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INSIDE

Exclusive interview with Ken, the first Native person to test positive for the AIDS virus in Alberta

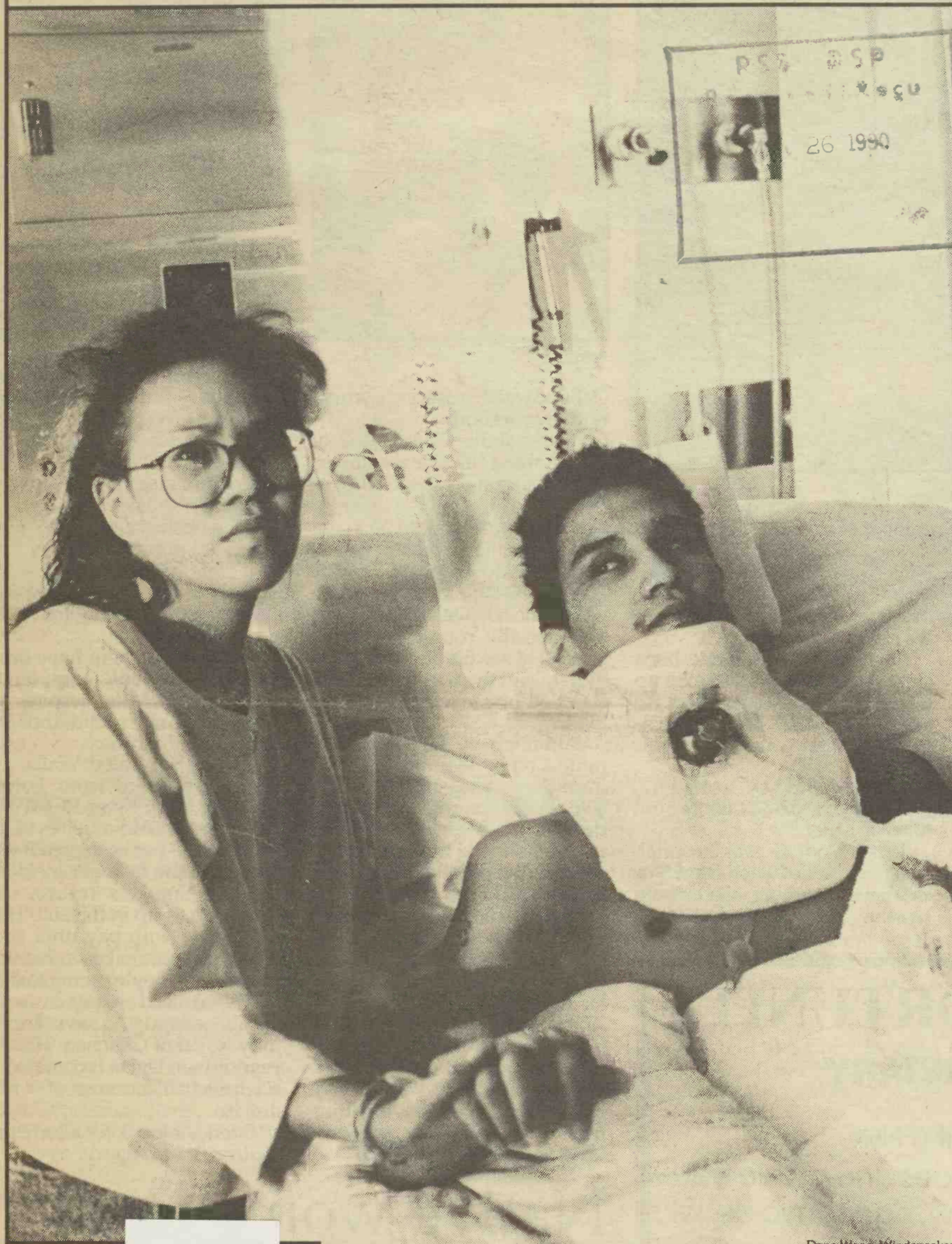
Wind speaker

March 16, 1990

North America's No. 1 Native Newspaper

Volume 7 No. 52

Hands of comfort . . .



Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

Sheila Pelletier with her brother Rodney at Foothills Hospital

Paralysed for life

'It's getting harder and harder as time goes on', says Rodney

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

CALGARY

Chances are Rodney Pelletier will never hug his two young daughters again.

But at the moment three-year-old Amber and two-year-old Jheri are just about the only bright spots in an otherwise dreary landscape.

"Sometimes I feel that's the only thing I'm living for," says 21-year-old Rodney, an Eden Valley resident, who is trapped in a hospital bed on the 11th floor of Calgary's Foothills Hospital. He expects to be there for

months. He's hooked up to a respirator — most likely for life — paralysed from the neck down, wondering what he has to live for.

"Just look at me," he says in a barely audible voice through dried and cracked lips. "It's getting harder and harder as time goes on."

His life hasn't been the same since the night of Jan. 16 when he was arrested at his home by Special Const. Willy Big Smoke and Const. Brian Wallace of the Turner Valley RCMP detachment following a domestic dispute.

Con't page 2

MAA uses gov't money for pay hikes — MLA

By Windspeaker Staff Writers

EDMONTON

Money provided by the province to the MAA to help pay for programs for the average Metis person in Alberta is being drawn off to help cover substantial pay raises for its leading officials, charges the New Democrats Native affairs critic.

Bob Hawkesworth has also lashed out at the provincial government for letting the Metis Association of Alberta divert provincial money to the operation of the association's monthly newspaper, *Native Network News*.

The MAA action was "a serious violation" of government policy, he said.

Hawkesworth, the Calgary Mountainview MLA, based his charges on a memo leaked to him. He refused to say how he obtained the undated and unsigned memo, which was written by Dennis Surrendi, an assistant deputy minister in municipal affairs, to deputy minister Archie Grover sometime after Dec. 1, 1989.

Hawkesworth attacked Ken Rostad, the minister responsible for Native affairs, for pleading ignorance on the matter when pressed in the house this week.

"The MAA has important work to do on behalf of Metis in this province and if the government memo Mr. Rostad doesn't know about is accurate, the ability to do that work for thousands of Metis is being compromised by a few of the organization's leaders," said Hawkesworth in a news release.

"The minister tried for two days in the legislature to say all is well but his words there were clearly contradicted by the memo I have released and it's time he found out what was going on and come clean about it with the rest of us," he said.

In the assembly's question period on Tuesday, Hawkesworth asked Rostad if the MAA financial recovery plan proposed by municipal affairs was "designed to recover public moneys, which are being misspent within that organization or is it some other arrangement designed to perhaps protect the MAA from political fallout?"

The Surrendi memo clearly indicates the MAA disregarded a provincial decision that no provincial money be used to publish *Native Network News*.

"Despite the department's specific rejection of support to *Native Network News*, the MAA has directed approximately \$200,000 of its core support to *Native Network News*," says the memo.

In the house Rostad was telling a different story to Hawkesworth. "It was not government funds. I challenge the member to put up or butt out."

"The Metis Association has not spent any government funds on their newspaper," said Rostad.

The Surrendi memo notes leading MAA officials were given "substantial" pay raises at the same time as the association faced a \$280,000 deficit.

"Despite entering the 1989-90 fiscal year with an operating deficit and with reduced funds from secretary of state and no increase from municipal affairs, the MAA has approved and implemented substantial pay raises for vice-presidents and the president. Salaries now represent a disproportionate percentage of the MAA's administrative budget."

He suggested the government set up a financial recovery committee to develop a financial recovery plan for the MAA, saying he was skeptical the organization could do so itself since 1990 is an election year. "It is likely that political pressures within this organization will discourage officials from complying with a self-imposed recovery plan."

Clint Buehler, MAA executive director and editor of *Native Network News*, said the memo details are misleading.

Buehler said the MAA deficit was the result of "a shortfall in cash flow," which he blamed on delays in receiving provincial government funding.

"I can assure you our cash flow situation has been resolved and our audit will show a balanced budget — or close to it," he said.

Surrendi's memo said "the MAA has often pointed to delays in framework funding as a cause of financial problems. In fact it (the MAA) plans to use the surplus to reduce its operating deficit."

Maverick MAA official Dan Martel said the provincial government "has lost control of the MAA and doesn't know how to get it back."

John Middleton, the lawyer for the Metis Self-Determination Society of Alberta, termed the way the MAA ran its association "a joke."

Rostad told the legislature the government has a "good working relationship" with the MAA, which he defended as "a fine, upstanding organization that works with the government to enhance delivery of programs from our government to the Metis of Alberta."

MAA president Larry Desmeules could not be reached for comment on Hawkesworth's allegations or the memo.

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Provincial News

'It's getting harder and harder as time goes on . . .

From front page

Big Smoke was charged with assault causing bodily harm following an RCMP investigation. He'll make his first appearance in provincial court at Turner Valley March 22. He was suspended from work with pay March 5, the same day he and Wallace returned to duty after taking stress leave on a doctor's advice. Wallace won't be charged.

Family members accused police of having beaten Rodney and leaving him helpless and near death on the jail floor at Turner Valley for 12 hours before taking him to Oilfields Hospital in Black Diamond, where he was X-rayed before being rushed to Foothills.

Pelletier won't talk publicly about the night, because he doesn't want to jeopardize a lawsuit filed by his lawyer against the RCMP seeking damages for pain and suffering, future care and loss of earnings.

"He feels the whole night was a big mistake," says Sheila, his sister and best friend. She's been front and centre since the incident occurred, dealing with the media, to ensure Rodney isn't forgotten.

"The Bible says you have to learn to forgive, but it's hard," he says. "Look at the shape I'm in. I can't do anything."

But his sister gently corrects him. "He's come a long ways. He doesn't realize it, but he has. His mind wants him to get better just like that but his body doesn't want to. It'll take him awhile to learn that."

His 19-year-old common-law wife of four years, Karen Dixon, dropped plans after the incident to charge him with assault. They had been separated for a year but had just gotten back together when the arrest occurred.

Calgary RCMP Supt. Brian



Gheri

Davison said earlier that Pelletier was "pretty aggressive when he was arrested. He had been drinking quite a bit."

But Pelletier denied provoking police. "I did nothing wrong. I didn't put on a struggle or anything."

Sheila, who has been at the hospital every day, says the incident brought Rodney's six sisters and two brothers closer together. "We learned to overcome difficulties. We learned to put things behind us."

But, she says, "it's starting to take its toll on me. I pray to my higher power to keep me strong and to guide me. There's a lot of

emotions I never thought I had to feel," she says. "I never, ever wish this on my worst enemy. Nobody should have to be put through this kind of experience. It's pretty devastating."

She and Rodney have been close since their family broke up when they were preschoolers. As permanent wards of the government, they grew up in the same homes together.

And when they turned 18, they "stayed close, watching out for each other."

When Rodney was hospitalized, she moved back from Saskatchewan, where she'd been working as a receptionist on



Amber

Ochapowace reserve, where Rodney was born.

"He's shown me a lot of things about life I never understood before and vice-versa. I just encourage him and I'm there for him. That's all I can do."

Amber, Jheri and the rest of his family are also there for him. But for the first three weeks he was in the hospital when he was in especially rough shape, he refused to see his daughters. He didn't want them to see his head clamped or the feeding tube in his arm.

Although he had improved quite a bit by the time they saw him, they were still apprehensive. Jheri thought she had two daddies, says Sheila, "the one from before and the one now."

Now the girls know their father can no longer walk or move his legs. "They kiss him. They hug him. They're there for him. When he sees them, it brightens up his day, but it hurts him, too. He misses holding them."

After spending seven weeks in the trauma unit of intensive care, he was moved up to the neurocritical care ward March 7. It's going to be tough getting used to a new floor and new staff, he says.



Willy Big Smoke

Meanwhile, Supt. Davison says there's no reason for the incident involving Pelletier, although "tragic," to jeopardize the special constable program or to tarnish its image.

Nor does he see any reason for the incident to set back relations between police and Eden Valley residents. "These things do happen. Should we all be tarred, because of one isolated incident?" he asks.

"The business we're in, these things are going to happen," he says. "It's not the first time it's happened. I hope it's the last. But it's not the first time, that's for sure," he says.

But he says there have been no prior serious complaints against Big Smoke, despite "all kinds of rumors and innuendoes" to the contrary.

Davison revealed Wallace is being transferred from Turner Valley to High River RCMP detachment — 40 kilometres to the southeast — but he denied it was related to the Pelletier incident. But Big Smoke's future, like Pelletier's, is up in the air. "He's suspended with pay until such time the force makes a decision about what they're going to do."

"What Rod needs now is family support," says friend Judy Royal of Gleichen. Her 19-year-old son Dylan is confined to a wheelchair, because of a rare disease.

Eden Valley is 65 kilometres southwest of Calgary.

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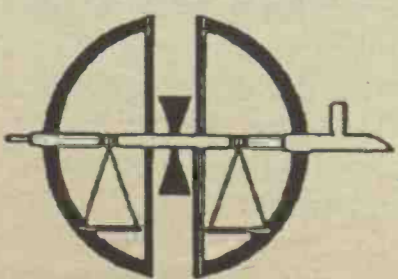
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Native women at bottom of totem pole

By Laura Langstaff
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON

Native women are still at the bottom of the totem pole, a Native leader told an International Women's Day (IWD) workshop.

"Native women are pressured from all sides — from Greenpeace lobbying against a way of life, by governments withholding dollars and tightening welfare policies and in terms of jobs," said Doris Ronnenburg.

She called on governments in Canada to settle longstanding issues with their own aboriginal people before concentrating on international issues and for Native women to be more politically active to break the pattern of apathy.

Ronnenburg said it's very difficult for women to give up their roles of nurturer and being the "heart of the home" even in the face of abuse in a hunting and

gathering society.

Although Native women were the first small business people in Canada due to the barter system they established, new technology demands new skills for them to successfully compete in the 1990s, she said.

Meanwhile, Muriel Stanley-Venne of Women of the Metis Nation said Native women face a double whammy since they not only must deal with sexism, but also with the negative stereotypes non-Native society has about them.

During IWD celebrations at Canada Place in Edmonton March 11, she expressed concern with the low level of participation of Native women in the event.

She sees the need for a grassroots movement to encourage Native women to restore themselves. "We've tried attacking the problem from the top down and it didn't work, so now we need to work from the bottom up."

Provincial News

Woodland Cree 'rejected all around' says new chief

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

CADOTTE LAKE, ALTA.

Woodland Cree Chief John Cardinal says his band largely consists of Bill C-31 Natives rejected by other northern Alberta

bands.

"What do these people do? They're rejected all around. Isn't there something for these people? There should be something," he said.

Cardinal, 43, told *Windspeaker* the Woodland Cree are not going to hide who they are any longer

because "they're Indians just like everyone else."

Since the members of the Woodland Cree weren't being represented by their home reserves, they decided to negotiate for their own reserve, he said.

Cardinal, who recently received his Treaty Indian status,

said most of the Woodland members are Bill C-31 recipients whom Lubicon Lake Chief Bernard Ominayak refuses to accept as members.

He noted most of the 420 members are from the Cadotte Lake area near Peace River, but admits there are some from other

parts of northern Alberta, who are not being represented by their bands.

The Woodland Cree Band was officially recognized by then Indian affairs minister Pierre Cadieux last August, prompting howls of protest from Indian leaders that it was an attempt to divide the Lubicons. The new band included a sizeable number of Lubicon members unhappy with the way their 50-year-old land claim dispute was progressing under Ominayak's leadership.

Cardinal, who became chief Feb. 24, said his band was petitioned by Indians from other bands in Slave Lake and Whitefish, who wanted to become part of the Woodland Cree.

"If we take this guy from Slave Lake (for example), he's been rejected all around — don't you think we would be doing the right thing? At least he belongs somewhere," he said.

But the Woodland Cree membership is more far-reaching than Cardinal is admitting, said the chief of Little Red River Cree Band, who has had to fight to keep one of his band members from being transferred by the federal government.

Johnsen Sewepagaham said he was "astonished" to discover one of his members from the Fox Lake Reserve was on the Woodland Cree list. "And she told me she never knew it either."

Sewepagaham has sent a letter to the registrar of Indian and northern affairs demanding that Mary Rose Laboucan be taken off the list. He has gotten no response.

Gerry Thronson, director of lands, revenues and trusts with Indian affairs for the Alberta region, the department responsible for band membership, could not be reached for comment.

Cardinal said he was not aware a Little Red River Band member was on the Woodland list.

Chiefs of the newly-formed Grand Council of Treaty 8 Nations — to which Sewepagaham belongs — voted recently to condemn Ottawa for recognizing the band. They also voted to deny the Woodland Cree membership in the newly-established organization.

Cardinal charges that the Woodland Cree have been blackballed by Ominayak, who has suggested the band was created by the federal government to undermine the ongoing negotiations.

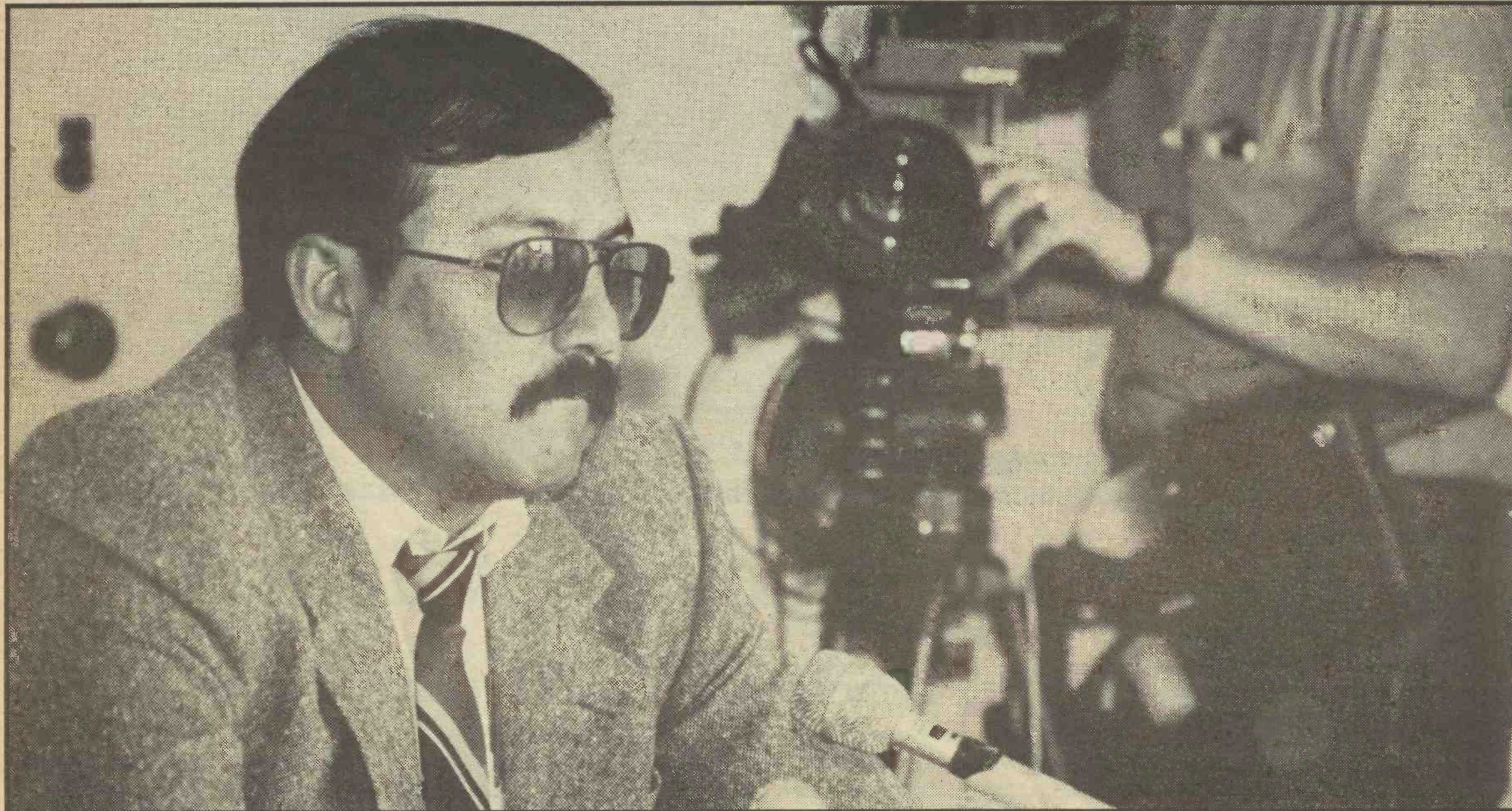
"But that's just not so," Cardinal said.

The new Treaty 8 group was established by 40 bands across northern Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories to fight for Indian treaty rights.

Cardinal said his band will continue land claim negotiations with the federal government without the support of the Treaty 8 group.

Lubicon spokesperson Terri Kelly said the band is aware the Woodland Cree band list is made up of Bill C-31 Indians and members of other bands.

Of the 110-name list the Lubicon Band was first given, 63 people were registered Lubicon members, 11 were from the Tallcree band, one was from Little Red River, six were registered as Dene Tha' members, seven were from the Bigstone Band and two were from Whitefish.



Chief Charles Beaver

File Photo

Treaty 8 chiefs from the west combine forces

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Northern Alberta Indian chiefs have combined forces with their brothers from Western Canada to protect the rights of Treaty 8 bands.

One of their first moves was to throw support behind the Lubicon Lake Indian Band.

The Grand Council of Treaty 8 Nations was struck during a Treaty 8 conference held in Edmonton March 8.

More than 40 bands, includ-

ing bands from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, are uniting to fight for recognition and to demand better treatment from the Crown as called for in the Treaty of 1899.

In its very first resolution the council attacked the federal government for attempting to undermine the Lubicon struggle by recognizing the Woodland Cree Band.

"This oppressive action on the part of the Government of Canada contravenes the spirit and intent of Treaty 8 entered into in

1899 by the British Crown and the sovereign nations of Treaty 8," the resolution read.

The organization was established to give Indian people, who face a wide range of issues, a stronger footing in dealing with the government.

Lubicon Lake Chief Bernard Ominayak, whose band has been fighting for land and treaty rights for more than 50 years, said the chiefs of northern Alberta are now going to place a special emphasis on strengthening their own treaty, instead of depending on larger Native organizations to

fight their battles.

The Lubicon Band, while not part of Treaty 8, was accepted as a member of the new group by a formal vote of the other chiefs. Ominayak said in an interview he hopes to play a crucial role in the new Treaty 8 organization.

"We all understand we've got to work a lot closer together," he said.

Bigstone Cree Chief Charles Beaver will be heading up a committee to analyze Treaty 8 as it applies to current Native rights. He could not be reached for comment.

Delaying Al-Pac mill will hurt Native people - Cardinal

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

ATHABASCA, ALTA.

Athabasca-Lac la Biche MLA Mike Cardinal says the decision to delay construction of a hotly-disputed bleach kraft pulp mill will be costly to northern Alberta Natives hoping to take advantage of the mill's economic spinoffs.

The provincial government has delayed development of a \$1.3 billion pulp mill proposed for the Athabasca area by Alberta-Pacific until more environment tests are conducted.

The announcement by Alberta Environment Minister Ralph Klein to delay construction of the mill came in response to recommendations by a government-sponsored environ-

ment review board.

The eight-member panel said the mill should not be approved until more studies are done on the Athabasca-Peace River systems where high levels of toxic dioxins have been found.

But Cardinal said many of the Natives can't wait another year for the tests to conclude.

"That's just another year they'll be on welfare," he said.

Cardinal told *Windspeaker* that Natives and non-Natives in the area of the mill are living in depressed conditions and need large industry to spark economic growth.

There are about 1,600 people in the Lac la Biche area alone receiving social assistance — more than 80 per cent of them are Native, said Cardinal.

"What's happening now is a

lot of our young people have to move out of the area to work elsewhere," he said.

The review board members recognized the Al-Pac mill — proposed to be built 47 km from Athabasca — as the "least polluting bleach kraft mill in the world." But they said uncertainty remained about the effects of the additional pollutants on the Athabasca River system.

Chief Chucky Beaver of the Bigstone band in Desmarais said as long as there's apprehension about the environmental impact of the mill, it shouldn't be built.

He said economic growth was never promised to the people of his band, 100 km downstream of the planned mill.

The industrial expansion would have "disastrous" impacts on the social and economic

futures of his 4,000-member band, he said.

Beaver insisted the environment can't be sacrificed for the sake of jobs.

An economic report commissioned by the review panel in January, said Al-Pac based its job projections on "weak" assumptions, which "exaggerate the regional employment benefits of the proposed mill."

The initial Al-Pac proposal said the mill would directly create 1,100 jobs and another 825 indirectly in the service and supply sectors.

But two Calgary economists concluded Al-Pac grossly overestimated the number of jobs to be created.

The study also said any local logging or servicing jobs created would be low-paying.

Wind speaker

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Bert Crowfoot
General Manager

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Guest Editorial

Wilson's budget was a punch right in the kisser

Skanongohwe!

How many times have you seen a movie where the man of the house is a fat-bellied, beer-swilling, half-dressed, unshaven slob? And one day, all of a sudden, he hauls off and slugs his long-suffering wife right in the chops and screams, "Shut-Up! I'm sick and tired of your nagging!"

You get the picture, I'm sure.

I don't know how Michael Wilson acts or dresses around HIS house but when he was in the House of Commons the other day he might have been well-dressed and clean-shaven but he still hauled off and punched Native people right in the mouth.

In the budget he released, he cut payments to the provinces for things like health care, education and welfare by two-and a half billion dollars over the next two years. And since 70 percent of Canada's Native people are dependent on some form of social assistance, his budget cuts are going to make Native people bleed.

And as if that's not enough, he's attacked Native programs directly. He's cutting spending on Native newspapers, radio stations, friendship centres, women's groups and political organizations by more than nine million dollars next year. The biggest cuts are in the area of Native communications. He's cutting funding to Native radio stations by more than two million dollars — a cut of 16 per cent — and he's cutting all federal funding to all Native newspapers in the country. That's another \$3 million dollar cut.

The cuts will cripple Native radio stations and kill off most of the biggest, oldest and best Native newspapers in the country. But the funny (?) thing is Wilson did not cut federal advertising going to ethnic newspapers. That means Italian newspapers in Toronto and Chinese newspapers in Vancouver will continue to get federal funding while Native newspapers in Sioux Lookout and Yellowknife will get the axe. Does that make any sense?

Maybe it's because Michael Wilson, Brian Mulroney, Bill McKnight, Pierre Cadieux, Gerry Weiner and the rest of that gang just got tired of being criticized by Native newspapers. Maybe all that nagging got under their skin. I have to admit I did more than my share.

But then it is about time this government realized Canada's special relationship with Native people — one that is recognized in the constitution — is something more than just words on paper. So maybe Mulroney and Wilson did get tired of being reminded they're not living up to their obligations. And how did they respond to all this nagging? — Pow! Right in the kisser.

Nobody likes to be criticized, that's for sure. But Native newspapers do much, much more than that and the shame of it is that Wilson and Mulroney don't seem to care. Native newspapers perform a crucial function in Native communities because the Globe and Mail just doesn't get delivered to places like Snowdrift, Moose Factory or Buffalo Narrows. But Native newspaper do get there and they report Native news ignored by the mainstream news media. And in some cases, they report the news in a Native language — the only language many Native people understand.

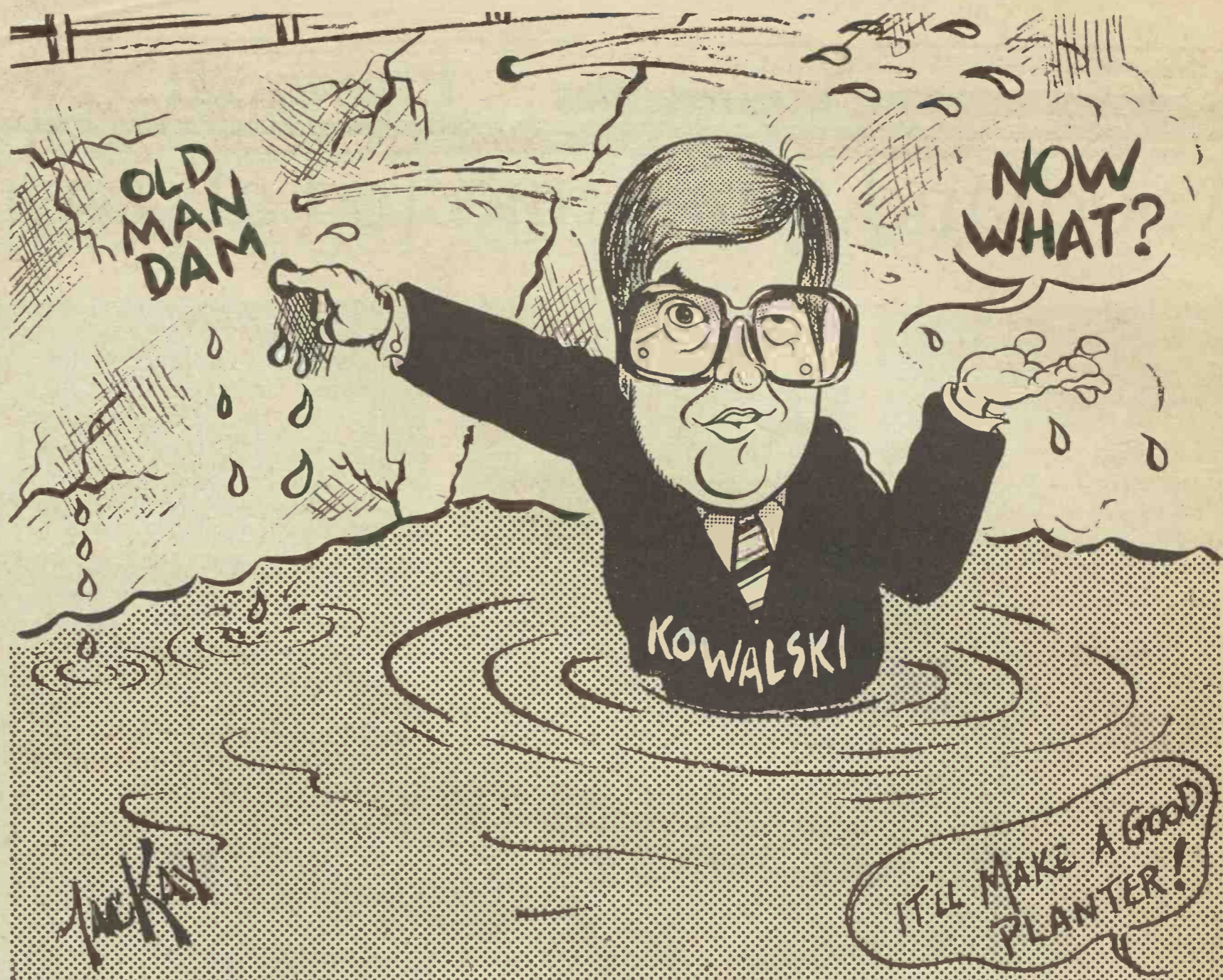
Wilson cut the Native communications' budget in the secretary of state department by more than \$5 million, but at the same time he has also increased the budget for the department of Indian affairs by \$183 million — much of it to allow Indians to become more involved in the area of self-government.

Coming at a time when Native people need more information, not less, and when they need better communications, not worse, this cut is not only cruel, it's senseless.

So what's the public supposed to think about all this? Here's my suggestion. Remember that wife-beating cave man I mentioned earlier? The kind of a guy, who believes women should be kept barefoot and pregnant? Well, by cutting back on welfare and by killing off Native newspapers, Michael Wilson has shown he believes in keeping Native people barefoot and ignorant.

Onengiwahe.

(By Brian Maracle)



Guest Columnist

Mary won't be able to read her Tusaayaksat anymore

Mary Carpenter woke up the other day and decided she would make her point.

Vincent Massey, the first Canadian-born governor general, would have loved it.

Mary woke up and dialed the Office of the Secretary of State of Canada.

A woman came on the line and asked, in both official languages, if she could help.

Mary asked if she might speak with the Secretary of State, the Hon. Gerry Weiner.

Only Mary — born an Inuit in the Western Arctic — asked in her own Canadian language, Inuvialuktun.

"I beg your pardon?" the woman asked.

"No," Mary said in English, her second language, "I beg your pardon."

"What do you mean?" the woman asked.

"I mean," Mary said, "that I value my language just as much as you value the two official languages of Canada. And I want you to know that because you are cutting off funding, I won't be able to read my Tusaayaksat anymore."

Mary didn't expect the woman at Secretary of State to understand not the way Vincent Massey had understood 34 years ago — but she had to tell someone in the government, even if no one in the government is listening.

Tusaayaksat is an Inuit newspaper published in Inuvik. Once a month it comes by mail down to Vanier, near Ottawa, where Mary is living while she tries to write the book of her life, and it is probably more important to her than Weiner could ever know.

Mary lives alone. There are times, many times lately, when the words she puts down on paper turn into beasts that frighten her.

It is one thing to read a fic-

tional account of a child being attacked by a polar bear, of the child's mother being taken away to die in a distant sanatorium and of this child being raised as an orphan by cruel nuns — but it is something else to write down this account as fact.

When her paper arrives from home, it is like the family she lost coming to visit.

She spreads her paper out and sinks happily into the news. Mary can point to every picture and know every face, every his-

and then to a room where the most beautiful frilled and ribboned dress she had ever imagined was waiting.

Mary put it on, twirled excitedly and was told she could wear it only for the ceremony. It wasn't hers to keep.

The sister left the room and Mary took off her frilled dress and ripped it to shreds.

She attended the ceremony in her orphan's dress, the hand of the sister firmly tightened around her pigtail so she wouldn't act up.

The governor general noticed and asked if he might meet privately with the troubled girl.

They talked in the school dining room and the story came out of Mary: she had ripped up the dress because

she knew it would have to be given back.

Massey heard her out, determined not to laugh.

"You'll do all right in life," he told her. "Canada was built by people with your spirit."

Mary remembered that when she made her call to the Office of the Secretary of State of Canada. She wanted them to know — in English, in French, and in Inuvialuktun — that they're breaking people's spirit for the sake of pocket change.

But it's unlikely they're listening in any language.

(Roy MacGregor is a columnist with The Ottawa Citizen. Reprinted by permission).



What's Happening

Yum, rabbit stew, at last

Hi! I've been back on the road again. This time I visited Slave Lake, Loon Lake, Peerless Lake and Red Earth and I spoke to a friendly trapper from Wabasca. Now I'm tucked out!

In Slave Lake the people are so nice even the Mounties smile.

I ran into Alex Courtrielle and if you remember he's the past executive director of the Native friendship centre in that town.

Well, today Alex is a special RCMP constable and has been for a number of years.



Darren Waite

Alex told me he now has submitted his name in hopes of being picked to start training towards a full-time career as a regular RCMP officer.

Right now though, he's comfortable patrolling the back streets and highways of Slave Lake.

So I said to him in my most "best friend" smile: "Alex, I have outstanding tickets. With the push on to catch all of us non-



Droppin' In... With Rocky Woodward

ticket payers, does this apply to the RCMP as well?"

"Just don't get stopped Rocky," he said.

"But, you're off duty! Har, har," I laughed.

"Not tomorrow! Har har," Alex laughed back.

I left for Red Earth that same night.

One more thing before I leave

Slave Lake...thanks for the friendly peck on the cheek Peggy Roberts. And you shouldn't get mad because I'm telling all of Alberta. I have proof! All the people at the talent show saw it!

Actually, Peggy, the executive director of the Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, welcomed me with the peck — in good taste — as I arrived at their talent show from Edmonton.

KINUSO: And I keep telling people in the music business something should be done about all the hidden talent we have here in Alberta.

This talented singer won enough awards at the Slave Lake Friendship Centre's annual talent show to last until he builds another stand for his next trophies.



Brenda Blachford

I mean it when I say Darren Waite has a future in the music business if he has a mind to further his career in that field.

FAUST: More hidden talent! It was almost unbelievable to listen to all these fantastic singers and guitar players such as Rocky Walker, Faust singer Brenda Blachford and 14-year-old guitar player Clayton Giroux.

The young lady you see here — Brenda Blachford — just made it into the door of the talent show when her name was called to sing...sing...sing!

Halfway through the song, she changed the cord arrangement to suit her voice better...now that's professionalism.

"In the rush I began the song in the wrong key," Brenda said apologetically to the crowd.

She needn't have apologized, but maybe it helped. The judges awarded her with second place in that competition.

Faust, you have some great talent in your community.

SLAVE LAKE: She belongs to a group of singers, which call themselves "Music Country" and according to their manager, Fred Auger, the group has captured the hearts of their audience and have won over 25 trophies at the many talent shows they have entered in their district this year.

One of them, 16-year-old Joanna Nahachick, a Grade 10

student in Slave Lake, won the professional singing award at the friendship centre's talent show March 9.

"She is talented just like the rest of the group," commented Fred.

And the rest of the group are: Andy L'Hirondelle, Anita Nahachick and Jessica Nahachick.

EDMONTON: A workshop will be held at the Regency Hotel March 23-25 on the North American Indigenous Games scheduled to open in Edmonton this summer, says John Fletcher. And on March 23 a banquet and dance will be held. The guest speaker will be Olympic gold medalist Alwyn Morris. For further information call the games office at 421-0991.



Joanna Nahachick

DROPPIN' IN: We'll be hearing about Loon Lake in our next edition. Oh! and by the way...a happy, happy birthday, Mable Chomiak of Loon Lake.

I love the name of their association, Loon Lake Uspeyimoowin Association. It means, "You Can Depend On Us."

Thanks for all the friendly companionship, opened doors and good conversation you offered me on my trip north. It won't be forgotten...and thanks for the rabbit stew...Dave Starr.

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT APPEAR IN "INDIAN COUNTRY COMMUNITY EVENTS" CALL TINA WOOD AT (403)455-2700.

TASK FORCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE OF THE NATIVE/METIS PEOPLE OF ALBERTA; Mar. 12 to May 31; interviews will be conducted on all Alberta reserves to survey the First Nations of Alberta; for more info. call (403)434-9409.

HEAD-SMASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP; mini-events every Sunday at noon thru to March 25; for more info. contact (403) 553-2731 or Calgary, (403) 265-0048.

METIS DANCE CLASSES; Sundays, 2-4 p.m.; St. Peter's Church (110 Ave. & 127 St.), Edm.; for more info. call Georgina Donald at (403)452-7811.

C.N.F.C. AEROBICS PROGRAM; Mondays 7 - 8 p.m. & Tuesdays 5 - 6 p.m.; Oliver Elementary School (117 St. & 102 Ave.), Edm.; for more info. call Brian at (403)452-7811.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOUP & GREEN BANNOCK (\$1.50); Mar. 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; High Prairie Native Friendship Centre; for more info. call (403)523-4511.

4TH ANNUAL WABASCA/DESMARAIS MAD TRAPPERS WINTER CARNIVAL; Mar. 16-18; Desmarais Centre; for more info. call Chris Gladue at (403)891-3818 or Jim Blair at 891-3777.

GOODFISH LAKE KINGS

Indian Country Community Events

NO-HIT HOCKEY TOURN.; Mar. 16-18; Lakeside Arena; for more info. call Henry Cardinal at (403)636-2863 (work) or 636-2194 (home).

NATIVE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL TOURN.; Mar. 16-18; Grant MacEwan J.P. Campus, Edm.; for more info. contact Brian at (403)452-7811.

BOYS' HOCKEY TOURN.; Mar. 16-18; St. Paul; for more info. call Andy at (403) 645-4491, Crystal or Verne at 826-7866 or leave message at 645-4455.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL TOURN.; Mar. 16-18; St. Paul; for more info. call Andy at (403) 645-4491, Crystal or Verne at 826-7866 or 645-4455 (message).

SENIOR HOCKEY TOURN.; March 16-18; Regina Exhibition Stadium — Exhibition Park; Regina, Sask.; for more info. contact Milton Tootoosis at (306) 584-8333.

1ST ANNUAL NATIVE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL TOURN.; Mar. 16-18; Edm.; sponsored by the C.N.F.C.; for more info. call Brian at (403) 452-7811.

INTERDENOMINATIONAL ADULT RETREAT; Mar. 17, 1 - 9 p.m.; Mar. 18 - afternoon; St. Henry's Church Basement, Ft.

Vermilion; for more info. call (403)927-4659.

CAREER IDENTIFYING WORKSHOP; Mar. 19 & 20; Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre, Hobbema.

ANNUAL NATIVE AWARENESS (SPEAKING FROM THE CIRCLE); Mar. 19-23; Blue Quills First Nation College, St. Paul; for more info. call Darrell Brernton at (403)645-4455.

ALL CHIEFS HEALTH CONFERENCE; Mar. 20-22; Continental Inn West, Edm.; for more info. contact Audrey or Henry at (403)426-1213.

METIS WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF EDM. ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK SUPPER; Mar. 23; 11339 - 88 St., Edm.; for more info. call (403)479-4352.

RADWAY CHALLENGE RETREAT FOR YOUTH TEEN-AGE WEEKEND; Mar. 23-25; Ft. Vermilion; for more info. call (403)927-3257 & leave message.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES LAST WORKSHOP; Mar. 23-25; Regency Hotel (7230 Argyll Rd.), Edm.; for more info. call (403)421-0991.

HIGH PRAIRIE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 3RD ANNUAL TALENT SHOW;

Mar. 24, 7:00 p.m.; Elk's Hall (downtown); for more info. or to enter, please call Loraine at (403)523-4511.

BINGO; Mar. 24, doors at 5:30 p.m., Bingo at 7; Ft. Vermilion Comm. Complex; sponsored by the P.T.A.

SUPERODEO '90; Mar. 28 - 31; Northlands AgriCom, Edm.; for more info. or tickets call (403)471-7373 or Toll Free in Alberta 1-800-282-3991.

METIS CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2ND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DANCE; Mar. 30; Curly's Corral, Yellowhead Motor Inn, Edm.; for more info. call (403)452-6100.

LAC LA BICHE C.N.F.C. ANNUAL MEETING; Mar. 31; Jubilee Hall, Lac La Biche; for more info. call (403)623-3249.

EDMONTON NATIVE SNOWBIRDS (LADIES FASTBALL) TRYOUTS; Mar. 31 to Apr. 1; Enoch; for more info. call Gordon Russell at (403) 456-1039 or 479-8609.

WESTERN CANADIAN NATIVE CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS; Apr. 6-8; Wetaskiwin Recreation Centre; for more info. or entries call Dale Spence at (403)352-0059 or 421-1606.

P.G. LUMBER KINGS ALL NATIVE HOCKEY TOURN.; April 6 - 8; Prince George Coliseum, BC; for more info. call Harley Chingy during the day at (604)561-2652, 750-4415 or evenings at 563-6132, 563-6356.

POUNDMAKER LODGE 1ST ALUMNI MEETING; Apr. 7, 4:00 p.m.; for more info. call Florence Cayenne or Elaine Papin at (403)458-1884.

NATIONAL INDIAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS; (Men/Ladies), Apr. 7 & 8; University of Regina Physical Activity Centre; for more info. contact Milton Tootoosis at (306) 584-8333 or fax (306) 584-0955.

5TH ANNUAL ALL-NATIVE HOCKEY TOURN.; Apr. 13-15; St. James Civic Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba; for more info. call Ron, Dennis or Terry at (204)942-0228.

12th ANNUAL SPRING POWWOW; Apr. 14 & 15; Canada Centre, East Building, Regina Exhibition Park; for more info. contact Melody Kitchemonia at (306) 584-8333 or fax (306) 584-0955.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION; Apr. 18-21; Convention Inn South & Coast Terrace Inn, Edm.; for more info. call (403)962-0303.

MISS INDIAN WORLD; Apr. 18-21; Gathering of Nations Powwow, Albuquerque, New Mexico; for more info. or entries call (505)836-2810.

WESTERN CANADA ALL-NATIVE MINOR HOCKEY; Apr. 27-29; hosted by Sask. Native Minor Sports; Jemini 4 Arenas, Saskatoon, SK; for more info. call Dave Cameron at 467-4523 or 467-4489 or Claude Petit at 975-0840 or 384-0565.

ELIZABETH SETTLEMENT ADMIN. OFFICE & COMMUNITY HALL GRAND OPENING; May 11; for more info. call Pam Anderson at (403)594-5028.

Edmonton

Native man takes off mask of shame

An exclusive interview

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

The first Native person to test positive for the AIDS virus in Alberta has taken off what he calls his mask of shame to tell others "you have to look death square in the face and help people to understand it can happen to them too."

Ken Ward, whose anonymous letter appeared in *Windspeaker* Feb. 16 explaining his emotional hell since being confirmed HIV positive last year, is now working with the AIDS Network of Edmonton.

"I figure it's time for me to reach out to other Natives — to their communities and their families. Education is the only way we can survive this thing."

The brash, 33-year-old Enoch reserve Native told *Windspeaker* in an exclusive interview he no longer wants to hide behind his fears and self pity. He wants to help educate his people about the risks of contracting the deadly and painful disease, which is feared to be gaining ground in the Native community nationwide.

"I've had to grow up a lot in the past year," he said.

Ward is the AIDS Network's first Native volunteer. Before being blasted with news in 1989 his freewheeling, drug-binge days would likely result in his death, he didn't know anything about AIDS except what he read on a poster one day at the reserve.

Before turning to intravenous

AIDS coalition must reach out to Native people, says Bird

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

A social service coalition, which is only weeks away from obtaining joint-government funding to fight AIDS in Edmonton's inner city, should be expanded to include Native groups, says an Alberta Indian Health Care Commission member.

Anne Bird credits the seven-member coalition for trying to combat the deadly virus in the inner city, but fears it's ignoring a sizable population.

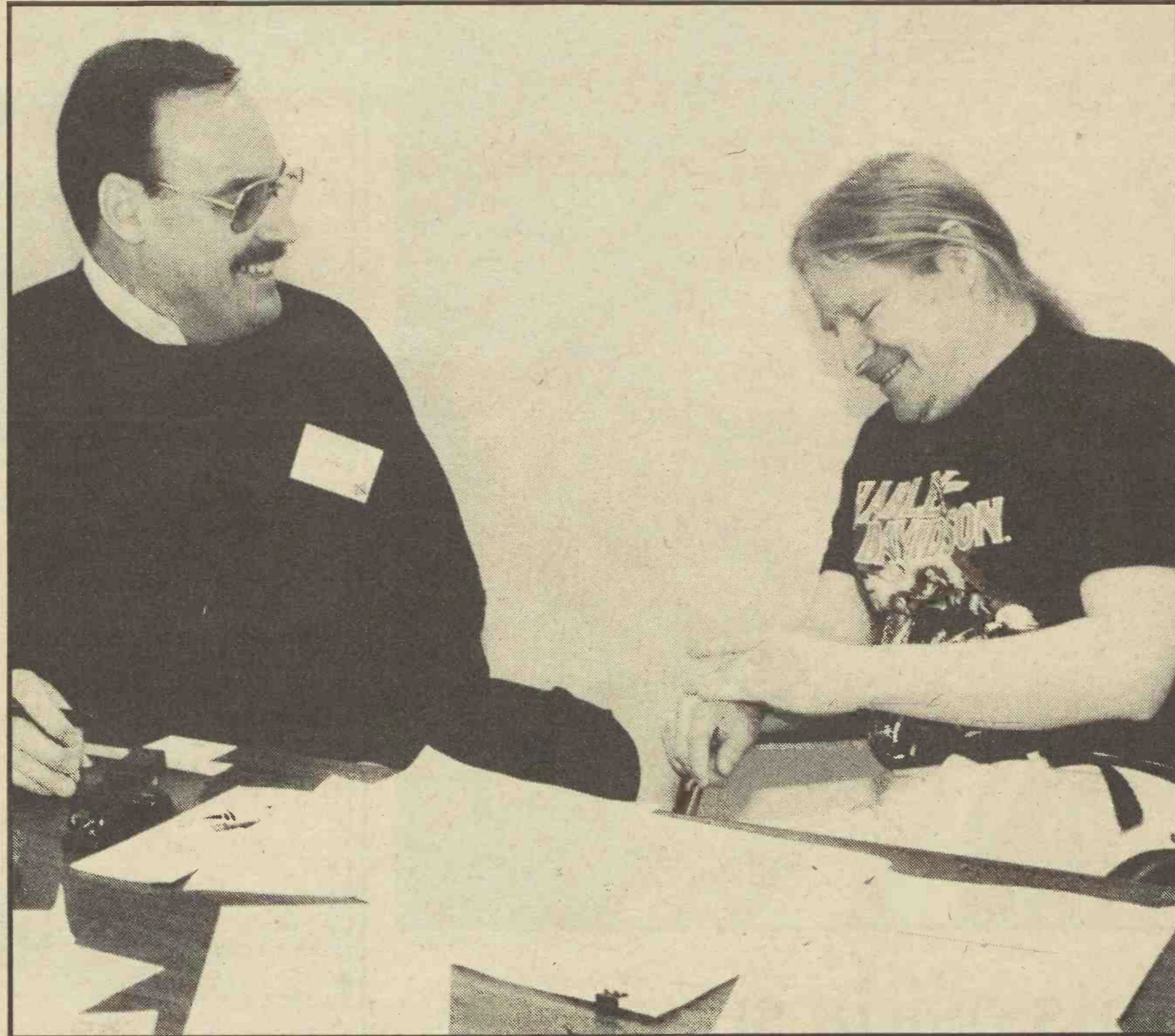
If cultural and language differences aren't addressed, Bird said, Native people won't benefit from the help to be offered by the coalition.

The coalition consists of Edmonton social service agencies, which have combined efforts to establish a \$500,000 program aimed at IV drug users, who have a high risk of contracting AIDS.

The project will include setting up needle exchanges and needle cleaning outlets.

Bird said, "there are a lot of health facilities all over that are available, but they're not easily accessible to Native people."

"Natives aren't going to go out and seek the help. You're going to have to have outreach workers," she said.



(L-R) Barry Breau and Ken Ward

Jeff Morrow, Windspeaker

drug use, Ward hadn't a clue about the dangers of contracting the worst infection to hit the human race since the bubonic

plague.

"That poster was the only exposure I ever had. I just felt it wasn't going to affect me, so why bother worrying about it," he said.

"Well, I was wrong to believe that. Now I think, my God, what were the odds!"

Ward is now dedicating his life to promoting education

aimed at Native people. He hopes to set up class-room discussions on AIDS at the reserve level and at area colleges. He does stress, however, that pushing education on people won't always do the trick. "You just have to want to be educated. People should start educating themselves and their children before the problem gets out of

hand in the Native community."

Ward admits he is living proof that ignorance can lead to death.

When he left for Vancouver two years ago to "check out the night life," there was no reason for him to believe he was doomed to spend the rest of his days regretting his decisions. "But you'll find your whole lifestyle changes — the way you think about things, and the way you think about others."

"The doors have opened up for me. I let myself get swept away. I have to try to help others from doing the same."

The executive director of the Edmonton AIDS Network said having Ward as part of the group's AIDS education team is vital to the preservation of the Native community in Alberta.

Barry Breau said Native people are particularly at risk because they're not being reached like they should be.

He said preventive measures and education about the causes and effects of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) are foreign subjects to Native groups nationwide.

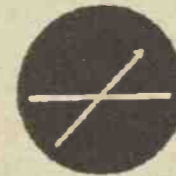
"We have all the information but don't yet know the best way to help the communities directly. Hopefully, having Ken will help," he said.

A Sept. 5, 1989 national aboriginal study determined the greatest concentration of HIV-positive cases were in Ontario, which had 1,777 reported cases. Of those four were male Natives; one was a Native female.

Quebec had 897 reported cases. Six were Native males and two were Native females.

Alberta had 170 with only one Native male case reported, Ken Ward of Enoch.

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"People Helping People"

Edmonton



Kathy Shirt

Josie Auger, Windspeaker

Designer puts aside sewing machine, picks up paint brush

By Josie Auger
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON

Two and a half years ago Native fashion designer Kathy Shirt was a victim of a hit and run accident. It took a long time to recuperate and she still suffers pain on her entire right side. But she used the time to reflect deeply on her life. Shirt has become more relaxed and contented and has decided to change careers; she'll no longer design fashions, instead her creativity will flow from the paint brush.

As a result of the accident, Shirt, who operates Kathy's Creations out of her apartment, was forced to quit a two-year fibre arts program at Grant MacEwan college. She was hurt and angry.

"I was walking from the bank back to classes and I got knocked down at 155th street and Stony Plain Road. The car came to a skid and my leg went underneath the car. I was in a daze, I couldn't hear a sound," she recalls.

"I tried going back several times and I would get really angry, I would come home and spend a lot of time crying because the physical pain wouldn't go away, I thought to hell with it," she says and adds "perhaps it happened to slow me down."

Before the accident Shirt was known for her happy-go-lucky attitude in the Native community. After the accident she became sombre, almost reclusive.

During this dark period she began a soul search and put aside the sewing machine and healed herself through her art. She paints her dreams on animal hides and canvas.

"It became an obsession," she says.

In her dreams she is able to smell, feel, see and communicate with the animals she feeds, she says.

Shirt began painting an environmental Mother Earth Series. Her art has always been a part of her life but now it's vital to her. In 1974 Shirt created a black and white painting to express how pollution harms animals of the water, land and air.

While she feels a close bond with nature, Shirt is also very close with her older sister Pauline, who helped her heal through the ordeal.

The two sisters were always very close. Pauline would read old romance novels to Kathy, the younger of the two, she remembers fondly.

"We always had a good time. We would go out, get all dressed up in these floral dresses with crinolines and all that. We had a lot of fun going out dancing and doing the twist," laughs Shirt.

Growing up in Saddle Lake during the 50s, her parents Mr. and Mrs. Felix Shirt raised eight girls and one boy on a farm, when they were home from the Blue Quills Residential School. While they had a garden and livestock there wasn't always money for nice dresses or toys. So Shirt improvised.

"My dad's father carved out some wooden dolls for us. I used to watch my mother sew with this peddle machine, she would sew so fast! She would take flour sacks apart and dye them soft pastels and make summer dresses out of them. My mom made all our dresses when we were little. What was left of my mother's leftovers I would pick up and sew doll clothes by

hand," recalls Shirt.

As a young girl she was a loner, a dreamer, someone who wanted to do good in the world.

"I used to dream to go far, far away into another part of the world and feed the people, like a nurse. I would write all my dreams down in a black scribbler book," she says.

The residential school environment had influenced her childhood career goals. After Blue Quills Residential School she went to St. Paul Racette High School.

At the age of 17, her parents had planned a marriage for her. To avoid it she asked for permission to care for her sister's son in Edmonton. The plan worked.

Shirt babysat until she found other work.

"They call them nannies today but I was housekeeper, bottle washer, cook, you name it," she says.

Shirt married at the age of 21 and had a son and daughter. But the marriage only lasted two years. While married she became a dress maker. After the divorce she raised the children on her own and as a means of survival began fashion designing.

"I like the individuality and originality of my work because nobody else had it. Being brought up in a residential school there were so many kids no one was given special attention. Ever since I left that, I wanted to be recognized to have some attention," says Shirt.

Last month she bid farewell to fashion design and a final fashion show and sale was held at "Joe's Place", a restaurant and dining lounge in Edmonton's westend.

She's now painting herself a brighter future.

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N.W.T.

Bohnet and Erasmus cornered over land claims

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON

Noeline Villebrun says land claim decisions made by NWT leaders make her feel like she's lost her birthright.

A past resident of the Northwest Territories, Villebrun told Dene and Metis leaders at a meeting held in Edmonton on Wednesday that it hurts her to think organizations, which are supposed to represent her, are actually disinherit her, because she now lives in the south.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Convention Centre in Edmonton, she said it is important that leaders realize Dene and Metis people in the south do not want to be excluded from any land claim agreement "simply because we reside outside the NWT."

"Because we have left our homeland does not mean we have lost our birthrights."

"We are appalled Native leaders of the NWT, who represent the same people in this room, are denying us future benefits under the land claim agreement," a visibly angry Villebrun told Bill Erasmus, president of the Dene Nation, and Gary Bohnet, NWT Metis Association president.

Over 150 Dene and Metis, who are afraid they'll be excluded from a \$500-million land claim agreement signed in principal with the federal govern-



Noeline Villebrun

Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

ment last year, attended the March 14 meeting. The agreement will also transfer 70,000 square miles of land to northern Native people. Another 400,000 square miles

of land in the Western Arctic, most of it located in the MacKenzie Valley, is still being discussed at the negotiation table.

An agreement is likely to be reached between the Dene and Metis before month end.

But southern Dene/Metis want assurances they will receive benefits from the land agreement, which is expected to

get final approval by 1991.

"No one is saying you are not a beneficiary. The question is will you receive benefits because you live outside the NWT?" said Erasmus.

"You want a guarantee you will receive benefits regardless of where you live. We need to know what you want us to do. The majority of the time we are too busy thinking of the people in the north," he added.

Bohnet told the packed room he was in favor of everyone getting something from the agreement.

But, he said, it's "not in my power to have that done. Give us some direction and we will take it back to the leadership (the chiefs of five NWT tribes and heads of the Metis locals).

Dene and Metis living outside the NWT are also concerned their children might not be eligible for benefits.

Both presidents said it was not up to them to decide who can receive benefits. They said they would take their direction from the chiefs and Metis local presidents. "To determine eligibility or enrolment, I will not take any position at this time," Bohnet said.

"We are going for the best agreement. We won't sign an agreement that is not worthwhile. You have legitimate concerns that need to be addressed," Erasmus added.

Both Bohnet and Erasmus advised Edmonton Dene and Metis people to contact their NWT representatives.

"I can't guarantee you anything because you live in the south. But the people who make

the decisions are your own people. Talk to them," said Bohnet.

"Get in touch with people in the north. How can they deny you your rights? I think in the long run people won't be narrow-minded to not allow you benefits," added Erasmus.

When asked if they could send a southern representative to sit in on the next negotiation meeting scheduled for March 30 at Yellowknife, both leaders said it was possible. "But is it worth it?" asked Erasmus.

"I would not support you going to the negotiation meetings. You should lobby your chiefs and the Metis locals. They can handle your concerns," said Bohnet.

"Remember the people in the north support your rights and I don't want to see you lose any rights," he added.

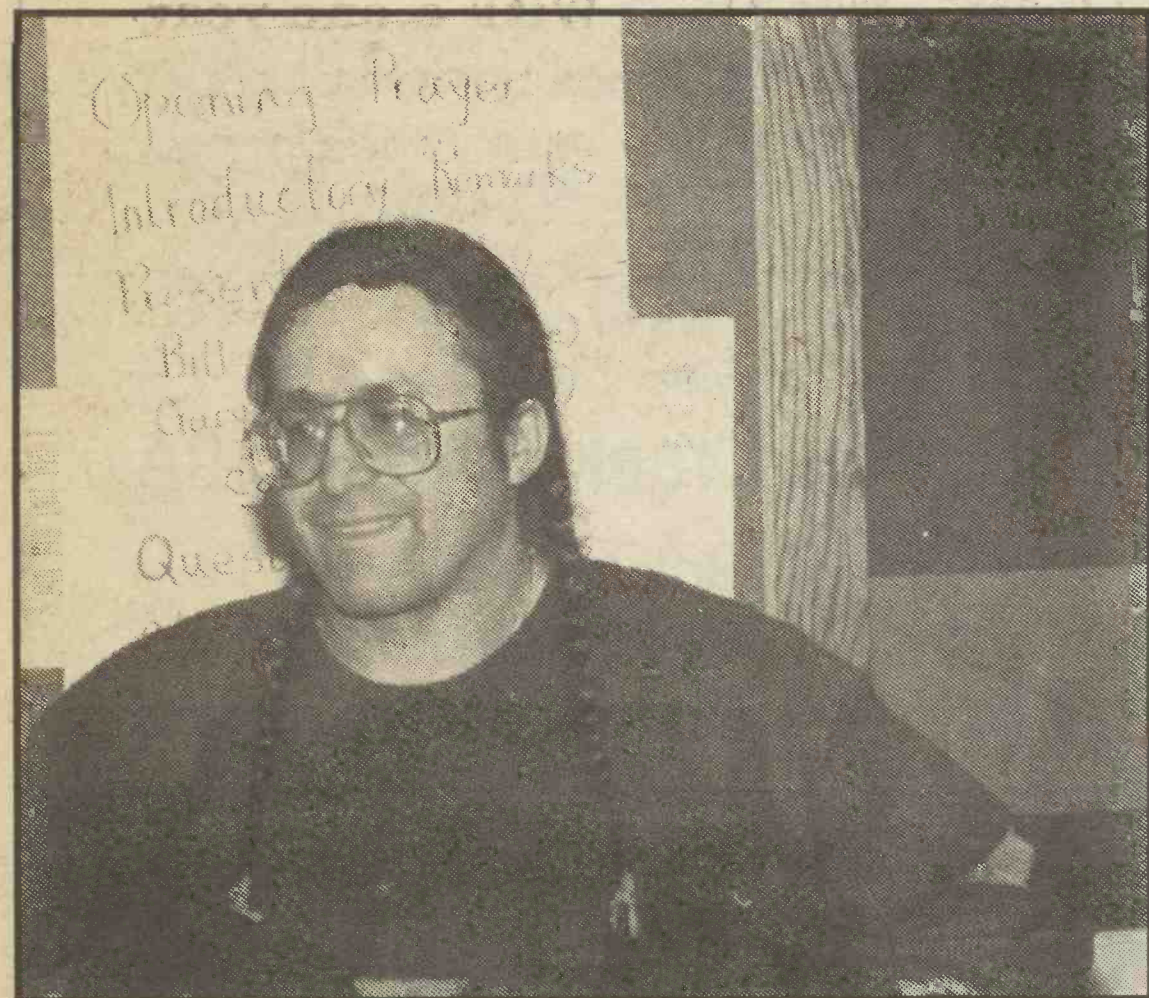
According to the two leaders it has not been decided on how the \$500 million will be spent if the agreement is finalized.

"A heritage trust fund may be set up or a community institution of Dene and Metis. Either way that would be the body deciding what to do with the money," they explained.

It was decided more meetings between southern Dene/Metis and the two northern leaders should be held.

Erasmus asked for a contact person, someone they could rely on to send information to.

However, with the March 30 meeting less than two weeks away, the general feeling was it may already be too late for Dene/Metis not living in the NWT.



Bill Erasmus

Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

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Hobbema

Samson band forms youth council

By Laura Langstaff
Windspeaker Correspondent

'They are our future leaders'

HOBBEMA, ALTA.

The Samson Band at Hobbema has formed a youth council to help turn out leaders.

"Our youth are our future leadership," says youth organizations manager Dennis Omeasoo, who sees development of the band's youth as a critical issue.

Omeasoo, together with 18 youthful candidates who responded to a call for greater responsibility within the community, formed the Samson Band Youth Council, which will, under the direction of the chief and council "prepare the youth to fulfill the vision of sound leadership."

Seventy-five per cent of Samson's registered members are 25 or under.

Omeasoo points out that being a "have" reserve presents unique problems to today's

youth.

"Our resources are depleting. What's going to be left for the unborn? These are the problems our youth are going to have to deal with to protect their future and the future of their children."

Education director Patrick Cutknife identified membership, oil distribution, land and parliamentary procedure as areas of concern to the band's youth.

Both Cutknife and Omeasoo are dedicated to assisting the youth to further identify and develop their skills and talents in order to take their place in the community.

"The potential of our youth will become the strength of our future," affirms Omeasoo.

Meanwhile, Cutknife feels that leaders should focus more on the youth and less on politics.

"I see the youth as a valuable

asset. It is to their advantage to first identify and then to develop their abilities and talents."

Cutknife believes too much time and effort has been spent trying to make every Indian student an academic, which he says has often resulted in failure and a loss of self-esteem to the Native student.

"We've been barking up the wrong tree. The Indian by nature is not an academic, he's an artist."

By placing emphasis on developing artistic abilities, the Samson Band's upgrading and arts program has experienced much success in boosting the self-esteem and academic achievements of the students participating.

According to Lorraine Arnold, director of the upgrading program, students can more of-

'We've been barking up the wrong tree. The Indian by nature is not an academic, he's an artist.'

ten begin to deal with academic subjects after they've had an opportunity to express themselves successfully with art.

Adrian Rain, a participant in the art program, tasted that success winning a \$2,000 prize awarded by Peace Hills Trust at

the Multicultural Fair in Lacombe March 11. Rain claimed his prize for a painting he calls "A Tribute to the Blackfoot".

Art students will also be showing their work at an upcoming show in Red Deer March 15, 16 and 17 at Parkland Mall.

Samson woman offering support to the abused

By Laura Langstaff
Windspeaker Correspondent

HOBBEMA, ALTA.

A Samson Band woman is reaching out to help women in abusive situations.

"We are not alone, we can recover from the abuse by willing ourselves to gain back our own identity," says Florence Ermineskin, urging women, who are being abused to realize they're not the only ones experiencing abuse and to see that help is available.

Having risen to the challenge and broken the abuse cycle, which did have her in its grasp, Ermineskin now wants to help other women in her community do the same thing. She's running a group treatment program, which involves 17 women. It



Florence Ermineskin

Laura Langstaff Photo

women are afraid, ashamed or too shy to take that first step.

But she's encouraging abused women at Hobbema to take advantage of the support of women, who share the same experience.

A second series of workshops entitled Understanding Wife Abuse will take place April 11, 18 and 25 and May 2, 9 and 16 at the Four Nations Resource Centre in Hobbema from 2-3 p.m.

The workshops, which include Breaking the Pattern; It Happens Again and Again; Coming and Going; and Can the Cycle Be Broken?, ensure a comprehensive look at the issue of Native women and wife abuse.

Further information may be obtained from Ermineskin at Samson Band office (585-3793).

ends in June.

In addition, Ermineskin has started a family support group, which started meeting Feb. 22 and will run through to April. Ermineskin reports that this group has been poorly attended. She feels that often Native

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Wabasca/Desmarais

Trapper traded in rifle for bingo card

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

WABASCA, ALTA.

Travelling with a dog team loaded with winter supplies and snowshoes laced to his feet, it took Pat Auger five days to reach his trapline near Fort McMurray from Wabasca over 45 years ago.

What he loved most was his 30-30 and 303 rifles, the silence of the bush and a "moose in my gunsight," says the 59-year-old Metis trapper.

With roots in Trout Lake—an isolated community some 250 km north of Slave Lake—the ever smiling trapper says he has lived for the past 20 years in Wabasca. "But I do not belong to the Bigstone Band," he quietly explains.

"My father was Joseph Auger from Trout Lake. My mother was Wilemina. She was treaty from the Bigstone Band," he recalled.

He is married. "My wife's name is Matilda," he smiles, "and I have seven children. I lost one child two years ago."

Auger says he is happy with his life and how it turned out.

Afraid of the bush? "Never. I was a pretty good shot and I had a good partner. Sylvester Auger and me used to trap together. He was a pretty good shot. He used to be a good trapper too, but now we're too old," Auger laughs.

In 1952, like many other Native people during that era, Auger came down with tuberculosis.



Wabasca's Pat Auger

Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

He was transferred to Aberhart Hospital in Edmonton and wouldn't see his home again until six years later.

City life did not agree with him, but then his view of the city was from a hospital bed.

"I spent a long time taking care of the nurses," he says with

a laugh and then adds solemnly, "I took a long time to heal."

Once he was discharged from the hospital, Auger travelled back home and began trapping again. However, his long fight with tuberculosis took some of the life out of him. "I wasn't the trapper I used to be." Today

he has different frustrations, he says, adding that trapping is not worth it anymore.

"All the time I trapped it used to be good. But it's no good anymore because the price of fur is poor. There is a lot of fur around Wabasca but not like it used to be." A long time ago when travel

to a next door neighbor's cabin could mean a full day's journey, Auger recalls people were more inclined to make their visits worthwhile.

He remembers watching Indian and Metis people dancing and laughing with the sound of the ever present fiddle in the background.

It was during this time Auger decided he wanted to play the fiddle.

He says he learned by simply watching fiddle players and then practicing.

It paid off because soon he found himself playing at house gatherings as well.

He loves his fiddle, which he started playing at an early age and today, he admits he can play any Metis or Indian tune.

"Square dances, jigs, reels of eight," I'll play anything," he says and he does.

"I used to play at dances long ago at the big house in Wabasca. Now I have many trophies from winning at talent shows," he says, with a proud smile.

At a recent talent show in Slave Lake, Auger showed up with his fiddle and although, "this time" he didn't win, he says it doesn't bother him. "I just like to get up there and play for the people."

Retired from trapping now, he laughs when he says he has traded in his 303 rifle for a bingo card.

"Now I'm too old to trap and there are too many cutlines all over. Before there were no roads—it's changed," he says with a sigh.



Imperial Oil

Post Secondary Native Educational Awards

As an integral part of its Native Affairs Program, Esso Resources Canada Limited will be presenting four Educational Awards in 1990 to Indian (status and non-status), Inuit, and Metis applicants who meet the necessary qualifications.

The awards will be:

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* Be enrolled in a full course load of studies relevant to the

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* Have been a resident in Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon or the Northwest Territories for at least one year immediately prior to applying for the award.

Applications, accompanied by high school or post-secondary transcripts must be received by June 15, 1990.

If you or someone you know is interested in the Native Educational Awards Program, simply contact your nearest representative educational institution for more information and an application form. Or fill in the coupon below.

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Slave Lake



Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

Peter Sound (front), Rocky Walker, northern talent walked away with professional duet award.



Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

Dawn (L), Shannon Cunningham (R) of Slave Lake. Song: "Under the Boardwalk" won them 1st place in the duet competition.

Talented entertainers wowed the crowd

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

SLAVE LAKE, ALTA.

With a voice as versatile and as strong as Barbara Mandrell, Shannon Cunningham has proven she has a future in the music business.

Only seconds into her number and singing to a packed house at the Fifth Annual Talent Show sponsored by the Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, Cunningham received a huge ovation from her admirers.

Moving confidently about on the stage she captured the crowd's attention with songs like "Don't Toss Us Away" and with a voice like an angel, it was easy to imagine her singing on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee someday.

It was no surprise when 11-year-old Cunningham captured the "Teen Vocal" award, and

then along with her younger sister Dawn, walked away with the "Junior Duet" award.

"Her piano lessons and love for singing has paid off," said her parents Susan and Don.

"She was born with a talented voice," said another fan of the grade five student.

Contestants travelling from as far away as Calgary and Edmonton, entered a variety of talent competitions, which included instrumental, comedy, dance and story-telling.

Another crowd favorite was Driftpile resident Stanley Isadore, who "brought the roof down" with his humorous comedy and story-telling act.

Using material borrowed from actor and comedian Eddie Murphy, Isadore was hilarious. It won him the judges' attention and the comedy/story telling competition.

Isadore also danced away with first place in the senior dancing event after a great dance

routine "Michael Jackson" style.

Kinuso's Darren Waite is a well-known singer in the Slave Lake area. He once placed fairly high in the Cook County Saloon talent contest held annually in Edmonton. A strong voice with lots of range and good control, his performance won him first place in the male vocal talent competition.

And along with Faust singing talent Brenda Blachford, the two versatile singers captured second place in the duet competitions.

It was a toss up between Waite and Faust guitar player, Rocky Walker, to see who would take honors in the senior instrumental event, but in the end the judges decided on Waite.

Walker wasn't much deterred by losing to Waite. He came back strong to win the professional male vocal award and with Kinuso singer Peter Sound captured first place in the men's professional duet event.

It was a "girls' night out" for

singer Gayle Twinn when she was handed prize money and a trophy after singing her way to a first place spot in the female vocal event. And she wasn't finished.

Teaming up with her sister, Victorine, she went on to win the senior duet competition as well.

In the professional category, 16-year-old Joanna Nahachick, a Grade 10 Slave Lake student with a style reminiscent of Edmonton singer Karen St. Jean, captured the hearts of her audience and first place in the female vocal event.

Joining up with her twin sister, Jessica, the two ladies also placed second in the professional duet category.

How they could dance! Traditional dancers Chris Sleigh from Calgary and Kevin Orr of Slave Lake, truly gave the audience something worth coming for.

Both dancers put on a splendid performance that is usually

only seen at some of the bigger powwows in the country. With precision and confidence both 12-year-olds deserved the rounds of applause they continued to receive throughout their performance.

Judges Trudy Lougheed, Marion Dick and Brenda Gladue must have had a hard time choosing a winner. However, most competitions usually allow for only one winner and this time Sleigh took the honors.

Another lad deserving mention is Faust guitar player and singer Clayton Giroux.

He won the junior instrumental competition and placed second in the teen vocal event.

"All the performers, who participated in the Slave Lake talent show deserve a round of applause. I would also like to thank the many sponsors, who helped make our annual talent show a success," said Peggy Roberts, executive director of the friendship centre.



Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

Kevin Orr (front) of Slave Lake and Chris Sleigh of Calgary, danced into the hearts of everyone at Slave Lake talent show.



Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

They came to see and listen to talented entertainers and were not disappointed

Peerless Lake

'My Creator is my church'

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

PEERLESS LAKE, ALTA.

Peerless Lake resident David Starr has no fond memories of residential schools after living in one at Wabasca some 55 years ago.

In fact his memories of the residential schools to this day are painful and filled with bitterness towards a "white man's system" that he says "failed Indian people of that era miserably."

David was born at Long Lake about five km north of Peerless Lake in 1930.

Located in northern Alberta, 250 km north of Slave Lake, the tiny community of 430 people once had no contact with the outside world.

"In those days the people were scattered all over the district. There was an old Hudson Bay post at Long Lake and because it was a source of food, people would generally meet there.

"They would stock up for the winter and that was the last we would see of each other until the following spring," David remembers.

It was during this time David's parents decided to separate, and so, along with two sisters, he was sent to the St. John's Anglican church residential school at Wabasca.

His two sisters never survived the school.

"They both died before their 16th birthdays. They died because of a lack of medical attention. It left me alone at the school," David recalled.

There's one night at the residential school when he was seven years old, he will never forget.

"We had to get up late at night and line up to go to the bathroom. They didn't want us to wet our beds, so they would wake us up at certain times during the night.

"This one time I beat them to the draw. I had already wet my bed.

"It was a log house with an open stairway leading down to the main floor. They marched us to the stairs and one instructor kicked me down the flight of stairs. I don't know, maybe he was mad he had to get up to take us to the pot or maybe he was mad because I wet the bed," David said.

Soon after, David developed tuberculosis of the spine and to this day he blames it on the physical abuse he received at the residential school.

"They talk about child abuse today. I guess they never heard about residential schools when I was small. That time child abuse was common," he says.

David was taken to Aberhart Hospital in Edmonton and for the next seven years his home was a hospital bed.

They saved David's life at the hospital but his spine had been deformed by the tuberculosis. "Shouldn't I be bitter?" he asks. Then he shrugs his shoulders and in a quiet voice says, "Aw, it's just one of those things that happen."

At about 15 years of age David was released from Aberhart Hospital and sent back to Wabasca residential school. He remained there for one more year and says the only thing he got out of the school was learn-



David and Rocky sitting down to a rabbit stew lunch

ing how to speak English.

After residential school, David roamed from place to place, taking on odd jobs, mostly for farmers.

Two years later, tired of roaming around the country, he returned to his home at Long Lake.

By this time the old Hudson Bay post had closed its doors and a private trader had built a log store where Peerless Lake is located today.

"There were no people at Peerless Lake when the trader built his store there. Then he asked me to run the store. I looked after his store for seven years," David smiled.

David remembers there were no roads, only walking trails that people used. "There was only one permanent family living at Peerless Lake.

"When I ran the store there was no money used for buying things. People were carried over during the summer months on credit. Then they would come back with furs in the winter months to pay their bills."

When the old Hudson Bay store closed at Long Lake, the business was moved to Trout Lake where it operated for a few years.

Then in the mid-50s, after it

closed again, the building was taken over by the Roman Catholic church.

"They built a church at Trout Lake and that's when the law of the country affected us people in the Peerless Lake area," David said.

"The word was spread throughout the district by a forest ranger, who was telling everyone that our children must attend school.

"Children had to come out of the bush. Some were sent to Wabasca and others came with their families to Trout Lake."

However, many people scattered throughout the Peerless Lake area did not listen to the warning and soon the RCMP arrived to enforce the regulation.

"They told parents if they did not take their children to school at Trout Lake, they would lose them to the residential school at Wabasca.

"This forced parents to move to Trout Lake, so they would not lose their children. That was how Trout Lake was settled," explained David.

David smiles when he explains that soon after the Catholic priests' arrival another missionary showed up, this time from the Anglican church.

"They built a house and a small little school at Peerless Lake. That brought more people to Peerless Lake and that is pretty well how it was settled," David said.

At 25 years of age, David quit working for the trader and with his family of three small children, he moved to Wabasca.

It was at Wabasca where he got his baptism into local politics.

In 1960 after spending three years in Wabasca, David moved back to Peerless Lake and with the knowledge he gained in local politics at Wabasca, he soon set about helping to organize people in his district.

"We formed the Kewetina Association meaning "northern," David explains.

"What I had learned at Wabasca is people can do much more for their community working as a group," David noted.

In the late 60s when the Indian Association of Alberta (IAA) was newly formed, David began working with them by keeping the association informed of his community's needs.

But to get to a meeting, then held in Slave Lake, he says it took him a full week, if the weather was good.

"Many people were starting

to speak out — trappers, fishermen from Faust, Slave Lake and other towns.

"I cared about these meetings so I would journey by horseback, crossing three rivers by raft while my horse swam across, to reach Wabasca. It took me three days.

"At Wabasca I would leave my horse and catch the regular mail service express. It was a four-day trip by horse and wagon to Slave Lake from Wabasca," he said with a laugh.

Today David still dabbles in local politics and many things have been accomplished because of his work at Peerless Lake.

Presently he sits on the Northlands School Board and holds a position with the Community Vocation Centre at Peerless Lake.

He is a spiritual leader and believes in the Indian way.

"What you see here at my home, around my home, is my church. My Creator is my church.

"I have had it with European churches. It was forced upon me when I was too young to make up my own mind. Look at me and you see what I got out of it, physical abuse.

"Mother Earth is where my spiritual life is," David concluded.

Battle for Grade 12 won

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

PEERLESS LAKE, ALTA.

A Northlands School Division board member says he has finally won the battle to have high school courses introduced into Peerless Lake School after many meetings with Alberta education officials.

David Starr, the Peerless Lake board member, said he was upset "for years" because students dropped out after completing Grade 9 in the community. "So I decided to do something about it."

He said because Peerless Lake is an isolated community, students did not want to travel elsewhere to receive their high school education.

"They don't want to live with strangers in boarding homes in

strange towns. They dropped out of school like crazy after completing Grade 9," Starr said.

Starr said he was told a more centralized facility would have to be built to accommodate all northern communities but that a project of this scale would be too costly.

A community vocation centre (CVC) was set up in Peerless Lake instead, he said.

"The centre opened about 1977 and offered upgrading courses for adults and for students, who had quit school within a one-year period.

"This took care of the drop outs, but it still didn't help students, who would not leave the community to further their education," Starr said.

What really started "the ball rolling for a higher education program at Peerless Lake" were two students enrolled at the CVC.

"They were recognized as two people, who could really benefit from a Grade 12 education, but they would not leave the community.

"It just happened that the principal of Northlands School and an instructor at CVC were young enough to take a chance," Starr said.

Since two of their pupils would not leave Peerless Lake to further their high school education, both teachers agreed to begin a Grade 10 to 12 program.

"To justify their actions we had to have at least six students taking high school courses.

"Between students who had finished Grade 9 at Northlands and CVC students, who completed their Grade 9 upgrading, we had enough for a high school program," Starr said.

He adds if not for the concern by the two teachers none of it would have happened.

When officials of Northlands School Division and CVC administration got wind of a high school program at Peerless Lake that was working "they changed their minds," said Starr.

"Now they say we will have high school in the Northlands school by next year. It's an agreement now," said Starr.

Alberta education is now thinking of adding high school courses in all northern communities, he said.

"It started from here and now it's spreading through the districts."

Starr proudly admits that within the next two years eight students will have completed Grade 12 at Peerless Lake.

"Before we worried about them staying home and not receiving a good education. Now we worry about losing them to good jobs in the outside world," he laughed.

Lac la Biche

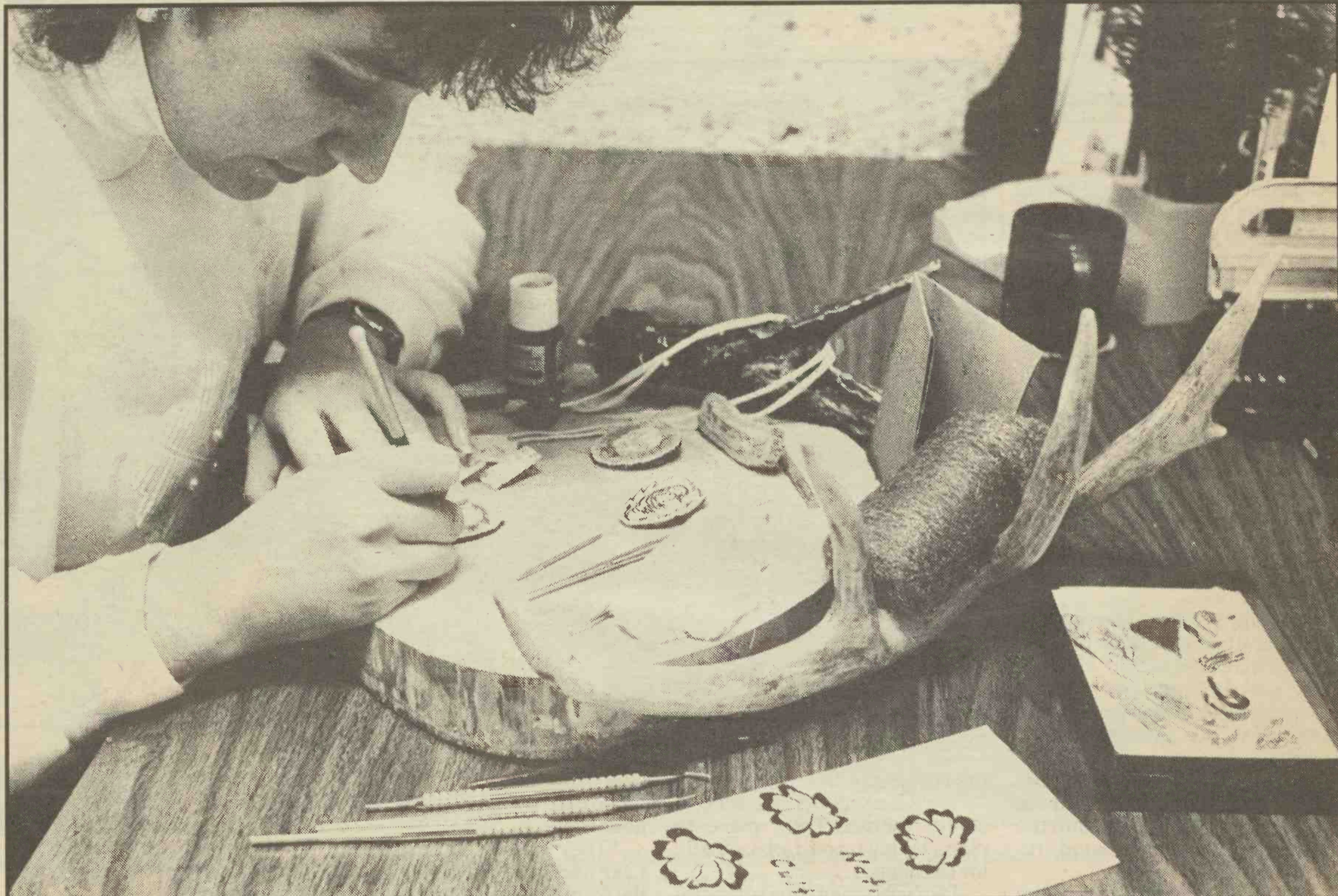
C'mon down to AVC's open house

Alberta Vocational Centre — Lac la Biche will be hosting Open House '90 Thursday, March 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The theme of this year's open house is "Learning Makes the Difference". You are invited to share this day with students, management and staff. Experience first hand that learning does make the difference. We invite you to tour the program areas of trades and technical, academic upgrading, human services and business careers. Displays, presentations and demonstrations throughout the day will give you a sense of the instruction, materials and equipment available in each of the program areas. As you visit each department watch for the opportunity for some "hands on" activities as well as a chance to win prizes.

You will also have the opportunity to see the many services available to students while they're attending school. These will range from tours of the cafeteria, the learning resource centre, the housing and dorm units as well as tours of the fine recreational facilities and the day-care centre.

Community agencies and clubs and organizations will have displays and information in the gymnasium area. Remote broadcasting by the local radio station CFWE-FM and your favorite country and western station CFCW will also take place during the day. Come and meet your favorite D.J.

Open House '90 is your chance to meet students and staff



Skrimshaw Art is taught in AVC's Native Cultural Arts program.

Photo Courtesy of AVC

and learn more about specific programs and services available to residents in the area. AVC promises to make the day enter-

taining, fun and educational. When you come in, be sure to pick up your "passport," which will entitle you to explore the

various areas of interest, receive approval stamps and qualify for door prizes.

Bring the whole family and

come with your neighbors and friends and join in the fun. Come and see for yourself that "Learning Makes the Difference"!

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Fishing Lake

Corporation expands business on settlement

By Diane Parenteau
Windspeaker Correspondent

FISHING LAKE METIS SETTLEMENT

The Fishing Lake Development Corporation (FLDC) is closer to its goal of financial independence from the province.

As a result of taking over oil and lease building operations on the settlement, corporation directors have been able to expand the settlement-owned business largely through funds generated by these contract agreements.

The million dollar business established three years ago continues to expand. An \$85,000 D8 Caterpillar was recently added to the growing list of machinery inventory, making the corporation more competitive and versatile to better meet increasing demands.

"Oil companies were coming in and bringing outside contractors and not employing any of our men," said Clifford Calliou, one of the directors.

"We wanted to employ more of our settlement people," said Bruce Desjarlais, chairman of the board of directors. "Our people were just on the pick and shovel end of it, if they got hired at all.

"When we first got on council we didn't even have any equipment for the settlement to build basements," he said.

"Now, before we sign an agreement to give them (oil companies) the right of entry, we set down conditions. We take most of the contracts, if they're not too big, and we do the hiring — sometimes hiring sub contractors," said Calliou.

Initially working out of an ATCO trailer and with only a D6 Caterpillar purchased through the Settlement Investment Corporation (SIC), the FLDC began working to train local operators.

"Nine months later we bought a D7 (Caterpillar) with straight cash with what we made from the D6," boasted Desjarlais.

The directors have not looked back since, despite some financial road blocks along the way.

After successful negotiations for the settlement road maintenance contract with Alberta



Diane Parenteau, Windspeaker

(L-R) Dwayne Young of Telstar Contractors was paid recently for the D8 Caterpillar he sold to the Fishing Lake Development Corporation (FLDC). With him are Bruce Desjarlais (FLDC Chairman) and directors, Wayne Anderson, Clifford Calliou and Ross Daniels.

Transportation, the directors identified a need to upgrade their grader and elected to purchase a second machine. But local financial institutions saw the business as a high risk and refused their application, forcing them to go out of province for funding.

When plans for new office and shop space were proposed, the FLDC again faced financial rejections locally as well as provincially, save for a small loan through SIC.

"The shop was built through the (Fishing Lake) Pasture, Waskayigun and Development (associations)" said Calliou. "We

were using all entities we could to get it (the shop) off the ground."

The 4,000 sq. ft., \$100,000 shop is paid for today less than one year after construction began.

Desjarlais was eager to point out the most recent Caterpillar was purchased in part with a loan from the same local lending institution that previously turned them down.

"We've established credibility," said Calliou.

Increased employment for settlement members has been another benefit of the FLDC.

"The corporation was set up as an economic vehicle for the community," said settlement administrator Garry Parenteau. "It's set up for employment rather than having to depend on make-work programs.

"Last year we had three positions in make-work programs compared to past years when we had up to 20. And we had more people working. They take pride in what they're doing," he said.

"I'm very proud of our staff," said Desjarlais. "We have to be set up and running like a business; we can't be running on a shoestring. We don't depend on the government," he said.

Notice of Temporary Guardianship to:

SHEILA GAY BROWN and DENNIS CROOKEDLEGS

Take Notice that an application for Temporary Guardianship of your children, born on May 19, 1977, September 29, 1980, and March 4, 1979, will be made on March 14th at 9:30 a.m. in Wetaskiwin Family Court.

Contact: Shonda Kiester
Alberta Family and Social Services, (city) Wetaskiwin
Telephone: 352-1214

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR WORLD

To include your non-profit events in this column, contact the editor.

Have you considered being a foster parent but need more information? You are invited to attend our information series beginning April 3. To pre-register, call Michael at 427-KIDS (5437).



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- Feasts - Mar. 22 & 23 at 5 p.m.
- Pow Wow Grand Entry- Mar. 22 at 7 p.m.
 - Red Pheasant Jr. Host Drum
 - 1st Five Drums and all Dancers will be paid
- Wetokan Memorial Round Dance - Mar. 23 following Feast
- Saddle Lake Cultural Education Exhibits - Mar. 20

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE NATIVE AWARENESS CO-ORDINATORS:

DARRELL BRERITTON 645-4455
IRMA CARDINAL 645-4455

If you want to display Arts & Crafts, please feel free to contact Darrell or Irma.
PE TO TEK PEWICINAN INOWAK

WORKSHOPS

- Guest Speaker & Times to be announced
- Plains Indians Cultural Survival School Mar. 20 at 9:30 a.m. - Lloyd Dwenin
- Indigenous Law - Mar. 22 at 9:30 a.m. Sam Bull, L.L.B.
- Treaty Six Rights - Mar. 22 followed by open forum - Norbert Jebeaux
- Indigenous Experiences with School System - Mar. 22 - Linda Bull
- Hide Tanning - Mar. 19 - 22 - Verna Smith
- Indigenous Games - Charles E. Wood
- Social Work Presentation Date & Time T.B.A.

Blue Quills Post-Secondary Student Union reserves the right to make changes. Not responsible for theft, injury or accidents.

Calgary

Sexual abuse led to streets, drugs

By Cheryl Klassen
Special to Windspeaker

CALGARY

(The name of the abused woman has been changed to protect her identity. She lives in Calgary and is working with a counsellor at Native Alcoholism.)

Feeling terrified, violated, helpless and alone, Karina Foryu once again cried herself to sleep. She had allowed her alcoholic father to have his way with her, so he would not touch her younger sister.

This sexual assault was only one of many Karina experienced from the age of eight to 17. She had one older and one younger sister, who were also victims. Their family life was one of fear, fighting and drinking. During this period, Karina felt shame, embarrassed and responsible for the abuse.

An ex-street person Karina, who is now 33, is a recovering drug addict and alcoholic.

"I knew what he was doing was wrong," she says. (He told me) 'If you tell your mother, she won't love you anymore.'"

Karina always felt her mother was too busy to show her any affection or to develop a close relationship with her, but she didn't want to lose what affection she gave her.

She never told anyone until she was 14. After a fight with her

older sister, who said she liked the abuse, Karina decided to tell her grandmother, who took Karina, her two sisters and two brothers to her uncle's house in a different town.

The abuse was reported to police, but since there were no adult witnesses, no formal charges were filed against her father, Karina says.

When Karina's mother asked her what her father had done, she was unable to tell her the whole story. "I don't know if she believed me or blamed me."

The next couple of months, Karina and her siblings lived in fear because her father and his friends phoned and threatened "to get even" for reporting the incident.

Within a year all the children had gone home. They never discussed the abuse. Karina felt abandoned by her mother. The family fights and abuse resumed and became particularly intense over the next three years for Karina.

"I became very rebellious," she says. "I hated everybody and everything, especially myself."

The feeling of being unloved continued and she turned to a life of promiscuity, alcohol, drugs and theft. Mixing with "bad kids" she dropped out of school and hit the streets.

"I felt I was running from reality," she says. "It was easier to stay high than to feel."

She eventually had three children and the oldest daughter was also sexually molested by her father. Karina's lifestyle and addictions got worse with two abusive husbands. The second husband was a drug dealer, who became her pimp. She tried to start life over without drugs and alcohol in various cities with her husband and children but without success - until last year.

After a five day binge of drinking alcohol and taking drugs, Karina found herself aimlessly wandering Calgary's Ogden area. Though she was incoherent and disoriented, she knew she had two major problems; her three children were in foster homes in Vancouver and she needed help with her addictions.

Her choices were to ask Alberta family and social services for a ticket to Vancouver and to try to make a life for her children there or to get some help for her problems. She knew she had to make a decision.

As these thoughts were racing through her, a friend drove by three times - she didn't recognize him. He realized she needed to dry out, so he rented a motel room for her to sober up.

Deciding to get help, she has been receiving counselling ever since. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous have contributed greatly to her recovery, says Karina, who is taking one day at a time, learning to

love herself and to understand her disease, alcoholism.

"Drugs and alcohol are not an answer, they're an escape," she says.

Karina's children are now in foster homes in Calgary. They're being counselled and the family one day hopes to be reunited.

Karina, who no longer sees her parents, is concentrating on her healing, and her children's healing. She is working with a counsellor at Native Alcoholism.

Adam North Peigan, a Native Alcoholism counsellor, says the best way to stop the abuse cycle in an alcoholic family is to seek counselling.

Children in alcoholic families often feel confused. They're angry and resentful towards the

abuser but they feel responsible for the abuse or they'll deny what has happened.

Healing is a slow process that can take years but if the person accepts what has happened and is honest, willing and wants to recover, therapy can help, says North Peigan.

"There's always hope even though things may look bleak. There are people out there, who recover."

If you are interested in receiving more information about Native Alcoholism contact 261-7921 (Calgary).

(Cheryl Klassen is a journalism student at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology).

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Morley

Goodstoneys eye tourist market

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

STONEY INDIAN RESERVE,
ALTA.

The Goodstoney Indian Band, just east of Banff National Park, has set its sights on the tourism market — particularly the Japanese tourism market, which could prove to be a gold mine.

Already the Japanese have poured about \$1 million into the economy of the Stoney Indian Reserve, which is home to the Goodstoney, the Chiniki and the Bears paw bands. That was during last year's shoot of the epic film *Heaven and Earth* on the Morley Flats, 65 kilometres west of Calgary.

Across Alberta the Japanese are having more and more of an impact on Indian bands, both positively and negatively.

The economy of the Sturgeon Lake Band got a boost last year with the opening of a chopstick factory, which is sending millions of pairs of chopsticks annually to Japan. Other Native communities are considering similar ventures. And across northern Alberta the proposed development of pulp and paper mills by Japanese-controlled companies has Native communities considering the pros and cons.

The Goodstoney Band opened its 50-room Nakoda Lodge a year ago to which it hopes to attract domestic and international tourists. But it'll take time to attract Japanese visitors since they like to deal only with establishments that have been opened at least three years, said general manager Paul Pakos.

In the meantime he's hoping the lodge will get referrals through travel agencies in Banff, a popular destination for Japanese tourists.

Pakos said there's one major drawback to Nakoda attracting Japanese tourists — the Stoney Reserve is dry and Japanese people like to have beer and wine with their meals.

But the band does have its foot in the door having hosted the film crew from *Heaven and Earth*. "Definitely yes the movie helped" in creating awareness, said Pakos. "We served 49,000 box lunches" during the shooting of the film, he said.

Ken Tully, the band's economic development manager, said lodge chef Otto Daniels and his staff helped promote the lodge in a culinary competition last year in Japan, winning a gold medal.

Meanwhile, he said, the Goodstoneys will set to work this spring capturing more of the tourist traffic through the Bow Corridor by building an outdoor recreation and environment centre.

It will be built near Nakoda Lodge and will complement it and the nearby conference centre, offering backcountry trips with a Native component like Native food and overnight stays in tipis in areas traditionally used by Stoney people for plant and berry gathering and hunting, said Tully.

A number of band members trained in log building will be used to construct a 1,000 sq. ft. log facility as the first phase of the centre.

As the program further develops to include things like tanning of hides and beadmaking, more and more Stoney members will be employed in the operation.

Already 35 people — mostly Stoney members — are employed at Nakoda Lodge during peak season.

"By the end of 1990, the 1,000 sq. ft. centre should have been completed and we'll have in



Ken Tully at Nakoda Lodge

Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

place a tipi compound at Broken Leg Lake — a base camp in the backcountry, which is about eight kilometres north of the guest lodge," said Tully, who has been with the band about three years.

Trails in and around Nakoda Lodge and to Broken Leg Lake will also have been completed, he said.

Next year the Goodstoneys plan to build four two-bedroom log chalets complete with fireplaces and modern amenities near the main lodge.

A feasibility study is also planned to help select the best location for a proposed 18-hole golf course. A site immediately

south of the lodge is likely.

The \$1.2 million Nakoda Guest Lodge and Conference Centre was built in 1981 to accommodate workshops, conference groups and retreats. Located at the east end of Chief Hector Lake, which is stocked annually with 500 rainbow trout, there's a restaurant and banquet area on the main floor; upstairs there's three conference rooms. But until the 50-room lodge opened a year ago at a cost of about \$2.8 million, visitors had no where to stay, said Tully. The deluxe lodge includes an indoor swimming pool, a jacuzzi and a sauna.

"The lodge gives the flexibil-

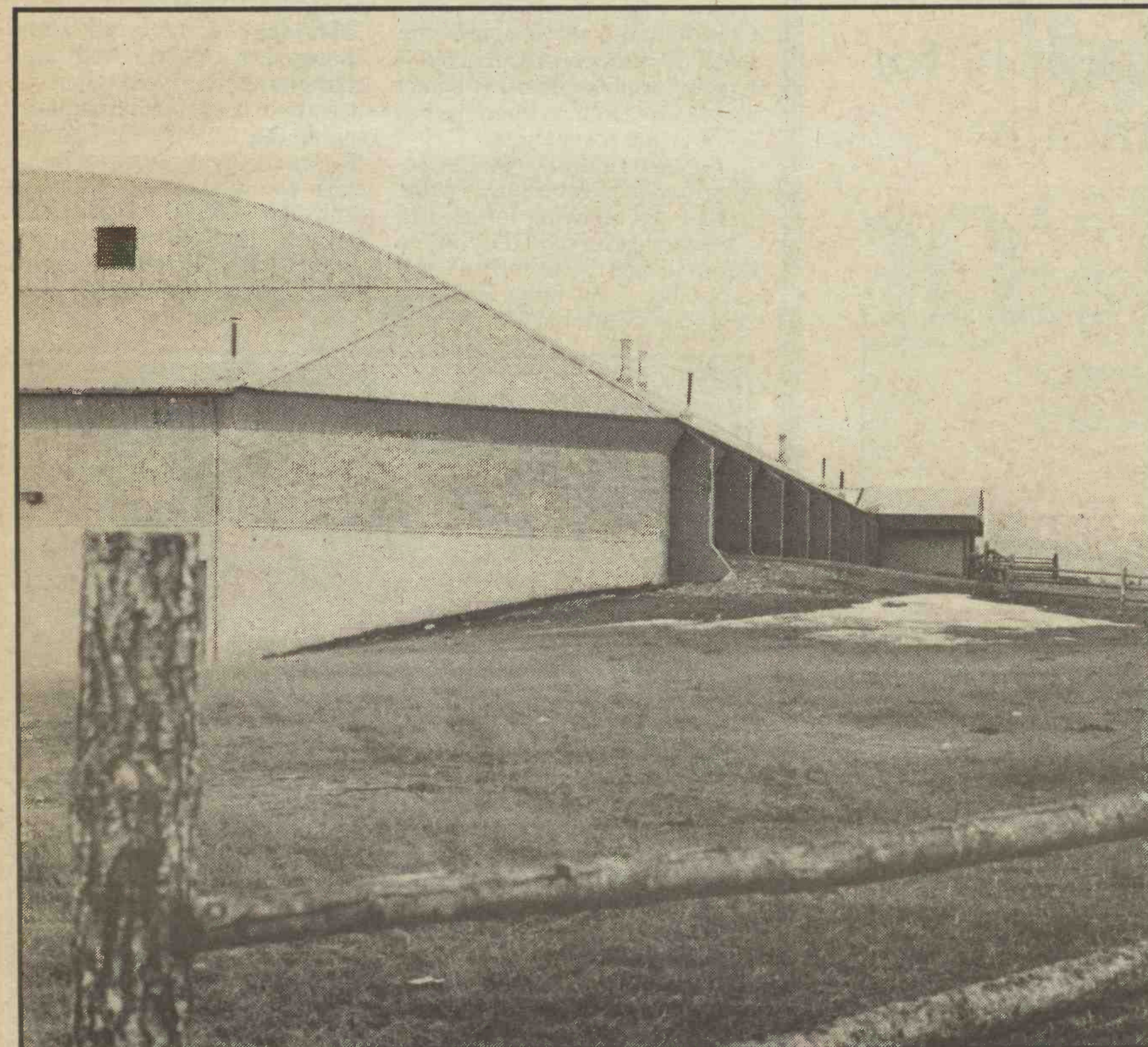
ity to have more than a one-day conference," he said.

One of the weekend draws of the conference centre is the Sunday brunch, which attracts people from Calgary. "It's been very successful in the past few years," said Tully.

And visitors, who like to browse through Native literature, can find a well-stocked library at Nakoda Institute, which is located in the basement of the conference centre.

A possible upgrading by the province of 25 kilometres of Highway 1A, which cuts through the reserve, would also encourage greater tourist traffic, said Tully.

Morley Flats puts Stoney in the movies



The Chief Goodstoney Rodeo Centre

Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

STONEY INDIAN RESERVE,
ALTA.

The epic production of a Japanese film last fall dropped about \$1 million into the economy of the Stoney Indians. And more movies may be on the way.

The money came from land use, catering contracts and salaries — 300 Stoney Indians were hired as extras.

The \$48-million production of *Heaven and Earth* by Haruki Kadokawa Films, Inc. of Japan was the largest and most expensive shoot in Canadian film history, involving 2,800 extras, 800 horses, 400 Canadian and Japanese crew and 100 wranglers and stunt people.

All told the shooting of *Heaven and Earth* — a 16th-century Samurai epic — last August and September pumped \$16 million into the economy of southern Alberta. The movie is to be released this summer with English subtitles.

Chief Goodstoney Rodeo Centre on the Morley Flats, 65 kilometres west of Calgary, served as the production office.

A Korean company has also scouted the flats for a 1,000-horse *Ghengis Khan* film. Hollywood is also considering using the site for an epic about Geronimo while a sequel to *Heaven and Earth* is also possible.

"We had a pretty good working relationship with the Japanese company. They indicated they may be interested in shooting a sequel in the summer of 1991," said Ken Tully, economic development manager with the Goodstoney Band, one of the three Stoney bands.

"I think the film may act as a vehicle for greater Japanese tourists to visit the immediate vicinity," he said. "It's questionable whether the film will be a major promoter for the Canadian tourists in so much as it's hard to determine whether *Heaven and Earth* will be a big box office draw."

Tully said the rodeo centre and its location on the flats ably showed its worth to the film industry for large movie productions, serving as an office area and wardrobe facility, accommodating as many as 2,800 extras and 400 crew members.

"The corral system was able to accommodate 800 horses and the immediate 1,000 acres offered an unprecedented esthetic landscape," he said.

But while more films may be on the way, the mainstay of the Goodstoney economy is still natural gas. Funds from the sale of the gas to Calgary have been used to build roads, houses, a school, administration buildings and recreation facilities and to provide social services, said Tully.

Gleichen

Blackfoot chief demands \$1M compensation

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

SIKSIKA NATION, ALTA.

Blackfoot Chief Strater Crowfoot is demanding Ottawa pay his band compensation for legislative delays, which cost the band \$1 million.

Crowfoot said government delays over the passage of Bill C-115, an amendment to the Indian Act, set back construction on a Blackfoot Reserve commercial and industrial project, which was scheduled to begin in April 1988.

He said because of "misunderstandings" between the department of justice and the department of Indian affairs with the wording of the bill it set back the project for 20 months. "Now the band has to bear over \$1 million in extra costs."

In June 1988 when Bill C-115 was passed, it amended the Indian Act changing the concept of surrendered Indian land to one of designated Indian land.

This allows Indian reserves across Canada, which designate Indian land for economic development, to maintain jurisdiction over it for taxation purposes.

The bill also protects non-Native companies on designated Indian land from being taxed by the provincial government.

Crowfoot said his band hasn't had a problem with the provincial government taxing surrendered Indian land, but the story is different in British Columbia, where the concept for Bill C-115 began.

Faced with taxation of surrendered land by the provincial government, Kamloops "Shuswap" Chief Many Jewels petitioned over 60 Indian bands across Canada to have the Indian Act changed.

"Chief Many Jewels was responsible for having the change made in the Indian Act to read designated land instead of surrendered land," said Crowfoot.

Chief Crowfoot said the Blackfoot band was the first to go through Bill C-115 and it caused them "nothing but problems."

Before then Indian affairs minister Pierre Cadieux — he's now solicitor general — would approve designated land, a head lease had to be signed.

"Our people had to accept the head lease. It actually meant we would surrender the land to a Blackfoot-owned corporation and they in turn would use the document to sub-lease designated land to businesses.

"We had assumed everything had already been taken care of with the passing of the bill by the department of justice and Indian affairs," said Crowfoot.

Faced with delays the band tried to get a temporary permit so they could start construction, but they were turned down.

"I couldn't believe it. Other tribes up north were doing similar projects like ours, such as the chopstick factory at Sturgeon



Siksika Nation Chief - Strater Crowfoot

Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

Lake. Yet we could not get a permit.

"We were told we must go through Bill C-115. They said the process would not take very long. The whole thing took 20 months," he said angrily, adding the band agreed to go through Bill-C115 reluctantly.

Another problem arose with financial institutions.

"We found out our lease

agreement was not acceptable to the banks we had approached for financial help. They were not comfortable with the wording.

"It was discouraging to us because we thought the department of justice people, who had given us the surrender documents, the designation documents, had cleared the documents with the financial institutions," Crowfoot noted.

The project was almost "scrubbed"

because of the banks' refusal to accept the wording of the head lease.

"Again we lobbied Ottawa to have the wording in the lease agreement changed, because the contract we had lined up could not go ahead without a guarantee from us that money was in place."

And time was short. The band had just 24 hours to have the

lease agreement approved and signed.

"It was settled before the 24-hour deadline elapsed, but not before we put up \$400,000 of our own money so the project wouldn't be delayed anymore," said Crowfoot.

Because of all the delays the Blackfoot band incurred significant legal costs and took a gamble without any firm loan agreement in place.

"Lucky for us the department of justice in Ottawa and Indian affairs approved the changes in the lease agreement," said Crowfoot.

Chief Crowfoot said his band will accept either compensation in the form of a lump sum payment, which would be used to reduce the long-term loan with Peace Hills Trust, or an annual contribution towards the band's operation and maintenance budget.

"The construction cost index has since gone up considerably and we lost potential revenues because of the long delay.

"And we have lost some credibility with our people because nothing happened for a long time with the project. It cost us a lot of pocket expenses," said the chief.

Bill C-115 gives bands more control - Crowfoot

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

SIKSIKA NATION, ALTA.

Changes to the Indian Act giving bands more control over non-Native businesses on their land could be a boon to bands across the country, says Chief Strater Crowfoot of the Siksika Nation.

He said Bill C-115, which was passed in June 1988, has long-term benefits, because it now empowers Indian people to designate land for economic development while still maintaining

control over it.

Crowfoot and the Siksika Nation were the first to take advantage of the bill, when in 1988 they announced they would commence working on a 135-acre commercial and industrial project on designated Indian land.

The project is underway and should be completed this year.

The bill allows Indian bands to tax non-Native businesses on designated Indian land and also protects those businesses from being taxed by the provincial government.

But Crowfoot says none of

this would have come about if not for another chief's determination in British Columbia.

Chief Many Jewels of the Kamloops (Shuswap) Indian band was the main reason Bill C-115 came into being, he said.

Getting then Indian affairs minister Pierre Cadieux to agree to the changes was no easy task for Many Jewels, who lobbied various ministers in Ottawa and travelled across Canada seeking support from Indian bands to have the act changed.

"We agreed with Chief Many Jewels and signed band council resolutions in support of the Kamloops' Indian people. He worked very hard," said Crowfoot.

Not only did Many Jewels receive unanimous support from Crowfoot and the people of the Siksika Nation, he also managed to convince over 60 other bands across Canada to support his bid to have the act changed.

Because of Many Jewels' determination to get changes to the Indian Act allowing for the implementation of Bill-C115, Indian bands across the country — and especially in his home province of British Columbia — now hold

jurisdiction over designated Indian reserve land.

Chief Crowfoot said many Indian bands have surrendered land for different purposes. "We surrendered 325 acres for a summer resort and didn't have a problem with the provincial government saying it's now non-Indian land and then claiming jurisdiction over it for tax purposes."

However, in B.C. before the bill was passed, surrendering of Indian land was quite different.

"In B.C. once land was surrendered, it sort of lost Indian title and the province moved in and started collecting tax revenue from that surrendered land," Crowfoot explained.

Under Bill C-115 land is now designated, not surrendered. "Having surrendered land changed to designated land changed all that. Now when you designate land, it still maintains Indian title, onwership. This way the province cannot move in and start taxing businesses on the land. However, we can now begin setting up our own tax system for businesses located on designated land," said Crowfoot.

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High Level



Jeff Morrow, Windspeaker

Fred and Ginger? Not quite, but the mother and son team know how to have fun at the High Level Friendship Centre sober dance.

High Level groups host their first sober dance

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HIGH LEVEL, ALTA.

Two local Native social service groups hosted their first dance March 9 at the High Level Friendship Centre to mark a special time in Native sobriety.

The Dene Tha' Counselling Program and Action North, a substance abuse centre, threw open the doors and laid out the red carpet for more than 60 area Natives, who took part in their first sober dance event. The show was complete with cold pop, dancing entertainment and lots of sober friendship.

Alberta Native Maxine Courtoreille, along with her three-year-old son Avery Atchooay, only rested briefly between the almost non-stop playing by the local disc jockey.

"It's great fun," she said while straightening up Avery's shirt tail before going on the floor for another number.

John Loftus, executive director of Action North, said sober dance events are just what the doctor ordered.

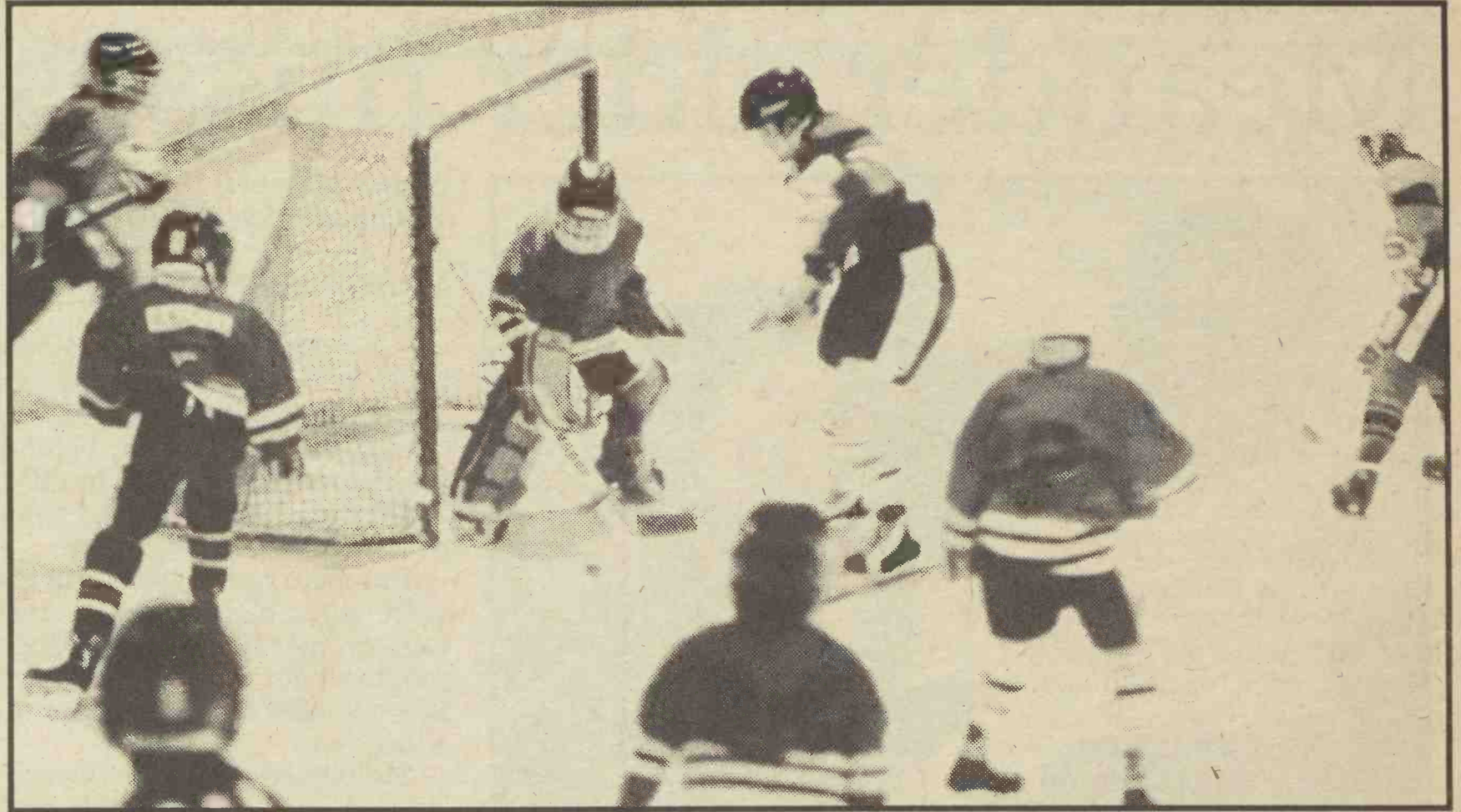
Action North, a 12-year-old, 28-day treatment centre in High Level has been moving toward helping Natives through group activities.

Loftus said there has been a "marked improvement" in the program since the centre started working in teams and groups.

"We're leading the way," he declared.

Dene Tha' counselling coordinator Gloria Letendre said the dance was "very successful."

Dene Tha' Counselling and Action North officials are hoping sober dances will become regular events on their calendars.



Jeff Morrow, Windspeaker

The High Level red team battles it out with Fort Vermilion at the goal during the second game of the Minor Hockey Atoms tournament in High Level March 10. High Level won the game nine to two. Their tournament was won by Hay River. The High Level red team took second and High Level white took third. Other participating teams were from Manning and La Crete.

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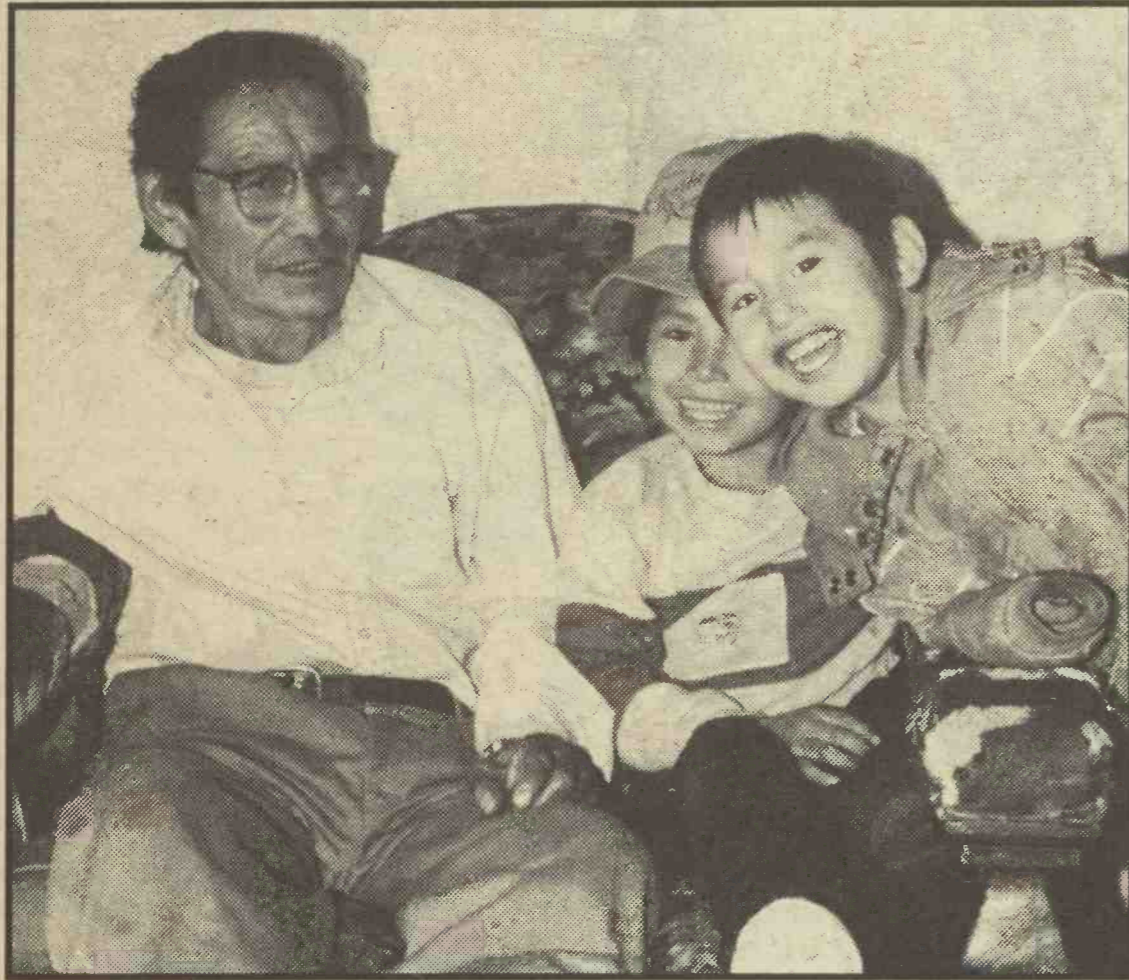


Jeff Morrow, Windspeaker

Two Dene Tha' dancers rest their tired dogs during an evening of hoopla at the first High Level sober dance

Meander River

Meander elder misses the wilderness



Jeff Morrow, Windspeaker

Grandfather Frank Yatchotay enjoys the company of the younger generation. He gave up hunting and fishing to do it.

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

MEANDER RIVER, ALTA.

When Frank Yatchotay left his home in Indian Cabins 30 years ago so his children could go to school, he was leaving behind the lifetime of traditional hunting and fishing he had enjoyed since he was a boy.

But there was a sadness in his voice when he told how he lost two of his 10 children since moving his family to Meander River, where they could get an education.

He blamed the deaths on alcohol and said he's learned to deal with the tragedies by helping to

provide the best home possible for his grandchildren.

He misses the days he spent roaming the wilderness near the border between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, where he used to search for food to feed his family. The days spent along the lakeshores and river banks of northern Alberta are now only fireside stories for his grandchildren to enjoy. But he says he really wouldn't have changed a thing.

The 60-year-old Dene Tha' elder plays a major role in raising his grandchildren.

While relaxing at his home in Meander River, 78 km north of High Level, Yatchotay remi-

nises about his early days hunting moose, elk and squirrel. There's a twinkle in his eye when he speaks of hooking whitefish and bagging some ducks along the river. But what the jolly veteran of the northern wilderness seems to enjoy best now is the company of the younger generation.

"Indian Cabins is a damn, good place to live," Yatchotay insists. "(But) I take care of the kids now."

Indian Cabins, a small Indian community 90 km north of Meander River, has never been more distant to Yatchotay than it is now. But he says his life has never been more complete.



Jeff Morrow, Windspeaker

Meander River youth Bruce Yatchotay, 16, prepares firewood for the expected cold snap in Alberta's northern region.



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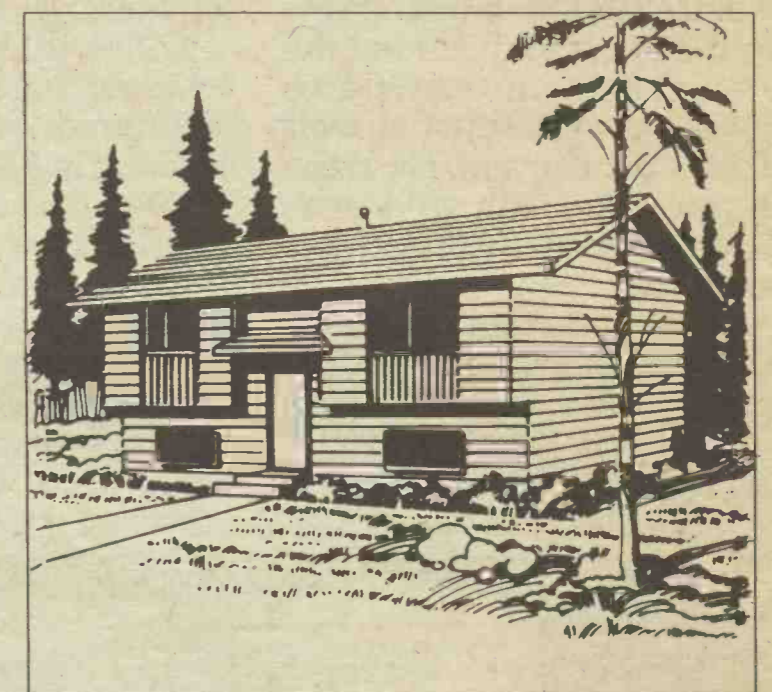
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DENE THA' COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A STORY OF HUNTING
by Grade Four

The grade four class invited Curious George and the Man with the Yellow Hat to Assumption. They wanted to hunt rabbits with the skidoo.

Curious George and the Man came on the plane. They went to Georgia's house to get a skidoo. Shane and Tyler brought their 22 shotguns. The Man said, "George, don't touch the guns!"

The Man and grade four kids went into Georgia's house. Georgia's mom made bannock and tea and jam. Curious George was curious. He went hunting rabbits. He took a 22. He rode on a skidoo. He killed 12 rabbits.

Claudette and Betty were walking to Georgia's house. They saw Curious George. They heard a gun. They saw the rabbits. They said, "Oh Boy! There's lots of rabbits!"

Betty and Claudette rode with Curious George on the skidoo. They helped carry the rabbits. Darren and Shane and Tyler cleaned the rabbits. Charles made a fire. He put the rabbits in the pan with water on the fire. Georgia's mom cooked the potatoes. Darren brought some moose meat. Tyler brought some bread and tea. The man said, "I'm glad we came here. This is a good feast."

Tyler asked his grandfather to play a drum. Cheyanne showed Curious George how to dance. Everyone heard the drum. The other drummers brought their drums. They sang their prayers. The people heard and came too. It was a great teadance.

The next day the Man and George went on the plane. They said, "Thank you for the good dinner and the fun dance. We will come back."

THE END

BY:
Cheyanne Ahnassay
Darren Denechoan
Betty Didzena
Charles Lefou
Tyler Metchooayah
Shane Providence
Georgia Talley
Claudette Tsonchoke



Kelly Didzena

The White Buffalo
Long ago the Indians were hunting the Buffalo. All the Buffalo were killed except one. This Buffalo turned white. One brave warrior went hunting the Buffalo when he saw the strange white Buffalo he got scared. He went back to his people and told the chief and the chief said he wanted the white hide. All the brave warriors went to hunt the white Buffalo. The Buffalo was smart and he hid in the mountains. Soon the warriors gave up hunting the white Buffalo except one. That warrior went to the mountains and hunted until he found the Buffalo. Just as he was going to shoot the white Buffalo said, "Stop don't shoot. If you spare me, I will make sure your people will have enough meat for the winter." The warrior said, "OK" and let the Buffalo go. All winter his people had lots of meat to eat.

the End

Kelly Didzena, Grade 6

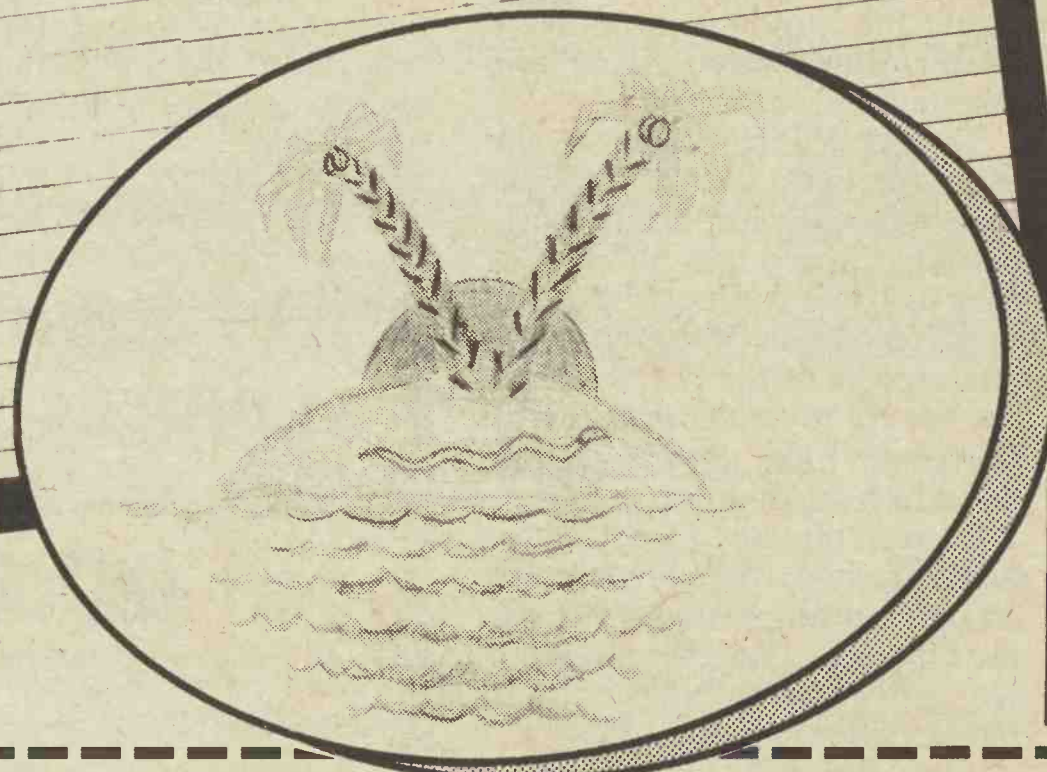
-My Home In Assumption
I like Assumption because we have a school and I like the school wa-
can play outside at recess.
I like school work. ---
I have friends at school.
We play together and help each other. When we have troubles we help each other. ---

Natalie Ahnassay, Grade 2

My Weird pet

Once I had a pet snake and it followed me to the store whenever I would go. All the people would look at me and the snake. Sometimes we would go home and eat. After we ate we would go to sleep. Sometimes in the morning we would go to snake island. We would go swimming and after that we would sleep in the sun. THE END

Harold Denechoan, Grade 5



Thomas Pastion, Junior Upgrading

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U of A Native Awareness Days

Four days of togetherness and understanding

By Gail Duiker
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON

Dexter Young, president of the University of Alberta's Aboriginal Student Council, the council, the students, and the staff of Athabasca Hall can breathe the one collective sigh of relief!

Native Awareness Days, which took place on the campus of the University of Alberta March 7 to 10, was an outstanding success.

The council began planning the event as early as October. And it is no mistake International Week coincided with Native Awareness Days.

"We felt the two events would complement each other," said Young. "Both non-Natives and Natives benefited from the exposure to other cultures."

"Non-Native students seem intrigued and fascinated by Native culture. And certainly when Native students see this genuine interest and attention, it inspires a great deal of pride in their culture."

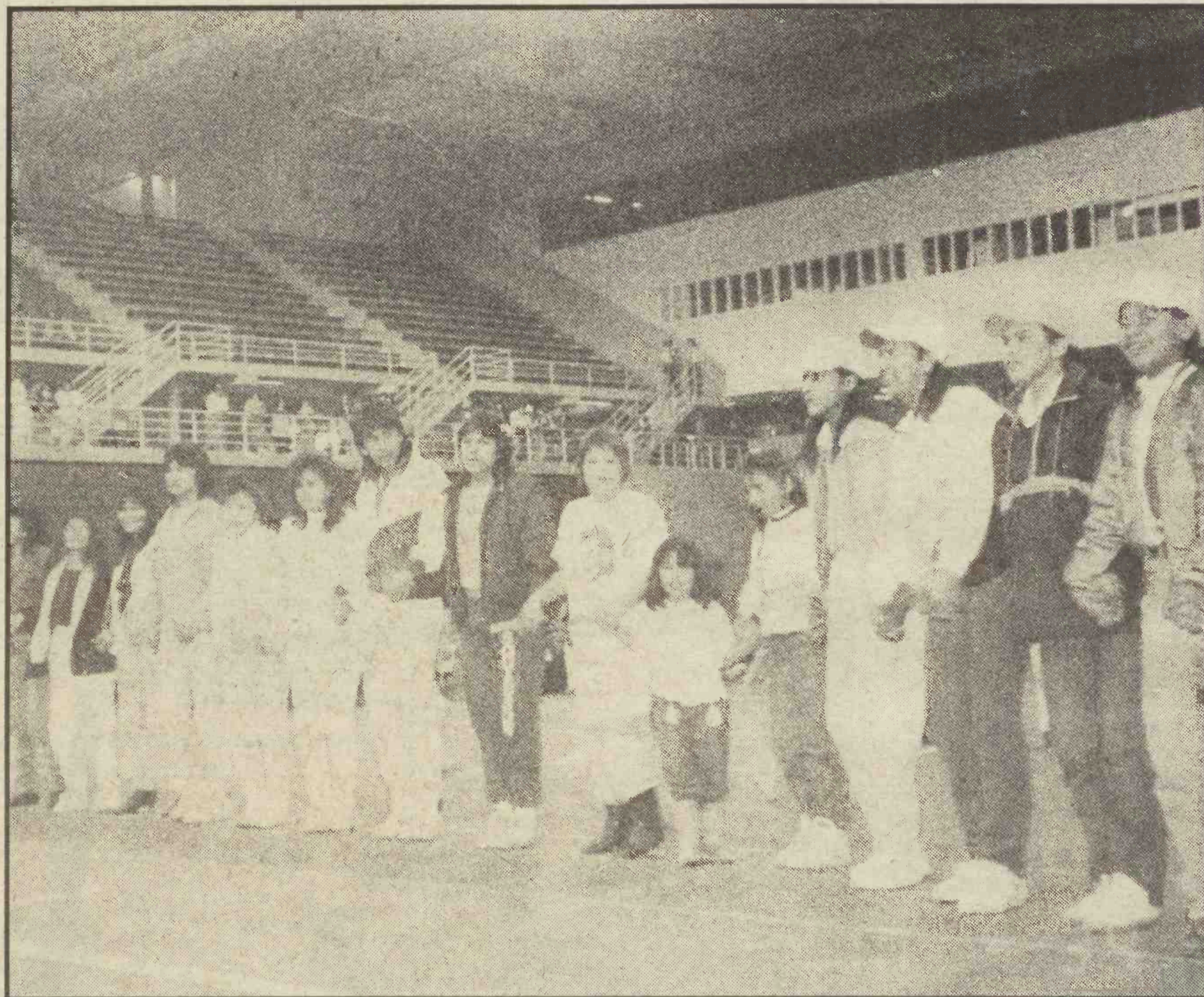
Young said the council had decided this year to adopt a more traditional format for Native Awareness Days and so included such things as traditional singing and dancing.

That many Natives have not been exposed to various parts of their culture is a well-documented fact and one Young is aware of. "We wanted to provide an opportunity for the people to experience their culture if they have not been exposed to it."

The opening event of Native Awareness Days March 7 began with a panel discussion on language issues. From the forum emerged two predominant facts: the need for a standardized alphabet has been highlighted by an in-depth look at the methods of teaching various Cree dialects and more Native linguists are needed in the field of research and practice.

Meanwhile, the incorporation of traditional values and contemporary issues concerning Native people made for extremely interesting discussions March 8.

For instance a discussion on Native mental health was well attended, where an open discussion was held on the extremely



Round dance participants

Darryl Duiker Photo

high suicide rate in the Native community and the social, physical and spiritual reasons all of which play an important role in mental health. On Friday night the Four Winds Theatre Co. from Hobbema presented the play *It's My Life*, which also dealt with the problem of suicide in the Native population emphasizing the importance of communicating with people and reaching out to others.

Darryl Wildcat, a writer and actor for *Four Winds*, said the play "is a really important tool to helping people talk about how they feel. The audience is invited to participate in discussing various aspects of the plays we put on. We try to create stories with power to help people change how they see themselves."

Meanwhile, on a lighter note Native fashion models presented an outstanding fashion show in the Education North building — we didn't realize how many of us are that good looking!

On March 9, storytelling by

elders took place in the Tory Building. Feedback indicated the event went very well.

"In continuity with the central theme we wanted to invite the speakers to talk with their own language. Interpreters would work with the speakers," said Young.

"We are especially proud to show our elders our campus. To give them the opportunity of seeing where their children spend much time is so rewarding."

Events such as this educated non-Natives, raising their aware-

ness, he said. "Simply put, more education promotes understanding and more tolerance towards others."

Meanwhile, the Aboriginal Film Festival presented four films in the Education South auditorium dealing with historic and current issues of Native people. The special guests in attendance captivated the audience. They included Chief Bernard Ominayak of the Lubicon Lake Indian Band and friend Denys Auger of the Bigstone Cree Band as well as Lubicon advisor Fred Lennarson.

Ominayak thanked everyone for their support and asked them to continue to promote the Lubicon struggle for a land claim settlement with Ottawa through phone calls to members of Parliament.

The last event was a round dance March 10 at which University president Paul Davenport was a special guest. He was presented with a work of art by Aboriginal Student Council president Dexter Young, who is also an artist.

Over 1,000 portions were served of beef and buffalo stew and bannock — it was a mouth-watering success.

Two special dances were performed for the audience. The first was a demonstration of hoop dancing while the second was by the famed White Braid Dancers of Edmonton. And last but not least the Dene Tha' singers performed some compelling songs.

The round dances were the culmination of Native Awareness Days.

Tomorrow, the Native artwork displays and cultural exchanges would be just another fond memory.

But for now the symbolic circle of unity was growing larger. Dancers, both Native and non-Native, were drawn into the spirit of togetherness.

Young expressed satisfaction with how Native Awareness Days 1990 had gone. "The success of this event ensures other events will continue. That's great! We have had an overwhelming response from a wide range of funders. We would very much like to thank municipal affairs, secretary of state, Petro-Canada, Peace Hills Trust and all individuals, who donated their time, money or advice."

He said they were instrumental in making Native Awareness Days 1990 a rewarding experience for all.



Darryl Duiker Photo

All Many Bears of Early Thunder Creations (Cluney, Alberta) at the art exhibit

ALBERTA NATIVE CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

MARCH 30, 31 & APRIL 1, 1990

at the Slave Lake Curling Rink

Sponsored by the Driftpile Amateur Sports and Recreation Committee

- 32 Team Men's Bonspiel (3 events)**
- 24 Team Ladies' Bonspiel (3 events)**
- 8 Team Mixed Juniors**
- 16 & under (2 events)**

- Trophies and prizes determined on entries
- All Participants must be of Native ancestry
- Saturday Night Banquet and Dance

Send entry fee of \$120 per team (includes banquet & dance) to:



Driftpile Amateur Sports and Recreation
c/o Hank G. Giroux
General Delivery
Driftpile, Alberta
TOG 0V0

or phone entries to Driftpile Band Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at (403)355-3868 or 355-3869. Evenings call Donna Giroux at 355-3871.

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ATTENTION PARENTS WHOOPING COUGH OUTBREAK



Over 90 cases of whooping cough (pertussis) have been reported in our Unit's area since January. New cases are being reported daily. Our community has a problem. Together, we can bring this whooping cough outbreak under control.

Immunization will help you to protect your children from this serious disease.

Your Regional Community Health Nurses are responding by:

- offering more appointments for immunization
- speeding up the immunization schedule for infants

Your infant under 12 months of age, or child who has not been immunized, or who has been only partly immunized, is in danger of getting whooping cough and its possible complications.

Our accelerated schedule for full immunization will protect your infant faster, by the age of 4 months rather than by the usual age of 6 months. We'll give your baby the first dose of combined diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus vaccine (called DPT) at the age of 8 weeks and the second and third doses at four week intervals.

Call our office now for an immunization appointment, especially if your baby is 8 weeks old and has not started immunization, or if your child is due for immunization. Call us if you have any questions about the DPT vaccine.

Help protect your children. Help us to control this outbreak.

- If the Community Health Nurse has phoned your family because you or your family member are a contact of a case, you may be prescribed a medication by your doctor. Please take the medicine as directed and bring your children in for immunization recommended by your Regional Community Health Nurse.
- If you or your children develop a persistent cough "that sounds unusual" - go and see your doctor.
- If you or your child are coughing, stay home as much as possible and do not attend gatherings with children, such as birthday parties or play groups.
- Babies who have not received their first immunizations should be kept away from public gatherings.
- When coughing, cover your mouth. This stops the bacteria from getting into the air.
- If your children are younger than 7 years of age and have not had their shots for Whooping Cough . . .

ACT NOW! - Call Us.

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