleep at nights. I don't know if it would work for me.

I guess what's upsetting me is the apparent contradiction of doing God's work, which on the surface seems good, and abusing children, which on the surface and quite a few layers below, seems bad. Granted, I haven't read the Bible cover to cover, but I've seen most of the movies and watched *Seventh Heaven* on television. So I have a working knowledge. Yet I must have missed the part where such beliefs endorsed and condoned such highly



## THE URBANE INDIAN

Drew Hayden Taylor

questionable behavior. I thought I'd found a reference in the Gospel of Mark, 10-14, where it said something about "suffer the little children." But seriously guys, I don't think God meant that to be taken so literally. However, I'm not a theologian and maybe it's there somewhere between the lines.

Just recently, I read about a priest who was found guilty of abusing a lot of kids several decades ago. He was called to the Vatican where his wrist was slapped. He was placed on leave and told to pray and seek forgiveness. That's about it. No demerits off his driver's license. No rescinding of his library card. No being told to jog around the

Vatican 50 times. Because of his age, in his 80s, and his declining health, it was thought this would be more humane. I'm sure it was. But still, you know the old adage, "Spare the rod, spoil the priest."

Remember the good old days when it was quite common for devout families to give 10 per cent of their income to the church as a sign of faith? I think it was called a tithe. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the tables were turned and the church had to give 10 percent of everything it took in to everybody it hurt? But I guess that makes too much sense, and heaven knows, we can't have that. Instead, the federal government pays out a large chunk of money out of everybody's taxes. Maybe that is why the gas prices went up so suddenly last year. That money has got to come from somewhere.

In 1876 AD, the new Dominion of Canada devised an interesting little document called The Indian Act. In 1960 Native people were given the right to vote in their own country. In

1985, Bill C-31 one was passed, giving thousands of Native people back their status. I guess we can add 2006 to the list of pivotal periods in Native history that affected us intensely, but did not originate from us. An entire industry has been built around protecting us, empowering us, abusing us, and compensating us.

Oh well, maybe I'm a little paranoid about this whole church and compensation thing. But it does make you wonder, as it's often posed, what Jesus would do in this situation? Maybe he's like the CEO in those big Enron and federal sponsorship scandals. He's way at the top, removed from the doings of those working way below him, and he doesn't know what the little people who work for him are up to. I've been told a lot of religious organizations are run like corporations.

Never mind, I think I should just keep my mouth shut and maybe curl up tonight with a good book to take my mind off things.

I have it on good authority *The Da Vinci Code* is interesting.

## Language & culture — a fading masterpiece

By Allan Crow  
*Windspeaker Guest Columnist*

When I was growing up in Whitefish Bay (Naotkamegwaning First Nation) I used to hear the old people talk about how we, as Anishinaabek, were losing our language. I thought it was a silly thing to say; I will never lose my language. But of course, 50 years later, I see the Elders were right. Today even I, a speaker of my first language all of my life, will use the English language out of habit.

I try very hard to speak the language when I am around my little grandchildren. It is difficult to do. The children are immersed in the English language most of the time because they like to watch television and do activities related to the second language. In the very old days before the contact period,

the parents and adults had the sole responsibility of educating their children. The Elders say a child's learning begins while still in the mother's womb waiting to be born. There the child learns the language and culture as it hears talking among the people. The children learned the ways of their ancestors and how things were by listening. The education was not as formal as it is today in society. But the people knew the children were learning the important things to know in life. They were learning about everything they needed to learn so that life would continue for a very long time. This was the way it was done throughout Indian country in the old days.

It was a good working system; the families and children never

went hungry; the children learned and practiced the seven teachings; the people learned how to conserve the resources; and most importantly, the people learned that there was a higher being who was responsible for all creation. Only parts of this way remain today, but not to a great extent. Those of us who are middle aged are probably the last to have experienced this way of teaching. I remember being a child and listening to the adults talking. I and the other children used to go to the lakeside and watch the people work. We liked to listen as they talked and told stories as they worked mending their fishing nets; or curing wild rice over the fire; gutting their fish. We did not even realize that we were learning as we sat there watching and listening. We were

just having fun as we listened to the people talking and laughing.

Now that way of life has come to a close. Today we are dependant on others to teach our children the ways of survival. This is not a bad thing; it just means the times have changed and with it our language and culture teaching must change. We must find new ways and systems to teach our children the language. Many young parents are teaching their children at home, but that is where it stops. Once the children are out of the home, all they hear is the other language. It is nobody's fault that this is happening; there is no blame here. We just need to form a structured method that could be used in the schools to teach the students how to use the language.

In language and culture

retention, we must dig into the past and let the children see how their ancestors lived before the contact period. They must see who they really are and become aware of their true identity. They need to feel the richness of their culture that permeated in the time when the world was new and life abounded for all to enjoy. They have to see and be aware that their people were never at any time the savages as they are portrayed in the movies and comic books. The people of Turtle Island, the Anishinaabek, were a functioning and thriving society who taught one another to always respect each other. Life then was a masterpiece free from today's chaos and pollution. If we do not find a solution to maintain our language and culture, the masterpiece will fade.

## The spiritual origin of "a friend in deed"

By Vic Auger  
*Windspeaker Guest Columnist*

Long after the earth began, the humankind species greatly advanced their ability to pile rocks.

Unfortunately, they learned better to throw them as well. The wonder of the pyramids and the splendor of the temples, mosques and cathedrals was contrasted by increased quarrelling, warfare and strife: between neighbors, among families and between countries. It seemed that humans did not trust

one another, they were not faithful and loyal towards each other and they were unforgiving and selfish.

The holy men of the different lands preached of love and unity but to no avail. So they retired to the various temples that housed their particular "gods." Unable to teach their followers they now expended their energies designing yet greater houses of worship and it was from there they prayed to be heard. From

the four corners of the earth their petitions rang the same: help us teach love and unity so that we may live in peace. Send us something that will remind us daily of our duty to one another. Bestow upon us a great tablet . . . a great visionary . . . anything!

And so the "gods" complied, though not with a great tablet nor in the form of a great visionary. No, this time mankind would have to learn from his observations alone, and the learning would be available to all.

And so mankind shall have its daily reminder and but one clue as to the involvement of the "gods."

Yes, this is when and why the dog originated. The example he sets is subtle yet precise, and for all he gives a message. The dog is faithful and trusting beyond question. His loyalty is legendary. He forgives unconditionally. He is fearless and unselfish and will give his life to save yours. And he is kind and asks only mere affection in

return.

Yet today the holy men from all the distant parts of the world look at him in disgust as he coolly raises his leg to their marble pillars.

In their puzzlement they wonder: for what good and for what purpose could such a lowly creature be, whose name spelled backwards is . . .

[Editors note: Vic Auger is an Edmonton writer and dog lover. He offers this story as a new year's gift to the readers of *Windspeaker*.]

# Courts approve residential school agreement

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

National Chief Phil Fontaine said the fight for an apology is on hold until the next, and last, milestone on the road to a final residential schools settlement agreement has been passed.

On Dec. 15 Ontario Superior Court Justice Warren Winkler signed off on the agreement that would eventually see former residential school students receive a common experience payment (CEP) of \$10,000, plus \$3,000 for each year they spent in the schools.

The agreement-in-principle between the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the

government of Canada was signed on Nov. 21, 2005, in the last days of the Paul Martin Liberal government and was subsequently approved by the

lawsuits and 21 class action lawsuits will be ended when the agreement comes into force.

Fontaine, who is widely credited with being the driving

kinks in the process, but he has signed off on the agreement, which will allow the next and final step to begin.

Prior to Winkler's decision

we are entering a very important phase in the settlement process. What we are doing here at the AFN is organizing information sessions and workshops with survivors and frontline workers who interact on a daily basis with survivors, so that everyone has the right information about the settlement agreement."

Government officials have estimated that having all the lawsuits go through the courts would have taken about 53 years.

"We are just as anxious as anyone to have this agreement finalized. Many of our survivors are Elders and we're losing Elders at the rate of four a day and this is a conservative number. So we're moving as fast

(See Survivors page 12)

*"We were told that the government didn't have any appetite for this apology, that it was difficult enough getting the government to accept the agreement as negotiated. So we took the position that we wouldn't press this but that we would bring it forward at an appropriate point."*

—Phil Fontaine

Stephen Harper government on May 10. Justice Winkler's task was to ensure that the parties engaged in lawsuits involving their residential school experiences were well served by this agreement.

Some 15,000 individual

force behind this landmark compensation agreement, acknowledged that the wheels of the justice system turn slowly. But he said the end is now in sight.

Winkler has given the lawyers 60 days to work out a few minor

only two steps remained: the courts had to certify the agreement as "fair and just" and the survivors had to opt in.

"It'll come back to the survivors and they will have six months to consider the agreement," said Fontaine. "So

## CALL FOR PRESENTERS

### 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL FIRST NATION CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES CONFERENCE

The Conference will be held at the River Cree Hotel and Casino, Enoch, Alta. ~ May 21-25, 2007 ~

*"Let's put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children"*

Chief Sitting Bull

The YTSA is now accepting proposals for workshop presentations for its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Child & Family Services Conference.

Deadline for submissions: February 16, 2007



For more information please call Anita or Janine Arcand at 780-481-7390, Ext. #231 or email anita@ytasa.ca

## Interested in Magazine Publishing?

Alberta Magazine Publishers Association

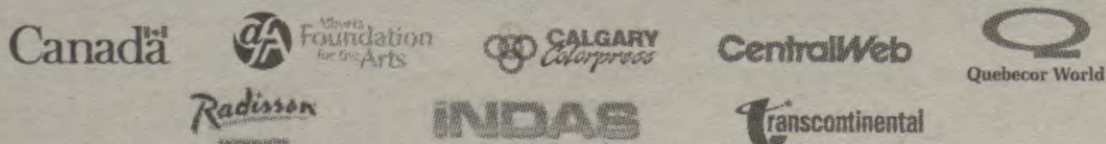


## ALBERTA MAGAZINES CONFERENCE

Then mark your calendars for AMPA's 11th anniversary of the ALBERTA MAGAZINES CONFERENCE March 9 & 10, 2007, at the Radisson Hotel, Calgary

Recharge your editorial, spice up your design, pump up your ad sales, and diversify your circulation! Come hear from experts and network with colleagues at the largest magazine conference in Western Canada, featuring Alberta-born, NYC-seasoned Dale Hrabí, editor-at-large for Radar magazine, and former editorial creative director at Maxim and Details. Call 403.262.0081 or e-mail ampa@albertamagazines.com to register or for more info.

www.albertamagazines.com



## The latest BQ

Canada's National Aboriginal Business Magazine  
Inside this issue of Windspeaker

## Consultations publiques

La prochaine politique agricole et agroalimentaire du Canada

## Prenez part aux discussions

L'industrie agricole et agroalimentaire du Canada joue un rôle économique vital et a un impact important sur notre vie quotidienne. C'est pourquoi les gouvernements fédéral, provinciaux et territoriaux invitent les Canadiens à participer à l'élaboration de la prochaine politique agricole et agroalimentaire.

Des consultations publiques auront lieu dans diverses collectivités du pays en janvier et février 2007. Tous les Canadiens auront la possibilité de formuler des commentaires et des conseils sur la façon idéale d'assurer la compétitivité et la rentabilité du secteur agricole.

Vous pouvez obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur les consultations et la façon d'y participer aux coordonnées suivantes :

Site Web : [www.agr.gc.ca/verslanouvelle](http://www.agr.gc.ca/verslanouvelle)

Courriel : [agrconsultations@agr.gc.ca](mailto:agrconsultations@agr.gc.ca)

Téléphone : 1-800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)

ATS : 1-800-926-9105

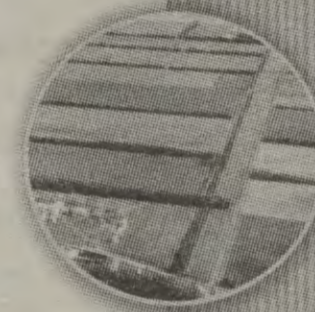
Par la poste :

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada  
Consultations  
Prochaine politique agricole et agroalimentaire  
930, avenue Carling  
Pièce 833  
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0C7

Télécopieur : 613-715-5353



BRITISH COLUMBIA



Alberta



Gouvernement de la Saskatchewan

Manitoba



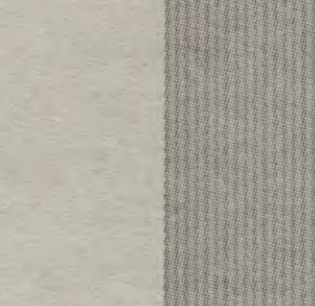
Ontario



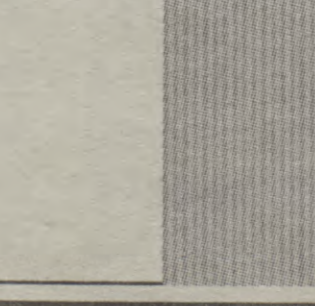
Québec



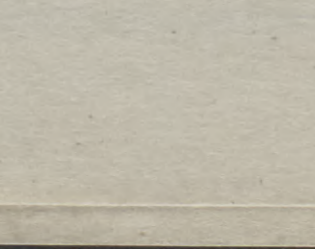
Newfoundland Labrador



NOVA SCOTIA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE



New Brunswick Nouveau Brunswick



Île-du-Prince-Édouard



Yukon Gouvernement



Territoires du Nord-Ouest



Nunavut

Canada

# Discrimination found in corrections

By Laura Stevens  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## OTTAWA

Correctional Investigator Howard Sapers, the federal ombudsman for prisons, reported last month that the number of Aboriginal people in Canada's prisons is growing. He also found evidence of discrimination against Aboriginal inmates in a number of areas.

In his annual report, the Correctional Investigator found that Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) categorizes First Nations, Métis and Inuit inmates, on average, as higher security risks than non-Native inmates. The report also reveals that Aboriginal offenders are

released later in their sentences than other inmates.

The report shows that female Aboriginal inmates are experiencing discriminatory outcomes the most.

Beverly Jacobs, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), said that her organization is in full agreement with Sapers' findings.

"That's something that we've been advocating for, for quite a long time," she said. "What he was saying was that, the issues specific to Aboriginal women is a crisis situation, what with the high numbers of Aboriginal women in federal prisons and the lack of services that are provided."

Aboriginal offenders are

placed in isolation a lot more than non-Aboriginal offenders, Sapers found. That limits their access to appropriate programming, "something they need at those times," said Jacobs.

"If a woman is serving maximum time or in a segregation unit, they don't have access to those services and that's exactly when they need them," she added.

Jacobs said the gap between Aboriginal and other offenders, in terms of timely and safe conditional release, must begin to close. The key to closing those gaps is to have the ongoing support and involvement of Elders, Aboriginal liaison officers, community representatives and Aboriginal organizations for First Nations,

Métis and Inuit offenders, she added.

"If the women are in maximum [security] units there's no services provided to assist them in their healing processes — and the reason a lot of the time that they go to jail is because they're defending themselves, defending their children or defending somebody," said Jacobs.

The Investigator's report said CSC must provide sufficient services to federal offenders with mental health needs. Further improvement is needed in the area of implementation of a more humane and less restrictive alternative to long-term isolation of women inmates. Sapers also found that more timely investigations and

follow-up action needs to be arranged in incidents of serious injury or death among inmates.

"We're still dealing with discrimination and racism and that's still a huge issue that nobody wants to address and we're talking about the affects of colonization, we're talking about the impacts that it has specifically on Aboriginal women and it's frustrating," said Jacobs. "There has to be an acceptance by those people who are there in that system to understand and be aware of the difference. That to me is one of the key issues they control. They continuously say that they're doing what they can but it's obvious that it's not enough. The numbers are going up, they're not going down."

## Public Consultations

Canada's Next Generation  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Policy

## Add Your Voice To The Discussion

Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector and industries are a vital part of our economy and impact our lives every day. That's why federal, provincial and territorial governments are inviting Canadians to participate in the development of the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy.

Public consultations will be taking place in communities across the country during January and February 2007. All Canadians will have the opportunity to provide input and advice on how to best ensure a competitive and profitable agricultural industry.

To obtain more information on the consultation process and to find out how to participate:

Visit: [www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen](http://www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen)

Email: [agrconsultations@agr.gc.ca](mailto:agrconsultations@agr.gc.ca)

Call: 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)

TTY: 1 800 926-9105

### Write to:

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Next Generation Consultations  
930 Carling Avenue  
Room 833  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0C7

Fax: 613 715-5353



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA



Alberta

Government of  
Saskatchewan



Manitoba

Ontario



Québec



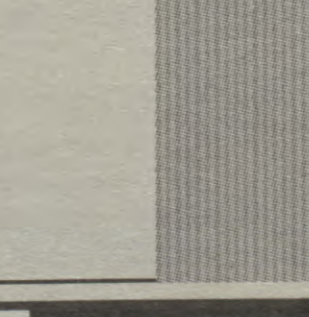
Newfoundland  
Labrador



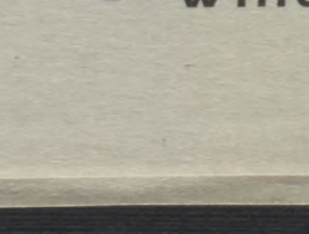
NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE



New Brunswick  
Brunswick



Prince  
Edward  
Island



Yukon  
Government



Northwest  
Territories



Nunavut

Canada

## OPPORTUNE CANADA

Are you having problems with the shortage of employees?

We can supply bookkeepers, cooks, bakers, welders, automotive technicians, nurses, nannies and live-in caregivers.

We can find quality employees to fit company needs from countries such as the Philippines, India or Sri Lanka and get them down under the Federal Foreign Worker Program.

For more information call: 780-231-3945  
or email: [opportunecanada@telus.net](mailto:opportunecanada@telus.net)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### FINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SHELL CANADA LIMITED'S PROPOSED CARMON CREEK PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

On September 29, 2006, Alberta Environment issued final Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for Shell Canada Limited's proposed Carmon Creek Project. The company is proposing to increase production of bitumen to approximately 16,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d (100,000 bbl/day). The proposed Project would be located within the Northern Sunrise County, approximately 40 km northeast of Peace River, in Townships 84 to 86, Ranges 16 to 19, W5M.

The EIA report prepared pursuant to these Terms of Reference will be reviewed as a cooperative assessment under the Canada-Alberta Agreement for Environmental Assessment Cooperation. Alberta will be the Lead Party for the cooperative assessment.

Copies of the Terms of Reference are available from:

Attn: Ken Zaitsoff  
Consultation Co-ordinator  
Peace River Complex  
P.O. Bag 1200  
Peace River, AB T8S 1V1  
Phone: (780) 624-6808  
Fax: (780) 624-4873  
E-mail: [Ken.Zaitsoff@shell.com](mailto:Ken.Zaitsoff@shell.com)

Register of Environmental  
Assessment Information  
Alberta Environment  
Attention: Melanie Daneluk  
111, 4999 - 98th Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3  
Telephone: (780) 427-5828  
Toll Free: (780) 310-0000

Terms of Reference are also accessible on the following websites:  
Shell Canada Limited web site at <http://www.shell.ca/peacriver>  
and click on News Alberta Environment web site at  
<http://www3.gov.ab.ca/env/protenf/assessment/summary.html>

Alberta

## BQ IS HERE!

Canada's National Aboriginal Business Magazine  
Inside this issue of Windspeaker

# Survivors have six months to opt in

(continued from page 10)

as we can," Fontaine said. "Is it fast enough? Of course not, we know that."

"But it's a process that needs to be concluded and you have to keep in mind that justice takes time. But at the end of the day I think that we will make thousands upon thousands of people happy with this settlement agreement. I'm able to say that because I've encountered so many survivors who have received the \$8,000 advanced payment and boy, you haven't seen happy people until you've seen those folks." But the question of an apology from the government has become a bit of a sticking point.

Fontaine said talks had been progressing well with the former government for a "full apology in a significant public

ceremony," but those talks have stalled under the Harper government.

"We were told that the government didn't have any appetite for this apology, that it was difficult enough getting the government to accept the agreement as negotiated. So we took the position that we wouldn't press this but that we would bring it forward at an appropriate point.

So we're waiting for the survivors to say 'yes' to the agreement and we expect that'll be the outcome," he said.

"We put this against a number of precedents. The Japanese Canadians received an apology from Prime Minister [Brian] Mulroney in 1988 for their internment during the Second World War.

"Hep-C victims received an

apology from the Canadian government for their treatment. More recently, the Chinese Canadians received an apology from this government for the Chinese head tax. So we take the position that we're not any different from those folks. In fact, we've suffered, we've suffered greatly and the statement of reconciliation of 1998 is not seen as a full apology by the Canadian government, therefore one of the outstanding issues will be a full apology once the survivors have given their approval of the settlement agreement."

The Harper government has based a lot of its policy on the concept of "equal treatment," an approach that has on occasion appeared unfriendly — even opposed — to the concept of Aboriginal rights.

Those other groups have received an apology but the

government doesn't want to apologize to Aboriginal people. Isn't that an example of unequal treatment, Windspeaker asked the national chief?

"We see it as such, at least at the moment," Fontaine said. "But I give them the benefit of the doubt. I was told that this was a difficult matter for the government, but at the end of the day cabinet gave us their approval. So we believe that in an appropriate time we will be able to secure the kind of apology that survivors have been asking for."

The settlement includes a common experience payment that averages \$24,000 to each of the nearly 80,000 living residential school attendees and provides an improved out-of-court process for victims seeking compensation for more serious abuse.

"Today's court ratifications are

a victory for the tens of thousands of residential school system survivors," said Phil Fontaine. "It means that we are on track for payments to be made out sooner than we expected." Payments of the CEP could now begin as early as this summer, he added.

Work on one other important part of the agreement will also soon begin.

"The courts certification also means the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be starting its work next summer," said Fontaine. "The Truth and Reconciliation Commission will ensure that all Canadians will understand the significance of the serious harm done to our people by the residential schools. First Nations are determined to send the message to the world that never again will such a racist agenda be tolerated in Canada."



A 100% First Nations-owned Brokerage in Operation since 1987  
Proudly celebrating 18 highly successful years in business

## FIRST NATIONS INSURANCE SERVICES LTD.

- Group Life & Health Benefits
- Group Pensions
- Employee & Family Assistance Program
- Individual Life, Health and Financial Services

"Providing Superior Financial Service to  
First Nations and Their Employees"

1-800-667-4712

Phone: 306-763-4712 • Fax: 306-763-3255

Opawikoscikan Reserve #201  
PO Box 2377  
2300-10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1  
E-Mail:  
first.nations\_ins@sasktel.net  
Visit us on the internet at:  
www.firstnationsins.com

Contact:  
Helen Burgess  
General Manager or  
Stuart McLellan  
Pension Administrator



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

## REVISED PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued a Revised Notice of Public Hearing, available at [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), for the January 24, 2007 one-day public hearing on the Environmental Assessment (EA) Guidelines regarding Ontario Power Generation Inc.'s (OPG) proposal for the refurbishment and life extension of the Pickering B nuclear generating station. The CNSC announces revisions to the date of availability of the EA Guidelines and to the deadline to submit interventions on the matter.

The public is invited to comment on the revised EA Guidelines. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by January 5, 2007 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the name, address and telephone of the requester.

Hearing documents (submissions) are not available on-line and must be requested through the Secretariat at the address below. For more information, instructions on how to participate in this public hearing process or the complete text of the Revised Notice of Public Hearing, see [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), and refer to the Revised Notice of Public Hearing 2007-H-01 Revision 1, or contact:

L. Levert, Secretariat  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Tel.: (613) 996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284  
Fax: (613) 995-5086  
E-mail: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

## FOUR DIRECTIONS COUNSELLING SERVICES LTD. ®

### FIRST NATIONS COUNSELLING

Providing FIRST NATIONS COUNSELLING  
with cultural traditional values and beliefs.

Counselling to empower the mind, body & spirit.

For individuals, couples, groups  
or organizations

Traditional cultural and holistic counselling  
FROM A FIRST NATIONS PERSPECTIVE

For more information contact: LYLE S. WILLIER  
Phone: 780-455-6229 Toll Free: 1-877-455-6229  
Fax: 780-455-6092 Email: [fdcounselling@shaw.ca](mailto:fdcounselling@shaw.ca)

OTTAWA  
DOWNTOWN

# Travelodge

Doral Inn

"Ottawa's Friendly Little Hotel"

800.263.6725

Located across the street from  
the NEW A.F.N. Headquarters!  
Walk to Parliament and  
Popular Attractions!

Business or Holiday!  
from  
\$95 per  
night

FREE 15 item  
Continental Breakfast,  
High Speed Internet  
and Parking.  
40 Guestrooms & Suites,  
[traveloggedoralinn.com](http://traveloggedoralinn.com)



486 ALBERT STREET - OTTAWA



Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts

The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Arts Branch is offering **Grant Writing Workshops** for the "Individual Artists" funding program for all Aboriginal Artists

## Grant Writing Workshops

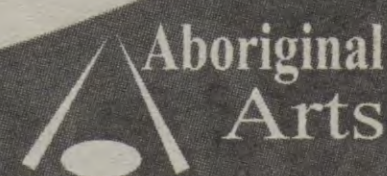
Mon, Jan 15 · 1pm-5pm  
Tues, Jan 16 · 11am-3pm  
Wed, Jan 17 · 9am-12pm  
Thurs, Jan 18 · 1pm-4pm  
Fri, Jan 19 · 1pm-4pm  
Mon, Jan 22 · 1pm-4pm

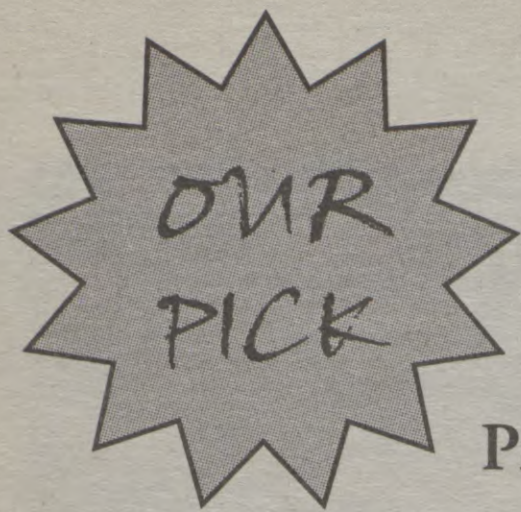
Lethbridge, Bowman Arts Centre  
Medicine Hat, Miywasin Society of Aboriginal Services  
Calgary, The Native Centre, University of Calgary  
Edmonton, Sun & Moon Visionaries Aboriginal Artisans  
Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre  
Grande Prairie Friendship Centre

To pre-register please RSVP to [aboriginalarts@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aboriginalarts@gov.ab.ca)  
or call the AFA (780) 427-9968 · Toll Free through 310-0000

Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Arts Branch

10708 105 Avenue · Edmonton AB · T5H 0A1  
[www.affta.ab.ca](http://www.affta.ab.ca)





Artist—REDDNATION  
 Album—Now or Never  
 Song—Now or Never  
 Label—Red Rocc Records  
 Producer—REDDNATION

# REDDNATION wins big with sophomore CD

REDDNATION had a very good year in 2006. They released their second album, *Now or Never*, a successful follow-up to their first disc, 2004's *Unstoppable*. *Now or Never* earned the hip hop group awards for best rap or hip hop album at both the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards held in Winnipeg at the beginning of November and at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in Toronto at the end of November.

REDDNATION has been making music since 2000. The current incarnation of the Edmonton-based band includes Anasaz, a.k.a. J.R. Saddleback, DJ Hooligan, a.k.a. Sean Beaver, Ill Logikal, a.k.a. Darren Brule, Madjikal, a.k.a. Keith Laboucan and Phenom, a.k.a. Ian Russell.

*Now or Never* includes 19 tracks featuring the talents of REDDNATION members as well as a variety of diverse guest artists, including contemporary Native storyteller Otacimow, Reggae singer Ila Bash, Hellnback and Lakes Aquí from Rezofficial, rappers Kasp and Nightshield and Hobbema's own Lyrically.

The songs on the album include both hard-driving cuts with a few slightly less intense numbers thrown in for good measure, with subject matter running the gamut from the standard hip hop fare of scoping out women to *Everywhere We Go*, which sings the praises of fidelity.

REDDNATION is currently working on the video for *Wiggle Dem Toes*, the second video in support of the *Now or Never* album. No doubt 2007 will also hold great promise for this award winning crew.

[ radio's most active ]

# ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Eagle & Hawk	Indian Summer	Life Is ...
Stephen Kakfwi	Northern Woman	In the Walls of His Mind
Beatrice Deer	Ilangani	Just Bea ...
Bill Miller	Sacred Ground	Sacred Ground—A Tribute
Kinnie Starr	Please Hold My Hand	Anything
Tracy Bone	Lonely With You	Single Release
Mike Gouchie	Angels Unaware	Bad Boys & Angels
Andrea Menard	100 Years	Simple Steps
M'Girl	New Nation	Fusion of Two Worlds
Art Napoleon	Good Red Road	Miyoskamin
Pima Express	Mambo Cumbia	Time Waits For No One
Kimberley Dawn	Spirit of Our People	Single Release
J.C. Campbell	Keep on Trying	Lazy James
Desiree Dorian	Bad to Be Good	Single Release
Shane Yellowbird	They're All About You	Single Release
Tamara Podemski	She Knows Better	Tamara
Indigenous	Runaway	Chasing the Sun
Leanne Goose	Anywhere	Single Release
New Horizon	Ugly	Vol. II
Hank Horton	She Went Away	Honky Tonk Heartache Blues

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



## 2007 Photo Contest Winners



Lynden Swan  
 Photograph by:  
 Doug Thomas  
 Peguis First Nation, Manitoba

Congratulations to our Photo Contest winners:  
**Doug Thomas and Robbie Halkett**  
 Each has received a prize award of \$1500.00.

Windspeaker and Scotiabank would like to thank the many entrants in our Photo Contest. There were more than 500 photos received this year!

The decision was very difficult, but one look at the two selected photos will convince you that our judges made excellent choices.

There will be a new contest for next year which will open on July 1, 2007



Justyn Halkett  
 Photograph by:  
 Robbie Halkett  
 Brochet, Manitoba

The Aboriginal History Project is made possible through the vision and generous sponsorship of Scotiabank.

One free 2007 Aboriginal History Poster is enclosed with every copy of the December issue of *Windspeaker* courtesy of Scotiabank. For more copies use the calendar order form below! Limited number available!

**ALL POSTERS SHIPPED IN TUBES - NO FOLDS, CREASES OR MARKS - SUITABLE FOR FRAMING!**

Unfortunately, it was not possible to send calendars with *Windspeaker* without folding. So this is your chance to get a nice clean calendar for your office, home, or for a gift.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ P/C: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDITCARD NO: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDER IN BULK  
 AND SAVE

1- 9 - \$5.00/each  
 10 - 19 - \$3.00/each  
 20+ - \$2.00/each

QUANTITY COST SUB TOTAL

Shipping and Handling: \$3.00

GST:

TOTAL ENCLOSED:

Please make cheques  
 or money orders payable to  
 "AMMSA"

MAIL: *Windspeaker* Calendar 13245 - 146 St. • Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4S8 Charge to your credit card: FAX (780) 455-7639 ORDER BY PHONE: 1-800-661-5469  
 Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Limited supply - order early to avoid disappointment! Please add \$2.00 per order for shipping to the US; \$5.00 per order for overseas.



PHOTOS BY LAURA STEVENS AND BERT CROWFOOT

Top left—18 drum groups were in the circle during the Canadian Aboriginal Festival held in Toronto from Nov. 24 to 26. Bottom left—Art Napoleon and Sierra Noble perform during the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards on Nov. 24. Right—Rogers Centre was a sea of color and movement during one of the grand entries on Nov. 25.

## Culture and camaraderie on display at festival

By Laura Stevens  
Sage Writer

### TORONTO

Visitors to the 13th annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival held in Toronto from Nov. 24 to 26 were treated to a wealth of Aboriginal spirit and culture and had an opportunity to take in a wide range of events including education day, fashion shows, music award shows and, of course, the impressive and memorable grand entries of the powwow.

More than 1,500 dancers dressed in full regalia entered the powwow circle for the first time on Nov. 25, making for a spectacular showing. The grand entry took place three times during the weekend, twice on Nov. 25 and once on Nov. 26.

Education Day kicked off the first day of the festival, with close to 7,000 students from more than 120 schools attending the festivities. It was a place for the young people to learn more about the Aboriginal culture but it was also an opportunity for friends like Maddie Froman, Tahnee Martin, Shelby Montour and Jess Martin to get together.

"I came today to learn more about my culture and others," said 14-year old Montour who, like her friends, is from Six Nations, Ont. "I also want to learn what people think about us."

There were 28 teaching stations located around the Rogers Centre as part of education day. Students rotated stations every half hour so they could participate in as many of the activities as possible. At one of the stations, participants had an opportunity to learn how to make their own mystery bracelet. According to instructor Donna Leach, the

mystery braid that makes up each bracelet represents life.

"There's no beginning and no end," said Leach.

Patience and creativity was the focus at the craft booth, instructed by Eileen Antoine from the Oneida of the Thames First Nation, Ont. "Everyone needs to learn patience and creativity in order to do the work that's necessary," said Antoine.

At another station, participants were taught about the talking feather. Students listened to teachings about respect, truth and attentiveness.

"The talking feather is used for talking the truth. You have to respect every life being," said Linda Standing of White Bear First Nation, Sask., who led the lessons.

"To speak within the talking circle one raises their feather."

Students also had a chance to see and participate in hoop dancing demonstrations, hand drumming and traditional songs. One of the most popular stations saw students lined up to participate in a three-way tug of war.

Students also seemed to enjoy the ring and pin station. This traditional game involves a thin wooded pin about six inches long with a string tied from one end to a small ring. The object of the game is to try to throw the ring up and catch it on the pin.

Kids from six to 16 were up early Saturday morning to participate in a lacrosse skills competition. Approximately 100 youth from across Canada and the United States competed in various events, including hardest shot, break away, shooting accuracy and friendship two on goalie, which involved two participants who didn't know each other teaming up to take shots on the goalie.

"The purpose of this is creating new friendships," said Shelley Burnham-Shognosh, organizer of the lacrosse event. "Lacrosse is a very competitive sport. People are very patriotic to their home but this is showing that we can come together on a common turf and enjoy the game and create some friendships as well."

Burnham-Shognosh said the lacrosse competition was held to bring people together to share the Creator's game.

"It's to share First Nations culture and also share the sportsmanship of the game together," said Burnham-Shognosh. "It's a game that was started by First Nations people and it's growing rapidly."

As visitors emptied the Rogers Centre Saturday night, the powwow competition was just getting started. It wrapped up Sunday evening with the awarding of prizes to close to 120 winners from Canada and the United States.

One of the highlights of the festival was the 8th annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards (CAMAs), which honored the achievements of Canada's top Aboriginal artists. The winners were announced in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre's John Bassett Theatre on Nov. 24.

The big winner at this year's awards gala was Andrea Menard, who took home three awards—best folk album and album of the year for Simple Steps and best song single for 100 years. Menard co-hosted the star-studded evening with Lawrence Martin, a fellow entertainer who also happens to be mayor of Cochrane, Ont. Martin also sits on the board of directors of Indian Art-I-Crafts of Ontario, the organizers of the popular festival.

Another artist taking home multiple awards was Tamara Podemski, who earned best female artist and best songwriter honors.

Jared Sowan and Northern Cree and Friends from Alberta each went home with two awards. Sowan was selected as best male artist and also picked up the award for best blues album for Eclectically Yours, while Northern Cree walked away with best hand drum album award for Slide & Sway and best powwow album—contemporary for Nikamo—Sing.

Not only did Mike Gouchie accept the award for best country album for Bad Boys & Angels but he also gave a grand performance during the awards show.

REDDNATION from Alberta received the award for best rap or hip hop album for Now or Never, Cliff Maytwayashing of Manitoba joined the winner's circle with a best fiddle album award for Skiffle Fiddle and Highway 373, also from Manitoba, picked up CAMA hardware for best rock album for No Limits.

The award for best powwow album—traditional went to Red Bull from Saskatchewan, who earned the honor for their album Enter the Circle.

British Columbia's own M'Girl gave a commanding performance during the awards gala and also accepted the award for best female traditional cultural roots album for Fusion of Two Worlds.

The award for best album design went to David R. Maracle and the best producer/engineer award went to Peter Bacsalmasi for the album The Journey—Donna Kay with Little Island Cree.

Along with the main awards, three additional Special Honour Awards were handed out

recognizing special achievements.

The Keeper of Traditions Award was given to Joseph Naytowhow, recognizing his efforts as a keeper of the Cree tradition in his community of Sturgeon Lake, Sask. The award recognizes the individual's dedication to the study, teaching, education and continuance of Aboriginal Traditions in Music, which Naytowhow has done, carrying the traditions forward through storytelling and song.

The Lifetime Contribution to Aboriginal Music was awarded to Germaine Langan, a Cree woman from Muscowpetung First Nation, Sask. Langan is a founding member of the Aboriginal Arts & Culture Celebrations Society. For nearly 10 years, the society has been bringing Indigenous performers from across Canada and the world to Vancouver to celebrate the past, present and future of Canada's Aboriginal people.

The third special award went to Donald Quan, who received the Music Industry Award. Quan is a non-Aboriginal member of the Canadian music industry who was recognized for his work as musical director of the CAMAs.

Mixed in with the award presentations were performances by Susan Aglukark, M'Girl, Mike Gouchie, Intellifunk, Art Napoleon, Eagle & Hawk, Weaselhead and Randy Wood, but one of the highlights of the evening was the Kahurangi Maori Dancers of New Zealand, who gave a memorable and inspiring performance. They graced the stage, barefoot and wearing grass skirts, and gave a commanding demonstration. In previous years, representatives from the Maori nation have participated in the festival as honored delegates and performers.

(See Celebration page 15.)



Top left—M'Girl performs at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards on Nov. 24.

Top right—Lacrosse lessons were just one part of education day during the Canadian Aboriginal Festival.

Left—Members of the Kahurangi Maori Dancers of New Zealand perform for festival goers.

Above—Maddie Froman, Tahnee Martin, Shelby Montour and Jess Martin get together for some festival fun.

## Celebration draws thousands from far and wide

(Continued from page 14.)

According to Tama Huata, artistic director and founder of the Maori dance theatre, the festival has inspired the Maori people to host their own music awards in February 2007.

"We very much like how the CAMAs are set up and how it's traditionally-based and we're here to acknowledge that and pay our respects and we want to invite the people over to our music awards."

Catherine Cornelius, executive producer at Indian Art-I-Crafts of Ontario, said she was happy with both the awards show and the festival.

"I thought the overall production of the awards show went very smooth," said Cornelius. "I thought there was a good variety of entertainment, a good diversity. The overall festival went well. The floor plan, the performance setting overall

went well and we think it just bodes well for 2007."

According to festival co-founder Ron Robert, the event began as a simple powwow 20 years ago. The focus each year, he said, is to find ways to ensure the event benefits the Aboriginal community.

"I think one of the primary focuses is to assist the Aboriginal people, whether they be vendors, dancers or musicians," said

Robert. "It's an opportunity for them to grow economically as well. And on top of that, of course, is that whole awareness question."

He said increasing awareness about Aboriginal people, especially in a city like Toronto, is important.

"It's important that we have a good, positive kind of event for people to come and see our real people," said Robert.

"They ordinarily don't get the opportunity to see us at our best. Of course, in the major cities, the non-Native people, they see our lost souls along various streets in bad conditions so that's what they walk away with. But we're saying that's only a small percentage of any people, let alone ours. So, it's really come and see some positive Aboriginals and meet our real people that are here doing wonderful things."

# OUR TRADITIONS

PRESENTED BY ENBRIDGE

JANUARY 25, 7:30 PM

EPCOR CENTRE'S Jack Singer Concert Hall

TICKETS 403.221.3708 • INFO 403.266.1503 • BOX OFFICE 161, 115-9 AVE. SE

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF

Animated Objects

IN CALGARY

JANUARY 19-28, 2007

# 'Ksan

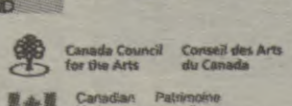
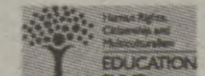
'KSAN PERFORMING ARTS  
ARCHER PECHAWIS • JERILYNN WEBSTER  
YOUNG SPIRIT VOICES



ENBRIDGE



EPCOR CENTRE  
for the Performing Arts



WWW.ANIMATEDOBJECTS.CA

# [ windspeaker confidential ] — Tamara Podemski

Tamara Podemski is a quadruple threat. She's a singer, songwriter, actor and dancer and has proved many times over that she excels at each.

As an actor, she's appeared in numerous movies and television shows, including *The Rez*, *Ready or Not*, *Moose TV*, *North of 60* and *Dance Me Outside*, and appears in the new film *Four Sheets to the Wind*, which will be screened at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival.

As a dancer, she's been a member of the Canadian Dance Tapestry and has toured across North America and Europe as part of the troupe. And for two years, she had a chance to combine her acting, singing and dancing abilities as a member of the Broadway company of *Rent*.

Her latest success has come as a singer/songwriter. Her album, *Tamara*, earned her awards for best female artist and best songwriter at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards held in Toronto in November.



Laura Stevens

**Windspeaker:** What one quality do you most value in a friend?  
**Tamara Podemski:** Courage.

**W:** What is it that really makes you mad?  
**T.P.:** Cowardice.

**W:** When are you at your happiest?  
**T.P.:** With my friends and family and my dog.

**W:** What one word best describes you when you are at your worst?  
**T.P.:** Scary.

**W:** What one person do you most admire and why?  
**T.P.:** I most admire my dad. He's definitely not perfect but he raised me and my sisters and, as screwed-up as growing up was, he gave us everything he had and we flourished as the fierce women we are.

**W:** What is the most difficult thing you've ever had to do?  
**T.P.:** Forgive myself for things I've done. An ongoing process, but still the most difficult.

**W:** What is your greatest accomplishment?  
**T.P.:** My greatest accomplishment is my family of friends.

**W:** What one goal remains out of reach?  
**T.P.:** No goal is out of reach, though it may be far off, in which case, my goal of having my own health/fitness/wellness/arts studio is still pretty far off.

**W:** If you couldn't do what you're doing today, what would you be doing?  
**T.P.:** I don't think that way. There are no couldn'ts in my

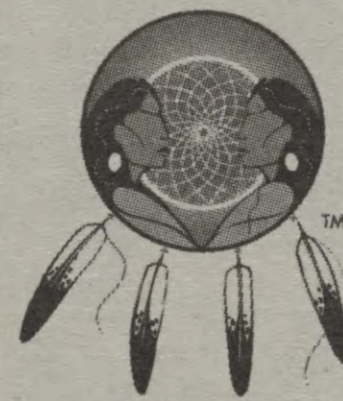
vocabulary. I'm doing everything I'm supposed to be doing because I wanted to do it and if I wanted to do something else, I'd probably be doing that.

**W:** What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?  
**T.P.:** That I'm everything I think I am, so if I change the thoughts in my head about myself, I change my reality and my whole life will alter.

**W:** Did you take it?  
**T.P.:** I have to re-affirm that advice on a daily basis.

**W:** How do you hope to be remembered?  
**T.P.:** I want to be remembered as a good friend, a good daughter and granddaughter, a good sister, a good wife, a good mother, a good teacher ... even a good lover.

## Many Nations



- ✓ Employee Pension Plans
- ✓ Employee Benefit Plans
- ✓ Individual Life & Disability Insurance
- ✓ Investment Services and Products
- ✓ Critical Illness – Individual/Group
- ✓ Coverage for Chief and Council
- ✓ Regular On-Site Service from your Representative

**Phone: 1-800-667-7830 or (306) 956-4669**  
**www.mannations.com**

*"The strength of Many Nations protecting our future"*

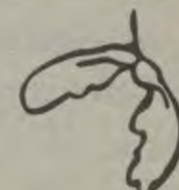
## NAFA National Forestry Conference RCAP IN REVIEW

**Looking Back, Looking Forward**

*Assessing progress on land and resources recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP, 1996) as they pertain to First Nations.*



Marriott Ottawa  
**February 27-March 1, 2007**



Scheduled workshops addressing access to resources, co-jurisdiction, co-management and economic development. **Please visit our website to register on line. You may also download conference agenda for more information.**



**National Aboriginal Forestry Association**  
**Contact information:**  
**Janet Pronovost (613) 233-5563**  
**Website: www.nafaforestry.org**

## NFB launches essay contest

The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) has added a new feature to its Web site and is inviting high school students from across the country to take part in an essay contest to help them mark the occasion.

Students can enter the One Drum, Many Hearts contest by submitting a short essay about what it is about their community that makes it

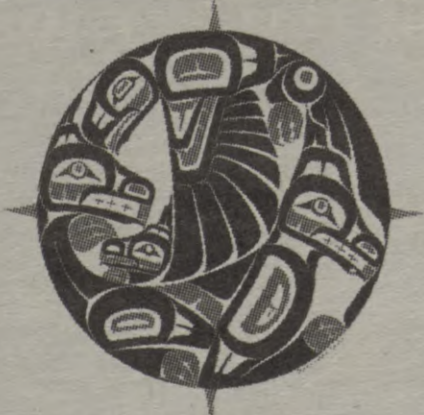
special.

Among the prizes to be awarded are an iPod, a MacBook computer, DVDs, and a chance to attend the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in Edmonton on March 16, 2007.

The contest is being run as a way of promoting the new Aboriginal Perspectives feature on the film board's Web site, an online resource that features a

selection of NFB documentaries on Aboriginal themes produced between 1940 and 2004. The site also features interviews with film-makers, academics, artists, Elders and students, covering a diverse selection of topics, including the arts, racism and colonialism, Indigenous Knowledge, history, sovereignty and representation in film.

(See Contest page 25.)



*First Nations Training & Consulting Services Presents*

## 5th Annual Aboriginal Youth, Violence And Changing Times Conference "Ending Violence – Strengthening the Circle"

**March 14 -17, 2007**

**Saanich Fairgrounds 1528 Stelly's Cross Road Victoria BC**

Join us for this inspiring and motivating conference for youth, youth workers and those who work or live with youth. The conference features 36 workshops for both youth and adults, plenary sessions, motivational speakers, cultural and sports activities, career fair/trade show and banquet & entertainment evening.

Workshops focus on education, sports, suicide prevention and intervention, building the warrior spirit, sexual exploitation of youth, understanding the legal system and gangs. The PARTY (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program is a life-changing experience which will encourage youth to make smart choices.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

First Nations Training & Consulting Services  
Mailing Address: PO Box 5000 Saanichton BC V8M 2C5  
Courier Address: 1164 Stelly's Cross Road Brentwood Bay BC V8M 1H8  
Phone: (250) 652-7097 Fax: (250) 652-7039  
Email: fntcs@telus.net Website: www.firstpeoplescanada.com



**Guest Speakers:** Comedian and puppeteer DerRic Starlight and athlete and motivational speaker Jason Louttit.

**Entertainment:** Eekwol, an award-winning hip hop artist, will entertain at the Banquet & Entertainment Evening followed by a Much Music Video Dance Party.

**Early Registration Fees**  
(until February 2, 2007): \$195 + \$11.70 GST = \$206.70 (under 20)  
(until February 2, 2007): \$395 + \$23.70 GST = \$418.70 (20 & over)

**Regular Registration Fees**  
(after February 2, 2007) \$295. + \$17.70 GST = \$312.70 (under 20)  
(after February 2, 2007) \$495. + \$29.70 GST = \$524.70 (20 & over)

**Special Group Rate**  
1 chaperone & 3 youth (until February 2, 2007): \$900. + \$54.00 GST = \$954.00

**Sponsorship** is available for all Aboriginal youth. Please visit [www.firstpeoplescanada.com](http://www.firstpeoplescanada.com) for information on how to apply.



# "Know your value," says Olympic hopeful

By Marie White  
Windspeaker Contributor

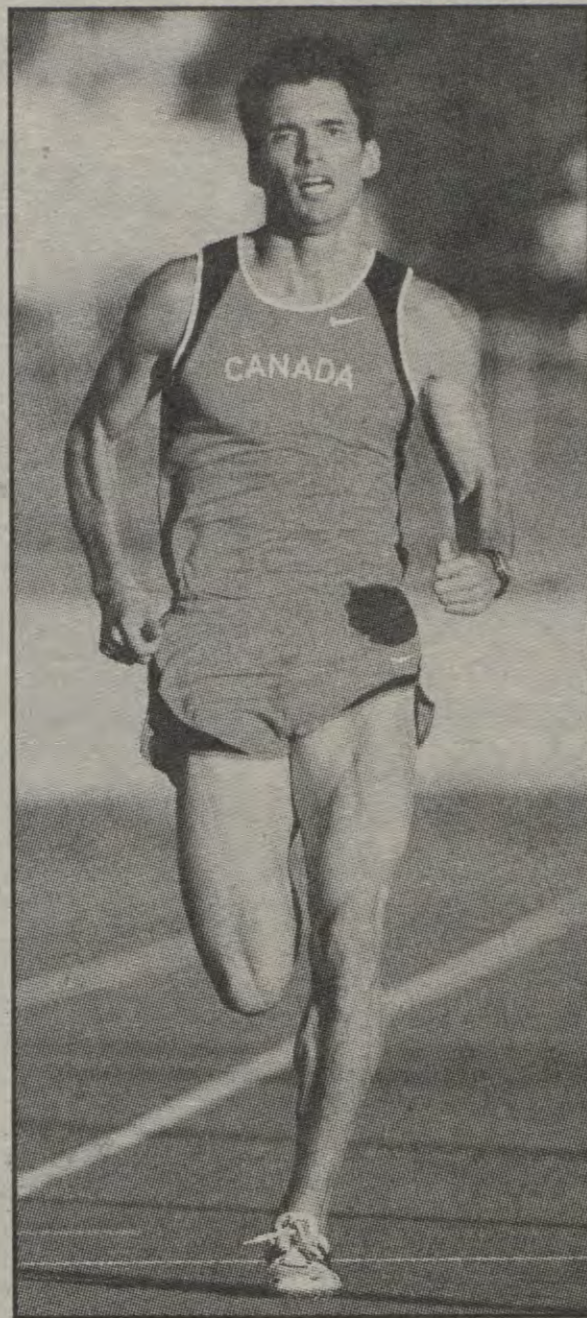
LAVAL, Que.

Fast, lean, confident and profound, 2008 Olympic track hopeful David Gill is a remarkable role model and ambassador for First Nations.

A member of the Mashteuiatsh First Nation in Quebec's Lac St. Jean region, Gill, 27, found time out of a very full schedule to speak with *Windspeaker* in Laval University's sports complex late one Friday evening, but he can hardly sit still. He touches his cap, sips water, taps the table. He is a man in motion and his energy is contagious.

Gill trains intensely every day, running twice a day, five days a week. He also teaches English as a second language to complete his bachelor's degree and is simultaneously working towards a master's degree in business. Gill, who loves marketing, recently sold his own successful company, which he founded while he was recovering from injuries.

He has been giving motivational speeches to First Nation youth for five years now. Enthusiastic, eloquent and bilingual, he calls his presentation Dreams and Actions. His message



David Gill

encourages young people to achieve goals. He would love the opportunity to travel the country and speak to more communities. This is a possibility since Gill will be relocating to Victoria, B.C. in January in order to train. He has a personal life too, with his girlfriend and daughter.

Gill began running at 18, a

relatively late start. Asked when he knew he might be Olympic material, he answers immediately. "As soon as I started, I started full time," he said.

"You know track is the hardest event on the planet. It's because track and field is the most accessible sport. Everyone can run, jump or throw. So the best track and field runner in the world is the best track and field runner in the world."

A champion of the 800-meter middle-distance run, Gill is now also leaning towards the 1500-meter long-distance run. But he still has quite a bit of work ahead of him before he finds out if he will be part of the Canadian Olympic team heading for Beijing.

"The Olympic trials will take place maybe about two months before the games," Gill explained. "Up until then I have to hit a standard time plus be top four in the trials."

Gill placed seventh at a recent track meet, but he wasn't disappointed with his performance. "I did my job. I was thirty seconds faster this year," he said.

Named 2006 Canadian Interuniversity Sport male track athlete of the year for the second consecutive season, Gill was a

triple-gold medallist at the university nationals in 2005. He represented Canada at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Australia and currently holds the fastest time for the 800-meter. Laval University recently presented him with the prestigious Personality Gala Forces Avenir award for Step by Step, a project he created to promote good health within First Nations communities.

Health is at the centre of his value system. Concerned about obesity and unhealthy lifestyles in the communities, he has taken it upon himself to promote healthy living. "It's all about quality of life and of having values. If you have health, at least everything else isn't as bad," he said.

"I tell students I'm healthy, I'm in shape and I'm cool."

Where does that inner strength come from? According to Gill, you need to think of a dream then take one tiny step at a time to get there. While he runs, he reflects.

"Life is a series of choices," he said. "You always have one choice with two alternatives—you can either get closer to your dream or farther away."

After a moment's pause, he added: "There are people who say it, and there are people who do it." Gill definitely does it.

What steps has he taken to help him realize his dream? "First, I don't have a TV. That's one of the choices I've made because I want to be productive," he said.

"Up until lately, my dream was 100 per cent track, but the First Nations are getting really important. So I think I'm pushing towards two dreams—[the Olympics] and trying to be a model with the First Nations."

But, Gill said, in the end it's really all about being happy. "Right now, what makes me happy is kicking ass on the track and being crazy fast. I feel good about myself."

He also feels proud and productive when he honors his First Nations heritage.

"First of all, I'm Innu, but I really see myself as a First Nations member in general," he said.

Gill believes in helping to improve the future of First Nations youth. He was the youth council co-ordinator for the first ever Quebec First Nations Socioeconomic Forum held recently in Mashteuiatsh, uniting nine out of Quebec's 11 Aboriginal groups.

"I know my value," Gill said firmly. "I'm proud of what I do. I know I'm good at things. It's important, I think, for people to be proud."

## Highest Referral Fees Paid!

### THE THREE AMIGOS ARE IN TOWN



No application Refused!  
FREE DELIVERY OR EXPENSES COVERED!

PLUS Pre Approval ON LINE: [afscredit.com](http://afscredit.com)

**BAD CREDIT, BANKRUPTCY, NO CREDIT ... LET US HELP YOU!**

## TRADES, TRADES, WE NEED TRADES!

**NEWER, OLDER, HIGH KM'S, LOW KM'S - WE NEED THEM ALL!**

<p><b>\$125*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2006 Cobalt</b></p>	<p><b>\$155*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2006 Silverado</b></p>	<p><b>\$120*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2005 Grand Am</b></p>	<p><b>\$205*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2004 Blazer</b></p>	<p><b>\$163*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2005 Uplander</b></p>
<p><b>\$115*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2006 Optra</b></p>	<p><b>\$160*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2005 Impala</b></p>	<p><b>\$185*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2005 Trail Blazer</b></p>	<p><b>\$86*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2003 Cavalier</b></p>	<p><b>\$101*</b> Bi-weekly</p> <p><b>2004 Optra</b></p>

**We will Pay your Insurance with any vehicle purchase\*\***

Bad credit, divorced, Bankrupt, 1st time car buyers! Call anytime! 24hours - 7 days a week!

**Call Today - Drive Today!**

Toll Free **1-866-376-7205**

\*call for details \*\* up to \$500

## Windspeaker's Special Section Serving the Aboriginal People of Ontario

# Dene woman works to support music career

By James Hopkin  
Birchbark Writer

### TORONTO

By day, Meghan Meisters works as a program co-ordinator for OJEN (Ontario Justice Education Network) in Toronto hooking up Aboriginal youth with information regarding Canada's judicial system.

When she leaves the office at the end of the day, however, this young woman of both Dene and Irish descent takes up a slightly different career as an aspiring singer and songwriter.

"Basically in the evening, I just work at writing new material," said Meisters during a recent telephone interview. "I have some studio stuff at my house, so I do most of my vocal recording at home."

For the 25-year-old Meisters, a self-described multi-tasker, music has been and always will be her first love. She's currently working on her first album, which she hopes to release independently by late March. The material is definitely influenced by Rhythm and Blues music, but is not exclusive to the genre. "It's R and B vocals, but it's got more acoustic instrumentation as opposed to a hip hop kind of thing."

Meister's "R and B-tinged acoustic soul" music is getting a little fine-tuning along the way, courtesy of Aboriginal recording artist Mark Nadjiwon founding member of the Aboriginal music

act which bears his last name and Carlos Morgan, a Juno-award winning R and B songwriter and producer. She's also been known to take advantage of open mic nights throughout Toronto when the opportunity presents itself.

For Meisters, it's all about getting out there and working on her material as well as her stage presence. Her music, in fact, has been showcased during after-party performances at Toronto's annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival and the Manito-Ahbee Festival in Winnipeg.

Although she grew up with song and dance in her soul (she sang in Winnipeg's city choir and once sang backup on a children's album), Meisters was unsure about taking up music as a career path during her formative years growing up in Winnipeg's downtown core.

"I was always very into it, but then when I was a teenager I sort of let it fizzle out a little bit," she said. "I was kind of self-conscious about taking up music as a career. I thought it was more like something people just dreamed of."

But that dream became a reality for her at the tender age of 20, when she finally admitted to herself and those close to her that she wanted to dive headlong into a music career. She then resolved herself to learning her craft in earnest.

"I'm a firm believer there's always room for improvement no matter what it is you're doing," says Meisters. "I really tried to

push myself and my creativity and educate myself as best I could."

This drive to perform has also manifested itself in the form of dance, yet another hat Meisters wears with enthusiasm. She took up ballet as a child, and still practices twice a week at the National Ballet School. In addition to being disciplined in the art of ballet, she's also taken up jingle dress dancing. Although Meisters is in fact Dene and not of the Ojibwe persuasion, she adopted the jingle dress dance as a nod to her Winnipeg roots. It was her upbringing in a predominantly Ojibwe and Cree environment that influenced her to take up this style of dance, as well as participating in sweat lodge ceremonies during her teens. And if this wasn't impressive enough, she also performs in Nishtaame, a Toronto-based dance troupe that juxtaposes contemporary dance with traditional Native dances.

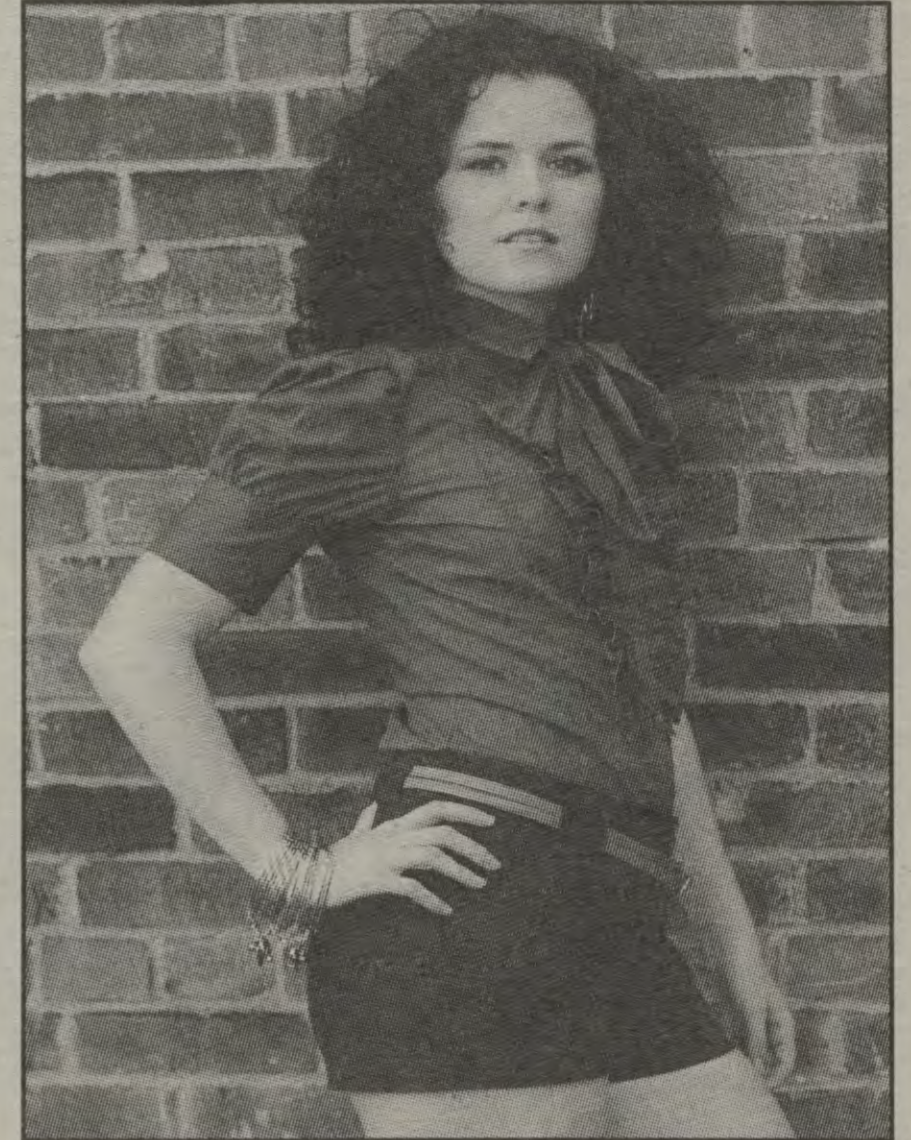
"We combine all the elements when we do performances," Meisters said. "It's a way of combining the contemporary with the traditional." Their unique style of dance has been showcased by Canadian rockers, Our Lady Peace, who featured Nishtaame in their music video for the single Where Are You.

Meisters says we shouldn't be surprised if Nishtaame busts out some hip-hop dance moves to a powwow song and vice versa. "We're all living urban lifestyles, but we all still hold on to and embrace our cultural heritage."

And this cultural heritage continues to inspire and motivate Meisters in all aspects of her life, whether it's working with Aboriginal youth through OJEN, dancing with her urban Aboriginal peers in Nishtaame, or crafting her brand of acoustic soul.

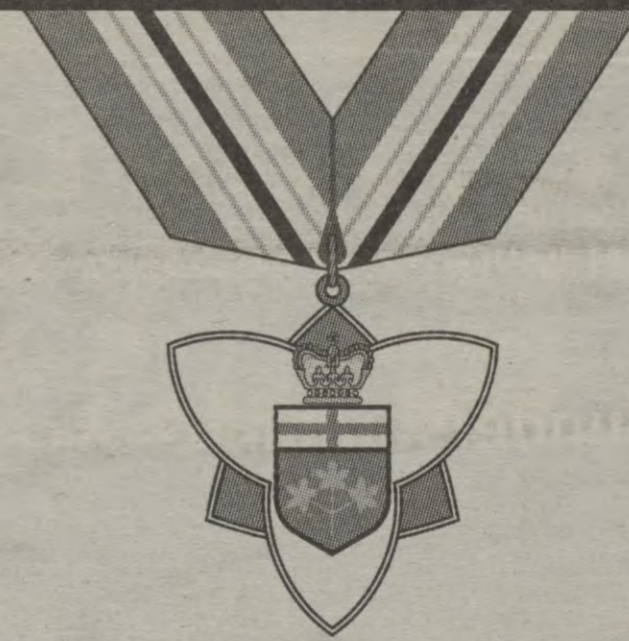
For more information on Meghan

Meisters, music and future meghanmeisters or visit her initiative, go to Myspace artist official Web site at page at [www.myspace.com/meghanmeisters](http://www.myspace.com/meghanmeisters).



Meghan Meisters

 Ontario



## The Order of Ontario

*Seeks Exceptional People.*

The Order of Ontario is the province's most prestigious honour.

Each year, the Government of Ontario awards this distinguished honour to Ontarians who have demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement by enriching the lives of others.

Recipients include artists, scientists, business and community leaders, philanthropists and humanitarians – people such as Canada's hockey dad Walter Gretzky, artist Ken Danby, publisher Anna Porter, Dr. Lap-Chee Tsui, who discovered the gene that causes cystic fibrosis, Clair Dimock, the driving force behind the economic resurgence of Elliot Lake, and Marion Anderson, the first female aboriginal band councillor in Ontario.

Nominations are now open for the Order of Ontario.

If you know someone whose outstanding achievements you feel should be recognized, visit [www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citdiv/honours/order/order.htm](http://www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/english/citdiv/honours/order/order.htm) for a nomination form, or call the Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat at 416-314-7526, or write to Ontario Honours and Awards Secretariat, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, 400 University Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9.

Nomination deadline is **February 28, 2007.**

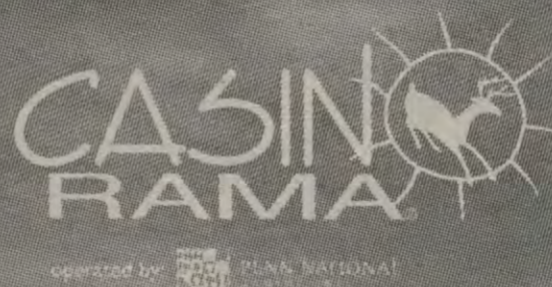
*Paid for by the Government of Ontario.*

## CASINO RAMA

### FIRST NATIONS CAREER FAIR

Experience the Excitement of working at Ontario's premier entertainment facility.

Join us at our First Nations Career Fair on **Tuesday, January 30th, 2007 from 9am-3pm** at the Anishnaabe Ballroom in Casino Rama's luxury Hotel.



Pre-register for your interview by **January 19th, 2007** by calling **705.329.5242** or by visiting our employment section at [www.casiorama.com](http://www.casiorama.com). Casino Rama is proud to be the largest single site employer of First Nations people in Canada. **NOTE: You must pre-register to interview at this Career Fair.** Know your limit, play within it. Ontario Problem Gambling Helpline 1.888.230.3505

# Students preserve Hul'qumi'num language

By Laura Stevens  
Raven's Eye Writer

## LADYSMITH, B.C.

Students at North Oyster elementary school in Ladysmith, B.C. are reinforcing the Hul'qumi'num language by learning to speak the difficult dialect through games, posters and flash cards.

"The Hul'qumi'num language is a very difficult language to learn," said Donna Wilford, the person responsible for making the language well known in the school. "She said the language is filled with glottal stops," which are represented by the apostrophes in the words, for example, Hul'qumi'num.

"When you listen to someone speak it, it's very musical because everything blends so nicely together," said Wilford, the language support teacher.

With the Hul'qumi'num language, a lot of the sounds are formed at the back of the throat. Wilford notes that there's a lot of use of air around the tongue

coming from the back of the throat, "something we don't do in English."

Each week, Wilford gives the teachers word lists that are also posted on a board in the front hallway and read on the morning announcements.

"I try to encourage the teachers to use the language in any way they can in their classrooms and to provide them with the material and the words they may need," said Wilford. "Most importantly, I try to get the students on the phone as much as possible and I'm there to help them but I like to highlight the students and their success."

Wilford doesn't profess to speak the Hul'qumi'num language fluently, but is learning as quickly as the students. She became familiar with the language while attending Malaspina University-College, and then became a lot more immersed in the language when she began developing the language boxes for the school. She worked with an Elder, Florence James, who spoke Hul'qumi'num fluently.

Wilford explains that James

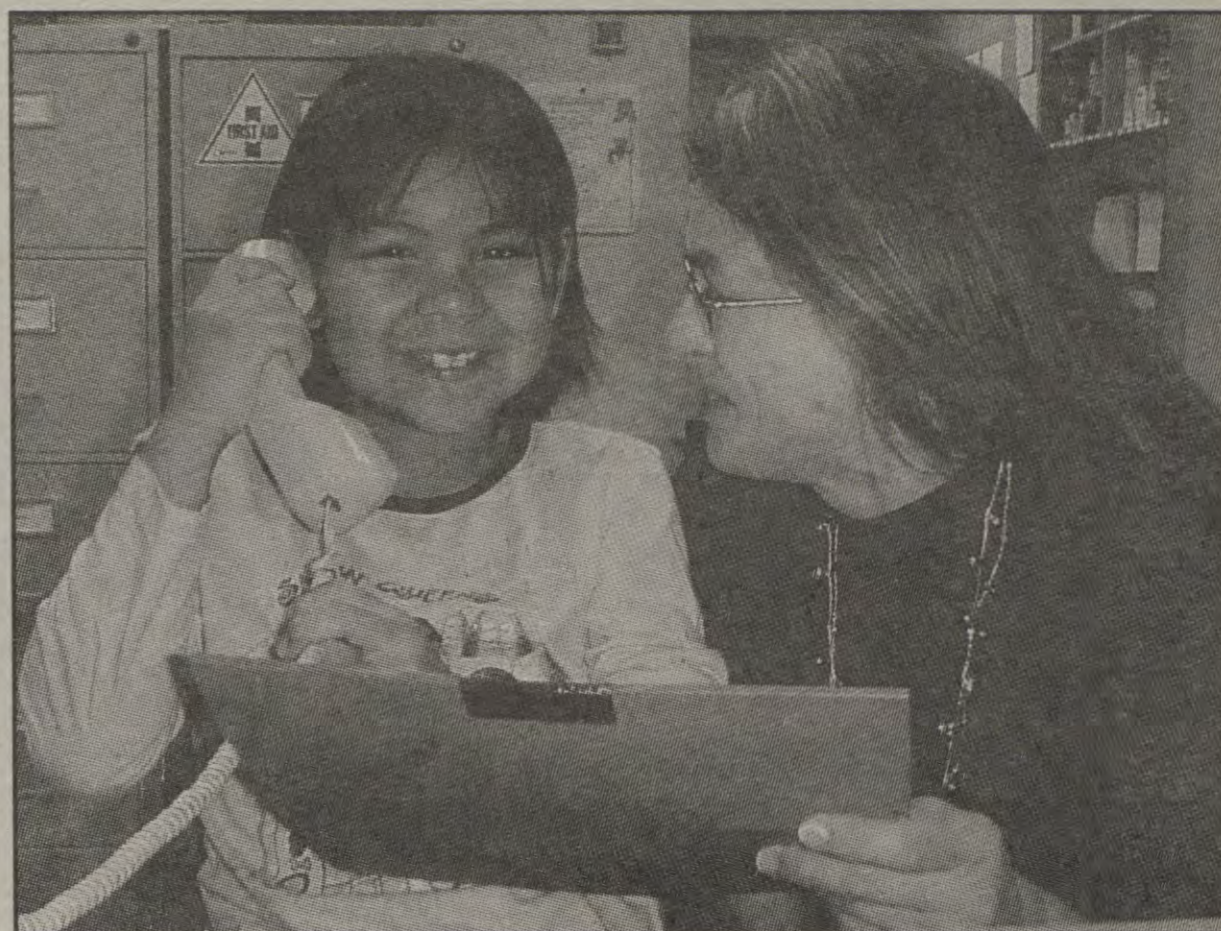
retained her language so well because when she was young, her mother refused to send her to a live-in residential school. James attended only as a day student, so when she went home, she was exposed to the language constantly and grew up speaking it.

"When I was working with her, she would often tease me, by trying to get me to use the language when speaking with her as much as possible," said Wilford. "When we were developing the language resource kit was when I really picked up a lot of the words and some of the pronunciation."

All of the 140 North Oyster school students are Chemainus First Nation students, as well as other Aboriginal students and non-Aboriginal students are learning the language and having fun at the same time, said Wilford.

The students are currently learning command words such as sit down, stand up, walk, stop and run. Wilford will call a student's name and that student must say one of the commands in Hul'qumi'num and the rest of the students follow those commands. For example, if a student says, 'imush, which means walk, everybody starts walking on the spot. If a student says 'umut, then the other students will have to sit down and if another student says unuxw then the rest of the students will stop.

"So, I call their names very quickly so the students have to be right on the spot with a command and everybody has to be ready to jump up and do what the student says," said Wilford. "A lot of the classes are doing the same thing in the morning just as a little wake



Donna Wilford, North Oyster elementary school's language support teacher, looks on as Grade 4 student Barbara Thomas reads the morning wordlist.

up, get going type of thing."

Wilford has concentrated on using a method of learning that will keep the kids enthusiastic about retaining the language. In past activities, she created a school wide bingo that help the kids learn the Hul'qumi'num numbers from one to 10. She also organized a treasure hunt in the school that focused on manners specific words.

"I try to make it a very active program," said Wilford.

In order for this language to survive, Wilford believes the community has to begin speaking it fluently again.

"It must be brought into the home and that's an issue that the band will have to address. It will not survive without a fluent home-based speaking experience," said Wilford.

Keeping the language alive is a big issue, especially if there's a shortage of certified culture and language teachers. Wilford said

that in recent years, North Oyster elementary did have language instructors teaching and speaking the Hul'qumi'num language fluently, but they did not have skills to manage a class and prepare lessons. Therefore, a program was developed to draw those teachers into school to get their certification. Those teachers are currently in training.

Wilford said there have already been words that have been forgotten. James has told her about how her mother, who was raised speaking the Hul'qumi'num language, is forgetting words that she knew existed at one time.

"She remembers what the word meant but can't find it in the Hul'qumi'num dictionary, so there's already words being forgotten," said Wilford. "That's a concern of the Hul'qumi'num language groups now, is to keep what they do have now alive and to revitalize it."

**THE SCOW INSTITUTE**

FOR COMMUNICATING INFORMATION ON ABORIGINAL ISSUES

**Working towards greater understanding**

between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples by providing accessible information on current issues affecting all Canadians that is:

- non-partisan
- fact-based
- topical

[www.scowinstitute.ca](http://www.scowinstitute.ca)

Information 604.871.0508

2007 27 Community BC Tour

Jan 15 to Feb 28, 2007

[www.headlinestheatre.com](http://www.headlinestheatre.com)

Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des Arts du Canada, CITY OF VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTS COUNCIL, VANCOUVER FRANCHISE, Health Canada, CUIPE, Columbia, Central City, Vancity, BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC Ministry of Health, The Melusina Foundation, cbc radiONE, cbc radioTwo, SKINNY

# [ careers & training ] CESO program goes national

By Cheryl Petten  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## LA RONGE, Sask.

A training program that had its beginnings in Saskatchewan will now be expanding to provide Aboriginal women from across the country an opportunity to help improve their lives.

The National Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow (AWFT) program was officially launched on Lac La Ronge First Nation on Nov. 27. The program consists of a series of workshops designed to empower Aboriginal women by providing them with the skills and knowledge they need to participate more fully in their community and in the Canadian economy.

The program was originally developed and piloted in Saskatchewan in 2003 as a project of the Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO), a non-profit development organization that links volunteer advisors who are experts in their fields with communities or groups that can benefit from their experience.

The idea for developing the AWFT program came from Audrey Ahenakew, a volunteer advisor with CESO who at the time was the organization's regional manager for Saskatchewan. Ahenakew felt her role could go beyond providing

advisory services, expanding to get to the root of the problem of the systemic barriers encountered by Aboriginal women, explained Delia Scribleac, project manager with CESO.

"So she got together with a group of volunteer advisors that we had in Saskatchewan and analyzed, based on her experience, based on her knowledge of a woman's needs. And they said, you know what? This has five areas that would be the most important ones and could help women become a little bit more self-confident and so on. And they got together and they developed five workshops."

The first workshop focuses on building personal skills. Participants learn how to discover their personal skills and interests and how that information can be used to find a job or start a business. The session also covers job search, resume writing and job interviews.

The second workshop deals with improving communication skills and covers things like communicating effectively, public speaking and written communications.

Workshop number three is on how to start your own business and includes information on writing a business plan, starting and running a business and the importance of having a mentor. (See Aboriginal page 24.)

## TEACHER CANDIDATES WANTED

We offer a full-time program on campus at Queen's, and a part-time program in three Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal Teacher Education Program  
Faculty of Education  
Queen's University  
1-800-862-6701  
atep@educ.queensu.ca  
http://educ.queensu.ca/atep



## MACEWAN

### think Relationships

## Bachelor of Child and Youth Care (with diploma exit option)

MacEwan's Bachelor of Child and Youth Care (with a diploma exit option) prepares you for a rewarding career helping at-risk youth and their families manage emotional and behavioural problems. With diploma and degree options, you can choose your own path - and reach your full potential.

Build relationships that change lives.

Call (780) 497-4646 or visit  
[www.MacEwan.ca/cyc](http://www.MacEwan.ca/cyc)

[www.MacEwan.ca](http://www.MacEwan.ca)

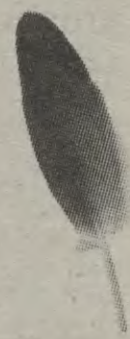
# LAURIER

Lyle S. Hallman  
Faculty of Social Work



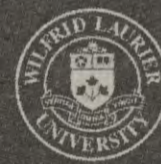
MSW Aboriginal Field of Study, the first Master of Social Work program in Canada rooted in a wholistic Indigenous world view and contemporary social work practice. The goal is to develop social work practitioners who demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the history, traditions and cultures of the Indigenous peoples of Canada. This unique program includes the use of Indigenous elders, a traditional circle process, and Indigenous ceremonies.

## Aboriginal Social Work @ Laurier



- An innovative MSW degree immersed in an Indigenous, wholistic world view
- A 10 month, full-time MSW program for candidates with a BSW
- An empowering healing experience for everyone
- On the leading edge of Aboriginal Social Work in Canada and beyond

Visit our website: [www.wlu.ca/socialwork](http://www.wlu.ca/socialwork)



Wilfrid Laurier  
University

Wilfrid Laurier University, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada  
Tel: 519.884.0710 ext. 5249 | Email: [mireland@wlu.ca](mailto:mireland@wlu.ca)

SOCIAL WORK EXCELLENCE - MAKING A DIFFERENCE SINCE 1966

5949 - Windspeaker Ad 18-12-06

## Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, Merritt BC



## Join us February 21, 2007 for our annual Dream Makers Career Fair

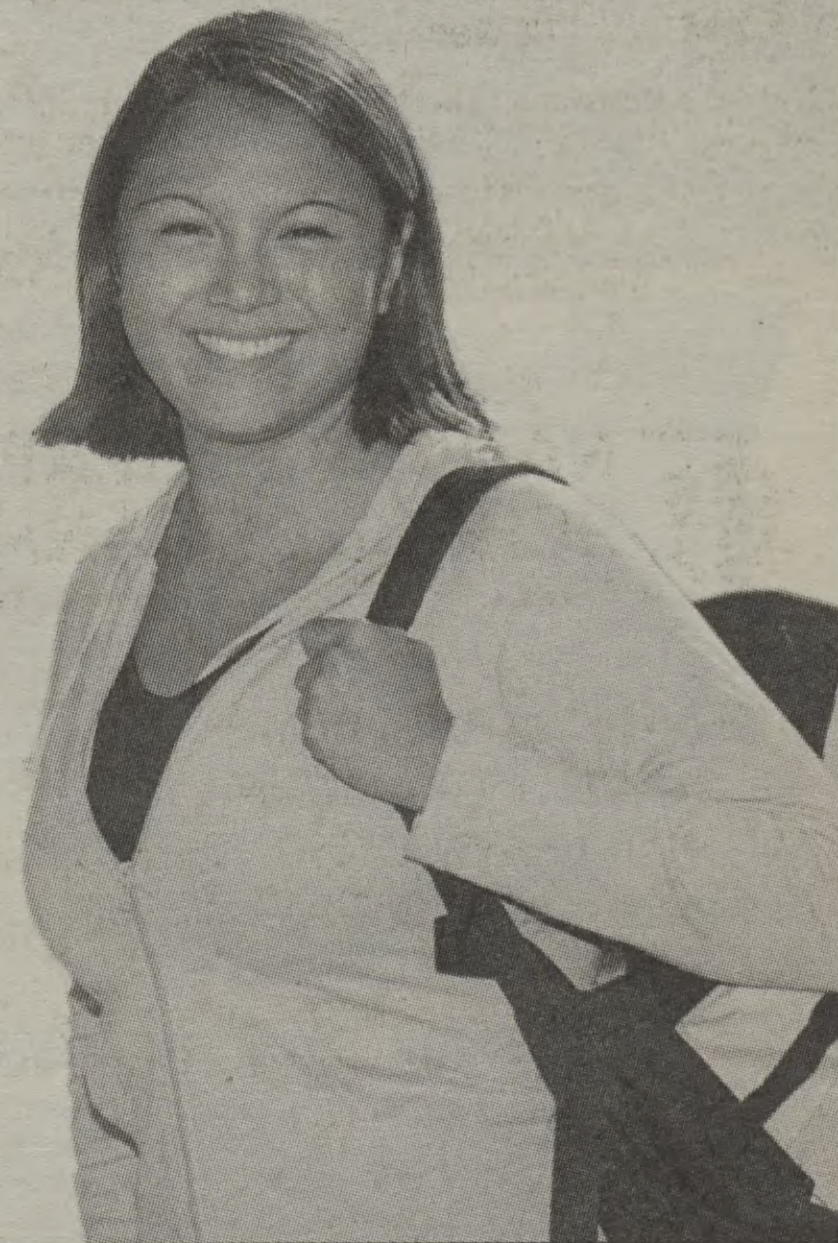
Located in Merritt, BC, NVIT offers quality Aboriginal education and support services geared towards student success and community development.

### NVIT online courses (January 2007). 50% Tuition Bursary Available.

- ACED 161 - Negotiations and Contract Management
- ADMN 130 - Community Development I
- BUSM 200 - Finite Mathematics
- BUSM 211 - Introduction to Finance
- BUSM 294 - Business Law

(NVIT reserves the right to amend, change, add or delete program and course content and schedules).

For information about NVIT's NEW Student Housing, our on campus programs and courses contact us today.



Toll Free: 1-877-682-3300 • [www.nvit.ca](http://www.nvit.ca) • [info@nvit.bc.ca](mailto:info@nvit.bc.ca)  
4155 Belshaw St, Merritt, BC V1K 1R1

Didn't find the right career for you here?  
Find more careers online at: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)



# Association earns award for training programs

By Cheryl Petten  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## OTTAWA

The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA) is among this year's winners of The Conference Board of Canada's Community Learning Awards, handed out annually to recognize successful education and training programs that employ information technology to facilitate the learning process.

The AFOA earned its award in the community-based learning opportunities for Aboriginals category for its suite of education programs designed to build financial management capacity within Aboriginal communities. While some of the programs are taught in a classroom setting thanks to agreements the association has struck with various post-secondary institutions, the lion's share are offered online.

The AFOA is a non-profit organization that works to help Aboriginal people develop the financial and management skills needed to better manage and govern their communities.

"I guess one of our objectives is successful capacity-building among Aboriginals ... for governance and for economic prosperity," said AFOA president and chief operating officer Ernie Daniels.

"What we see is if you have a good financial system in place with the skills that people need to do the job it's going to contribute to a better quality of life among our communities."

Daniels said the majority of the people who have completed training programs through the organization have indicated a preference for the online courses as opposed to classroom-based training because the online programs offer more flexibility and less disruption to a student's life.

"They can do it at pretty well their own time and at their own pace and they don't have to leave the community and can still continue to work," he said.

One program offered by the AFOA is the Aboriginal Financial Management program, which provides students with training designed to provide the skills they require for their specific position, and based on what their employer would like to see them learn. Students successfully completing the program receive a Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager (CAFM) designation.

But why is certification necessary in the financial management sector? Daniels said it's all about accountability.

"First Nations and Aboriginals in general are held to a higher standard of accountability from their funders, more so than any other group in Canada. The amount of reporting that's required from First Nations by,

mainly the government who funds them, is unbelievable."

By having certified staff on site within an Aboriginal organization, Daniels believes the organization's credibility will be improved and, eventually, the reporting requirements lessened.

"Actually, what it's really doing is building an effective Aboriginal public service," he said, adding that the need for certified financial managers will only grow as more and more Aboriginal communities move toward self-governance.

"I feel very fortunate to be in this position, to help provide that

skill and the tools and resources that our communities need to help them do the job the best they can," Daniels said.

There's an extra benefit to completing the certification program for people who want a career in accounting, Daniels said. The AFOA has an arrangement in place with CGA Canada that sees a CAFM designation treated as equivalent to completing up to the third level in the Certified General Accounting program. That's especially important, Daniels said, because of the dearth of Aboriginal accountants in the country.

(See Building page 23.)



The AFOA's annual conference is just one of the ways the organization helps inform and educate people about finance and management.

## RCMP-GRC

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA



## We're hiring! Nous embauchons!

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE. START TODAY.

Interested in a challenging and exciting career? Want to make a difference in your community and your country? The RCMP offers meaningful work, vast opportunities and the chance to serve across Canada. Our police officers have been part of Canada's history since 1873. Be part of the legacy.

### FAITES UNE DIFFÉRENCE. DÈS MAINTENANT.

À la recherche d'une carrière stimulante? Envie de faire votre marque dans votre collectivité et votre pays? La GRC vous propose un travail valorisant, de nombreuses possibilités et la chance d'œuvrer partout au pays. Nos policiers façonnent l'histoire du Canada depuis 1873. Perpétuez cet héritage.

[www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca) or contact your local RCMP./ou communiquez avec le détachement de la GRC de votre localité.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

# Building Aboriginal capacity goal of AFOA

(Continued from page 22.)

"I wouldn't know what the number is, but if it's over 100 I'd be surprised," Ernie Daniels said.

In addition to the certification program, the association also offers a number of professional development courses, designed to help people who have achieved a CAFM designation keep on top of new technologies and new developments in the field. As with the Aboriginal Financial Management program, the professional development

programs are designed around the needs of the student and the needs of their employer.

Association members can also access additional resources online, on the AFOA's Aboriginal Centre for Finance and Management Excellence Web site.

"We have a lot of tools, a lot of information, a lot of articles and other things like that on the Web site that people can actually go and, if you're a member, you have access to everything," Daniels said.

"We also have a discussion board, too. Like, if somebody is experiencing something, like an issue or something like that, they can post it on the discussion board and other members may provide solutions to the individual."

The AFOA Web site has something to offer non-members as well. The site features a software program that provides step-by-step guidelines for developing financial and accountability policies and codes.

"So if you need a specific policy on a certain thing, you can actually go there and it'll help you do it," Daniels said.

While the majority of people going through the AFOA's training are doing so to be part of the Aboriginal public service Daniels speaks of, still others are taking the training to prepare themselves for starting a business of their own. A few years ago, Daniels attended a youth conference hosted by the National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association and spoke to some young entrepreneurs who had done just that.

"There were a few individuals there that said that the training they got through taking our program really helped them. It laid a solid foundation for them to be able to manage their organizations."

The AFOA is also working to get more Aboriginal youth thinking about careers in financial management. The association has developed a youth strategy and is in the process of implementing it. Part of the strategy is to have AFOA members attend events that attract youth and provide them with information about financial management careers.

Most youth have an inaccurate

perception of what financial management is all about, Daniels said.

"They see it as a boring type of thing. And once you expose them to what the responsibilities are and the different types of activities that are required and the different job titles that are out there, some of the people, it really opens it up for them," Daniels said.

One part of the youth strategy will be implemented when the AFOA hosts its annual conference in Vancouver in February. The plan, Daniels explained, is to bring in three high school students who will take part in the conference alongside an AFOA member who will act as a mentor to them. They'll also take part in a mock band council meeting, where they will play the role of a finance person, with a real chief and real councillors playing the parts of chief and council. If the approach is successful the association will expand it to include more students in future years.

"Pretty soon, we hope we can have a track at our conference that addresses youth opportunities, especially getting into business on their own," Daniels said.

For more information about the AFOA go to the association Web site at [www.foa.ca](http://www.foa.ca).

**Bruce Power**

## Career opportunities abound at Bruce Power, Ontario's largest independent power generator.

Bruce Power, Ontario's largest independent electricity generators, is seeking highly-motivated, educated, skilled and safety-oriented people for rewarding positions within our growing company.

Located 2.5 hours northwest of Toronto, Bruce Power is located on the shores of Lake Huron in Bruce County, known for its natural beauty and rural charm.

Interested individuals can apply at [www.brucepower.com](http://www.brucepower.com). Positions will be posted throughout the year on the **staff & careers** section under current opportunities. Please check back often.

Bruce Power is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. [www.brucepower.com](http://www.brucepower.com)

## Live and learn in your community.


Thompson Rivers University, Open Learning is proud to deliver distance and online education to learners everywhere.

- > Enjoy flexible start and completion times.
- > Ladder previous education into TRU credits.
- > Earn credit for life and work experience with prior learning assessment.
- > Choose to graduate from a program or complete one course.
- > Achieve a credible university education in your own community.
- > Express yourself and inspire others through your academic success.

[www.tru.ca/distance](http://www.tru.ca/distance)

For a free calendar, phone 1.800.663.9711.



THOMPSON RIVERS  UNIVERSITY

OPEN LEARNING

# Aboriginal women to benefit from program

(Continued from page 20.)

The fourth workshop is on skill development for boards and focuses on the functional and legal responsibilities of board or council members.

The fifth and final workshop deals with budgeting and financial management and includes information that will help participants better manage their personal finances and business finances and give them a better understanding of band finances.

The pilot program was run in 10 communities across the province, with more than 200 women completing the training sessions.

Based on its initial success, the pilot was expanded into Ontario last year. Now CESO has

partnered with the Native Women's Association of Canada to expand AWFT into a national program, which will be rolled out nationally in two phases.

In 2006/2007, it will be offered in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and the Atlantic provinces, with 25 workshop series to be offered in total. In 2007/2008, it will expand into Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba.

Since it was announced that the program would be going national, the requests for information have been pouring in to CESO's offices.

"I can't even describe how many requests we have received, from individuals, from communities, urban Aboriginal women's organizations ... women gain so much from this workshop," Delia

Scribeleac said.

"I will tell you just a little bit about what one of the women said to me, and it's very touching ... we went one year later and we asked, 'Did you do something? Have you seen any changes in your life?' And she said, you know, now I know how to set goals. You know what? After this workshop I realized how many positive things I'm in. And I renounced drinking and I can take care of my children and I want for them to have a different life and I'm going to make it possible for them. I mean, this is absolutely fantastic."

For more information about the National Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow program call Delia Scribeleac at 1-800-268-9052 ext. 252.



The National Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow Training Program was officially launched on Nov. 27. Among those taking part in the event were (from left to right) Delia Scribeleac, CESO's manager of national programs; Gabe Lafond, CESO's regional manager for Saskatchewan; and Chief Tammy Cook-Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, which hosted the launch.

# New president sees great potential for university

(Continued from page 21.)

UCN is in the process of creating a distant education initiative that will bring their programs and courses into a couple dozen northern communities. The school is also working to raise the necessary capital to build a new campus

building in Thompson.

In addition to its two main campuses, UCN also maintains 10 regional centres, seven of which are housed on First Nation communities.

"Each of those centres are in partnership, where ownership is actually from the community,"

Denise Henning said. "We want to become such a distributed learning environment that we can deliver any of our programs where the students live."

Henning is clearly enthusiastic about UCN's potential to improve higher learning opportunities for students in

northern Manitoba.

"I think UCN is a star. It's going to keep shining brighter and brighter," she said. "I feel so honored and grateful to be part of this growth and to be part of this institution and that they wanted me to come at this important time in their history to

step into the next phase of growth. These people honor me and I feel very, very grateful to be here. I'm here for the long haul," she said laughing. "I'm an Okie living in the north."

More information about the UCN can be found online at [www.keewatincc.mb.ca](http://www.keewatincc.mb.ca).



## Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada

What skills do you bring to your team?  
Register now for the next Course Start Date!

**COURSES BEGIN  
FEBRUARY 5th  
Register Now!**

Join the growing number of Aboriginal Professionals who are enhancing their Management Skills!

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES

#### AFOA 1—Community Economic Development

This course offers an opportunity to develop skills in advancing Community Economic Development. It will assist those in communities with or without an Economic Development Officer. In this course you will look at taking inventory on your community assets as well as developing, implementing and evaluating your CED plan.

#### AFOA 2—Aboriginal Management Practices 1

This course focuses on your role as a manager or aspiring manager. You will be provided with tools to provide leadership and accountability for your organization. You will examine how to work with others, how to manage change, leadership skills, problem-solving and decision-making skills, meeting management and communications skills, negotiation and dispute resolution skills and many more.

#### AFOA 3—Aboriginal Program Management

This course focuses on your role as a program manager and your ability to make sound and informed decisions. You will examine what project management is vs. program management, how your community policies relate to your program. Learn how to identify partnerships and other potential resources along with learning how to work within your budget and effective document management.

#### AFOA 4—Aboriginal Management Practices 2

Building on the skills and knowledge acquired in Management Practices 1, This course looks at understanding the process and structure of your governance, political roles of council and how they relate to strategic planning. You will learn the financial responsibilities of your council along with principals of debt management. You will learn strategies on how to promote advocacy to better your organization and community.

#### AFOA 5—Values & Ethics in the Aboriginal Workplace

This course is the first of its kind in Aboriginal on-line education. It provides you with a broad understanding of maintaining good values and ethics within the Aboriginal workplace. You will examine business ethics and how they relate to your own traditions. You will also learn fundamentals of human resource management and types of ethical situations. Learn how to develop a code of ethics for your organization.

### CERTIFIED ABORIGINAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (CAFM) PROGRAM

#### AFM 3—Law

Introduction to the Canadian Legal system; Tort law and professional liability; The contractual relationship; Interpreting the contract; special contracts: sales; Special contracts: insurance and employment; Debtor and creditor relations; Business organizations: agency and partnership; Business organizations: corporations; The Indian Act; Aboriginal Title and treaties; First Nations' self government powers; Taxation rules and First Nations.

#### AFM 4—Aboriginal Strategy & Decisions

The strategic management process; Setting direction and selecting strategy; Strategy implementation and financial plans; Monitoring and evaluation; Reporting and accountability; Linking business cases to strategy; Components of a business case; Problem solving processes; Defining the problem; Establishing decision criteria; Identifying and evaluating alternatives; Financial evaluation techniques; Making a choice; Implementation; Providing advice on business, treaty/self government issues, alternative policy issues & compliance issues.

#### AFM 6—Aboriginal History & Development

Historical and contemporary relationships; Aboriginal People and communities; Ethical standards and spirituality; Organizational structures and stakeholders; Decision-making and accountability; Social Interactions; Economic Activity.

#### AFM 14—Aboriginal Human & Fiscal Issues

Analyzing work loads and staffing requirements; Developing job descriptions and salary scales; Hiring, orienting and training staff; Using consultants; Setting work plans and delegation; Evaluating performance; Managing staff benefits; Developing relationships with council, committees, and external stakeholders; Organizing and running meetings; Managing change processes; Building consensus; Identifying and developing financial opportunities; Developing strategic alliances and partnerships; Monitoring challenges in aboriginal fiscal relations; Tax-exempt status and avoidance; Negotiating and managing funding arrangements; Aboriginal accounting standards; Aboriginal financial management best practices; Accountability requirements.

Apply on-line by visiting [www.afoa.ca](http://www.afoa.ca) and complete our online registration form or contact AFOA at 1-866-722-2362 for more information.

The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA) is the centre for excellence and innovation in Aboriginal finance and management. We are the fastest growing Aboriginal organization in Canada that focuses on the capacity development and day to day needs of those Aboriginal professionals who are working in all areas of Aboriginal management—today's leaders and those of the future!



## DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

With the Chippewas of Rama Mnjikaning First Nation who will be reporting to the First Nation Manager, and will be responsible to organize, direct, guide, facilitate, support, enable, monitor and evaluate the work of the Managers in all of the Education's individual sub-departments and assist them in meeting their mandates of providing high quality educational programs and support services to the people of the Mnjikaning First Nation.

The Director of Education will oversee the following departments: Recreation, Culture, MKES, ECE Services, Educational Services, Library Services, and Computer Lab. Essential Duties also to include Planning and Management, Advisory Service Liaison, Administration and Financial and Policy Analysis.

### The ideal candidate must have:

- A graduate degree in education, teaching certification and three to five years of experience in a senior education management capacity or related discipline, or an equivalent combinations of education, teaching certification and related experience is preferred, Past principalship would be an asset.
- Minimum of three to five years experience working with First Nations in the education field.
- Must have experience working with First Nation Government, First Nation Communities and other levels of government.
- Keen appreciation of First Nation Cultures and community aspirations is required.
- Fluent speaker of Native Language would be an asset.
- Must have proven well-developed communication, staff/public relations and negotiating experience; must be highly self-motivated and able to work well independently or as a team member.
- Must have excellent computer skills, a valid Ontario Driver's License and reliable transportation and be able to provide a Criminal Reference Check.

Preference will be given to applicants of Aboriginal Descent.

Send cover letter and resumé marked "CONFIDENTIAL" by Friday, January 19, 2007 at 5:00 pm to:

Charlene Benson  
Human Resources Manager  
Mnjikaning First Nation  
5884 Rama Road, Suite 200  
Rama, Ontario L0K 1T0  
Fax: (705) 325-4718  
Charlene.benson@mnjikaning.ca



We thank all applicants who apply; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

## JOIN US AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE...



For over forty years, **Hull Child and Family Services** has built a tradition of skilled caring for children and their families. Hull Child and Family Services is a Calgary-based non profit agency providing services to children and families with complex treatment needs. We continuously grow to meet the needs of our changing and diverse society and have become an employer of choice in our field. At Hull we view our employees as our strength and are committed to professional growth, competitive compensation, a comprehensive benefits plan and a supportive team environment.

Hull's work includes serving Aboriginal children, youth and families in a culturally responsive way.

### MALE CHILD AND YOUTH CARE COUNSELLORS (Full Time and Relief)

The positions require responsible, committed male individuals with, or in the process of completing a degree/diploma in the Human Services Field to work in a residential setting with children and youth having complex treatment issues. Previous residential experience desirable. Shift work involved; no overnight shifts.

### RELIEF NIGHT COUNSELLORS

These positions require responsible, committed individuals to work in a residential setting with children and youth having complex treatment issues. Previous residential experience desirable. This position is an **awake** overnight role.

For more information about how you can make a difference in the life of a child, family or community, visit [www.wrhull.com](http://www.wrhull.com)

Please direct your resumé and cover letter to:

Hull Child and Family Services  
Human Resources  
Fax: 780-251-4518  
Email: [hr-dept@wrhull.com](mailto:hr-dept@wrhull.com)  
[www.wrhull.com](http://www.wrhull.com)

**Diversity Works At Hull**

Find more careers online at: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)

## Contest encourages students to explore new online resource

(Continued from page 16.)

To enter, students must visit Aboriginal Perspectives online, read the four questions that make up the contest quiz, then explore the Web site to find the answers.

The next step is to go to the online entry form, fill in the answers to the quiz and then write an essay of between 350 and 500 words describing their community.

The student needs to explain why they are proud of their community while comparing their community

to one depicted among the collection of films on the Aboriginal Perspectives site.

The deadline for entries for the One Drum, Many Hearts contest is Feb. 22. The first place winners in each of the two age categories—15 and under and 16 and over—will have their winning essay published in a future issue of *Windspeaker*.

For more information about the contest, visit the Aboriginal Perspectives section of the NFB Web site at [www.nfb.ca/aboriginalperspectives](http://www.nfb.ca/aboriginalperspectives).



**Capital Health**  
EDMONTON AREA

### REGISTERED NURSE (ABORIGINAL NURSE COORDINATOR) Regional Aboriginal Health

Reporting to the Director of the Regional Aboriginal Health Program, the Nurse Coordinator is an integral member of the patient care team providing liaison and case coordination for Northern Alberta Aboriginal (First Nations, Metis and Inuit) patient referrals to Capital Health for medical services. The incumbent will be responsible for ensuring that the health care needs of Aboriginal patients from Northern Alberta referred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital are met through appropriate case management, patient advocacy, and discharge planning activities as specified. The Nurse Coordinator also acts as a single point of contact for both CH staff and Aboriginal patients and communities for information and connections that facilitate smoother and more appropriate patient care and successful responses to treatment.

#### Position Requirements:

- ◆ Graduate from an accredited nursing program, current registration with the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA) and CPR (BCLS) certificate
- ◆ Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing is preferred.
- ◆ Knowledge and respect of Aboriginal Culture and experience in working effectively with First Nations
- ◆ Ability to work in a cross-cultural environment and demonstrated understanding of the needs of patients from northern communities
- ◆ Ability to understand and speak Cree is preferred. Preference will be given to candidates of Aboriginal descent.
- ◆ Demonstrated computer skills an asset.

This position is a joint initiative between CH, North Peace Tribal Council, Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council, Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council, and Metis Settlements General Council.

Apply online at [www.capitalhealth.ca](http://www.capitalhealth.ca) or submit an application quoting competition number MA-12315-RA to:

Human Resources  
Royal Alexandra Hospital Site  
10240 Kingsway  
Edmonton, AB T5H 3V9  
Fax: (780) 477-4960

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Joy Myskiw, Director Aboriginal Health Program for Capital Health, at (780) 735-4029

This competition will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

[ footprints ] Frank Calder

# Chief of chiefs remembered for tireless fight for Aboriginal rights

By Heather Andrews Miller

The Nisga'a Nation of northwestern British Columbia is mourning the loss of its chief of chiefs, Dr. Frank Calder, who passed away on November 4, 2006 at the age of 91. Throughout his lifetime Calder was a pioneer in the cause of Aboriginal rights around the world.

According to a story told by the Nisga'a people, Calder was destined from childhood to do great things for his people. As a baby, the story goes, Calder was presented to a gathering of Elders who were discussing the issue of land claims, which was perceived to be an immovable mountain, an obstacle standing in the way of the nation ever progressing toward self-determination. The story tells of how Chief Nagwa'un declared that this small child would learn the ways of the non-Aboriginal people and in the course of his lifetime, he would move the mountain.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, Calder blazed many trails, but the 1973 Supreme Court of Canada decision that bears his name is likely the accomplishment for which will be most remembered.

The landmark Calder decision established that Aboriginal title existed under Canadian law. The decision was particularly important for the Nisga'a and other Aboriginal groups in British Columbia, where a provincial policy had been in place for more than 100 years that stated Aboriginal title did not exist, so no treaties needed to be negotiated with Aboriginal people in compensation for lost

land.

For decades, Aboriginal people in B.C. called for treaties to be established, and for decades those calls were summarily ignored by government. Then Frank Calder came along.

Under Calder's leadership, the Nisga'a argued that they had a legal right to occupy and manage their traditional lands. Over a five-year period, the case would wind its way through the British Columbia Supreme Court and the court of appeal before Calder and the Nisga'a would taste victory thanks to a Supreme Court of Canada ruling that Aboriginal title to traditional lands existed, regardless of any government policy to the contrary.

The impact of the Calder decision was felt around the world. In Canada, the decision led the federal government to establish a land claim process and paved the way for the eventual negotiation of a land claim settlement for the Nisga'a people, the first modern-day treaty to be signed in B.C.

Calder was born on Aug. 3, 1915 at Nass Harbour to parents Job and Emily Clark and was raised by Louisa Calder and Chief Na-qua-oon, whose English name was Arthur Calder.

Like so many others who were born in post-colonial times, Calder was sent to residential school. The visionary young man could see how his experience at the Anglican Church's Coqueleetza school at Sardis could be turned into something positive and went on to graduate from Chilliwack high school, becoming the first Aboriginal person to do so. He attended the University of British Columbia and again enjoyed the distinction of being the first Aboriginal student to graduate. During his time at UBC, Calder earned a degree in theology and gained an

awareness of the lack of recognition of ancestral Aboriginal rights.

In 1949, Calder got involved in politics, running as a Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) candidate in the provincial riding of Atlin. He won the election and served as member of the Legislative Assembly for the riding for close to 30 years, first with the CCF, then with the New Democratic Party and finally with the Social Credit Party. During his time in provincial politics he became the first Aboriginal person appointed as a minister of the crown, serving as minister without portfolio from 1972 to 1973.

Throughout it all, he was looking for every opportunity to further the rights of his people.

When he delivered his first speech in the provincial legislature in 1950, he called for a motion to establish a B.C. Bill of Rights, setting the stage for an ongoing campaign to have Aboriginal rights recognized. In 1955, he helped found the Nisga'a Tribal Council and led the organization for more than 20 years.

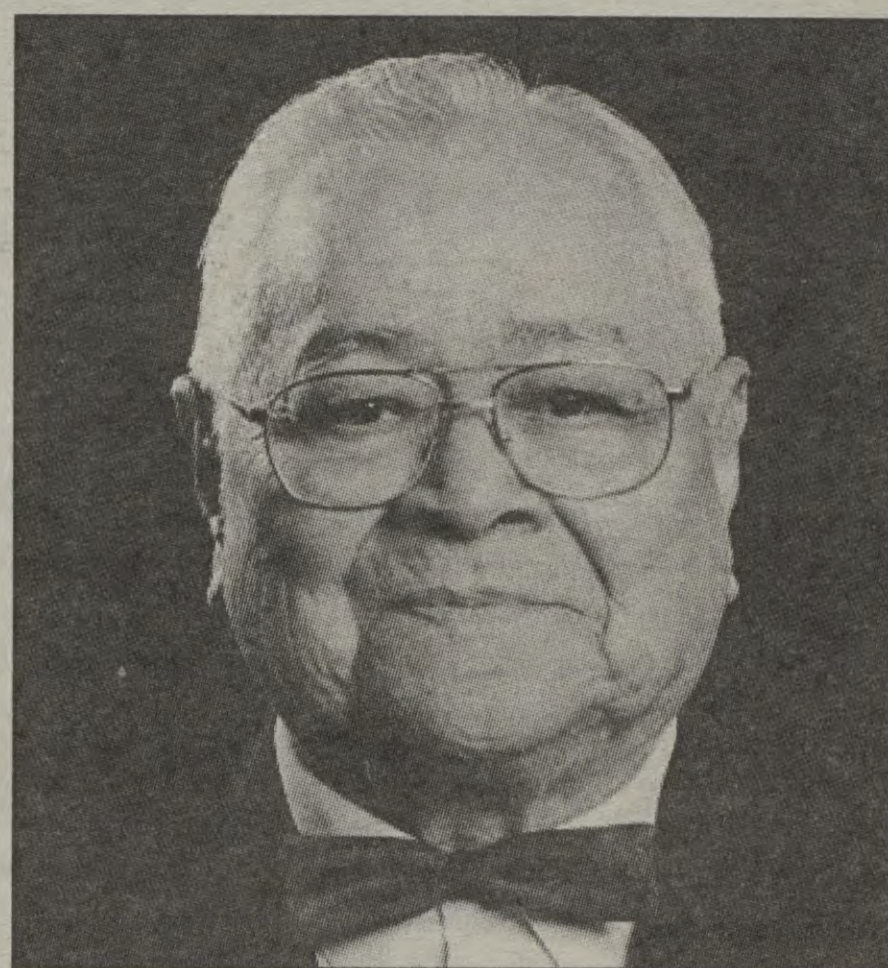
In November 2003, a special gala was held to honor Calder on the 30th anniversary of the Calder decision. At the event, British Columbia's Lt.-Gov. Iona Campagnolo, remarked that Calder was one of few people in the world who have changed history.

"Had there not been an Honourable Member for Atlin elected in 1949 in the person of 'Little Chief' Frank Calder, and for his presence in the legislature of British Columbia, we would all today, be the poorer," she said. "Without Frank Calder and the resulting Calder decision, the 1982 Constitution of Canada would not now include a vital commitment to Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples."

The walls of the home Calder shared with his wife Tamaki and son Erick were lined with awards and honors. He was enshrined in Canada's First Nations Hall of Fame in 1967, earned his doctorate of divinity in 1989 and received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in the

lifetime achievement category in 1996. He was made a member of the Aboriginal Order of Canada in 1985 and an officer of the Order of Canada in 1988.

When the Nisga'a Tribal Council decided to commission the book *Nisga'a: People of the Nass River* in 1993, Calder was asked to write the introduction. In it, he shared the Nisga'a history of travelling and fishing, and how his people settled along all 380 kilometres of the Nass River and its tributaries. He described the Nisga'a homeland, 24,000 square kilometres that straddles glacier-fed lakes from the Skeena Mountains to the intersection of the Alaska Panhandle and the B.C. coast. Salmon and other fish have been a staple of his people, who built a vast trading empire that reached along the coast and far inland. While they still enjoy their traditional activities of fishing, hunting and trapping, Calder noted that today the Nisga'a people are also lawyers, politicians, priests, administrators, teachers, linguists, business people and loggers. They have survived the



Frank Calder spent a lifetime leading his people and fighting to ensure their rights were recognized by all levels of government.

devastation of smallpox, influenza and other indignities at the hands of Europeans, and they have survived a cultural genocide. He concluded the powerful and often emotional introduction by pleading with readers to look at the faces of the Nisga'a people.

"We are survivors," he said. "We have a story to tell."

Calder retired in his mid-80s but spent his remaining days actively involved in community affairs. He last addressed the Nisga'a people on May 3, 2006, at a special assembly. His friend and lawyer Ian Izard said Calder's sense of humor and clarity of mind remained until he died, and he was wonderful inspiration to all.

Despite the years of struggles, Frank Calder always believed the Nisga'a would win in the end. It took until April 13, 2000 before the Nisga'a Treaty was finally proclaimed law and, after more than five decades, Calder's fight had ended and he could rest. The immovable mountain had been moved at long last.



## An Aboriginal Approach to Learning

- \*Aviation Diploma Program
- \*Social Service Worker Degree
- \*Aboriginal Media Diploma Program
- \*Ohahase Adult Education
- \*Public Administration Degree
- \*Human Services Diploma Program
- \*Office Administration Certificate
- \*Indigenous Community Health



# 3 Old York Road  
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory  
K0K 1X0  
Toll free: 1-800-267-0637  
or 1-613-396-2122  
Fax: 1-613-396-2761

**CALL TODAY**  
about programs  
in your area

www.fnti.net

MANY SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS  
**ENTICE YOU  
WITH FREEBIES.**

IN THIS CASE, THE FREEBIE IS A MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION.



**BUY 2, GET 1 FREE.**

Over 150 magazine titles to choose from.

Subscribe today at [1free.magazinescanada.ca](http://1free.magazinescanada.ca) or call 1.800.345.1809

Offer expires March 15, 2007

**Magazines  
Canada**

be more

# informed

for less

PRICE INCREASE  
COMING JAN. 1, 2007!

Order Windspeaker, Canada's favorite Aboriginal publication, in quantity and save.

## Who qualifies?

The Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA), publisher of Windspeaker is a non-profit Aboriginal communications society dedicated to providing objective coverage of Aboriginal news, issues and events and providing low-cost access to its publications to Aboriginal people throughout Canada.

## AMMSA/Windspeaker extends this special offer to the following organizations:

All Aboriginal non-profit or charitable groups, First Nations, Métis Settlements, Friendship Centres, Tribal Councils, Schools, Libraries, Education Centres, Colleges, Universities, Literacy Groups/Organizations, Drop-in Centres, Treatment Centres, Clinics, Hospitals, Correctional Centres/Facilities.

# ORDER NOW! BEAT THE PRICE INCREASE!

Effective January 1, 2007  
Windspeaker rates will increase  
to \$50.00+GST for a single copy subscription.



1 copy/month	for	\$40.00/year +GST	going up to \$50.00/year
5 copies/month	for	\$75.00/year +GST	going up to \$100.00/year
10 copies/month	for	\$100.00/year +GST	going up to \$130.00/year
15 copies/month	for	\$125.00/year +GST	going up to \$175.00/year
25 copies/month	for	\$150.00/year +GST	going up to \$200.00/year

Phone: 1-800-661-5469

Fax: (780) 455-7639

E-mail: [subscribe@ammsa.com](mailto:subscribe@ammsa.com)

Web Site: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)



# Windspeaker **Business Quarterly**

**NOT** business as usual!

# Seeing the forest for the trees

**Opportunities abound  
in non-timber forest products**

Fourth Quarter – Winter 2007



# GOOD FOR YOUR COMMUNITY. GREAT FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

PAR means Progressive Aboriginal Relations.

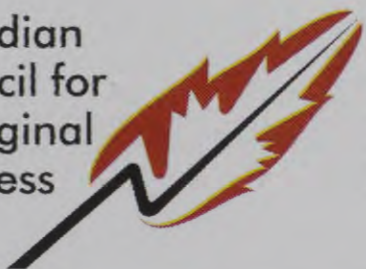
It's the national program which enables organizations of all sizes to measure and improve their relationships with the people, businesses, and communities of Aboriginal Canada.

Created by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and operated by the National Quality Institute, the PAR hallmark says that your company is committed to growing alongside Canada's Aboriginal people.

Join other organizations in the PAR program like Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, BMO Financial Group, Cameco Corporation, Diavik Diamond Mines, ESS Support Services, Sodexo, Syncrude, and Xerox. Call us today at 416-961-8663.



Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business



Conseil canadien pour le commerce autochtone

Phone: 416-961-8663  
Fax: 416-961-3995  
Website: [www.ccab.com](http://www.ccab.com)  
Email: [info@ccab.com](mailto:info@ccab.com)

[www.debeerscanada.com](http://www.debeerscanada.com)

How can you benefit most from our diamond projects?

## Work with us

Getting to know one another is the first step in bringing employment and new business opportunities your way.

Working together, providing jobs and training, our projects will bring new employment benefits for you and benefits that will ripple through the communities close to our operations for years to come.



*Together we can make the most of new opportunities for economic growth.*

be more

**informed**

for less

Order *Windspeaker*, Canada's favorite Aboriginal publication, in quantity and save.

### Who qualifies?

The Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA), publisher of *Windspeaker* is a non-profit Aboriginal communications society dedicated to providing objective coverage of Aboriginal news, issues and events and providing low-cost access to its publications to Aboriginal people throughout Canada.

### AMMSA/*Windspeaker* extends this special offer to the following organizations:

All Aboriginal non-profit or charitable groups, First Nations, Métis Settlements, Friendship Centres, Tribal Councils, Schools, Libraries, Education Centres, Colleges, Universities, Literacy Groups/Organizations, Drop-in Centres, Treatment Centres, Clinics, Hospitals, Correctional Centres/Facilities.



- 5 copies/month for \$100.00/year
- 10 copies/month for \$125.00/year
- 15 copies/month for \$150.00/year
- 25 copies/month for \$200.00/year

+ GST where applicable

Phone: 1-800-661-5469

Fax: (780) 455-7639

E-mail: [subscribe@ammsa.com](mailto:subscribe@ammsa.com)

Web Site: [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com)

## On The Agenda

### Jan. 25-26

#### Fourth Annual Community Development Conference (Calgary)

Examine different approaches to evaluation and their implications. Network with community development practitioners who represent a diversity of sectors.

This conference will be held at the Executive Royal Inn Hotel and Conference Centre.

### Feb. 13

#### Ninth Annual Circle for 2015 Toronto Gala Dinner (Toronto)

This celebration of Aboriginal business event will bring participants together to network during the reception. This event will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel.

For tickets call (416) 961-8663 ext. 222.

### Feb. 20-22

#### Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada (AFOA) National Conference (Vancouver)

For the seventh year, the AFOA's national conference has developed a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information on Aboriginal finance and management. The event will bring together Aboriginal financial professionals, band administrators, chiefs, tribal council members and government representatives in an effort to explore strategies to enhance finance and management in Aboriginal communities.

### Feb. 27- Mar. 1

#### National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA) Conference (Ottawa)

This conference will assess the progress on land and resource recommendations made by Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP). Registration will be from 3 pm to 9 pm at the Marriott.

### Apr. 25

#### International Aboriginal Leadership Conference 2007 (Edmonton)

Join Amisk & Associates Inc. as they host this four-day event, which will focus on the theme "A New Vision for a New Nation."

For more information call (780) 452-8996.

### May 3-5

#### Aboriginal Investment Workshop (Toronto)

Through this three-day workshop, participants will be informed about different aspects of the investment process for First Nations and Metis settlements, from building an investment framework and governance process to hiring and firing investment managers.

This workshop will be held at the Native Canadian Centre.

### May 28

#### Fourth Annual Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Ontario Golf Tournament (Oakville)

Network with other businessmen and women during an 18-hole game at the Glen Abby Golf Club. For more information call (416) 961-8663.

## Business Quarterly

PUBLISHER – Bert Crowfoot

EDITOR – Debora Steel

ASSOCIATE EDITOR – Cheryl Petten

CONTRIBUTORS –

Paul Barnsley, Laura Stevens, Heather Andrews Miller, Dianne Meili and Lee Ahenakew

Editorial e-mail: [edwind@ammsa.com](mailto:edwind@ammsa.com)

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING – Paul Macedo

SALES CONSULTANTS –

Keven Kanten, Shirley Olsen, Brad Crowfoot

Advertising Sales: 1-800-661-5469

Marketing e-mail: [market@ammsa.com](mailto:market@ammsa.com)

ACCOUNTS – Carol Russ, Hermen Fernandes

CIRCULATION – Nicole Lockyer

Windspeaker Business Quarterly is published four times each year as a Windspeaker Section by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

AMMSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

President – Noel McNaughton

Vice-president – Rose Marie Willier

Treasurer – Chester Cunningham

Secretary – Harrison Cardinal

## Advertiser Directory

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) – page 2

De Beers Canada – page 2

Alberta Economic Development – page 9

Casino Rama – page 11

Casino Rama – page 13

Magazines Canada – page 16

Edition	Booking	Pub.
Q1 - Spring	01-Feb-2007	March
Q2 - Summer	24-May-2007	July
Q3 - Fall	06-Sep-2007	October

Book your space today!  
Call: 1-800-661-5469

Fourth Quarter – Winter 2007



## Appointments

### **Harold Calla has been appointed to chair the First Nations Financial Management Board.**

The board has two functions: to certify financial management systems, practices and standards of First Nations that have chosen to borrow against property tax revenues, and to provide all other First Nations, on request, services relating to financial management, reporting and standards development.

Calla, of the Squamish Nation, will lead one of the four institutions created through the First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act. The institutions are designed to provide First Nations with the practical tools available to other levels of government for modern fiscal management. Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jim Prentice, said "Calla is a respected leader with the first-hand knowledge and experience needed to lead this institution."

Calla is a member of both the Certified Accountants Association of British Columbia and the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada, and received his certification as an Aboriginal financial manager through the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada. He has served as director of finance of the Squamish Nation, whose operations include commercial businesses, land leasing and land development. He is also the surveyor of taxes for the nation.

Calla has served as the chairman of the First Nations Financial Management Board Advisory Panel since 2002 and is a member of the boards of directors of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Partnerships BC.

### **Dave Gagnon, the president of AAER SYSTEMS Inc./BOLCAR ENERGIE Inc. has appointed Ted Moses, former grand chief of the James Bay Cree of Quebec, to the company's board of directors.**

AAER SYSTEMS integrates, manufactures and distributes high capacity wind turbines. Moses is currently president of two Cree companies that are active in the energy and environmental sectors.

Moses became grand chief in 1984 and was chief negotiator for the implementation of the Cree School Board and the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board. He also played an important role in the negotiation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, and is signatory of la Prix des Braves with former Quebec premier Bernard Landry.

Moses has been active on the international scene and served as rapporteur for the United Nations seminar on the Effects of Racism and Racial Discrimination on the Social and Economic Relations between Indigenous Peoples and the States. He was given an honorary doctor of laws degree in 1996 by the University of Saskatchewan for his international human rights work and his advocacy on behalf of Aboriginal peoples.

Moses was honored with a second doctor of laws degree by Concordia University in 2005 for his work defending the Cree Nation and in promoting Aboriginal and human rights in Canada and Quebec.

### **Patrick Madahbee has joined the lobby firm of Leonard Domino & Associates, a company that focuses on providing government relations strategies and services.**

Madahbee has spent more than 30 years in First Nations politics, and more than 13 years as a chief. He served as spokesman and tribal chair for the Robinson-Huron Treaty Region and the United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin.

He honed his understanding of economics and business while working on economic development for his band and in his other career as manager of Aboriginal Financial Services with TD Trust.

"Whether you're talking about dealing with the federal government, the provinces and municipalities—or about dealing with banks and other businesses—the challenge is 'navigating' from what seems to us to be a simple matter of what is right and fair and effective for our communities, to an approach that makes sense from the other party's perspective," said Madahbee. "We don't have to give up intrinsic rights. But we have to understand that not everyone sees things our way and we have to strive to find the words to make our goals fit into the government program or the business case judgments.

"First Nations leaders face 'navigational challenges' every day, as we try to resolve issues with people who don't really understand us," said Madahbee. "I think I can safely say that Leonard Domino & Associates can be a very valuable 'navigational aid.'"

Camilla Rabisca and Robert Leon Kelly have been appointed to the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Minister Jim Prentice. Both have roots in the north and in Sahtu.

Rabisca was born in Fort Good Hope and for 26 years lived off the land, hunting, fishing and trapping. She is an active member of the Hunter and Trappers Association and served on the local education board.

Kelly is also a resident of Fort Good Hope and is serving a second term on the K'asho Got'ine Charter Community Council, is a former president of the Yamoga Land Corporation where he presently sits on the board of directors. Kelly also coordinated Fort Good Hope's delegation to the 35th Dene National Assembly.

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board was established through the Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Settlement Act. Its purpose is to establish policies and propose regulations related to wildlife and commercial establishments for harvesting, hunting, guiding and outfitting services.

## **Band finds opportunity in salvage**

**More than 102,000 cubic metres of mountain pine beetle wood will be salvaged through a new forestry agreement reached with the Skeetchestn Indian Band.**

**Under the three-year agreement, the band will gain access to 102,351 cubic metres of beetle wood in the Kamloops Timber Supply Area. The volume augments a forest and range opportunities agreement reached with the band in July, which provided \$1.2 million in shared**

**revenue and 125,315 cubic metres of timber.**

**"Our goal is to use these short-term forestry opportunities to create long-term economic stability for our people," said Chief Eddy Jules. "We want to be prepared for life after the mountain pine beetle infestation."**

**"It will also help the Skeetchestn people broaden their economic foundation, and create new jobs for band members," said Kamloops MLA Claude Richmond.**

# Awards recognize top businesses in NAN territory

**T**he Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) held its 15th annual Nishnawbe Aski Nation Business Awards in Timmins on Oct. 15, recognizing the outstanding business achievements of individuals, companies and communities within Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) territory.

Paul Kataquapit was this year's recipient of the Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award, presented by Aboriginal Business Canada. A member of Attawapiskat Lake First Nation, Kataquapit is owner and operator of Kataquapit Freight Services, a transportation and contracting business. Kataquapit took over ownership from the family business three years ago and has continued to grow the enterprise.

By purchasing a front-end loader, a gravel truck, a five-ton cargo truck and a transport truck, he has been able to go after larger projects and has secured a subcontract to transport equipment from Attawapiskat to the DeBeers Victor diamond mine. He has also been contracted by the Attawapiskat Development Company to provide winter road maintenance.

Dan Villars was named Business Man of the Year, an award presented by Wasaya Airways Limited Partnership. Villars is

owner/operator of several business ventures. He's been running a logging company for the past 16 years, a mobile park for 12 years and a small backhoe business for five years. Two years ago he started up Cut-Rite Firewood and has secured contracts to provide firewood to Wal-Mart and to four Canadian Tire stores, with a deal in the offing that could see his product in all Canadian Tire stores across the country. He's also entered into a five-year agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources to provide firewood for 29 provincial parks.

Diane Lacourciere was named Business Woman of the Year, an award presented by Hyrdo One. A member of Long Lake First Nation who was born and raised in Timmins, Lacourciere and her partner Yves have owned Mountjoy Variety in Timmins since September 2004. The couple renovated and upgraded the store and added an ice cream parlor in June 2005. The business is open 365 days a year from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and provides part-time employment for four people.

The Executive of the Year Award was presented to Eno H. Anderson, deputy chief of Kasabonika Lake First Nation and a board member of the Kasabonika Community Development Corporation. He believes

strongly in the need to develop local human resources and capacity in order to benefit the individual, the family and the community. Over the past few years, Anderson has been working with the First Nation and its resource development planning board to develop an economic development strategy focusing on restructuring the way the First Nation does business, as well as developing opportunities in the tourism and mineral sectors. The strategy

also addresses ways to improve community infrastructure and works to find ways for the First Nation to get more involved in regional economic initiatives.

Under the strategy, Kasabonika First Nation has entered into an exploration agreement with DeBeers Canada, developed tourism camps and has seen a new hotel built in the community. The Executive of the Year Award was presented by Bearskin Airlines.

The Partnership of the Year Award went to Stan Kapashesit, a member of Moose Cree First Nation, and Jay Monture, a member of the Upper Mohawk Nation, owners and operators of Solstice Productions. The two had spent a decade as amateur mobile DJs before going pro in December 2003 and have been providing mobile DJ and event management services to Moosonee and Moose Factory ever since.

Over the summer, Solstice Productions took on two large contracts, providing their services during Creefest 2006 in Attawapiskat and the National Cree Gathering in Moose Factory. Kapashesit and Monture make it a priority to give back to the community by donating their time and talents during fundraising events. The award to Solstice Productions was presented by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Bamaji Lake Economic Development Corporation received the Development Corporation of the Year Award, presented by Ontario Power Generation. Since 1993, the development corporation has been responsible for the public works department, new housing construction and renovations and numerous other projects on Slate Falls First Nation. Ensuring staff and community members have opportunities for personal and professional development is a priority for the corporation. Staff is given access to up-to-date courses in first aid training, water and sewer treatment and operations, and workshops are offered to give members of the public a chance to upgrade their skills.

continued on page 13...



## Announcements

### Program will continue

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) is extending funding for the Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) program, which provides Saskatchewan's First Nation and Métis business communities with business information, planning and market research. WD is providing more than \$168,000 so that Visions North Community Futures Development Corporation can continue to coordinate the ABSN throughout Saskatchewan.

The ABSN is designed to make business information more accessible to the First Nation and Métis business community and to help Aboriginal entrepreneurs find the information they need to help set up or grow a business. It provides free-of-charge access to government information on business programs, services and regulations. These resources are tailored to meet unique requirements of Aboriginal clients.

"We are pleased that ABSN will continue to provide information and services to Aboriginal entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan," said Bill Hogan, manager of Visions North Community Futures.

"Working with the Canada/Saskatchewan Business Service Centre, we have been successful in developing strong partnerships across the province and are beginning to realize the benefits of ABSN in our Aboriginal communities."

### From support work to ownership

Samson Oil and Gas Inc. of Hobbema, Alta. has announced a private share purchase of 20 per cent of fledgling Calgary exploration and production company Vast Exploration Inc. Samson paid \$2.5 million for the shares. Vast hopes to build trust in the Native community to advance its goal of tapping into Aboriginal-controlled resources. Last year, a partnership was struck between Vast and the Paddle Prairie Métis settlement in Boyer, Alta. Samson has access to more than 4,000 sq. km. of Aboriginal drilling prospect in Saskatchewan. Samson Oil has grown from a modest group that in the 1990s concentrated on oilfield duties, such as trucking. In 2003, it signed on as an equal partner in three drilling rigs with Western Lakota Energy Services. Now, in its new role as owner, Samson is hoping to raise money through Vast to build on its oilfield successes.

## Windspeaker Business Quarterly

### Funding on the rails from Canada

Lawrence Cannon, minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, announced that Canada will provide up to \$8 million to Tshiuetin Rail Transportation to continue passenger rail service between Sept-Iles and Schefferville, Que., through Emeril, Newfoundland and Labrador, until Dec. 31, 2007.

Cannon congratulated Alexandre McKenzie, president of Tshiuetin Rail Transportation, on the recent completion of Tshiuetin's new diesel locomotive repair shop and the extensive improvements to the train station in Schefferville. These projects, worth \$3.5 million, were funded by the federal government. "Tshiuetin Rail Transportation was the first amongst First Nations companies to own and operate a railway in Canada," said Cannon. "Our government is proud to continue its support for this essential service for people living and travelling to and from these remote communities. This funding will permit Tshiuetin Rail Transportation to continue to provide a safe, efficient and high standard of service to all clients."

Passenger rail service is the only surface transportation mode available to Schefferville and is used by First Nations people in the area to travel to their traditional hunting, fishing and trapping territories on a year-round basis.

### Deal inked for exploration

CanAlaska Uranium Ltd. has entered into an option agreement with the Fond Du Lac Denesuline First Nation to undertake uranium exploration on its reserve lands.

The Fond Du Lac lands are located in Saskatchewan and covers 38,458 hectares (95,030 acres). The region is known to host several uranium occurrences, including the Fond Du Lac uranium deposit, which was delineated by Eldorado Nuclear in the 1970s and hosts an historical reserve estimate of 1 million pounds U308. Under the terms of the option agreement, CanAlaska will expend at least \$2 million in exploration over a four-year period and will issue to Fond Du Lac Denesuline First Nation up to 300,000 common shares and to make cash payments of up to \$130,000.

"This agreement represents an important milestone for CanAlaska in its exploration efforts in the Athabasca Basin. We are most pleased to work hand-in-hand with First Nations communities towards the potential realization of an extremely valuable resource," said Peter Dasler, president and CEO of CanAlaska.

Chief Victor Fern represents the community of about 1,750 members. "The opportunity enables us to participate in the growth of the uranium exploration industry and to develop the economic potential of both our human and mineral resources," he said.



**On Nov. 15, NACAIR LP made its debut servicing the communities of Thompson, Brochet and Lac Brochet in Manitoba. NACAIR LP operates out of Thunder Bay, Ont. and has been providing passenger schedule and charter service to 19 communities throughout northwestern Ontario and Manitoba, including Winnipeg and Norway House, since 2000. NACAIR is a 100 per cent First Nation-owned airline that was created to transform airline service to First Nation communities in the region.**

# Seeing the forest for the trees

## Opportunities abound in non-timber forest products

**W**hile timber is, without a doubt, still the most valuable product coming out of Canadian forests, there is also a growing global demand for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). But what exactly are NTFPs? They are, quite simply, the products that are harvested from the forest other than timber products.

According to *The State of Canada's Forests for 2005 to 2006*, a report from Natural Resources Canada, two of the most common non-timber forest products harvested in Canada are maple syrup and Christmas trees. But the list of products that make up this sector is a lengthy and diverse one, including edible items like wild mushrooms, berries and fiddleheads; items such as birch bark, pine cones, tree boughs and mosses that can be used in crafts and floral arrangements; plants with medicinal uses and essential oils that can be extracted from trees and plants. Some definitions of non-timber forest products are broader,

taking in animal products as well – antlers, bones and the animals themselves. The term NTFP is also used to apply to plant products that grow wild outside of forest settings – in bogs, along the shores of lakes or on the northern tundra.

A growing number of individuals and communities are recognizing the business opportunities that the NTFP sector offers, and many of the people getting involved in harvesting, processing and marketing these products are Aboriginal.

“I think it’s definitely a sector that does present a lot of opportunities for First Nations,” said Tim Brigham, co-ordinator of education and capacity building with the Centre for Non-Timber Resources (CNTR) at Royal Roads College in Victoria, which works to support and promote sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products in temperate and boreal forests around the globe.

Getting involved in the NTFP sector can be a good fit for many Aboriginal communities,

Brigham said. Many of the communities are located in areas where the products are found, and the harvesting and processing of NTFPs can create employment in regions where few other employment opportunities may exist.

“The other nice thing about the industry is that there is a certain amount of flexibility. You know, it’s not like a nine to five job, and it can fit in with other activities that are going on.”

It’s also an industry where anyone, at any age, can get involved, Brigham said.

“We’ve done workshops where you’ve got people from teenagers through to 70-some-year-old people, and they all find something to take away from it.”

Another advantage of getting into the NTFP sector is that it allows people to start out small and grow their business at their own pace.

“Really, you can get into the sector without a huge amount of investment,” Brigham said. “The technology is often really, I would say, low- to sort of mid-technology requirements, and low- to mid- capital requirements to get involved.”

There’s no question that the demand is growing for many NTFPs, especially for wild foods. Harvesters of these types of products have an opportunity to capitalize on a number of trends, including the growth of the slow food movement, which stresses the consumption of high quality local foods that support biodiversity and diversity of culture, Brigham explained.

The growing demand for organic foods also presents opportunities in the marketing of wild foods, which Brigham said could be presented as “not just organic, but better than organic.” The growing interest in nutraceuticals or functional foods – foods that have properties deemed beneficial to a person’s health – should also help to boost demand for certain NTFPs, such as wild blueberries, hailed for their abundant offering of antioxidants, which are believed to help protect human cells from



damage.

Some communities have entered into the NTFP sector by harvesting plants that have traditionally been used by Aboriginal people as medicines, while others are harvesting and marketing sacred plants for ceremonial use. Two such communities are profiled on the CNTR Web site ([www.royalroads.ca/cntr](http://www.royalroads.ca/cntr)).

Members of Mosakahiken Cree Nation in Manitoba harvest senega snakeroot, which they sell to local buyers who in turn sell the root to pharmaceutical companies in the United States. On Sapotaweyak Cree Nation, also in Manitoba, sweetgrass is harvested, dried and braided then sold to a local buyer. Much of the sweetgrass from Sapotaweyak also finds its way to markets in the United States.

Brigham acknowledged that marketing these types of NTFPs can be highly controversial, but his organization lets each community decide for itself if it's an area they want to pursue.

"There's no question that there's some real concerns about harvesting of traditional medicinal plants, whether they should be commercialized at all or whether someone else is benefiting from them," Brigham said. "That's sometimes a real issue, so we've tended to just take the lead from the community on that. A lot of communities don't want to have anything to do with it and that's fine, because there's a lot of other opportunities, whether it be around wild foods or decorative plants or crafts of things like that."

One of the challenges inherent in harvesting NTFPs is trying to come up with ways to add as much value as possible to the product at the local level, Brigham explained.

"In general, this is an industry that has revolved around the export of raw materials, basically. People go out and harvest and box it up and away it goes. The challenge is really trying to find ways to increase the benefits at the local level, increase those returns."

Brigham has advice for Aboriginal communities thinking about jumping on the NTFP bandwagon – learn as much as they can about the market before they get involved, link up with other groups involved in the sector and with experts in the field to gain from their knowledge and experience, and recognize that starting a NTFP business won't provide a quick fix for all the issues in their community.

"The other advice I would give would be to have some community meetings about this and ... basically make sure that the community is comfortable with it. Because if they're not, you're not going to go very far with it," he said. "There aren't too many communities that don't have some opinion about harvesting wild products and commercializing wild products ...

That's definitely an issue, that communication and everybody understanding it and making sure that you meet with the Elders. Basically, that would be sort of what I've seen as being a more successful approach within communities."

One of the success stories of the Canadian NTFP industry is Northern Lights Foods Limited Partnership, owned by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band in Saskatchewan. The company's organic foods division features two product lines – wild rice and wild mushrooms. The first company in Canada to have its wild mushrooms certified as organic, Northern Lights ships fresh, dried and frozen morel, chanterelle and matsutake mushrooms to markets in North America, Europe and Japan.

The wild rice sold by Northern Lights comes from the company's own wild rice production as well as from more than 100 independent organic wild rice producers from northern Saskatchewan. The product is in great demand here in Canada and abroad, helping to make the company the largest exporter of certified wild rice in the world.

Another community experiencing success with its foray into the NTFP sector is Siska First Nation in British Columbia. Recognizing the many benefits of harvesting and marketing the natural products found on its land base – most notably an abundance of saskatoon berries and huckleberries – the community created Siska Traditions in 2000. The company currently offers a variety of products created from locally and sustainably harvested NTFPs, including jam and jellies, teas, wild fruit leathers, vinaigrettes and soaps, which are sold at the Siska Art Gallery.

The harvesting and processing of NTFPs is creating employment in the community, explained Siska Chief Fred Sampson. It also helps build community capacity. Harvesters are trained using the band's own certification process, the Siska Traditions Ethical Picking Practices. And when researchers come into Siska to study the NTFP resources, members from the community work beside them learning research techniques as they go.

Plans are in the works to expand Siska Traditions operations next year. Walk-in coolers, walk-in freezers, an industrial kitchen and an industrial canner will mean increased production, more employment opportunities and a chance to branch out into new markets.

The community's NTFP venture has also helped community youth reconnect with

continued on page 10...

A new inspirational DVD

**Alberta**  
Economic Development



## The Storytellers: Aboriginal Business Leaders

Tracing the stories of five Alberta business people.

- Jeremy Thompson
- Vern Janvier
- Walter Janvier
- Darryl McDonald
- Brenda Holder
- & Mona Royal

For free copies of the DVD, video previews, or more information see [www.alberta-canada.com/regionalDev/aboriginalEconomicDev/](http://www.alberta-canada.com/regionalDev/aboriginalEconomicDev/) (click on videos) or call (780) 427-5922 (310-0000 toll-free).

# BQ

## Business Quarterly



### 2006/07 Schedule:

Edition	Booking	Pub.
Q1 - Spring	01-Feb-2007	March
Q2 - Summer	24-May-2007	July

**Book your space today!**  
**Call: 1-800-661-5469**

continued from page 9...

their language, their culture and their community, Sampson said. The young people involved in the harvesting go out on the land with the Elders and learn from them. Siska Traditions has provided a similar benefit to the Elders, who now feel they are participating more fully in the community.

While many are enjoying these benefits from the success of Siska Traditions, the reason the community got into the NTFP business in the first place has more to do with rights than with economic development or cultural rejuvenation.

The inspiration for Siska Traditions came as a result of the band's attempts to protect its claim to its traditional lands, Sampson explained.

"It actually stemmed from a blockade. We were trying to protect our watershed and we ended up in a battle with the Ministry of Forests."

The ministry's perception was that, because the band hadn't developed their lands in any way, that it wasn't using the land and therefore didn't have evidence to support a claim to the land, Sampson said.

"And it was while we were up in the mountain that we realized as a community that we had to get more active on the land. And not being a forest company or a mining company, we decided we would move in our own traditional uses of the non-timber resources and develop product and create economy from that," he said. "Our approach here at Siska has always been this is not about jams and teas and jellies. This is about land management."

Sampson said he's been encouraging other First Nation communities to follow Siska's lead.

"They need to get heavily involved in non-timber because I truly believe that's where our title and rights has its strongest footing, is in the traditional uses of the land."

One of the keys to the success of Siska Traditions, Sampson said, has been that development of the company has been led by the community.

"It was all done through a community process. We didn't want to develop this from a chief and council perspective and then just load it on to the community."

Another factor that has helped Siska Traditions succeed is that the business is run by an independent society, with no involvement or interference from the band council.

"Business is business and it needs to be managed as such," Sampson said. "The band does not manage any of our businesses



*Chief Fred Sampson (with basket) conducts a harvest training workshop*

anymore and that allows our businesses to be successful because they don't have a political overtone to them."

Dave Buck is the former NTFP project manager with the Northern Forest Diversification Centre (NFDC) in The Pas, Manitoba, which works with communities and individu-



*Huckleberries*

Photo courtesy Ken Jensen

als to develop economic opportunities surrounding NTFPs by providing training and support and helping to market the harvested products. Last year, the NFDC helped market the products of more than 400 harvesters. Buck would like to see the NFDC continue playing a role in helping Aboriginal communities develop NTFP operations, but with the centre's current funding running out at the end of 2006 and no sign of addition funding on the

horizon, he's not sure what will happen to the NFDC, or the communities that count on it for supports.

Prior to his retirement from the NFDC this past spring, Buck had spent many years living and working in Manitoba's remote northern communities and helping Aboriginal communities take advantage of the opportunities that exist for them to harvest and market NTFPs. He's concerned that if governments and Aboriginal leaders don't step in and make supporting Aboriginal NTFP initiatives a priority, the opportunities in the sector will be lost to non-Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

Like Sampson, he sees many potential benefits of getting Aboriginal people involved in NTFP harvesting, including creating economic opportunities, helping Aboriginal youth regain pride in their heritage and reconnect to traditional practices, and strengthening Aboriginal claims to traditional territories.

"It's a matter of organizing and the success will only come if there's support," he said.

Sampson, too, is concerned that Aboriginal communities could quickly lose ground to non-Aboriginal harvesters in the NTFP sector if more isn't done to protect the resources. He's seen vanloads of people come to the lands surrounding Siska to harvest huckleberries, without a second thought to sustainability, stripping the plants of berries and leaves and causing damage that compromises the ability of the plants to produce in future years.

"If there's no regulation, no control, we'll see huge huckleberry areas getting devastated because of the approach of the economy around those resources, and that's got us quite worried," he said.

The lure of easy cash is even attracting pickers from south of the border, Sampson said. Harvested huckleberries can sell for as much as \$18 for an ice cream pail full, and when the berries are at their peak, a person can easily fill a pail within 15 minutes.

"A person can make a whack of cash in a two-month period. And you multiply that by a thousand, then all of a sudden you have huge amounts of people on the land base, just tearing apart the patches."

What Sampson would like to see is development of management plans for sustainable harvesting of NTFPs – and Aboriginal involvement in developing those plans – to help ensure the first opportunities for benefiting from NTFPs go to Aboriginal communities.

By Cheryl Petten

## Accomplishments

**Lester D. Lafond, has been honored with the province of Saskatchewan's highest honor in the category of business entrepreneurship.**

The order of merit was bestowed by Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon Barnhart on Oct. 5 to the member of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, who was instrumental in negotiations that led to Saskatchewan's first and most economically successful urban reserve. Owner of a number of companies, Lafond provides management, investment and business advice to Aboriginal people and consistently works to bridge the gap between the Aboriginal community and the community at large.

He is past-president of the Saskatoon and District Chamber of Commerce and helped establish the first Aboriginal Business Opportunity Committee. He is a former tribal chief of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, was a board member of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, and is director of the Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority, chair of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Economic Development Opportunity Committee and a member of the National Economic Development Opportunity Committee.

**Eagle Drilling Services Ltd. of Carlyle, Sask., an Aboriginal-owned oilwell drilling company, is Saskatchewan's business of the year.**

The company received the honor at the Achievement in Business Excellence awards gala, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce, held in Regina in September. To put icing on the cake, Eagle also nabbed the award for best new venture.

The company was begun in 2005 with capital from the family and friends of company president Derrick Big Eagle (Ocean Man First Nation), and that of business partner and company chair Rob MacCuish (Metis). After 20 years in the oil patch, both dreamed of starting up their own company. Since their start-up, they have built three rigs.

Windspeaker Business Quarterly

**The northern air service provider First Air has purchased a second heavy-lift, Lockheed 382G Hercules,**

an aircraft deemed ideally suited to address and support existing and future infrastructure, exploration and mining operations in Canada's Arctic.

"Air services are at the forefront in northern transportation needs," said Bob Davis, First Air's president and chief executive office. "The Hercules—a proven, extremely reliable aircraft when operating in extreme environmental conditions and terrain—represents a major \$15-million commitment by our airline to the North's future." Inuit-owned First Air has been connecting the people and business of the North for 60 years. The company has more than 1,000 employees, of whom more than 450 live and work in the North. They say the purchase will be welcome by those facing staggering operational and supply challenges in the North's growing industry and resource sectors.

**Metis Arnold Asham, the founder of Asham Curling Supplies, has been named Manitoba's Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year by the University of Manitoba's Asper School of Business.**

Annual sales of the shoes, brooms and accessories of the curling supply company are edging toward \$3 million, making it one of the leading suppliers around the world. The company has recently celebrated its 25th year in business. Asham started the Curling Players Association in 1989, and was co-founder of the World Curling Tour in 1990. He helped found Winnipeg's Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce and served as its first vice-president.

Asham is also proud of his Metis heritage and founded the Asham Stompers in 2002, a dance group that performs across Canada. The winner was hosted to a gala dinner by the Aboriginal Business education program at the Asper School. The winner is chosen by a committee of university and business people. Previous winners include Mike Birch of the First Nations' Buying Group, and Dorothy Grant, a West Coast fashion designer.



*non-stop...*



*round-the-clock...*  
**EXCITEMENT**



**CASINO RAMA**

www.casinorama.com

operated by:  
PENN NATIONAL GAMING, INC.



# New gas station complex a Canadian first

DEVELOPER: Roland Properties Ltd.  
 OPERATOR: SAKIMAY FIRST NATIONS  
 CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT: WOLF MANAGEMENT LTD.  
 ARCHITECTS: MCM ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES LTD.  
 STRUCTURAL: ATON KRE...



**Sakimay First Nation councillors attend ground-breaking ceremonies for a new gas station. Left to right: Karen Kaye Obey, Doris Penny, Valerie Sangwais, Cameron Sangwais, Rachel Sangwais, Randy Sangwais and Randall Sparvier.**

Photo courtesy Sakimay First Nation

**S**akimay First Nation Chief Lindsay Kaye, Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco and Roland Properties Inc. member Garry Oledzki gathered behind the Regina International Airport's Saskatchewan's Gateway sign on Sept. 26 to break ground on what is to be the first partnership involving First Nations on any airport property anywhere in Canada.

This new venture, called Gateway Centre, will employ qualified Aboriginal people to work at the gas bar, convenience store and car wash complex, which is expected to be completed by next summer.

Wolfe Construction began work on the complex on Oct. 2. Kaye was informed that Aboriginal workers would be employed to help build the centre.

"That's one of the things that I made sure of, that the Aboriginal content of employment is there," said Kaye.

This gas station complex is just one of many new initiatives that Sakimay First Nation is currently working on, Kaye said,

including a new health centre worth more than a million dollars.

Kaye said he has people approaching him with ideas to build businesses on Sakimay-owned land located on the east and west side of Regina.

"I have people calling me saying that they would like to put up a bingo hall, or a community hall or offices," said Kaye. "I have a top-notch First Nation chef looking for a place to run a business. So, the clientele is there. We've just got to keep moving."

In his third term as chief, Kaye said that striving to be a progressive band has always been his focus, but more important is the effort of ensuring the people of Sakimay benefit from community development. It's something that he will always pursue.

"We don't wait for anybody. We just go ahead and do things that we think is right because bands have to start looking after themselves. We can't depend on the federal and provincial people to be bailing us out," said Kaye.

He said it all boils down to the community members and their needs and what they think is best for their community. Kaye credits his community members for Sakimay's ongoing success.

"It's not the leader, it's the people," he said. "I'm only as good as my people or the people are only as good as me and that's the role that I want to maintain, that I'm only as good as my people. If my people are a good community then we'll strive ahead. I don't take credit for the things that we've done. It's the people that should be given the credit, not me as the chief."

Sakimay has two other gas bars in operation, one at Dewdney Ave. and Pinkie Rd. in Regina and one in Grenfell. The First Nation also owns Painted Hand Casino in Yorkton.

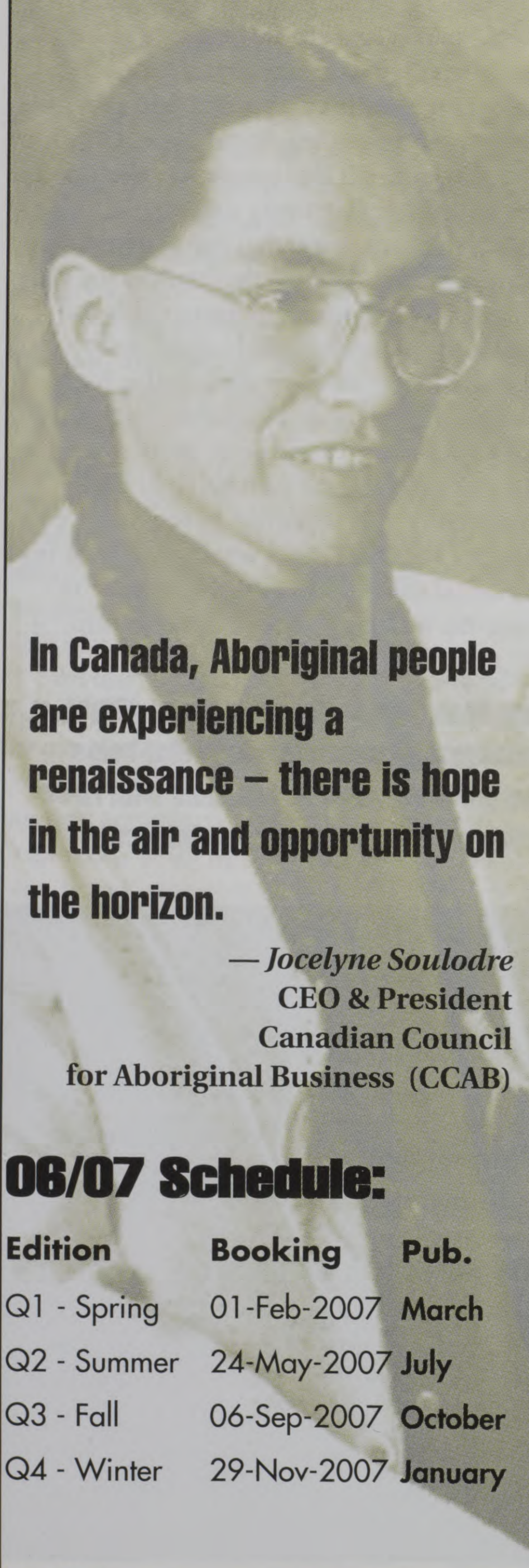
As is the case with these existing businesses, Kaye hopes to have Sakimay members employed at Gateway Centre once it's open for business.

By Laura Stevens



# BQ

## Business Quarterly



**In Canada, Aboriginal people are experiencing a renaissance – there is hope in the air and opportunity on the horizon.**

— *Jocelyne Soulodre*  
**CEO & President**  
**Canadian Council**  
**for Aboriginal Business (CCAB)**

### 06/07 Schedule:

Edition	Booking	Pub.
Q1 - Spring	01-Feb-2007	March
Q2 - Summer	24-May-2007	July
Q3 - Fall	06-Sep-2007	October
Q4 - Winter	29-Nov-2007	January

To advertise call: 1-800-661-5469

continued from page 6...

Bamaji Lake Economic Development Corporation gives back to the community by providing upkeep and maintenance of sporting facilities, keeping snow cleared from all driveways, providing food and beverages for community feasts, assisting the Elders and providing donations to community groups and events.

Kasabonika Lake First Nation was this year's recipient of the Building Communities Award, presented by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The First Nation has launched business ventures in order to improve the lives of the people of the community. Through its strategies for economic and business development, Kasabonika Lake has turned a \$652,000 deficit into an \$811,000 surplus in three short years. New homes and seniors complexes have been built in the community, the water treatment plant has been upgraded, and new businesses have sprung up.

The NeeChee Achievement Award was presented to WLON Distribution Ltd. by Union Gas-A Duke Energy Company. Owned by Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, WLON Distribution Ltd. offers up a variety of products and services, including environmentally-safe cleaning supplies, cold weather apparel, organic wild rice bars and forestry and business consulting. Operating since 2004, WLON has developed a national network of customers, which includes the Canadian military, Weyerhaeuser, Bowater and C.P. Rail. The distribution company has partnered with School-Net and K-Net to bring high-speed internet and video conferencing to the community, expanding the educational options available.

"The board of directors of Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund sees the presentation of the awards as a means to recognize the outstanding efforts of individuals, businesses and organizations who have worked diligently to bring positive change to the people and communities within Nishnawbe Aski Nation," said board chair Madeline Commanda.

The business awards have been bestowed annually since 1991. In 1993, the awards banquet became a fundraiser for the Dennis Franklin Cromarty Memorial Fund, created to honor the late grand chief and former president of the NADF. The money raised helps provide bursaries to Aboriginal students within NAN territory.



*non-stop...*



*round-the-clock...*  
**ENTERTAINMENT**



**CASINO RAMA**

1.800.832.PLAY(7529)



# Treaty nations and non-Treaty nations: A primer

By Lee Ahenakew

The treaty status of a First Nation has a big impact on a community's willingness to act on some economic development activities. First Nations that have signed treaties (treaty Nations) are very concerned about the impact of their actions on their treaty rights. First Nations that have not signed treaties (non-treaty Nations) do not share these concerns.

Members of treaty Nations are often reluctant to undertake activities in fear of losing treaty rights; such as forming an economic development corporation, designating land to be used for private sector developments or charging user fees for water and sewer service.

The Final Agreement for Lheidli Teneh band's modern day treaty was signed this October with the government of Canada. This reminds us how the subject of treaty rights is a current affair. Treaties were signed with First Nations prior to and following confederation. Treaties were signed in areas where the Crown wanted to make way for settlers. Treaties were not signed in many areas where land was not considered valuable for settlement. Treaties were not signed in most of British Columbia, the Yukon or Quebec. Today there are more than 40 modern-day treaties in negotiation in British Columbia to define the rights of First Nations. The rights of First Nations in Quebec and Yukon have been defined through comprehensive land claims agreements and self-government agreements.

The treaties include rights that First Nations members protect as vital to the survival of their people and communities. These rights include exclusion from taxation, healthcare, education and the right to live a traditional lifestyle.

These rights have provided First Nations people and communities with benefits that are essential to adapting to the Canada we have come to know over the last 140 years. First Nations people in treaty areas are very protective of these rights and anything that may infringe on them. Sometimes the fear of losing these rights prevents First Nations communities from using modern tools of economic development.

Some critical tools of economic development include taxation to develop infrastructure, service fees for utility services, rental

fees to build houses and corporations for business development. These measures can be used to accelerate development of community infrastructure and services. Many First Nation members fear implementing any of the aforementioned measures because they fear they will erode treaty rights. Infrastructure and services, including roads, energy, water and sewer, are the backbone for any community to succeed in economic development because they are pre-requisites to support business activities.

First Nations in most of British Columbia have not signed treaties. First Nations in B.C. have led the development of many initiatives that are not well accepted by treaty nations, including the First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act, which makes way for leveraging taxation dollars to access low interest loans to pay for community infrastructure.

It is important to be aware of the relationship between a First Nation and the Crown. The relationship may take the form of a treaty, comprehensive claim or inherent rights before treaties are signed, such as in B.C. These rights affect the willingness of First Nation members and leadership to pursue activities that are required for business partnerships, or to allow business development on First Nation land.

If a treaty Nation is concerned an activity will infringe on their treaty rights, the members and leadership will require time to

reflect on how the activity may affect their rights. Many times people may not even reflect and just refuse any further action, due to their beliefs on what may erode treaty rights. Treaty rights are one of the reasons business development by or on First Nations land can take longer than expected.

Private sector businesses thinking of pursuing partnerships and developments on First Nations land should be aware of the treaty status and community attitudes to determine how this may affect their proposed venture. Be empathetic to the issue. Only time and dialogue will lead people to understand the issues affecting treaty rights.

First Nations leadership and community members should ensure they understand fully what are actual threats to treaty rights and what are unfounded beliefs about treaty rights. Unfounded fears about losing treaty rights can prevent developments from going forward that are important to economic development and the well-being of the community. It is important to be proactive to educate members about what is and what isn't an actual threat to treaty rights in order to pave the way for economic development.

**Lee Ahenakew is the principal of 4Sight, a management consulting firm that helps Corporate Canada do business with First Nations. [www.4sightconsulting.ca](http://www.4sightconsulting.ca)**



Lee Ahenakew

# Alberta company continues to expand

**C**HAM Services was created in 2002 as an oilfield service company dedicated to hot oiling, pumping and heating. Initially, the fledgling business had one truck. Its president and founder, Larry Cunningham, who had been employed in the oilfield all his working life, was the sole employee. Today the company has eight trucks and 25 employees with plans for two more trucks to be on the road by the end of the year.

"We heat fluids and pump high pressure to be used for stimulation of gas wells," he said. "The first trucks were already built when I received them, but for the last four, I've bought components from Texas and engaged a welder to put them together the way I want them. The big trucks are 12-million btu flat fracturing fluid heaters and cost \$500,000 each. They are the largest in Canada."

As president, he feels his main role should be fabrication, research and expansion, and his employees should be in the field. A full-time operations manager works out of Hinton, and other employees include a salesman, a training and development officer and dispatcher. CHAM's head office is in Red Deer.

"We train all our own people, training on-the-job with seasoned workers. I prefer hiring inexperienced people, young people 18 to 25 years old, as helpers so we can train them on our own equipment, and more experienced employees, in the age range of 40 to 55 year olds, because they are experienced as operators," he said.

With a schedule that sees work around the clock, hiring responsible, dedicated workers is a must.

"Our guys are on the road and in the trucks for days at a time," he explained. "They work in pairs, and there's a bunk in the truck, and they can be out on one assignment for up to four days. They either have food with them or we arrange for them to eat at camps." It takes a lot of organizing and co-ordinating. As well, even though the trucks hold 9,000 litres of diesel fuel, CHAM has its own fuel delivery system to keep the trucks in the field running.

Cunningham grew up on a farm southwest of Edmonton where his

***"I use Aboriginal workers wherever possible and find the workers have a great mutual respect for each other, with no cross-cultural boundaries whatever. We've set high standards as far as family values are concerned."***

**Larry Cunningham,  
President,  
CHAM Services**

parents taught him to be proud of his Métis heritage. He attended NAIT after completing high school in 1969 where he studied surveying. He went to work in the oilfield and enjoyed different assignments, including a year in England working on a drilling rig. He returned to the classroom in 1973 to learn the trade of a petroleum engineering technologist, later earning registered status. He also enjoyed, while working as an employee before he started his own operation, an opportunity to communicate with Métis and First Nations communities in the Cold Lake area. "I use Aboriginal workers wherever possible and find the workers have a great mutual respect for each other, with no cross-cultural boundaries whatever," he said. "We've set high standards as far as family values are con-

cerned, and I myself do not drink, smoke or use drugs. It's drawn a lot of family people instead of party people to work for us." The company donates to youth projects, such as the centre for young people in Hinton, to which he recently supplied a new pool table.

Cunningham, his wife Cheryl and their four children are a big part of the business. Cheryl eventually left her teaching job to become vice-president and safety officer. Because an oilfield service company doesn't get walk-in business, two rooms in the Cunningham house are dedicated to promotion and marketing. He has also recently expanded the business to include two mobile glycol heating units that replace boilers on oil rigs. "Both units are booked right through to the end of March, so there was a demand for it."

In addition to CHAM, the couple also has started a property management company.

"I call that my retirement package, so it will be in place when that day comes," Cunningham said.

In the meantime, the company appears regularly at trade shows and runs ads in oilfield-based publications to keep its name in front of the industry.

"We also have our own Web site at [www.chamheat.com](http://www.chamheat.com)," he added.

One of his employees once noted that Cunningham doesn't mind working so hard because he owns the business.

"In turn, I said to him that it's the reverse: I own the business because I work so hard."

*By Heather Andrews Miller*





**INTRIGUING.**



**INTRIGUING.\***

**\*CANADIAN MAGAZINES MAKE YOUR INTERESTS MORE INTERESTING.** From the Arts to Literature, all written from a refreshingly Canadian viewpoint you won't find anywhere else. Just look for the Genuine Canadian Magazine icon at your favourite newsstand, or visit [magazinescanada.ca](http://magazinescanada.ca) to find what interests you.

