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Volume 28 No. 3 • June 2010

# Wind speaker



Canada's National Aboriginal News Source

**Time now to act on  
language revitalization**  
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**Average councilor salary  
only \$31,000 a year**  
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**No harmony in the  
HST debate**  
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ISSN 0834 - 177X • Publications Mail Reg. No. 40063755

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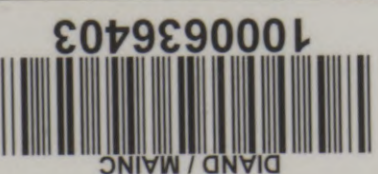
**The 2010 Powwow Season is now under way.  
This dancer was participating at the Gathering of Nations  
held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in April.**

**For more photos and complete events listings  
check out our Guide to Powwow Country insert.**

Photo Credit: Bert Crowfoot

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Monthly Circulation: 22,000  
Windspeaker 1-year subscription: \$55.00+GST  
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Canadian addressed copies can be sent to:

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General Enquiries: windspeaker@ammsa.com  
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## Features

### Time now to act on language revitalization 8

John Elliott's father used to say "It's almost too late, but it's not quite too late. There is still time, if we hurry, if we rush and get the work done." That was 36 years ago, and John's father Dave is now gone, as are many of the other elders John worked with in his efforts to protect and perpetuate the First Nations language in his community.

### Ed John takes up international responsibility 9

Even though Grand Chief Edward John had the support of prominent First Nations organizations as he bid for the job of representing Canada's Indigenous peoples on the international stage, he was ultimately selected to the post for his expertise.

### Average councilor salary only \$31,000/year 10

At least one band member from the Wabauskang First Nation near Ear Falls, Ont. has asked the federal government for salary figures for his chief and council. Wabauskang Chief Cameron Leslie thinks it's an election ploy. Members go to the poll to vote on June 12 and Leslie is being challenged for his position by one of two sitting councilors.

### Courts deport First Nation child to Caribbean 11

Nathan McQuabbie's home used to be filled with a child's chatter and giggles during weekend visits with his daughter. Now, there's silence. His daughter, Makyla, who is almost three years old, has been deported with her mother to St. Lucia. The story is both complicated and messy.

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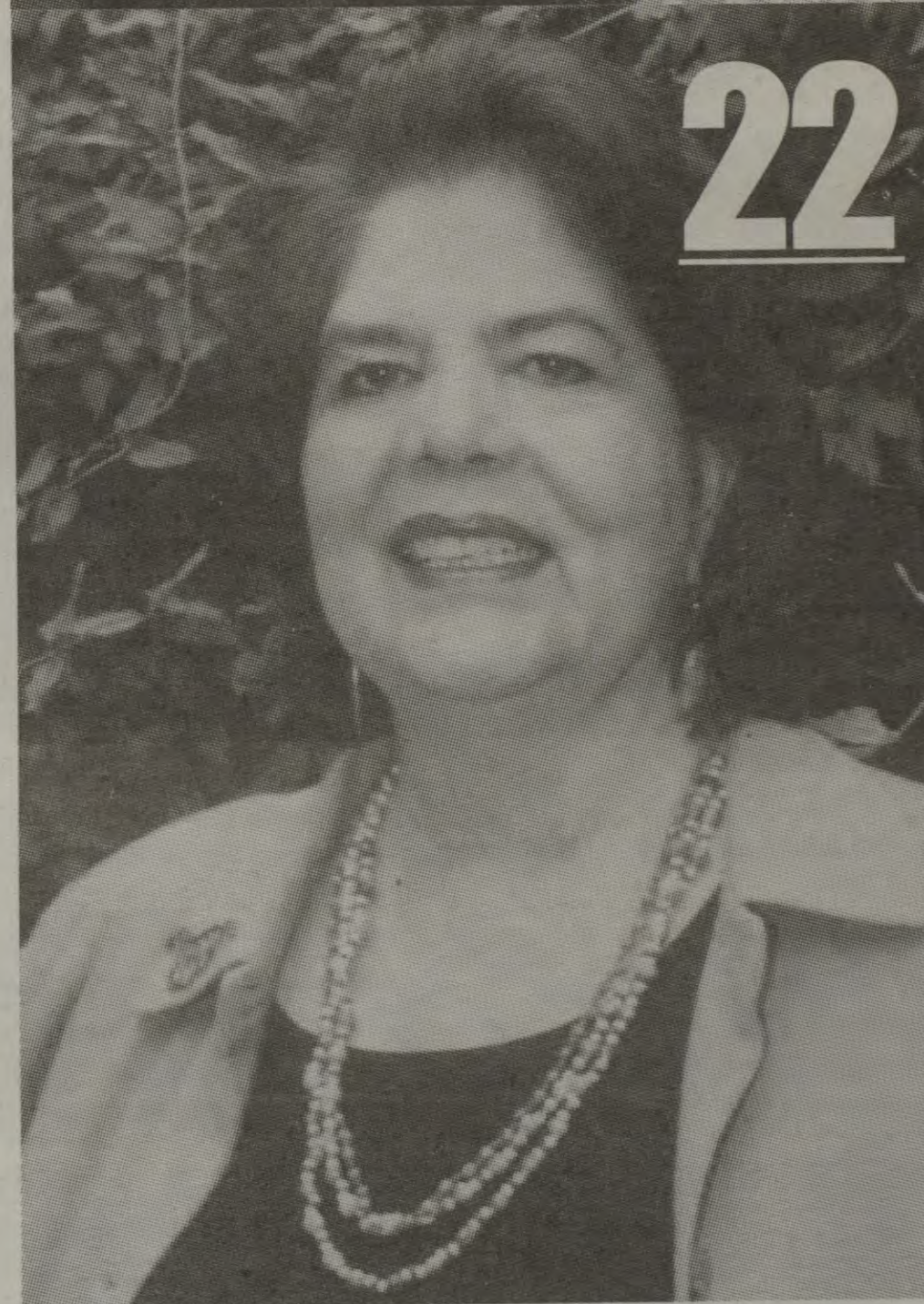
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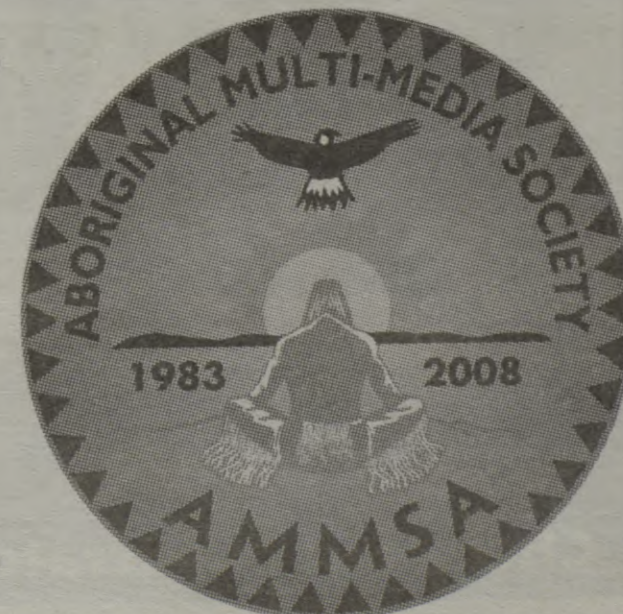
"The Cherokee Nation will be the laughingstock of all the tribes if we elect a woman." Wilma Mankiller distinctly recalled a male delegate standing up at a campaign meeting to warn her about the consequences of her bid to become deputy chief in 1983. Not to be discouraged, her knowledge of the strong role of Cherokee women in her people's history helped her stand up to widespread opposition.



Windspeaker is published by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)  
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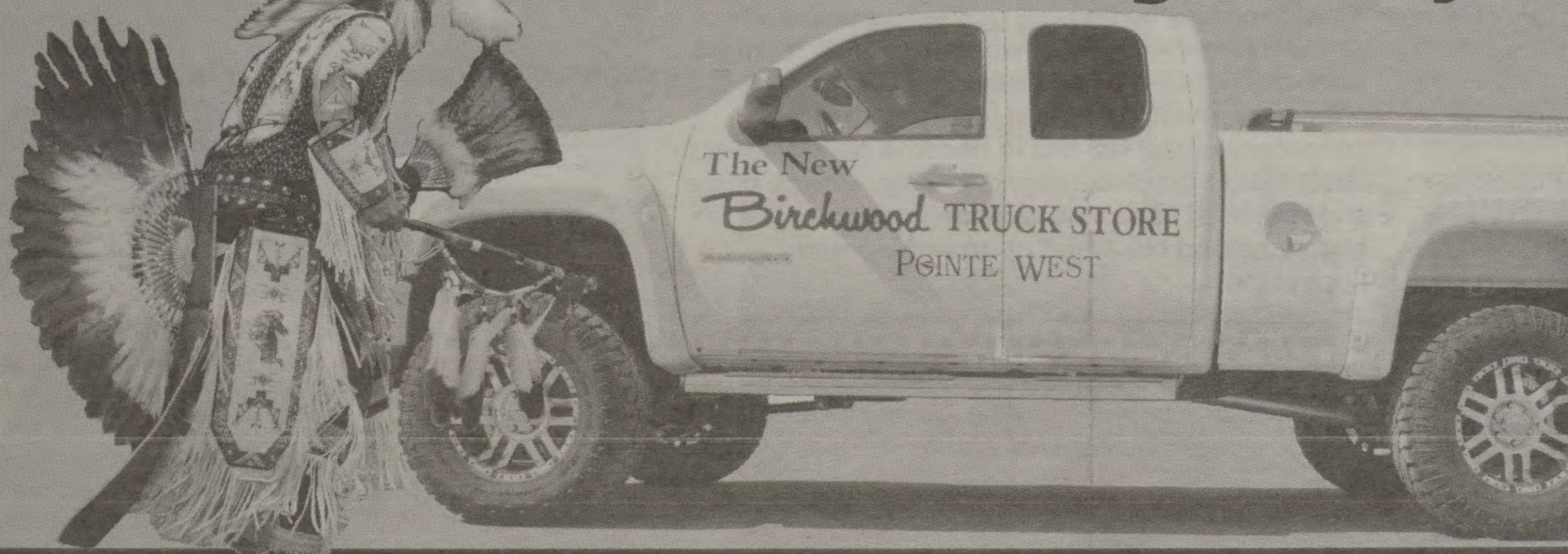
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# Used and abused in Ontario

If only we could bottle the energy and enthusiasm of the young winners of the E-spirit Aboriginal Youth Business Plan competition, then we could splash it around on all of the problems in all of our communities and they would soon become memories of a distant time past.

Congratulations to these young people on their hard work and determination, and congratulations to the Business Development Bank of Canada for sticking with the competition over the last 10 years.

In the larger Aboriginal community, where good projects come and go on the whims of government bureaucrats and the fancies of politicians, it's good to see this kind of long-term commitment to building the capacity of our next leaders.

The business plan competition may be specifically focused on entrepreneurship, but the skills learned through participation in the program are easily transferred to other areas of concern.

Not all the young people who work through the E-spirit online modules are destined to own and run their own businesses. Heaven knows, some of them may land in the service of their communities. It's gratifying to believe that the knowledge they gain through the competition may be brought to the operations of band council, informing decisions, understanding opportunities, even providing protection from those who would exploit First Nations communities and their citizens.

We can't help but think of the Henvey Inlet First Nation at this time, and the \$44 million allegedly funneled through a charitable account under the name of the Henvey Inlet First Nation Support Organization to benefit, not the community, but wealthy taxpayers looking for a tax shelter.

Chief Wayne McQuabbie said millions in receipts were issued for cash over a five-year period. The nation of about 150 people received less than one per cent of those funds. McQuabbie brought the Canada Revenue Agency into the mix when he discovered the receipts. The agency's report on the organization's dealings "absolutely astounded us," he said.

Well, chief, you should have a view of the situation from the outside looking in. It's stunning to us to think that a community could be so misused in such a monumental way.

Where was the oversight? Where was the leadership? Where were the auditors, the federal government, and all of that reportage INAC insists that the nations do? How did all of this go unnoticed by so many over so much time? And in how many other communities are the same mistakes being made?

"For many of the trustees, it appears their only mistake was trusting someone's word," Chief McQuabbie emphasized. Henvey Inlet First Nation is a small community in Ontario. It wouldn't be the first time in the history of remote

First Nations that an unscrupulous operator knocked at the door.

Just like in the residential school system, those people that would seek to do harm also seek out the most vulnerable and most isolated. But this kind of corruption is not something that one person can pull off alone, even though McQuabbie blames "a particular consultant." It requires a great deal of willful blindness to allow such an operation to be successful, and maybe just a little quid pro quo, a little grease.

Let's take this time, right now, however, to give McQuabbie his props for inviting an investigation into the situation. He could have swept it under the carpet. It's easier not to talk about something ugly like this, and he chose not to take the easy path. Unfortunately that's not the most common approach to difficulties in First Nations communities. So hat's off to the man. There's going to be some black eyes around the community after all is said and done, and it took some courage for him to get into the ring.

Windspeaker is going to be watching with particular interest to see if any of the money that was funneled through the support organization is recovered and who's going to take the fall, and not just in the community or among the trustees of this organization. We wonder if the government will hold to account those taxpayers who moved money to their off-shore accounts through this organization. We also wonder out loud at how this organization was able to play so fast and loose with its charitable status and where all that transparency went that the government and the taxpayers' associations are always squealing about.

Who in government is supposed to be watching this sector, and where were they in this situation? And how are we to determine if this isn't a game being played out across the country? Many journalists have questioned the controls around charitable status, concluding that non-profits are rife with illegal activity and impropriety. The situation with the Henvey Inlet First Nation Support Organization does little to dissuade them from that opinion.

McQuabbie has said that the First Nation was kept in the dark about the workings of the organization, "which was actually run out of Winnipeg, not here." The scheme he said does not reflect the character of the band or its members.

Perhaps, but maybe worse, it does reflect on the capacity in the community to understand that they were being used. The fact is, Henvey Inlet can never say again they didn't know, because now they do. It's time to give some serious thought to building the capacity of the community to better protect itself going forward, and it's a lesson for every other First Nations community to take to heart as well, because it seems, no one else is watching out.

*Windspeaker*

[ rants and raves ]

## Page 5 Chatter

### IS IT A CASE OF A REPENTANT THIEF?

Six First Nations artifacts were returned to the Tomahawk restaurant in North Vancouver in May two decades after they were stolen. CTV in British Columbia is reporting that restaurant owner Charles Chamberlain had thought he'd never see the pieces again after they were removed from his establishment during a break-in 20 years ago. RCMP said an unidentified man in his mid-thirties made two trips into the restaurant, placing the stolen items on the front desk. Chamberlain was in the kitchen at the time, and a waitress said that it wasn't unusual to her because people were always dropping such items off for the owner. His family is widely known for their collection. Police hope to speak to the person who returned the items. They're asking for anyone with information to come forward.

"My mouth fell open," Chamberlain told CTV News. "I just stared and couldn't believe what I was looking at."

He's not interested in pressing charges, glad just to have his artifacts back. There are still items missing, however, from the night of the robbery. Chamberlain's hoping they too will be returned.

"It would be nice for the rest of it to come home too."

### TREATY 5 IS 100 YEARS OLD,

and seven Nishnawbe Aski Nations celebrated with Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo in Thunder Bay, Ont. May 12. Atleo called on Canadians to help in the effort to get governments to recognize the legal and moral obligations of treaty rights, reports [tbnewswatch.com](http://tbnewswatch.com). "What's been happening in this country in the last number of years is we're clogging up the courts, battling it out," said Atleo of the struggle to encourage Canada to live up to its treaty promises. "It's been conflict-filled on the ground and it will continue to be so until we really come to resolve and reconcile the original treaty spirit and intent in a modern context and there's every reason why we should be able to do that." Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Stan Beardy said Treaty 5, signed with the Crown in 1910, was a document designed to allow for peaceful co-existence between first peoples and the settler populations, and, most importantly, it was designed so that all could benefit from the natural resources.

### CELEBRATIONS TOOK PLACE IN

New Aiyansh, B.C. in the Nass Valley on May 11. The occasion was the 10th anniversary of the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the first modern-day treaty in the province. The agreement was negotiated outside of the BC Treaty Process. Within the process there have only been two other treaties successfully negotiated. The Tsawwassen agreement, which came into effect on April 3, 2009, and the Maa-nulth treaty on Vancouver Island, which comes into effect on April 1, 2011.

Mitchell Stevens, the new president of the Nisga'a Lisims Government, said the agreement was a good one for his people, though some still argue that assertion. CBC quotes Ginger Gosnell-Myers, a Nisga'a living in the Vancouver area. She said the celebrations marked an important milestone, but progress in the community was not moving along as it should. "I think in the next 10 years, if the progress is the same as the last 10 years, then we're in a lot of trouble."

The Nisga'a anniversary celebration took place marking the date of implementation. The agreement was signed in 1998, but not implemented until 2000.

"We have been told many, many times that we have sold out. We're not going to succeed," said Stevens. "But here we are today breaking ground, and we're very excited about it."

### The Associated Press reports that

France has agreed to return 16 mummified Maori heads to New Zealand, "ending years of debate on what to do with the human remains acquired long ago by French museums seeking exotic curiosities." Collections in dozens of museums around the world contain such remains, obtained often by Westerners in exchange for goods or weapons. Many museums have agreed to return the remains to the Indigenous people of New Zealand, though not all museums have come to such enlightenment. There are worries that the repatriated remains might pose a big problem for some museums by creating a precedent. The Louvre, for example, houses many Egyptian mummies. Those fears have been downplayed by lawmakers who say the return of the heads, once prized for the intricate and traditional tattoos adorning them, is unique to the Maori situation, because the men had been killed to satisfy the collectors.

Do you have a rant or a rave?

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**NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ON THE NOVA GAS TRANSMISSION LTD. (NGTL)  
HORN RIVER PROJECT**

The National Energy Board (Board) has scheduled an oral public hearing on an application from NGTL under the *National Energy Board Act* to construct and operate the proposed Horn River Project. The proceeding will also consider matters required by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Copies of the application are available for viewing on the Board's Internet site at [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca) (click on "View" Regulatory Documents then "Quick Links" and scroll down to the application), at NGTL's office (450 1st Street SW, Calgary); the Board's library (1st floor, 444 7th Avenue SW, Calgary); Fort Nelson Public Library (5315 – 50th Avenue South, Fort Nelson, BC); Northern Rockies Municipal Office (5319 – 50th Avenue South, Fort Nelson, BC); High Level Municipal Library (10601 – 103 Street, High Level, AB); and Mackenzie County – High Level Office (10709 – 93 Street, High Level, AB).

**PROJECT DETAILS**

The Horn River Project is a proposed extension of the Alberta System that will consist of two primary components: the acquisition and operation of the existing NEB-regulated Ekwon pipeline facilities owned by EnCana Ekwon Pipeline Inc. and the construction and operation of new facilities.

The Horn River Project will include:

- a new pipeline from the west end of the Ekwon pipeline north to the Cabin Gas Plant, proposed by EnCana Corporation (EnCana) (the Cabin Section), consisting of approximately 72 kilometres (km) of 914 millimetre (mm) (NPS 36) outside diameter (OD) pipeline and related facilities, including two new meter stations (Sierra meter station and Cabin meter station);
- a new pipeline from an interconnection near the north end of the Cabin Section north-northeast to the Fort Nelson North Plant, proposed by Westcoast Energy Inc., carrying on business as Spectra Energy Transmission (Westcoast) (the Komie East Extension), consisting of approximately 2.2 km of 610 mm (NPS 24) OD pipeline and related facilities, including a new meter station (Komie East meter station);
- modifications to the existing Ekwon Pipeline Assets, comprised of approximately 83 km of 610 mm (NPS 24) OD pipeline and related pipeline facilities and appurtenances, including a new meter station (Little Hay Creek meter station); and
- temporary infrastructure during construction, including a 500 to 700 person pipeline construction camp, access roads, stockpile sites and contractor yards.

Approximately 47 km of the total new pipeline length of 74 km consists of non-contiguous right-of-way, including both the Cabin Section and Komie East Extension. With approximately 47 km of new right-of-way (ROW), the Horn River Project is subject to a screening level environmental assessment.

NGTL is proposing to begin construction in the second quarter of 2011 and the proposed inservice date is the second quarter of 2012.

**ORAL PUBLIC HEARING**

The oral portion of the hearing will start at **9:00 a.m., local time, 26 October 2010 at a location to be determined**. The hearing will obtain the evidence and views of interested persons on the application. Any person interested in participating in the oral portion of the hearing should consult the Board's Hearing Order GH-2-2010 for further background and instructions. The deadline for filing applications to intervene is **4 June 2010** and for providing a letter of comment or to register to provide an oral statement on the application is **4 August 2010**. Federal or provincial government authorities may participate by filing a letter of comment, providing an oral statement, seeking Intervenor status or by filing a declaration that they will be a Government Participant by **28 May 2010**. Further details can be found in the Hearing Order.

**INFORMATION FOR INTERVENORS**

Any person who may have become aware of the proceeding by the Notice of Public Hearing published in *Windspeaker* and who wishes to intervene in the hearing must file an application to intervene by **noon, Calgary time, 4 June 2010** with the Secretary of the Board and serve a copy on NGTL and its counsel at each of the following addresses:

Mr. Joel Forrest  
TransCanada PipeLines Limited  
450 1st Street SW  
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1  
Facsimile 403-920-2354

Ms. Adrienne Menzies  
TransCanada PipeLines Limited  
450 1st Street SW  
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Mr. Shawn H.T. Denstedt  
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You may use a form on the Board's Internet site to file an application to intervene. Go to [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca) and click "Submit" under the "Regulatory Documents" heading, click "Submit Documents Electronically" – then "Application for Intervenor Status". NGTL will serve a copy of the application and related documentation on each Intervenor.

**LETTERS OF COMMENT AND ORAL STATEMENTS**

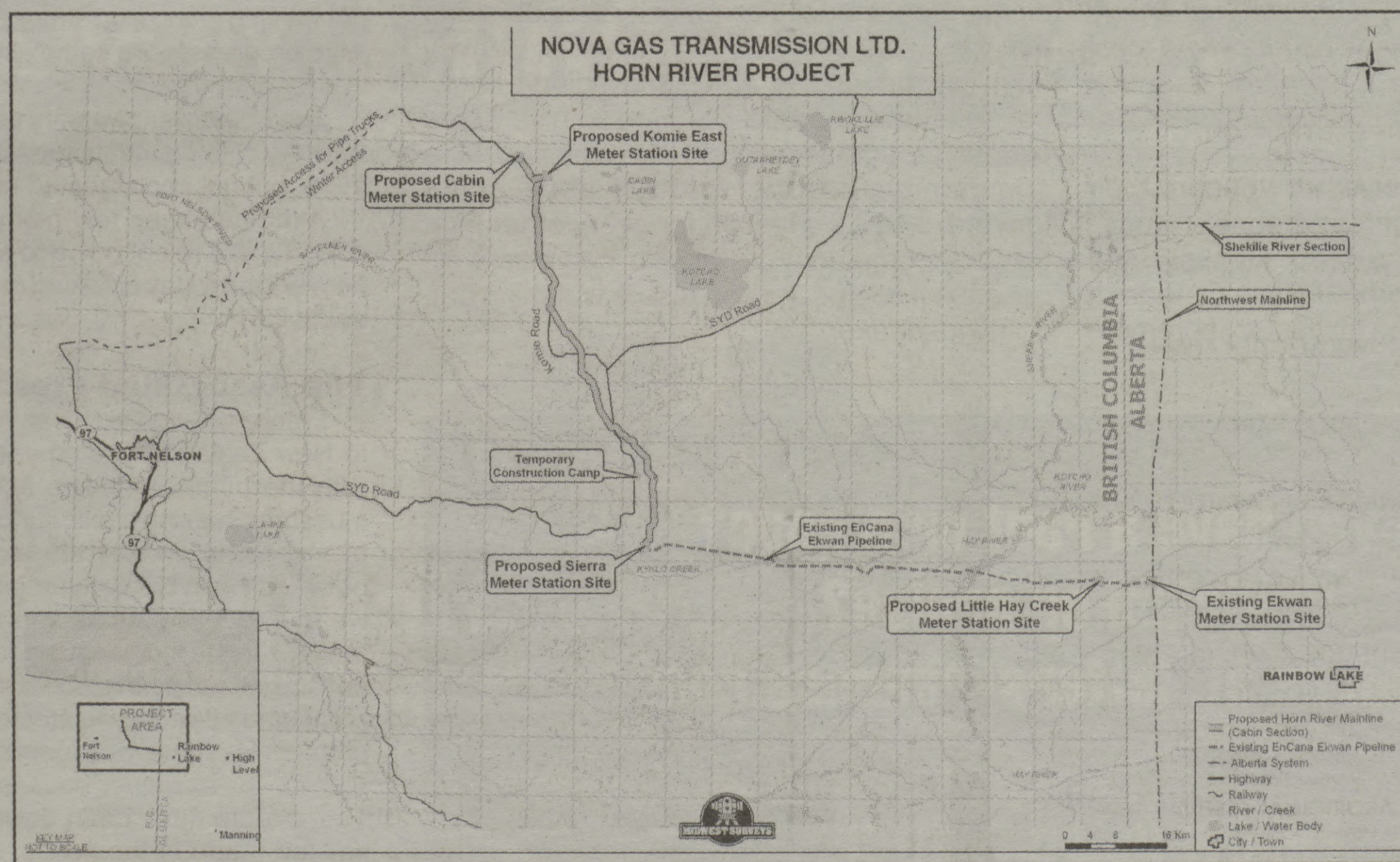
Any person wishing only to comment on the application should file a letter of comment with the Secretary of the Board and send a copy to NGTL and its counsel by **noon, Calgary time, 4 August 2010**.

The Board will also set aside time, at the commencement of the oral portion of the hearing, to hear comments on the application. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement must file a letter with the Board requesting the opportunity to make an oral statement and send a copy to NGTL and its counsel by **noon, Calgary time, 4 August 2010**. You may use forms on the Board's Internet site to file your letter of comment or request to make an oral statement. Go to [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca). Click "Submit" under the "Regulatory Documents" heading, click "Submit Documents Electronically" – then "Letter of Comment" or "Request to Make an Oral Statement".

**INFORMATION ON HEARING PROCEDURES**

You may access the Hearing Order through the Board's Internet site at [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca) (click on "Regulatory Documents" then "Quick Links", scroll down to the Horn River Project, then "Hearing Order" at the top of the screen). You may obtain information on the procedures for this hearing or on the *National Energy Board Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1995*, as amended (Rules) SOR/95-208, governing all hearings (available in English and French) by writing to the Secretary of the Board, or by contacting Danielle Comte, Regulatory Officer, at 403-299-2731 or at 1-800-899-1265. You may also go to the Board's Internet site and click on "Acts and Regulations" to access the Board's Rules and other legislation.

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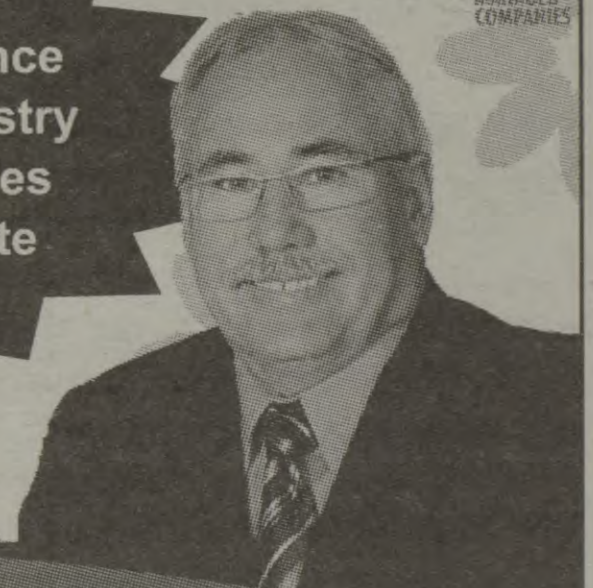
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# Time now to act on language revitalization

By Debora Steel  
Windspeaker Contributor

## TSARTLIP FIRST NATION, B.C.

John Elliott's father used to say "It's almost too late, but it's not quite too late. There is still time, if we hurry, if we rush and get the work done."

That was 36 years ago, and John's father Dave is now gone, as are many of the other elders John worked with in his efforts to protect and perpetuate the First Nations language in his community.

John is a teacher. He has been for 37 years.

"Working in the area of the Saanich language revitalization has been quite a job," he told a gathering on April 30. The occasion was the release of a report on the status of BC First Nations languages. If it was almost too late 36 years ago to sustain the First Nations' language in the community, it's at a crisis point now. There are only three of 18 fluent speakers left, John said.

The event was held at the LAU, WELNEW Tribal School Cultural Building. John said the name comes from an event from long ago, when the people of Saanich survived a flood. It's a sacred name that means place of escape, place of refuge, place of healing.

It's an appropriate place to hold a discussion about the protection

of First Nations languages against a tsunami wave that's swept them to the brink of extinction.

John brought his school students into the gathering to sing a prayer song for the languages in B.C., all of which fall into three worrisome categories of endangerment: Severely endangered, nearly extinct and sleeping.

This last category means there are no living speakers left. Three languages of the 32 in the province fall into this last category. Twenty-two are nearly extinct, no longer being learned by adults or children and only spoken by a few elderly people.

British Columbia is home to 60 per cent of the Indigenous languages in Canada, and across the province there is only 5.1 per cent of the entire Indigenous population fluent in all of them. That's down 95 per cent in 120 years. A shocking statistic by anyone's yardstick.

"That's scary data," said Cliff Atleo, Sr., president of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, and one of only 115 fluent speakers left of the Nuu-chah-nulth language.

Gitsnimx tops the charts with 1,219 fluent speakers and is teetering between endangered and severely endangered. At the bottom is Nicola, Pent'ac, and Wetalh, with zero fluent speakers. These languages will never be heard spoken fluently again.

Hannah Amrhein, a researcher who worked on the language

report, said colonization, historic English-only policies, the residential school system, which caused a huge interruption in the transmission of First Nations languages as a mother tongue, are in part to blame for the dramatic decrease in First Nations language use.

But there are also reasons why revitalization efforts struggle along.

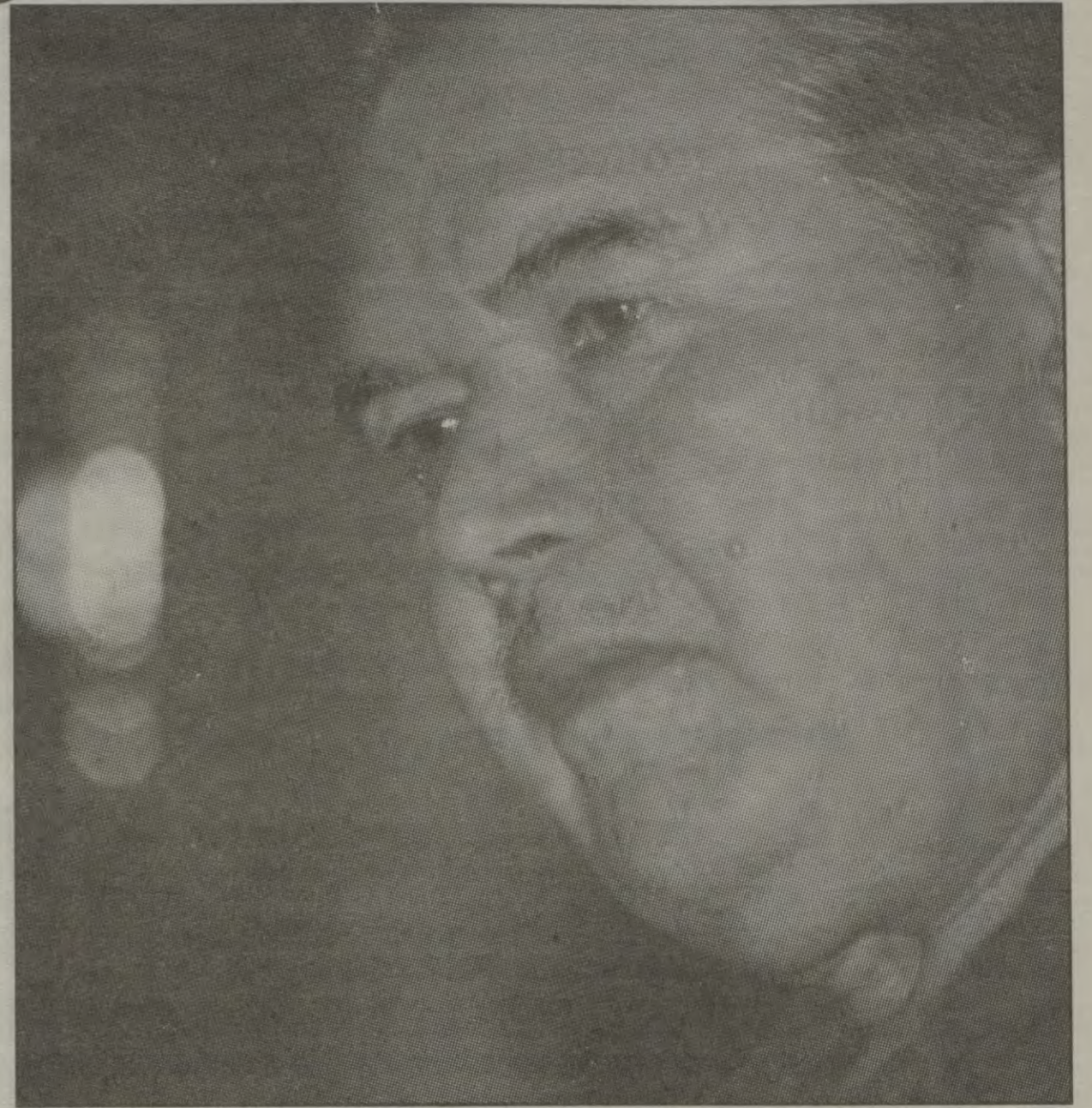
"First Nations languages are largely excluded from government, higher education, business, media," said Amrhein. "There is also a lack of resources and funding for language revitalization efforts."

She said language "is our very way of life. Without it we have no tradition, no culture. It means everything to us."

When language is lost, it means more than there are just no more speakers of the language.

"Thousands of years of accumulated cultural nuances, rituals, practices, philosophies, ideas, belief, intricate details about a way of life are lost when a language is lost... Through language people are connected to their history, ancestors, land, where they come from, who their relations are and connection between the generations are lost when a language is lost.

"Health is put at risk. Healthy, productive, strong communities and individuals are closely correlated with knowledge of one's language and culture... Cultural, historic



John Elliot

PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

scientific, ecological, biological knowledge. Each language contains an immense amount of knowledge and that's lost when a language is lost, and not only from First Nations communities, but the sum of all human knowledge," Amrhein explained.

The time to act is now, she insisted.

"We have such a limited number of years left because so many of our fluent speakers are elders." The vast majority that make up that 5.1 per cent fluency rate are people over the age of 65.

"The other really shocking part

of this is that under the age of 24 only 1.5 per cent of the population is fluent speakers, so this is the exact opposite of what we would like to see for our languages to be thriving."

Language is the heart and soul of a nation, said John Elliott.

"You can't have a nation without the language... All our laws, our family laws, our teachings and our beliefs are in that language and that's what holds our nations together," he said.

(See Language on page 10.)

# Language preservation is now a click, drag away

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## SAGAMOK FIRST NATION, Ont.

An Ontario First Nation has incorporated modern technology to help preserve some of the oldest Indigenous languages in Canada's history.

Sagamok First Nation has teamed up with a simulation software company to produce a program that is designed to archive Aboriginal languages, while being an interactive teaching tool for everyone from young children to their parents.

"We all have technology in our face now and this is a nice opportunity to leverage that technology to preserve cultures and information going forward," said president and CEO of mySmartSimulations Inc Bill Cornelius. His company partnered with Sagamok in 2009 to create a product that would complement their community's strategy to cultivate more Native speakers of Ojibway.

The WILD Vernacular: Language Preservation Kit includes a laptop, microphone, wireless mouse, external hard-drive and the appropriate software to allow users to store any language, along with complimentary video and

photographs.

The kit made its debut in March at the Anishinaabemowin-Teg Language Conference in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

A booth was set up at the annual conference to promote the new device and hopefully encourage other bands to consider the modern tool to help preserve Indigenous languages across the country.

The plan seems to have worked. "We did the language conference and we received a call right away. We weren't expecting it to happen so soon," said Sagamok human resources manager Andrea Pesci, who is in the process of preparing a new kit to ship out to their first customer that placed an order at the conference.

The preservation kit retails for \$3,995 and is shipped to communities throughout Canada and the United States within three to four weeks. For an additional fee, bands can access upgraded software that connects the entire community with the vernacular system.

Cornelius, whose company is based out of New York, said he is excited his company could help create a cost effective device that empowers First Nations to preserve their own language for a modest price.

"Our mission is to preserve the

language, not to become millionaires," said Cornelius.

He added that when it comes to language preservation within Canada's Aboriginal population, Sagamok First Nation is the ideal band to help guide other communities who have the desire to record their language for future generations.

Located on the north shore of Lake Huron, Sagamok has created an immersion program that is producing students who are fluent in Ojibway by the third grade.

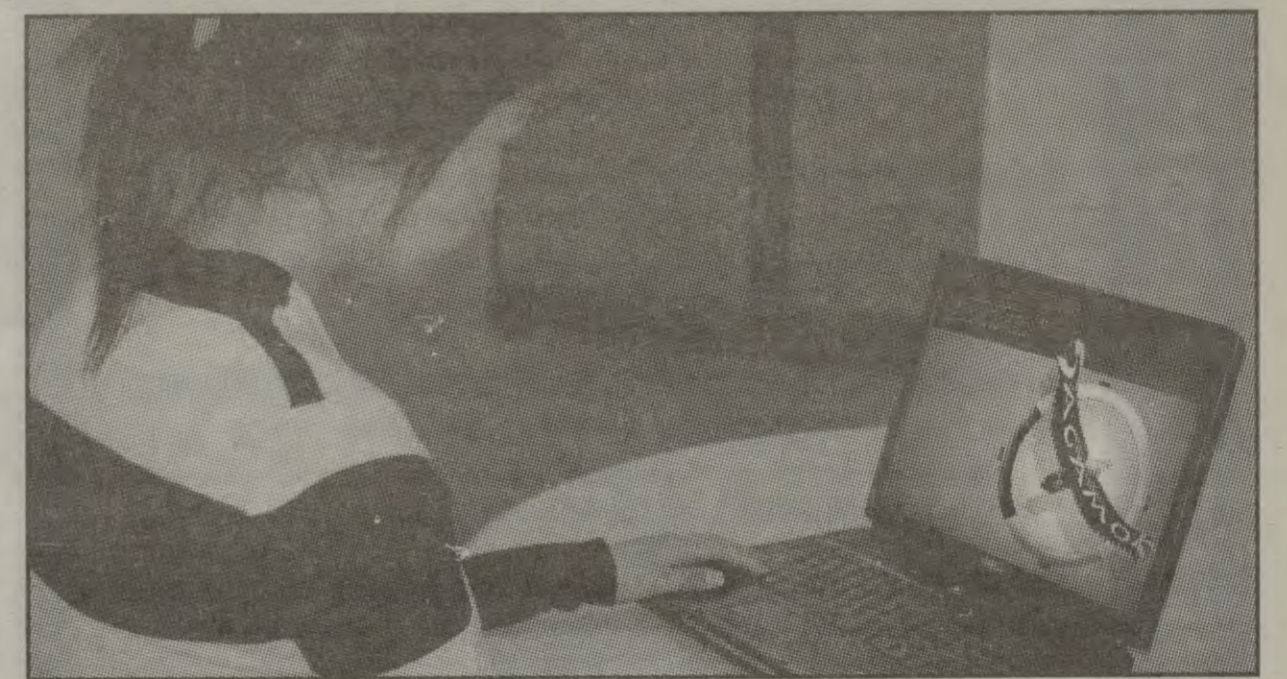
"It's amazing how the students are retaining the language," said Pesci. "The teachers want to get [the kit] into the classroom because now that the students are fluent, they want them to start recording their stories."

In a 2006 census, Statistics Canada recorded that 12 per cent of Ontario's Aboriginal population had knowledge of an Aboriginal language.

Many researchers have linked a healthy sense of identity to Aboriginal people who have knowledge of their ancestral language.

The president of Quebec Native Women Ellen Gabriel spoke out at the ninth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held April 22 on the sorry state of Indigenous languages in Canada.

A 2009 auditor general report



Language preservation and perpetuation are the goals for the new language kit developed in cooperation with Sagamok First Nation.

predicts that only three of 50-plus Indigenous languages currently spoken across the country will likely survive the end of the century.

The potential loss of 94 per cent of Canada's first languages could affect every aspect of Aboriginal culture.

"Language is more than just a form of expression and communication for Indigenous peoples," said Gabriel in her speech. "It contains vital information that links us to our ancestors, our history, is the base of our spirituality and teaches us how to care and communicate with the land."

The first template of the WILD Vernacular: Language Preservation Kit was created eight months ago. Since then, both

partners have tweaked issues of sound quality and software design.

Sagamok is in the process of organizing a Webinar- a seminar available online- that will be used to showcase how the language kit works. Pesci said the online seminar is the perfect opportunity for interested bands to learn more about the kit before they purchase.

mySmartSimulations Inc was founded in 2001 and is the original creator behind Worldwide Interactive Learning Designer (WILD), an application that specializes in custom interactive training courses.

More information is available at: <http://www.mysmartsim.com/vernacular.asp>



# Ed John takes up international responsibility

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## VANCOUVER

Even though Grand Chief Edward John had the support of prominent First Nations organizations as he bid for the job of representing Canada's Indigenous peoples on the international stage, he was ultimately selected to the post for his expertise.

The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues announced on April 28 that John, along with 15 other delegates from around the world, had been chosen to serve three-year terms from January 2011 to 2013.

"They appoint expert bodies because they want them to be independent of member states, independent of any sort of organizations that have some sort of interest," said Broddi Sigurdarson, social affairs officer with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

Originally from Tl'azt'en Nation in British Columbia, John was chosen as the North American member of the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum following nominations from the Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit.

Sigurdarson explained that these high-profile recommendations certainly contributed to John getting the appointment, but ultimately it is his experience and knowledge of Indigenous issues that qualified him for the position.

Out of the 16-member panel, eight representatives are elected by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, while the other half are appointments based on nominations from Indigenous organizations. A member is chosen from each region of the world: North America, Latin America and Caribbean, Africa, Asia, the Pacific, the Russian Federation Eastern Europe, Trans-Caucasias, and the Arctic.

"It's a big challenge and I welcome it," said John about his new position. "It's an important forum for Indigenous peoples worldwide."

John said he plans to make strides in the area of treaty rights, and in pushing for the remaining states that have opposed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to endorse the document.

"Once we have all of the four countries endorse it, it becomes more of a consensus document," said John.

In March, the government of Canada announced it would take steps to endorse the declaration which they voted against when it was adopted around the world in September 2007.

John, who has been a lawyer for the past 30 years, acknowledged that with this position comes



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Grand Chief Edward John in front of the United Nations building in New York.



PHOTO: FILE

Edward John speaking at a 2008 International Conference on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples held in North Vancouver.

great responsibility. He is confident, however, that his legal background and one particular close friend will help.

The former co-chair of the North American Indigenous Caucus feels confident knowing that if he needs guidance he can call upon the former Permanent Forum appointee for North America, Wilton Littlechild, who is now a commissioner with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a group that sprang from the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement in Canada.

"He's probably Canada's guru of knowledge when it comes to Indigenous issues," said John. "He's a good guy to have in your corner."

Littlechild, who became a lawyer in 1976, graduating with a degree from the University of Alberta, served two consecutive

terms with the Permanent Forum from 2002 to 2007.

"When you are dealing with specific agenda issues, whether it's health or education, they all have a rights-based approach, so to be familiar with the legal perspective is very helpful," explained Littlechild, who was confident that John's legal background is an advantage while he holds a seat on the forum.

John beat out three other Aboriginal nominees for the position.

Grand Chief John is currently serving his eighth consecutive term on the First Nations Summit Task Group, the organization representing the British Columbia First Nations involved in treaty negotiations.

The 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Permanent Forum will be held in New York from May 16 to 27, 2011.

## Windspeaker news briefs

### WAYNE MCQUABBIE, CHIEF OF

Henvey Inlet First Nation, said his community is "pleased and relieved" that Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has revoked the charitable status of the Henvey Inlet First Nation Community Support Organization, believing that the revocation will help their lawsuit against the group. A report released to the nation about the support organization's operations "absolutely astounded us," said McQuabbie.

"The audit report alleges the charity maintained secret bank accounts, and it appears millions of dollars in so-called 'donations' were funneled through those accounts and cannot be accounted for," he said. "Our First Nation was kept in the dark about the workings of the organization, which was actually run out of Winnipeg, not here." The nation is located in northern Ontario.

He said Henvey Inlet First Nation has been co-operating with Canada Revenue Agency in its inquiry into the financial operations of the charity. "One of the first things I found when I took office in 2007 was a suspicious book of tax receipts. When I started adding those receipts up, I knew it far exceeded the small amount of funds we had seen managed by the organization." The chief said \$44 million in receipts were issued for cash from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2008. The nation of about 150 people received less than one per cent of those funds.

An internal inquiry uncovered a scheme involving tax loopholes, hundreds of wealthy off-reserve taxpayers, and off-shore bank accounts, said McQuabbie. But where were the millions now?

"I want to emphasize, and I am sure that First Nations people know this, this issue didn't originate in our community, and it doesn't reflect on the character of the band or its members. We have operated in a completely open and transparent fashion."

The decision to launch a civil law suit against the charity's trustees was made after extensive consideration and advice from forensic auditors, lawyers and accountants. The former trustees of the support organization have been removed.

"For many of the trustees, it appears their only mistake was trusting someone's word, that of a particular consultant," Chief McQuabbie emphasized. "I think they were being used" he added.

### THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON

Aboriginal Peoples is calling for the creation of a First Nations electoral and appeals commission. The commission would be an independent body designed to hear First Nations elections appeals which could also strengthen and promote increased electoral capacity for First Nations and help develop effective, transparent, and accountable First Nations governments and election practices.

A new report entitled First Nations Elections: The Choice is Inherently Theirs also concluded that the existing two-year term of office imposed on First Nations by the Indian Act is too short to provide political and economic stability, often creating deep divisions in communities. It calls for a commitment from Indian and Northern Affairs to assist First Nations who currently hold elections under the Indian Act to revert to "customary" or community-based codes. This would enable nations to design and affirm the details of their self-governance regime in the best way to achieve lasting solutions.

"Our committee acknowledges that governing is increasingly a complex and challenging task, which is why we believe greater support must be made available to First Nations to assist in the development of effective management and administrative practices" said Senator Gerry St. Germain, chair of the committee. "A First Nations Electoral and Appeals Commission could assist in developing capacity in terms of governance and professional services."

The committee called on First Nations leadership to ensure appropriate consultation mechanisms are used to make certain all community members can meaningfully contribute to the development and implementation of community-based codes.

"This report recognizes that the key to improving First Nations elections systems and citizen-centred accountability lies in fully recognizing First Nations jurisdiction over the design and control of our election codes," said Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, who welcomed the report. "We would like to build on the recommendations contained in this report and discuss ways we can support the capacity of our nations to re-build their own systems of governing."

The report stated that Indian and Northern Affairs should provide specific funds to support First Nations governments in developing and implementing community-based codes and for conducting elections. Currently, First Nations are not provided with any specific allocation for carrying out elections, and must reallocate from other priorities. This has put enormous strain on chronically under-resourced First Nation governments, said Atleo, especially for First Nations who hold elections under the Indian Act, which currently occur every two years. Read the full report and list of recommendations at [www.senate-senat.ca/abor-autoch.asp](http://www.senate-senat.ca/abor-autoch.asp).

# Average councilor salary only \$31,000 a year

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## EAR FALLS, Ont.

At least one band member from the Wabauskang First Nation near Ear Falls, Ont. has asked the federal government for salary figures for his chief and council.

Wabauskang Chief Cameron Leslie thinks it's an election ploy. Members go to the poll to vote on June 12 and Leslie is being challenged for his position by one of two sitting councilors.

"I think people are just being mean or sneaky to one another," said Leslie.

He said it is not his council's practice to post the nation's audited financial statement for ready access of the general public. But he's not keeping the information away from his community members, he said.

"It's public information. If they want (it), they can come and see us. But they've never come to see us."

Leslie said council met with band members in early May and "showed our cheques there." However, it wasn't enough and another meeting was scheduled to provide additional information.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) requires band councils to make annual financial audited statements available to

members. According to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) this isn't happening.

The Wabauskang First Nation is one of seven First Nations that appear on the federation's Web site under the heading "information request tracking." Wabauskang is the only Ontario band, but there are three named from Saskatchewan and three named from Manitoba. The site states that "information requests (were) made by band members to the federal government." The list is made up of the requests the CTF has been copied on or made aware of.

The CTF is pushing that the salaries paid to chief and council for the 600-plus First Nations across the country be made public, not only to band members but to all Canadians. It's an issue the federation has taken up because "we've been selected by concerned whistleblowers on reserves right now," said Scott Hennig, Alberta director with CTF.

In recent weeks, Hennig said the federation was the recipient of "brown envelopes" from band members who were "somehow able to obtain financial and salary documents for us to make public."

Hennig said that not only do band members have difficulty getting salary information from their councils, but they become frustrated dealing with INAC to

get the information.

Genieve Guibert, media relations officer with INAC, said if band members can't get the information from their council, the department "works with the First Nation government to ensure that the information is released." Guibert didn't elaborate on what steps INAC takes.

Hennig said band members find they get the run-around from both council and INAC when it comes to getting those figures.

To that end, CTF recently launched the Web site [www.reservetransparency.ca](http://www.reservetransparency.ca) "to help you know your rights and how to receive information" according to the Web site.

Joseph Quesnel, a policy analyst with the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, views the Web site as a valuable tool to walk First Nations members through the process of getting the information they want.

"A lot of band members report difficulty getting the financial data for the salaries of their chief and council," said Quesnel, whose organization conducts an annual Aboriginal Government Index study in which band members of participating First Nations in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta are asked to comment on transparency and administration.

"Members need to know that

their leaders are getting paid what the community feels is just," said Quesnel. He noted that since the community doesn't directly pay their chief and council and since each band council votes for its own salary, transparency is that much more important.

"As much as possible (salary) information should be able to be published, but they still need to be respectful of private business dealings," said Quesnel.

Leslie said if a band council is "willing to do things fairly, honestly, we should have nothing to hide."

Leslie said his salary is less than what the previous chief made and noted that if he were to be paid for all the hours spent conducting business on behalf of Wabauskang First Nation, he would "bankrupt the band." Leslie brings in \$2,000 every two weeks, as well as receiving a honorarium for representing Wabauskang at other meetings, such as Treaty 3. Wabauskang First Nation has 80 people living on reserve. Leslie said his salary and that of his council is set "to try to keep everybody all surviving." Leslie also has a part-time job in the community. He said that chief and council salaries at Wabauskang "are a lot lower than what other bands receive."

According to INAC's Web site, in 2008-2009 the average wage

for the position of chief was \$60,000, ranging from \$0 (volunteer) to \$250,000; and an average councilor's wage was \$31,000, ranging from \$0 to \$216,000.

Information received by the taxpayers' federation claimed that the four leaders of the 535-member Ochi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First Nation in Manitoba were paid the taxable equivalent of about \$144,000 each in 2008-2009, plus travel expenses, while Chief Harry Sharphead of the Enoch Cree First Nation in Alberta, with an on- and off-reserve population of about 2,000 citizens earned \$180,000 per year.

According to INAC's Web site: "There are a number of factors that are typically considered by a First Nation in determining the remuneration for their elected officials including their responsibilities and duties; the size of the community; the complexity of the business operations in the community; the own-source revenue of the community, etc."

Hennig said since taxpayers pick up the federal portion of chiefs' and councilors' pay, dollar figures should be made available to the general public and not only band members.

"If we're going to sit as leadership we should be willing to let people know what we're making," said Leslie.

# Deeper cuts than expected leave crabbers angry

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## LISTUGUJ MI'GMAQ FIRST NATION, N.B.

The department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has a different definition of "meaningful consultation" than one New Brunswick First Nation.

Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation is preparing for one of their toughest years with a government-imposed 63 per cent cut in the harvesting quota of snow crab.

DFO made the announcement in April.

The band's natural resources department said major decisions made by the federal ministry did not include proper consultation with affected First Nations.

However, a spokesperson for DFO referred to a specific meeting on March 10 in Moncton, N.B. that allowed both government and First Nations communities to discuss the 2010 Snow Crab Management Plan.

"According to our views it's not meaningful consultation, based on what we feel consultation should be," said Listuguj Mi'gmaq Assistant Director of Natural Resources Delphine Metallic. She attended the government advisory meeting on behalf of her band.

The meeting allowed stakeholders of the snow crab industry an opportunity to voice their concerns about the severe slash of total allowable catch (TAC).

Metallic said she took the opportunity to voice the

frustration of her entire First Nation that expected a reduction in the snow crab TAC, but only budgeted for a 40 per cent decrease.

According to Metallic, last year's TAC for Listuguj was 801 metric tonnes, but this year it has plummeted to 295 metric tonnes.

"The stock collapsing was so severe that a steep cut was recommended," said the department of Fisheries and Oceans spokesperson Nelson Kalil.

Metallic said a representative from Fisheries and Oceans should have traveled to the First Nation to discuss the impacts of their decision with every stakeholder. That is the definition of meaningful consultation, according to the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government.

In a press release on April 23, Listuguj stated that it is seeking compensation for the economic loss they will experience from the new plan.

Kalil said, in the past, his department has issued relief packages for lobster fishers, but he could not confirm the snow crab stakeholders would receive similar compensation.

Listuguj forecasts the cut in their snow crab catch will equate to a \$1.7 million loss of revenue. Metallic said Listuguj relies on the profits they earn from their snow crab industry to help support post-secondary and language programs for their band.

Metallic stressed that conservation is a priority for Listuguj, but concern over the loss of revenue is still an issue.

Other snow crab fishermen in New Brunswick have publicly voiced their concerns around job security now that the TAC has dwindled. Since the announcement, protests have begun, which demand for Canada's Fisheries Minister Gail Shea to resign.

Shea has responded to the attacks by stressing the importance of conserving snow crab stocks in order for them to rebound in 2012.

Listuguj is one of the largest Mi'gmaq communities on the East Coast and is located on the border of Quebec and New Brunswick.

Snow crabs are caught in traps, from sandy bottoms in depths of one to 470 metres. The fishing season runs from April to November.

# Language revitalization

(Continued from page 8.)

He and his siblings work to build their own fluency with their 90-year-old mother in the master-apprentice program offered through the First People's Heritage, Language and Culture Council.

His mother spent from the time she was four years old until 11

years old in the boarding school.

"She was told never, ever teach your children the language. Never ever pass that along. .. That's the story of our past. That's B.C.'s history. That's Canada's history. We can't ignore it."

Elliott is working to turn the grim statistics on language around. He's created immersion

programs within the school because of his experience with his mother and other elders.

"It helps your abilities and confidence," he said of being immersed in the language daily. "You can hear better, you can speak words better."

The adults in the community are offered language programs,

because there's no sense in teaching the children if they have no one to speak the language to when they get home.

His community is creating a core of dedicated teachers of the language and soon will be offering a degree program in language revitalization in partnership with the University of Victoria and the

Saanich Indian School Board.

John Elliott is considered a language champion and he encourages all communities to champion language as well.

"We have to build capacity in our communities immediately. Not sometime later, because there is no later for us. It has to be done now."

# No harmony in the HST Debate

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## VANCOUVER

The clock is ticking. The controversial Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) has a scheduled implementation date of July 1 in both Ontario and British Columbia. HST is the combined tax of both the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) at seven per cent and GST at five per cent. The new tax will now apply to purchases that were previously not covered by PST.

Despite protests and petitions, First Nations leaders say their concerns about the HST are being brushed aside by both the provincial and federal governments.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), has loudly opposed the 12 per cent tax. He has said the new tax will severely impact First Nations who struggle with high poverty rates.

Phillip said UBCIC has attempted repeatedly to set up a meeting with BC Finance Minister Colin Hansen to discuss the issues First Nations have with the HST. They have yet to hear

a reply back from the minister's office.

"There is really no response from the government of Canada or Minister Hansen here in B.C.," said Phillip. "They seem really focused on ramming this thing through."

Minister Hansen issued a statement to Windspeaker via email on May 17. He said his office had recently responded to Phillip's correspondence, which was accompanied with an apology for the delay. He said HST will, in fact, be in the best interest of its biggest opponent.

"Industries, such as mining and forestry, will benefit from the proposed HST, because it will lower costs for these job-creating industries, keeping British Columbia competitive and encouraging investment," explained Hansen. "Strong resource industries are able to make investments that result in more jobs and support other community businesses, especially in rural and remote communities, and should therefore benefit First Nations."

Critics of HST say corporations will profit from the new tax system, while low-income consumers will struggle to keep up with higher costs.

Phillip, who referred to many First Nations as "the poorest of the poor," said his people and other low-income households would suffer the most from having to pay the taxes on items that were once exempt under PST.

UBCIC has scheduled a chiefs council meeting for the first week of June, where former premier Bill Vander Zalm is scheduled as a guest speaker. Phillip has worked very closely with Vander Zalm on his high-profile anti-HST citizen's campaign.

The campaign has 90 days to gather the signatures of a minimum 10 per cent of registered voters in each constituency. If successful the HST legislation would be repealed and the issue referred to a referendum.

The campaign includes a Web site that encourages visitors to sign his "fight HST petition."

As of May 17, Vander Zalm's Web site reported that the petition had reached 500,000 signatures, halfway to their goal of gathering 15 per cent of BC's registered voters.

"It looks like they have a very strong chance of delivering this petition into the legislature with

more than enough signatures," said Phillip.

Despite the determination of UBCIC to overturn the decision to impose HST, Phillip acknowledged that his counterparts in Ontario have an even bigger battle when it comes to the effects of the new tax.

In Ontario, First Nations' biggest concern surrounding the tax has been the loss of their point-of-sale exemption on the PST portion of the tax. This is something First Nations in B.C. do not receive.

Following weeks of several organized protests by First Nations throughout Ontario, the government of Ontario issued a press release on May 5 that said they are committed to working "shoulder to shoulder" with First Nations to encourage the federal government to maintain the point-of-sale exemption on goods and services purchased off the reserve.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed, but Grand Chief Randall Phillips of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians is concerned that the MOU, while a step in the right direction, is merely a band-aid, administrative solution.

"Our concern is, at the end of the day, what will this MOA accomplish in terms of tangible items?" asked Phillips, who is not comfortable with the wording used in the document.

The press release concludes with a paragraph that reminds First Nations that the decision on the point-of-sale tax exemption is ultimately up to the federal government, which will administer the HST as it does the GST.

Phillips said he predicts the government of Canada won't be easily swayed.

"Here in Ontario they just give us lip-service," said Phillips.

HST in Ontario will be slightly higher than B.C. at 13 per cent.

On May 17, the Canadian Press reported that Batchewana First Nation of Sault Ste. Marie has threatened to blockade rail traffic in protest of HST, while Garden River First Nation is considering collecting a toll from motorists traveling on its highway.

NDP leader Jack Layton has gone on record as saying he will try to convince Prime Minister Stephen Harper to avoid the emerging conflict and to take action immediately.

# Courts deport First Nation child to Caribbean

By Jennifer Ashawasegai  
Windspeaker Contributor

## HENVEY INLET FIRST NATION, Ont.

Nathan McQuabbie's home used to be filled with a child's chatter and giggles during weekend visits with his daughter. Now, there's silence. His daughter, Makyla, who is almost three years old, has been deported with her mother to St. Lucia.

The story is both complicated and messy.

The deportation order came down April 16. The mother, a 29-year-old failed refugee claimant, had custody of Makyla. McQuabbie, 26, had visitation rights under a temporary order. But, despite that, the young girl had been staying with him since mid-December, with little or no contact from her mom.

His daughter had been staying with him because mom had lost a spot at a Parry Sound daycare and needed his help so she could continue to work. At the time, in December last year, McQuabbie was unemployed. He soon found work so he could care for his little girl.

McQuabbie says during Makyla's four-month stay with him at the home he shared with his grandmother on Henvey Inlet First Nation, "Nothing was changed with the temporary order."

Even though McQuabbie improved his life for his daughter, the details revealed in court during custody hearings, that fact

didn't carry a lot of weight.

"[The judge] recognized the fact that my relation with Makyla was improving, as was my situation with a stable home and income."

Not only did the child have a stable environment in which to live, Makyla had a whole community surrounding her, rich in family and culture. As a Status Indian under the Indian Act, the child was eligible for health, dental and education benefits.

Even though Makyla's First Nation citizenry was brought up in court, the Chief of Henvey Inlet First Nation, Wayne McQuabbie, feels "It almost seemed to be ignored," he said.

McQuabbie is afraid Makyla's good start will now be lost. According to him, the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia is rife with poverty.

"It's worse than any kind of Third World conditions on any First Nation in this country."

An Internet search reveals St. Lucia as a tourist destination with a warm tropical climate and advertised as a romantic getaway. With more digging, underneath the romantic veneer, a Unicef report from four years ago states that more than half the children in St. Lucia are 'at risk' and points to poverty as being the main factor. And according to the Central Intelligence Agency's world fact book, 14 years old is the average age when children leave school.

Chief McQuabbie agrees the country is not a good place for

the young girl to be raised.

"The poverty level in St. Lucia is very high. And if the child would have remained with the First Nation, she would have had access to health, education and cultural values. Our way of life would have been instilled in that child."

"Now I'm afraid those opportunities for that child aren't there," adds the chief.

The father adds, "The way I see it, Makyla is illegally in St. Lucia. She doesn't have her citizenship there. She was born a Canadian citizen and has a status card."

McQuabbie, without the benefit of a lawyer, and Makyla's mom had been back and forth in the courts for about two years on the matter of their daughter. Mom was also attending court on the separate matter of her immigration status, which was pulled that fateful day in April.

That was when mom's lawyer submitted a motion to rescind the temporary custody order. Although she had custody, under the order, she was not allowed to leave the province of Ontario.

Once the emergency motion was put in place, the child was taken from McQuabbie's care with Ontario Provincial Police assistance.

The toddler, with her bouncing curls, happily left with police. McQuabbie said "Makyla thought she was just going for a car ride. She didn't know she wasn't going to see Daddy again."

He was shocked when he found out that the child was to

be deported with her mother.

"I knew [mom] was going to be deported, regardless of what the situation was. I just didn't know whether or not my daughter was going with her. I had confidence in the courts that they would consider Makyla's best interest, which would have been to stay in the country with access to education, health and a community."

Given what's happened, McQuabbie had meetings with the chief of his community, along with child care services.

"There's been some ideas that have been tossed around," said McQuabbie. But since a situation like his has never been dealt with," he said,

"there isn't a permanent plan, but we're probably going to notify the St. Lucian government and social services explaining that Makyla has a father in Canada."

He says they will also tell the St. Lucian authorities that if anything goes wrong with the mother's situation, McQuabbie should be notified and have the child sent back to Canada.

McQuabbie is worried because he said the mother had left her

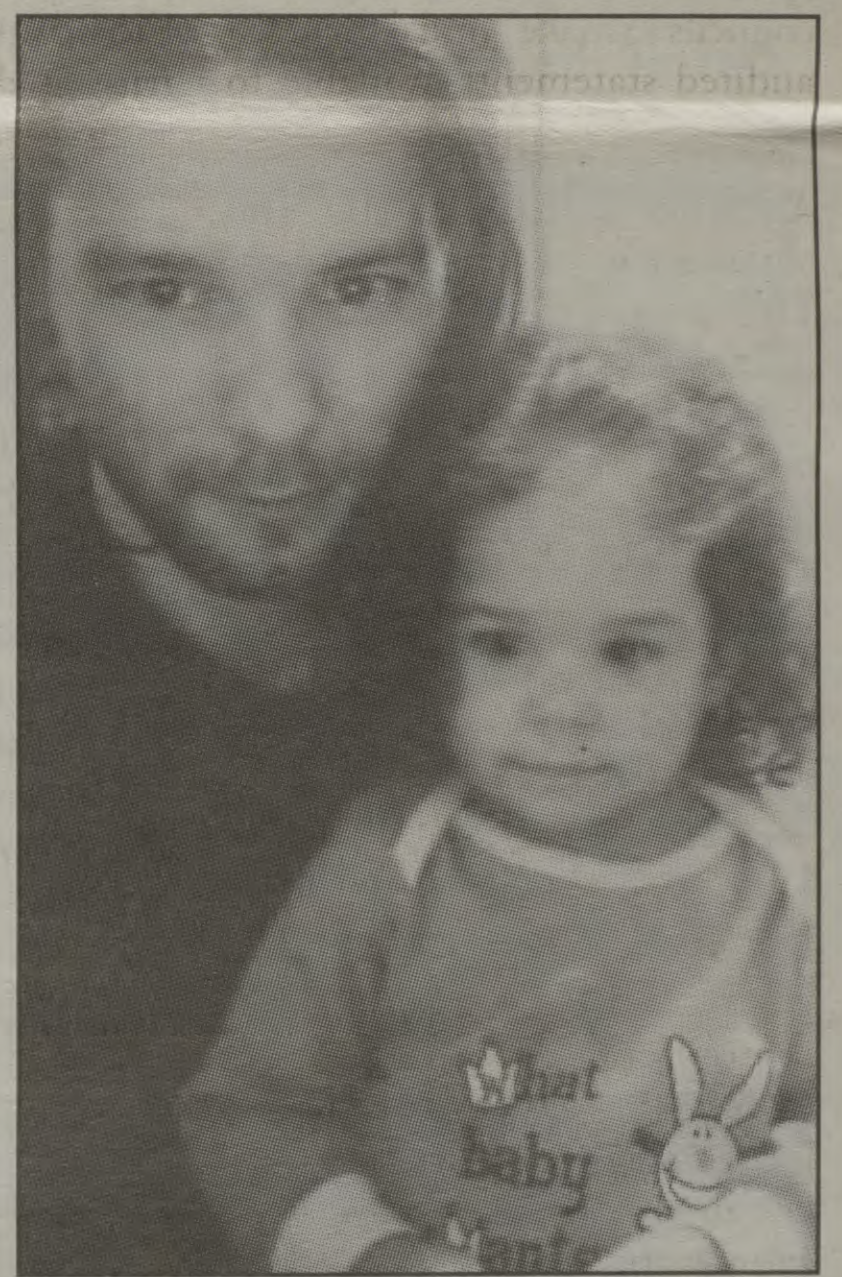


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY NATHAN MCQUABBIE.

The photo of Nathan McQuabbie and his daughter was taken more than one year ago, and is one of the few he has of his daughter and himself. The photo also serves as his Facebook profile picture.

two older children in St. Lucia and immigrated to Canada to make a better life for herself.

Chief McQuabbie said he's unsure of how the band is going to proceed in the case, and believes the onus is on the father to file an appeal.

"The band will support whatever the father decides to do."

The father says, "The ultimate goal is to get my daughter back."

[ strictly speaking ]

# Fear can be a spoken word

Just a few weeks ago I attended the Calgary Spoken Word Festival. Several dozen poets and other such spoken word artists gathered together to extol the virtues of speaking aloud to entertain an audience, just them and their words. So, the immediate question was 'What the hell was I doing there?'

I am not a spoken word artist. I am not a spoken word anything. I once ran a theatre company for three years and never once felt the need to get on stage and speak aloud words of emotion and knowledge to enthrall a paying audience and dazzle them with literary somersaults.

Normally, the only performing I used to allow myself to do was in singles bars. Even then I rarely got a round of applause.

Yes I've done quite a bit of lecturing to people in my day, but that is not performing. That is... lecturing. So there I was, sandwiched between hip hop artists and people who manage to make lines like "I saw a frozen coffee cup float by, half filled with regret" sound understandable and touching.



## THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

To try and prepare myself for this event, I actually did manage to write a poem. My first one since my angst ridden teenage years. This one went something like:

For I am old and bittersweet, because I refuse to twitter or tweet.

This was going to be my official submission to the Governor General's Literary Award for poetry, but I later thought against it. It came a little too easy, so I'm concerned I may have unconsciously stolen it from Homer's *The Iliad* or Shakespeare or something. I'm not sure.

Still it was an effort and the audience seemed to appreciate it, unless that was what in the entertainment business can be

called pity applause.

Still, I had been invited there for some reason. The powers-that-be at the festival claimed to have heard me speak and told me not to worry. 'Everything would be fine, don't worry,' said the White woman to the Indian. Worse yet, I was performing in an evening with all male poets, at an event called *Sexy Words, Hot Men*—the Chippendale's of Poetry, they advertised. That's all I needed, more pressure. I was worried I might not be able to...perform. I had visions of a literary version of *The Full Monty*, except it was more like *The Full Metaphor*.

Over the years I have been to an uncountable number of authors' festivals across Canada, and a few other countries to

boot, promoting my novels, plays, creative non-fiction and others. So, as I said, I am not afraid of reading to a crowd. But you'll notice this wasn't a reading festival. The poster said "spoken word."

For a few days after agreeing to show up, I immediately thought of perhaps trying to change the direction of my career into Aboriginal hip hop. Several years ago I emceed a stage at the opening festival for the Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. And there was a hot young group from Alberta performing there called *War Party*. They sounded pretty cool. Maybe I could do that.

Unfortunately, in the Native community, I guess I am viewed as being the White bread or cracker of the literary movement. Or, I guess, in keeping with the proper literary metaphor, the brown or whole wheat bread. Not a cutting edge kind of guy.

I should mention that I happen to like my pants up about my waist and not showing my underwear to the world. Call me old fashioned, but a guy's

gotta have some rules. Also, I am blingless. Unless belt buckles count as bling... and on a related topic, who do you consult on an issue like that?

As I was pondering these thoughts, my name was called. I arose, gritting my teeth and making sure my pants were properly positioned. I went up to the mic. And talked. That's all. I had not really deconstructed the term "spoken word" properly. It means just that. Speaking words. I started to talk about things I knew, some of my books, humor and Native sexuality. I just talked and told stories and jokes. Storytelling is spoken word. It seems that I, and a lot of people, had just assumed it was poetry and related methods of vocalization. In the end, everybody applauded and I felt good about what I'd done. In this new field of expression that had terrified me, I had just gone back to the basics, and came out on top. I like it when that happens.

However, it has inspired me. I think I will take a weekend off this summer and write a book of poetry.

## Confederate History Month: Are governors endorsing enslaving unborn fetuses?

By Jack D. Forbes  
Guest Columnist

One of the most obscene aspects of slavery as practiced by the slave system in North America consisted in the enslavement of unborn fetuses. This assault upon the unborn child was an act of sheer greed, seeking to assure that any baby born to a mother designated as a captive would also be a captive and saleable; in short, a commodity.

In fact, a pregnant mother and her unborn fetus were treated as saleable "chattel" (property) in the white slave states.

It is incredible to think that persons ("all other persons" as

stated in the Constitution) could be seized, shipped under horrible conditions, and subjected to punishment (for forced captivity is certainly a punishment) while being innocent of any crime. This was an act of sheer depravity, depriving both new and old Americans of the protection of habeas corpus and forcing them, upon pain of horrible punishment and even death, to serve a lifelong sentence, while being innocent of any wrong.

No documents were required to prove that a crime had been committed by the victims, but lifelong punishment at the hands of those who had indeed committed the crimes of seizure, purchase, and subjugation was to

be their fate without the benefit of attorney, court, or judge.

But atrocious as that system of profiteering was, the sentencing of each and every fetus to a lifetime of captivity and labor, before birth, was an unbelievable violation of British common law, American Indian practice, and the core values of every humane religion practiced upon this Mother Earth!

North American tribes sometimes held captives, but captives often were able to become free persons with the passage of time and fetuses were never condemned to servitude (until certain "civilized" tribes, largely controlled by mixed-blood planters, adopted the "slave

codes" of their white neighbors).

Just close your eyes and think on it: A baby in its mother's tummy already condemned to a lifetime of unfree labor without any court proceeding! An unborn child already possessed by some slave master while still in the womb!

"Get your hands out of my womb, you fiend!" would be the cry of any mother!

Of course, the unborn babies given to "owners" of their innocent mothers by an all-male legal system were of African, Native American or mixed ancestry, and that made it alright to violate British tradition!

Recently the governors of Virginia and Mississippi

reportedly announced their support of "Confederate History Week." They chose not to mention the unborn captives. They chose to be silent about the mothers, fathers, and children, born and unborn, condemned while innocent. They chose not to offer help to the descendants of the victims of an outrageous blot upon human morals.

My book *Columbus and other Cannibals* explores some of the issues of the terrorist system that was "slavery." My ancestry includes two men who fought for the Confederacy, both part Indian. They suffered greatly, and I feel for them; but I must also feel for the innocent victims of their loyalties.

presented by **insIGHT**

## ABORIGINAL LAND & WATER FORUM

September 13 - 14, 2010  
The Fairmont Hotel MacDonald (Downtown)  
Edmonton, Alberta

### KEYNOTE LUNCHEON ADDRESS

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs

Half-Day Post Conference Workshop | Wednesday, September 15, 2010  
Wetlands, Riparian, 05 Areas, Watershed Management, State of the Watershed Reporting

With ongoing development of traditional territories for commercial activities, including forestry, oil drilling, mining and mineral exploration, pipelines and road building, effective land and resource management planning is of critical importance.

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**ALM**

# Sammy Kent — [ windspeaker confidential ]

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

**Sammy Kent:** Trust

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

**S.K.:** Ignorance

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

**S.K.:** On a beautiful bluebird day in the mountains with a good friend skiing 20-plus centimetres of fresh powder.

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

**S.K.:** Bitter

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

**S.K.:** My grandmother. No matter the situation she is always able to find a positive outlook. When she is down, she does not place the weight on anyone's shoulders, even if you want her to. She always has a great smile and makes you feel loved.

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

**S.K.:** Accept that I will lose the ones I love.

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

**S.K.:** Ask me again after the Sochi 2014 Olympics.

**W:** What one goal remains out

of reach?

**S.K.:** Time Travel

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

**S.K.:** What I'm going to do tomorrow.

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

**S.K.:** Try your best.

**W:** Did you take it?

**S.K.:** I live by it.

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

**S.K.:** I only hope to be remembered by people who truly want to remember me. And I hope that when they think of me, they are happy to have met me.

We didn't see Sammy "Tempy" Templeton Kent on our Vanoc 2010 television screens, but he was there as a self-described "guinea pig" and "forerunner" who tested the track, timing and cameras for the Canadian Alpine Ski Team. Could it have been a dress rehearsal for a Sochi, Russia medal grab? From here on in, it'll be training, top-of-the-line equipment testing, and diet and lifestyle tweaking to render him ready to make it so in 2014. Kent began skiing at age two on a family trip to Whistler and by the time he was six, after a move to northern Canada, he started in the Nancy Greene Ski League on



PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Sammy Kent

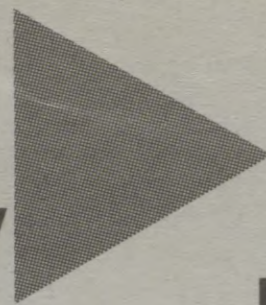
Yukon's Mount Sima. That's where then-head coach Dick Eastmure first got to know him, watching Kent use his exceptional sense of balance, agility and great reflexes to out-ski the competition, taking him further than any skier to come out of the Yukon. Kent, originally from Fort McKay First Nation in Alberta, ended last winter with strong

finishes in the National championships in Canada and the U.S. Originally an Alpine skier, he made the switch to the new Olympic event Ski Cross two years ago, igniting a new love for skiing. On attending the National Sports School in Calgary, where "classes work around your sports schedule and teachers help you get through it," Kent admits that

keeping up with both studies and sport was "tough work." On his competitive life, he adds: "being an athlete has taught me that, in sport and life, it's extremely important to set goals and markers to attain your dreams. Never give up and never look back at what you could have done better or should have done differently."

## [ radio's most active ]

# OUR PICK



**Artist—Tumivut**  
**Song—Love Song**  
**Album—Movement**  
**Written by—Tumivut**  
**Label—Arbor Records**



Tumivut was created in Montreal, when four talented artists discovered each other's yearning and quest for musical expression. The word Tumivut when translated in English is 'our footsteps'. They blend Inuit throat singing to contemporary sound and have mastered something that only we as people can cherish. 'Love Song' from the album 'Movement' in my words is described as a slow paced song, almost like the beginning of a relationship and ends to a fast paced rhythmic heartbeat like a full blown quarrel of love. It is complemented with the various musical instruments that not only complete but master every tempo.

For more info go to: [www.tumivut.com](http://www.tumivut.com)

Review by Angela Pearson

# ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Florent Vollant	Eku Mamu	Eku Mamu
Little Hawk	\$13,000	Vigilance
Richard McKay	A Lonely Highway	Single Release
Brandon Solomon	Barricade	Single Release
Evan Reeve	Not OK	Evan Reeve
Leela Gilday	Rise & Shine	Calling All Warriors
Lucie Idlout	Tonight	Swagger
John McLeod	California Driller	Moving On
Donald Bradburn	Beautiful Indian Lady	Single Release
Nathan Cunningham	Tie One On	Single Release
Blackfoot Confederacy	Wake Up	Single Release
Rick Stavely	Talk About It	You Got Country
Mary Mahler	Walk Away	Single Release
Diyet	The Breaking Point	The Breaking Point
Forever	It's Alright	Reborn
Shane Yellowbird	Bare Feet On The Blacktop	It's About Time
Desiree Dorion	Soul Back Jack	Soul Back Jack
Donny Parenteau	Turn It Up	Single Release
Sam Tutanuak	The Three Musicians	Utigpungaa
Howard Nepinak	What You Wanted	Second Chance

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



# Everybody loves Candy Comedian takes stand-up to a studio audience

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## HALIFAX, N.S.

Life is now a little sweeter for an Aboriginal comedian who is in the process of filming episodes for her new television show.

Candy Palmater of Halifax is on cloud nine now that she is living out her childhood fantasy of hosting a program that combines her love of music and her natural ability to make people laugh.

The Candy Show is now in production and will air on APTN in the fall. The half-hour variety show will feature everyone from visual artists and musicians to Aboriginal leaders.

Palmater describes the show as the perfect remedy for anyone who needs a break from the current bombardment of reality television. She also looks forward to giving Nova Scotia musicians a chance to share their talents with the rest of Canada.

"It's a really cool way to show the rest of the country what is happening here on the East Coast," said Palmater.

The Mi'kmaq comedian will interview guests on a set that is a replica of the 41-year-old's childhood bedroom; the same bedroom where the Candy Show was first conceived.

"I always had this thought in my mind about The Candy Show and about how these famous musicians would sit around and talk about their music," said Palmater. She recalled spending hours in her bedroom as a young girl dreaming about the day she could hang out with the bands whose albums blared as the 16-year-old anticipated her future.

"I used to think I could be like those people in Rolling Stone magazine that interview the musicians."

Palmater, who is the youngest of seven brothers and sisters, all raised in Point La Nim, N.B., is still in shock that the fantasy she refused to let go of has actually come to fruition.

Flash back to a decade ago and Palmater was graduating from Dalhousie University with a law degree. Earning the honor of class valedictorian in 1999, Palmater was on the path of beginning her career as a lawyer. It only took two years working in corporate law for the vivacious performer to realize it was time for a change.

The self-described activist made a career change in 2002 and

decided to work with the government of Nova Scotia as a way to help her community.

"During the day I am the director of the Mi'kmaq liaison office at the Department of Education...and then at night I get to make people laugh," said Palmater.

Ocean Entertainment President Johanna Eliot is someone who had no doubt in Palmater's aspirations becoming reality. As the production company behind The Candy Show, Eliot was sure Palmater's larger-than-life personality was something that made her the perfect person to stand in front of a camera.

"The cameras pick up on everything, so to have someone like Candy, with such a warm personality, the cameras just suck that up and it goes right through to the audience on the other side," said Eliot. She is also the executive producer of the six episodes filmed during the last week of April at the Olympic Centre in downtown Halifax.

Letting perfect strangers have access to an unedited and proud Candy Palmater is something that has likely contributed to her genuineness.

Palmater isn't shy about admitting her age, the fact that she's gay, weighs 300 pounds and identifies as an Aboriginal woman.

Despite her ability to not take herself, or life, too seriously, Palmater said she has very clear standards when it comes to writing comedy for her show or for stand-up.

"You will never catch me selling out my race or gender for the sake of a laugh," said Palmater. "I am an activist first and foremost and I consider comedy just a different venue to do my activist work."

Palmater is often sought out to speak at various events on issues such as gay and Native rights. Even though she adores arousing laughter from diverse crowds, she also wants people to feel comfortable and maybe even go home and think about what she had to say.

The first three episodes for the show will feature musical guests Katey Day, In-Flight Safety and The Whiskey Kisses.

The Candy Show is also the title of the 2006 CBC documentary that told the story of Palmater's life growing up on a farm in Nova Scotia, which ultimately led to her living out her destiny centre stage.



Candy Palmater



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

# Hope thrives in the youth of the Okanagan Nation

By Karen Levin  
Raven's Eye Writer

### WESTBANK FIRST NATION

The new generation of Aboriginal youth shows bold initiative by unburdening themselves from centuries-long grievous statistics.

It has been a painfully well-known fact that the rate of youth suicide in Aboriginal communities exceeds that of the non-Aboriginal population.

According to Statistics Canada, suicide is the major killer of young Aboriginal people after accidents. As far as many youth are concerned, the time has come for positive change.

The youth from the Okanagan Nation Alliance have exhibited leadership in this cause. In April, they heightened awareness about Aboriginal youth suicide by participating in the Second Annual Spirit of Syilx Youth Unity Run.

The 230 km run took place April 22 to April 25 in the northern part of the Okanagan Nation territory.

About 200 youth, parents,

community members, community workers, and 10 RCMP joined in this year's run.

The run is conducted in a relay format to encourage participation from people at every level of fitness and mobility. Despite rain, sleet and snow on the second day of the run, the participants persevered.

"I'll run even when I'm older," said Justin George. "This year we had even more runners. It's great. It's also fun, not just serious. Every year it's a blast."

George spoke after having canoed with other local youth as they prepare for a canoeing journey along the coast of Vancouver Island in July.

The Spirit of Syilx Run is the result of a collaboration between the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and member bands, the University of British Columbia—Okanagan Aboriginal Education Program, the First Nations Health Council, and the RCMP Foundation.

The idea for the run came from the youth themselves, who wanted to be proactive in taking on the issues of youth suicide, substance abuse, and family



Young people want to turn the statistics on youth suicide around. They took part in the 230 km Spirit of the Syilx Youth Unity Run April 22 to April 25.

violence. In order to make it possible the youth received tremendous support from local Elders, the ONA and band leadership, the Okanagan Nation Crisis Response Team, the R'Native Voice coordinator, the RCMP, and their parents.

"I notice changes in the kids I work with," said Amanda Montgomery, coordinator of the ONA educational youth program, R'Native Voice. As a result of their participation in the

run, Amanda noted, "they talk about [suicide] and have awareness about it and their peers and their families and community."

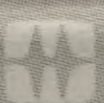
The R'Native Voice Program provides community-based 12-week-long modules dealing with issues ranging from substance abuse prevention, coping with racism, and learning about Syilx culture and values.

One of the participants in both the R'Native Voice and the run,

Amber Cardenas, spoke enthusiastically about the benefits she has received from her involvement.

"Not all of us come from strong culturally-oriented families. It [culture] grounds me and gives me a sense that I don't have to do drugs and drink to be happy. It's like a cultural revolution right now in our communities. It's like the culture is coming back strongly because we want it."

(See Hope on page 21.)

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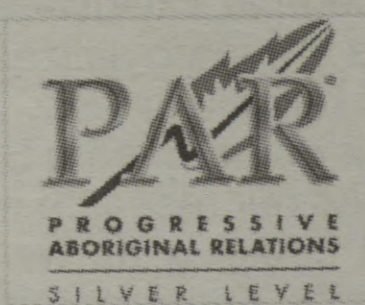
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## Windspeaker health briefs

### Store association VP jumps into the smoke shack debate

The Canadian Convenience Stores Association (CCSA) wrote to the federal Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq, in April, challenging her to enforce Bill C-32 on Native reserves. This was in reaction to an investigation proving that it was a easy thing for a 15-year-old teenager to buy flavored cigarillos on the Kahnawake and Kanasatake reserves.

"Mrs. Aglukkaq, it is a simple matter to enforce a piece of legislation aimed at Canada's 24,000 convenience stores, because we are honest people. But what will you do between now and July 5 to prevent the sale of flavored cigarillos to 15-year-old boys and girls by the hundreds of illegal tobacco shacks located on Native reserves? Do you have a plan?" asked Michel Gadbois, senior vice-president of the CCSA.

July 5 is the date on which the sale of flavored cigarillos will become prohibited in all convenience stores across Canada, under Bill C-32 which was introduced by the health minister and passed last fall.

"We are entitled to learn what your plan is, because otherwise, all your bill will have accomplished is to eliminate the supervised and legal sale of this product by responsible retailers and hand over, on a silver platter, a monopoly on the product to criminals and smugglers of all stripes, thereby making the product even cheaper and more accessible to underage youth than ever," wrote Gadbois.

"Mrs. Aglukkaq, after boasting last week that you will protect the health of young people with your new law, explain to us how you will go about enforcing it on Native reserves. Will you send in inspectors? Will you dispatch police officers? Will you make arrests? What are you going to do, Mrs. Aglukkaq?" asked Gadbois.

### Protection for elders

The North East Native Advancing Society has received funding to promote community awareness in the fight against elder abuse.

"Our government takes elder abuse very seriously," said Jay Hill, MP for Prince George-Peace River. "We are committed to combating this abuse in all of its forms. That is why the government of Canada is supporting projects like this one, helping to give communities the information they need to recognize elder abuse and ensure that seniors are aware that help is available."

The North East Native Advancing Society serves a large area in British Columbia, east to the Alberta border, north to the Yukon border, west to Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge and south to Dawson Creek and Kelly Lake. The society has received funding of \$100,000 for its project called Elder Abuse Awareness—Sharing Our Wisdom. This project will focus on reducing the incidence of elder abuse by developing networks of support that will link all 10 Aboriginal communities in the Northeast region of British Columbia.

### Lift people out of poverty

The Senate report entitled "In from the Margins: A Call to Action on poverty, housing and homelessness" passed unanimously in the Senate April 29. The report declared that Canada's system for lifting people out of poverty is substantially broken and must be overhauled.

"We began this study by focusing on the most vulnerable city-dwellers in the country, those whose lives are marginalized by poverty, housing challenges and homelessness," said Senator Art Eggleton, past chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Cities.

"As our research evolved, so too did our frustration and concern as we repeatedly heard accounts of policies and programs only making living in poverty more manageable—which essentially entraps people."

The committee's first and fundamental recommendation is that Canada and all provinces and territories adopt the goal of lifting people out of poverty. Included in the measures recommended by the committee is the coordination of a nationwide federal-provincial initiative on early childhood training. Also, recommended is the development of a national housing and homelessness strategy and the creation of a basic income floor for all Canadians who are severely disabled.

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## Windspeaker sports briefs

By Sam Laskaris

### Iroquois team prepares for worlds

The Iroquois Nationals will be one of six teams participating in the highest division at the men's world field lacrosse championships this summer. The tournament will run from July 15 to 24 in Manchester, England.

The Iroquois Nationals, who will feature players from both Canada and the United States, will compete in the Blue Division along with Canada, United States, England, Australia and Japan. A total of 30 squads will take part in the world tournament. They will be split up into seven divisions.

Teams are placed in a division with other clubs that organizers believe are comparably matched. Though those in the Blue Division will challenge for the medals, all teams in all divisions will vie for final placing and spots in higher-calibre divisions at future world events.

The Iroquois Nationals placed fourth at the last world tournament. That event, which was in 2006, was staged in London, Ont.

Iroquois Nationals also just missed out on a medal at both the 2002 and 1998 world tournaments. They placed fourth in both of those events, held in Perth, Australia and Baltimore, respectively.

The Iroquois Nationals will play their first game at this year's world championships against England on July 15. The team will play five round-robin games, including a match against the Canadians, the defending tournament champions, on July 19.

### Saskatchewan to host nationals

The Whitecap Dakota First Nation in Saskatchewan will be the host of this year's Canadian Native Fastball Championships. The tournament is scheduled to begin on July 30 and continue until Aug. 2.

A maximum of 32 teams will compete in each of the men's and women's senior open divisions. Masters divisions will also be contested for both sexes. Both of these categories will have a maximum of eight entries each.

Alberta's Siksika Rebels won the senior men's division at the '09 nationals, hosted by the Alexis Nakota First Nation in Alberta. And a club from Manitoba dubbed Northern Lights captured the women's senior title.

A pair of Alberta squads won the two masters groupings. The Eagle River Chiefs took top honors in the men's division and the Bad News Babez captured the women's crown.

### Warriors name coach

A familiar face in the Akwesasne sporting community has been named as the head coach of the town's new minor professional hockey league team.

Joe Phillips has been named the head coach of the Akwesasne Warriors, which will begin their inaugural Federal Hockey League (FHL) campaign this fall. The Warriors are the lone Canadian franchise in the six-squad FHL.

Phillips previously served as both a head coach and an assistant coach with the Akwesasne Wolves, a Junior B team. Phillips also spent the past four seasons as the coach of the varsity boys' hockey team at New York's Massena Central High School.

Over the years, Phillips has coached his share of high school, college, junior and senior lacrosse clubs. For Phillips, this is actually the second time he has been named as the head coach of a new Akwesasne team. In 2007 he was the bench boss for Akwesasne's Junior A lacrosse franchise.

### Youth and police hit ice

For the second straight year, some Aboriginal youth and police officers from Thunder Bay and surrounding areas squared off in a hockey tournament. The second annual Community Cup Sports Youth Hockey Tournament was staged May 7 and 8 at the Fort Williams First Nation Arena.

The event was organized by the Thunder Bay Police Service Aboriginal Liaison Committee.

The tournament featured about 60 participants on eight teams.

The police officers were representing the Nishnawbe-Aski Police, Anishinabek Police, Thunder Bay Police, Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The purpose of the tournament is to bring Aboriginal youth and various police officers together in the spirit of fun, sport and community.

### Rookie impresses

Casey Pierro-Zabotel put up some decent numbers in his first season as a professional hockey player. The 21-year-old, who was born in Ashcroft, B.C. and has Bonaparte ancestry, spent the majority of the past season with the East Coast Hockey League's Wheeling Nailers.

He played 49 games with the West Virginia-based squad and earned 41 points (12 goals, 29 assists) in 49 games.

Pierro-Zabotel also played nine matches, picking up one assist, in the higher calibre American Hockey League with the Wilkes Barre/Scranton Penguins.

Pierro-Zabotel had spent the previous two seasons with the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants. He was also a third-round selection by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2007 National Hockey League Entry Draft.

# [ sports ] Champions defend titles on boys and girls sides

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

## OTTAWA

A pair of teams defended their titles at this year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC).

The Saskatchewan boys' squad captured its third consecutive NAHC crown. Saskatchewan thumped Manitoba 8-1 in this year's gold-medal contest held on May 8 in Ottawa.

The Manitoba girls' side won its second straight national championship, edging Ontario North 2-1 in the final, also held on May 8.

This year's NAHC featured 18 teams. There were 10 entrants in the boys' division and eight in the girls' category. The NAHC, which has been held every year since 1992, for the most part features players 18 and under, who compete for bantam or midget clubs. Participating girls' squads at the NAHC, however, are allowed to carry a maximum of five overage (19- and 20-year-old) players on their rosters.

Courage Bear, the coach/manager for the Saskatchewan boys' team, believes there's a simple reason why his club has fared so well at the NAHC in recent years.

"We have good kids, I guess," Bear said. "A lot of them play competitive hockey. The majority of them are AAA (the highest calibre in youth hockey) players."

The Saskatchewan side this year was also fortunate to have forward Justin Waskewitch. He plays at the Junior A level with the Estevan Bruins, members of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League. He starred at the NAHC and was selected as the tournament's most outstanding player after earning 12 points, including eight goals, in seven games.

Saskatchewan's lineup included just four players who were also on the gold-medal winning squad at the 2009 NAHC. And two of those players, right winger Bret Lafond and blueliner Kolton Baptist, have had their share of success at the tournament, winning gold medals in each of the past three years.

Bear said the NAHC is considered a huge deal among Aboriginal hockey officials in his province.

"We've spent a lot of time and we've spent a lot of money to make the program good," he said. "We have good leadership support. We have good corporate support. And we have good players."

Bear's charges were unbeatable at this year's tournament. They registered six wins and tied their other game.

Saskatchewan's lone tie came in its final round-robin match, a 3-3 draw with Alberta. But the team's other round-robin games



PHOTO: CAROL WHITECALF

Team Saskatchewan Girls won gold.



PHOTO: CAROL WHITECALF

Team Saskatchewan Boys gold medal winner.

weren't as close.

For starters, Saskatchewan beat Manitoba 7-4. It then thumped Nova Scotia 11-1 and hammered New Brunswick 10-2.

The Saskatchewan club was also dominant in its playoff games. It hit the double-digit mark once again, beating Nunavut 10-3 in its quarter-final match. And it earned a berth in the gold-medal game with a 7-3 triumph over Ontario North in its semi-final contest.

In part because his team only beat Manitoba by three goals in its round-robin match, Bear was not anticipating a blowout in its gold-medal tilt.

"The pucks just went in for us," Bear said of his team's comfortable seven-goal margin of victory in the final. "And our goalie made some key saves."

Saskatchewan's netminder Garret Kazmiruk did not only shine in the final. He also stood out in other matches, evidenced by the fact he was selected as the tournament all-star team.

Saskatchewan centre Bryce Gervais was also a tournament all-star. He earned 18 points (nine goals, nine assists) in seven games.

As for the Manitoba girls' squad, it too was undefeated at this year's NAHC, winning all six of its games. And the team was not really tested until the gold-medal game.

Manitoba easily won all three of its round-robin encounters. It

downed Alberta 8-2, blanked the Northwest Territories 10-0 and then shut out Saskatchewan 5-0.

Manitoba continued its dominance in its first couple of playoff games, beating Team Atlantic 11-1 in its quarter-final and then defeating Saskatchewan 7-1 in its semi-final.

"In a way it was surprising the scores were so high," said Manitoba coach Peter Symchuk. "But then watching the games it wasn't surprising because we moved the puck so well."

Symchuk said his team received plenty of praise for its quickness at moving the puck.

"I was pretty happy," he said. "That's the way we practiced and how we had set the team up."

Symchuk added his team was also impressive in the final two minutes of the gold-medal game. He said the Manitoba side was able to keep the puck in Ontario North's zone for the full two minutes, not allowing their opponents the opportunity to pull their goalie in the hopes of getting the tying goal.

"We were like a swarm of bees," Symchuk said.

The Quebec-based team called Eastern Door and The North won the bronze medal in the boys' division, beating Ontario North 10-7 in the third-place battle.

And the Ontario South entry also took home some hardware in the girls' division. Ontario South downed Saskatchewan 8-3 in its bronze-medal contest.

# Inclusion Works: Focusing on jobs for Aboriginal grads

By Katherine McIntyre  
Windspeaker Contributor

## TORONTO

"I was sick of poverty," said Marshall Schuchert, an Ojibway/Odawa from Sault Ste Marie, Ont.

Schuchert was one of 100 recent college/university graduates attending Inclusion Works 10 held in Toronto at the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel April 27 to 29.

Schuchert was also one of the few older graduates attending the conference, organized by the Aboriginal Resource Council.

"In my early thirties I faced up to the fact that my life was going nowhere. With my partner's encouragement, I upgraded my basic education and then went to the University of Algoma for a business degree."

Schuchert had to compete to win a place at the Inclusion Works conference. Four hundred

students from across Canada submitted resumes, letters of support and copies of their diplomas to the council. One hundred received the coveted response. They would receive an all expense-paid trip and the opportunity to be interviewed by a team of employers from industry and the public sector for employment.

Most of the jobs were entry level. A few offers went to mature grads to enter the work force in positions that required more experience. Candidates heard about the conference through the Internet, and at their universities or colleges.

This year's Inclusion Works 10 followed a very successful Inclusion Works 09 held last year in Vancouver.

The Aboriginal Resource Council was formed in 1998 as a non-profit organization designed to stimulate industry's and the public sector's interest and investment in involving

Aboriginal people in the mainstream workplace.

From these early beginnings it has grown into a friendly network of more than 30 partners in various categories.

At the conference, more than 400 delegates from both the private and public sectors mixed with members of Aboriginal organizations and with the recent graduates. Their long range purpose was to involve, train and find jobs for Aboriginal youth.

"My job is to travel across Canada, meeting with mining companies to advocate and lobby them to train and give jobs to young Aboriginals in the mining industry," explained Jason Wilson of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. He added, "Although they live and are familiar with the north, of the 300,000 mining jobs in Canada, only six per cent have gone to Aboriginals. I am working on changing this as new mines open on Aboriginal land."

"Most of our new northern projects pass through First Nation traditional land," said Vivian Yoandis, manager of the Diversity and Resourcing Program for Hydro Ontario. To ensure good relations with Aboriginal communities before projects get under way, a representative from Ontario Hydro makes a one-to-one visit to discuss foreseeable possible problems and concerns about building on traditional land.

"Our company finds First Nation people make a good fit in northern development," Yoandis said. "Our programs encourage youth to work for the company. We help with using bursaries and providing co-op jobs while they are in post-secondary institutions."

Shawn Atleo, the young and charismatic national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, expressed his hopes for the future.

"And," he explained, "today's young Aboriginals are the first

generation who have had a chance to finish high school, and are primarily the first generation of Aboriginals to go on to higher education. Now about 49 per cent finish high school, contrasted with only 12 per cent in 1972." He hopes that by 2026, graduation statistics of First Nation youth will parallel the national average.

The conference focused on the need to encourage the growing Native youth population, (Canada's fastest growing demographic) to finish high school and further their education at post-secondary institutions. But with education there is a need for jobs. Conference organizers concluded that to find those jobs, there is a continuing need for partnership with the private sector, through workshops, research and understanding and involvement so that there will be inclusion rather than exclusion of Aboriginal youth.

# Youth turn their minds to business matters

By Debora Steel  
Windspeaker Contributor

## OTTAWA

The University of Ottawa hosted 200 young competitors for the 10th anniversary E-Spirit Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition held May 11 through May 13.

Organized by the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), the event is open to Aboriginal students in grades 10 through 12 and features 16 weeks of business planning before the national event.

The three-day assembly is the culmination of that work, gathering more than 70 teams together to share their business concepts through trade-show style displays, power point presentations and workshops. Awards and cash prizes are given to the top three business plans, and special recognition is awarded in a variety of categories.

This year's Gold Award recipients are Jordann Hazelwood and Hillary McLean. Their business is the Dusty Road Café "an eco-friendly place of serenity where individuals can get in touch with their personal lives, schooling and the seven sacred teachings of their Aboriginal ancestors."

McLean attends South Kamloops Secondary School and worked on the project with Hazelwood, who lives in Chilliwack, hours away by car. McLean and Hazelwood had worked together the summer before, so when the idea of the E-spirit competition was suggested to McLean, she knew she wanted her work buddy to be

involved.

Together they toiled through the 16-week Internet-based competition on Skype, a software application popular for instant messaging, file transfer, and video conferencing.

The core requirements of the E-spirit contest is the creation of a business plan, a trade show display, a video that features the business and a power-point presentation.

McLean said the Dusty Road Café trade booth featured a "Guess the Number of Gumballs" contest. The prize was a basket of coffees and teas, the kinds of products on offer at the café that would be located on the Tk'emlups Indian reserve.

The power-point presentations included marketing concepts, mission and vision statements, financials and a description of the key management personnel.

McLean explained Dusty Road Café would be a student hangout, open between the hours of 7 a.m. to midnight. It's something she said Kamloops is desperately in need of, because "nothing is open past 9:30 around here."

The café's logo includes local landmarks Mount Peter and Mount Paul, and a dusty road that runs in back of the houses on reserve where children ride their bikes and play.

McLean said she enjoyed her time in Canada's capital city, meeting influential people and seeing the sights.

She said her involvement in the competition has taught her about the kind of hard work it takes to be a business person, and she takes away from the experience a new understanding of determination and persistence.

McLean has no plans to go into

business any time soon, planning instead to head to university to pursue her goal of becoming a respiratory therapist, just like her dad. But she doesn't rule out the possibility of entrepreneurship in her future.

Silver Award winners Jessica Jack and Vanessa Hamilton-George attend the Vast alternative school in Port Alberni. Their business, Alberni Creations, is a graphics company that showcases the Alberni Clayoquot region through promotional DVDs and unique art/photo cards. They also won the special award for Best Video.

Jack created the business motto: Live life on creation's edge. She explained that it had two meanings. Alberni Creations is located on the western edge of Canada, and the service they offer is on the cutting edge of digital design.

Hamilton-George created the logo, two stylized hummingbirds that represent the two women, said Jack. They also represent a messenger between two worlds, putting nature and spirit in balance. A sun at the centre of the design represents the energy source that will keep the business moving forward.

And energy they needed. From the moment the women stepped off the plane, the pair was running. First it was trade show day and Alberni Creations was a bit of a hit. Hamilton-George said they still have numb toes

from standing in high heels all day as a steady procession of participants and judges visited their booth where they sold cedar roses and T-shirts, gave away candies and pins, brochures and business cards.

Day two was the powerpoint

presentations and Hamilton-George said she spent a lot of time whispering in Jack's ear as they watched the others. No 'ums' and 'likes', she was reminded of her lessons from their coach Miss Rita Sowden. No shuffling papers.

Jack admitted she was nervous, having not had a lot of opportunity to speak in public, so she told herself to concentrate on making eye contact and not to fiddle.

Jack and Hamilton-George learned Alberni Creations had pulled a head of the pack during an elevator ride. A list of the top nine business plans had been posted there. They laughed when remembering the scared look on the faces of a couple of women in the elevator with them, watching as the Alberni Creations squad jumped and screamed in the knowledge they were headed to the finals.

The awards gala was like the Grammys, said Hamilton-George, with musical performances bracketing the individual award presentations. When it was announced that Alberni Creations had placed second "I almost cried," said Hamilton-George. The gala was being filmed and the camera swung to take in their walk to the podium to accept the honor.

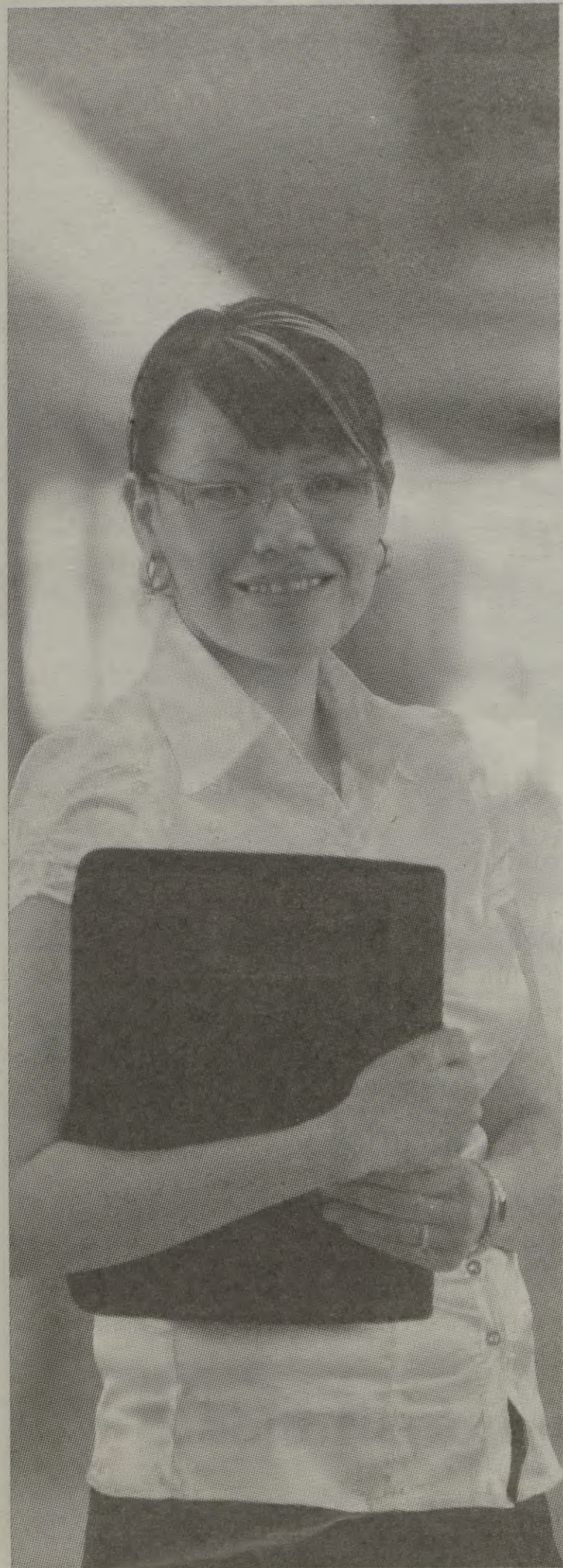
The ladies both say that the experience with E-spirit was life changing.

The bronze winner was a team from Winnipeg.

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stronger material and sewn with bark. Students awarded were Brittany David, Amber Fontaine, Joshua Mousseau, and Matthew Shorting from Children of the Earth High School.

Cash prizes were awarded in the amount of \$2,500 for gold, \$1,500 for silver and \$750 for bronze. Twelve Special Achievement awards were also presented: Most Original Name-Precious Little Ones Daycare-"Usma", Gold River Secondary School, Gold River, B.C.; Best Logo-The Dusty Road Cafe, South Kamloops Secondary School, Kamloops, B.C.; Most Original Services-Anishnabe Cuisine, Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan, Maniwaki, QC; Best Video-Alberni Creations, VAST Alternative School, Port Alberni, B.C.; Cultural Expression-A.C.K.X. AKA Pat, J.V. Humphries, Kaslo, B.C.; Most Innovative Marketing-Red Feather Bannock, Four Directions Storefront School, Kamloops, B.C.; Best Use of Technology-Skaabe Technology Training, Children of the Earth High School, Winnipeg; Environmental Awareness-rePhresh, Beattie School of the Arts-Pineridge Campus, Kamloops, B.C.; Best Team Spirit-Lively Look, Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan, Maniwaki, QC; E-Spirit Ambassador-Nike'kiso'qon Wenaqiaq, Chief Allison M. Bernard Memorial High School, Cape Breton, NS; Best Tradeshow Display-Skaabe Technology Training, Children of the Earth High School, Winnipeg; Best Presentation-The V Restaurant, Salmon Arm Secondary (Sullivan Campus), Salmon Arm, B.C.



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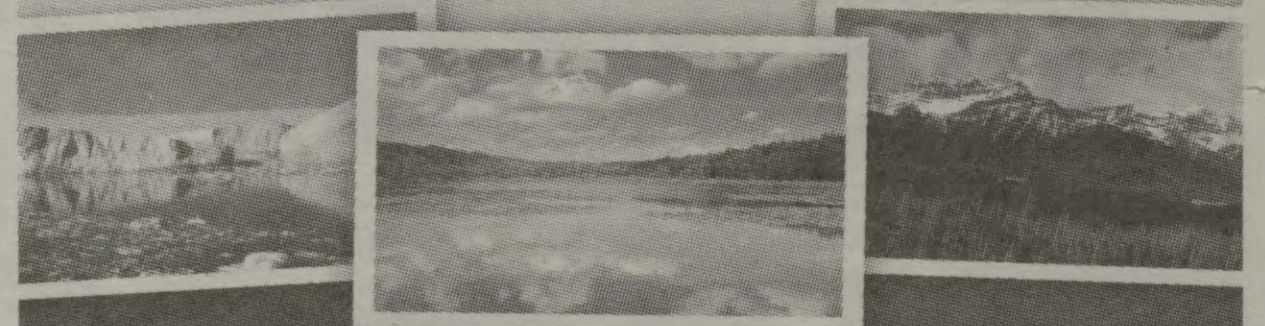
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[ careers ]

## Hope thrives in youth

(Continued from page 15.)

During the run local Elders opened and concluded each day with prayers and talks about culture. The first day of the run commenced with opening ceremonies led by Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Chief Jonathon Kruger.

Chiefs Tim Manuel and Clarence Louie showed their support by joining in the run for approximately two km each.

For many Aboriginal youth, being engaged in culture can have a powerful and positive influence.

In a recent study by Michael J. Chandler and Christopher E. LaLonde entitled "Cultural Continuity as a Protective Factor Against Youth Suicide in First Nations Youth," cultural identity was deemed to have a significant correlation to the incidence of youth suicide in Aboriginal communities.

The study compared rates of suicide between the 200 B.C. bands and the non-Aboriginal population during the years 1987 and 2000. They found the suicide rate in the First Nation communities to be more than double the provincial average.

The study then analyzed the rate of suicide in each B.C. band while taking into account the extent to which each band displayed "cultural continuity" (based on eight criteria). The study revealed that the bands with the highest level of cultural

continuity had no youth suicides during that time frame, while those with none of the eight criteria suffered epidemic levels of suicide.

Many factors contribute to a young person taking their life. Education, information, safe surroundings, preventative activities, and communication are critical for reducing the incidence of youth suicide.

Events like the run are useful for bringing awareness to youth suicide and to inform youth about the resources available in the community.

The Okanagan youth would like to see the run spread to other communities with the hope that it could one day be a national event.

Statistics can change and together, the youth, families, and communities are turning around youth suicide statistics in Aboriginal communities.

When asked what they would want to say to another youth who might be considering suicide, Justin George said "don't do it because you have a lot to offer the world, and even if you're down, keep getting up."

Amber Cardenas added, "talk to a friend you really trust, or an Elder, because so many people want to help but you might not realize it."

Help is always available. If you do not know who to talk to, you can always call the Kids Helpline at 1-800-668-6868.

## TRIBAL CHIEFS EDUCATION FOUNDATION Educational Leadership Opportunities

Tribal Chiefs Education Foundation (TCEF) is seeking four people to form a highly effective and dedicated professional education team consisting of the following positions:

### 1.0 FTE PROJECT MANAGER

The Project Manager will be responsible for the overall implementation and delivery of the First Nations' Student Success Program and will oversee the activities and duties of the Literacy, Numeracy and Success Coaches. Major responsibilities include:

- Contributing to the development and implementation of an effective literacy and numeracy professional development model
- Continually assessing strategies to enhance the Project's impact and sustainability in the schools of our six member First Nation communities
- Maintaining a high degree of integrity and competence in terms of program budgeting, reporting and communicating
- Professionally administering the program's School Success Plans, Student Assessments, and Performance Measurements
- Working collaboratively with both internal and external partners to fulfill program expectations

### 1.0 FTE LITERACY COACH

### 0.5 FTE NUMERACY COACH

These Coaches will be required to work directly with teachers and administrators to model, demonstrate and create best practice strategies. Skill sets sought for these positions include:

- Excellent classroom teachers
- Skilled facilitators at infusing First Nation culture with curricular outcomes and using appropriate instructional strategies and assessments to maximize student engagement and achievement
- Strong relational and collaborative teambuilding skills

### 1.0 SUCCESS COACH

The Student Success Coach will work with our external partners Impact Society and Resiliency Initiatives delivering an experiential-learning program that turns teachers, students, and parents into everyday HEROES. Skill sets sought for this position include:

- Possession of data base management skills
- Organizational and time-management skills
- Strong relational and collaborative teambuilding skills
- Effective written and oral communication skills

Tribal Chiefs Education Foundation provides support and advisory services to the following six First Nations in Northeastern Alberta:  
Frog Lake First Nation      Kehewin Cree Nation      Cold Lake First Nation  
Whitefish Lake First Nation      Beaver Lake Cree Nation      Heart Lake First Nation  
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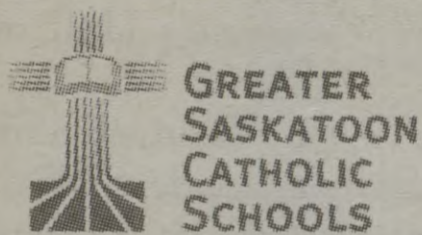
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### DEADLINE TO APPLY:

MAY 31, 2010

We thank all applicants for your interest in Tribal Chiefs Education Foundation; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

## CHOICE PRINCIPALSHIP OF AN URBAN FIRST NATIONS HIGH SCHOOL



The Kitotiminawak Parent Council  
and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

invites applications for the position of

### PRINCIPAL OF OSKĀYAK HIGH SCHOOL

Oskāyak High School is an urban First Nations School that is funded by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, governed by the Kitotiminawak Parent Council and operated by Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. The school, located on Broadway Avenue in Saskatoon, is comprised of approximately 170 students in a grade 9 to 12 program. It is staffed with a full-time assistant principal, 14 professional staff and 8 support staff. Program goals include high student engagement; infusion of Cree language and culture; academic excellence and an inter-agency approach to student supports.

The successful applicant must possess:

- ◆ A Master's degree in education
- ◆ Eligibility for a Saskatchewan teachers' certificate
- ◆ Knowledge of Cree language and culture
- ◆ A minimum of five years experience in educational leadership
- ◆ Capacity to develop a comprehensive plan for student retention
- ◆ Ability to foster community partnerships
- ◆ Experience in evidence-based programming
- ◆ Ability to develop a strong staff team

In addition, preference may be given to candidates who, for the purposes of transferability and advancement, meet the requirements of employment within Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools is committed to achieving and maintaining a workforce, which reflects and affirms the diversity of our school division. Applications are encouraged from First Nations and Métis candidates.

Please direct inquiries to  
Superintendent Gordon Martell  
at [gmartell@gscs.sk.ca](mailto:gmartell@gscs.sk.ca) or at  
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Applications are due  
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May 31, 2010.

Applicants must submit a resume along with three references to:

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## Manager of Mental Health

The Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (NTC) is seeking a Manager of Mental Health (Teechuklth) to be responsible for the overall management of the mental health and wellness programs for NTC members and community. This position is based out of Port Alberni, and reports to the Director of Community and Human Services.

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# [ footprints ] Wilma Mankiller Leader challenged convention to get things done

By Dianne Meili

"The Cherokee Nation will be the laughingstock of all the tribes if we elect a woman."

Wilma Mankiller distinctly recalled a male delegate standing up at a campaign meeting to warn her about the consequences of her bid to become deputy chief in 1983. Not to be discouraged, her knowledge of the strong role of Cherokee women in her people's history helped her stand up to widespread opposition.

Not only did she win the election, but after serving her four-year term as deputy principal chief, a term she considered to be her governmental summit, she went on to serve as principal chief in 1987, the first woman to hold that position. She was re-elected again in 1991.

Her once-doubtful detractors could not deny the positive change she brought to their communities and the heartfelt concern she demonstrated for their welfare.

"By the time I left office in 1995, after not seeking a fourth four-year term of office, there were fewer questions about whether or not women should be in leadership positions in the Cherokee Nation," Mankiller wrote in her autobiographical book *Everyday is a Good Day*.

"Cherokee people are more concerned about competency, about whether the Head Start bus shows up on time or whether they are properly diagnosed at the health clinics, than whether a woman is leading the nation. My elections were a step forward for women and a step into the Cherokee tradition of balance between men and women."

Before stepping into office, Mankiller came to national attention as a community expert with media coverage of the Bell Waterline Project in the early 1980s. Mankiller, and her second husband Charlie Soap, led 100 poverty-stricken Bell, Oklahoma residents, who were ready to abandon their community, in

building a 16-mile pipeline to bring clean water into their homes.

After eight months of trenching and blasting rock, local men and women completed the waterline and their success sparked a movement of similar projects across the Cherokee nation.

Growing up poor in the 50s and 60s in Oklahoma, Mankiller saw her Cherokee people as self-reliant. She remembered how family and neighbors depended on one another for support and survival, often trading goods—eggs for milk or farm goods for store-bought goods—to get by.

After her father moved the family to California seeking a better life, she was in the thick of the civil rights and women's movements, and the massive anti-war demonstrations in San Francisco sparked her interest in social justice issues.

Native American issues consumed her after she joined a group of university students occupying Alcatraz Island in 1969 to attract attention to issues affecting their tribes.

Shortly after, she began working in pre-school and adult education programs in the Pit River Tribe of California. Chafing under her first husband Hector Hugo Olaya's paternalistic values, and realizing her own people were fighting for a better life, she returned to her ancestral lands outside of Tahlequah, Oklahoma with her two daughters in 1976. By that time she had gained knowledge of land and treaty rights, and grant-writing skills. Along with her rock-solid faith in the ability of the Cherokee people to solve their own problems, she worked hard to develop community-based programs.

"My first job with the Cherokee Nation began in October of 1977 ... and people did not quite know what to make of me," wrote Mankiller in *Everyday is a Good Day*.



Wilma Mankiller

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

"I cheerfully worked longer hours than most anyone, and I would do whatever it took to get something done. My secretary would often find me sitting on the floor of my office trying to collate a grant proposal while my colleagues were worrying about the state of their bouffant hairdos.

Once elected as chief of the second largest tribe in the United States with a current enrolled population of more than 140,000, Mankiller fell back, once more, on traditional knowledge and spirituality for her leadership style.

During her tenure, she and Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah co-chaired a national conference between tribal leaders and cabinet members helping to establish an Office of Indian Justice within the U.S. Department of Justice.

Free-standing health clinics, an \$11 million Job Corps Centre, and expanded children and youth services were also attributed to her office.

Mankiller's terms as chief were not without controversy. She established the law that limited tribal membership by excluding the Freedmen section of Cherokee Indians, ruled unconstitutional in 2006 by the Cherokee Supreme Court. Her administration was also involved in many conflicts with the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, the other federally-recognized Cherokee tribe headquartered in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

After her last term as chief, Mankiller took a teaching position at Dartmouth College, lecturing, and authoring several books. Her first book, *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*, became

a national bestseller and in 2004 she released her co-authored *Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women*.

She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton, the highest civilian award in the U.S., and inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

In 1979, she was involved in a near fatal car accident which required 17 surgeries. She had multiple other health problems including myasthenia gravis, a kidney transplant, breast cancer, and lymphoma.

In March, at age 64, she was reported to be seriously ill with pancreatic cancer and died of the disease at her home in rural Adair County, Oklahoma on April 6, 2010.

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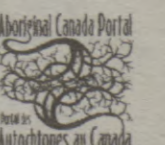
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**[ footprints ] Sophie Thomas**

By Dianne Meilli  
 Traditional healer offered help when doctors said 'no' "You've brought me to heaven." That's all the late Sophie Thomas could say when her daughter Minnie Thomas drove her to Tamarack Lake near Skookumchuk, B.C. years ago. "She looked around and she..."

**Windspeaker News Briefs - May**

Compiled by Debora Steel  
 MARCH 31 MARKED THE 50th anniversary of the right to vote for First Nations. "This is an important milestone and a cause for reflection," said Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl. The Diefenbaker government amended the Canada Elections...

**TRC open for business and planning Winnipeg event**

By Shari Narine, Windspeaker Contributor, WINNIPEG  
 "Survivors and their families are at the heart of all the work we do at the TRC," said Commissioner Marie Wilson in explaining the design of the newly opened office space in Winnipeg, which includes a prominent gathering room. About 250...

**Flying high with new funding Aerospace employment**

By Isha Thompson, Windspeaker Staff Writer, WINNIPEG  
 An Aboriginal training program is helping everything it can to get the most out of Winnipeg's Aboriginal workforce. The Canadian Aboriginal Human Resource Development, Inc. (CAHRD) received close to \$380,000 for one of their skill development programs.

**Editorial: Don't spin a story**

Windspeaker Staff  
 Gordon Campbell, the premier of British Columbia, seems to have some memory issues. It wasn't long ago that he was boasting that his government was going green. Now all of a sudden he's reviving a massive hydroelectric project from three decades ago...

**Community Events**

8th Annual Gathering Our Voices 2010 - Provincial Aboriginal Youth Conference  
 Healing through Art and Culture

**Innovative approach to oil, gas development**

By Shari Narine, Sweetgrass Writer, Edmonton  
 The Ermineskin Cree Nation has signed an agreement with a fledgling oil and gas company that both partners are hoping is the start of doing energy business on First Nations' land in a new way. After six months of negotiations, Ermineskin Chief...

**Calgary Briefs - April**

Compiled by Shari Narine  
 CPS IRS training video made available to all The Calgary Police Service is making its award-winning Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement training video available for anyone who wishes to use it. "Although the video was developed for our..."

**SASKATOON**

The memory of one of Saskatchewan's most talented artists is being kept alive through a virtual museum that was...

**MP blames Lawrence Joseph for situation**

Former Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), Lawrence Joseph, is unfazed by criticisms thrown in his direction by the highly debated... in regards to the highly debated...

**Edmonton Briefs**

Compiled by Shari Narine  
 Homeless Connect held next month May 9 marks the fourth Homeless Connect event to be held at the Shaw Conference Centre. Homeless Connect Edmonton is a broad-based community-inspired initiative, providing free appropriate services to homeless...

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- Buffalo Spirit Foundation

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- June Alberta Sweetgrass - June 7th
- June Saskatchewan Sage - June 7th

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Canada's National Aboriginal News Source

**A brief history of Windspeaker...**

**1983**

**The Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA) is incorporated and begins publishing the AMMSA newspaper to serve Alberta's Aboriginal people.**

**1985**

**The AMMSA newspaper is renamed Windspeaker.**

**1987**

**Windspeaker expands coverage to western Canada.**

**1990**

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

**1991**

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

**1993**

**Windspeaker celebrates its 10th anniversary and self-sufficiency by expanding distribution and coverage to include all of Canada.**

**1996**

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

**2001**

**AMMSA and Windspeaker re-launch [www.ammsa.com](http://www.ammsa.com) to include archived articles.**

**2003**

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

**2010**

**AMMSA and Windspeaker celebrate 27 years with a major re-launch of the web site.**

**Please visit the new and improved [ammsa.com](http://ammsa.com) and share your thoughts and comments with us.**