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Features**B.C. landslides reveal industry danger 8**

When the sides of the mountains on the West Coast of British Columbia start tumbling down after heavy rains, forestry experts are left to wonder if the logging industries should be allowed to self-regulate harvesting in areas where terrain is unstable.

Feds offloading Indians to the province 9

A paper circulating in First Nations political circles has made infamous one Ottawa policy analyst. He says the federal government is refusing to legislate its obligation to First Nations to offload its responsibilities to the provinces. He's also trash-talking the Assembly of First Nations, and that's got the AFN fighting mad.

Top INAC official gets raked over the coals 10

When the deputy minister of Indian Affairs Michael Horgan appeared before the standing committee on Aboriginal Affairs, the heat got turned up high on his department's record on First Nations education. Opposition members and Liberal backbenchers alike, took turns giving the DM the strap.

Help postponed; misery prolonged 13

The federal government handed down its budget Feb. 23, and there wasn't much in it for Aboriginal people to do hand-stands over. Though Prime Minister Paul Martin has said government is committed to improving the quality of life for Native people, his words ring hollow in light of the budget commitments. The national chief of the Assembly of First Nations says so.

Special Feature: The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business celebrates the induction of two luminaries of the business world into its new Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame, and tips their hat to those companies building good relations with the Aboriginal community through the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program.

Departments**[rants and raves] 5**

The crime of the Indian residential school policy continues with the federal government's insincere attempts to offer redress. The lack of progress on this file is a boondoggle of astounding proportions, both financially and morally.

[what's happening] 7

Community events in Indian Country for March and beyond.

[strictly speaking] 14

Drew Hayden Taylor says racial profiling works, at least when you are looking at the most destructive race in history; Law columnist Tuma Young says councillor should seek guidance to do his band proud; and Inuit commentator Zebedee Nungak offers up advice to industry on how to produce suitable products for the Arctic.

[radio's most active] 16**[canadian classroom] 20**

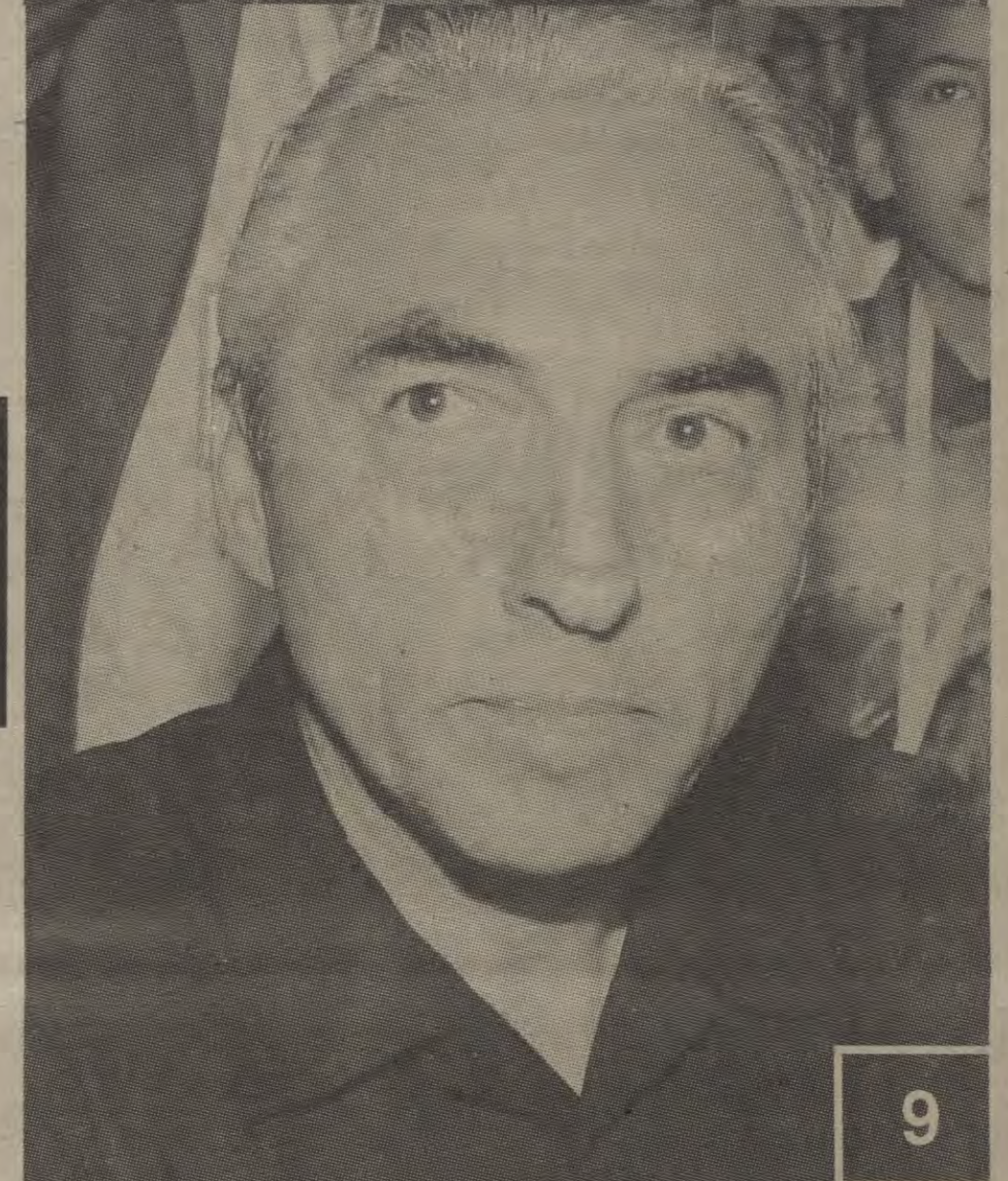
The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has announced the recipients of this year's achievement awards. Northern achievers get the nod overall. Roberta Jamieson, the new CEO of the foundation, talks about what's to come under her watch. She's excited about the prospects of the organization.

[footprints] 26

The Voice of Indian Hockey is remembered with a tournament held in his honor. Lawrence Weenie was a leader in the community, but his real contribution was not in the political arena, but in hockey arenas across Saskatchewan. He knew that sports would build self-esteem in young people, and that in turn would build strong leadership in the community.



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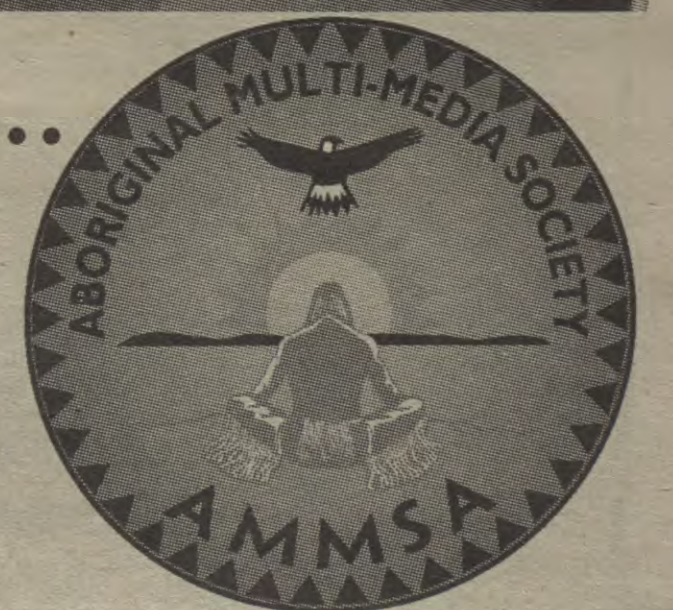
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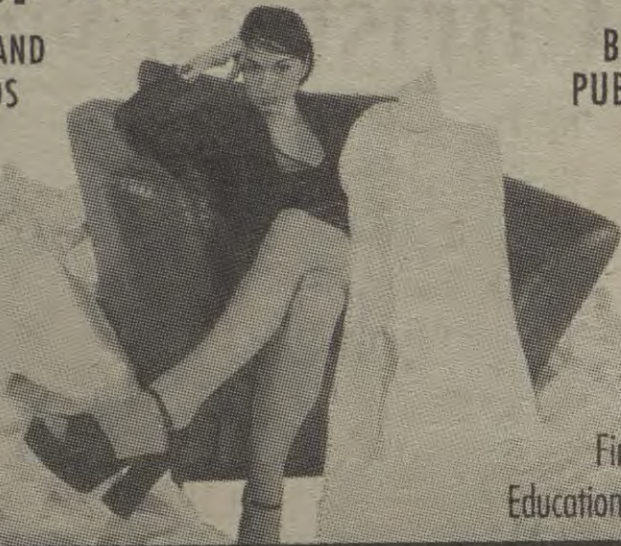


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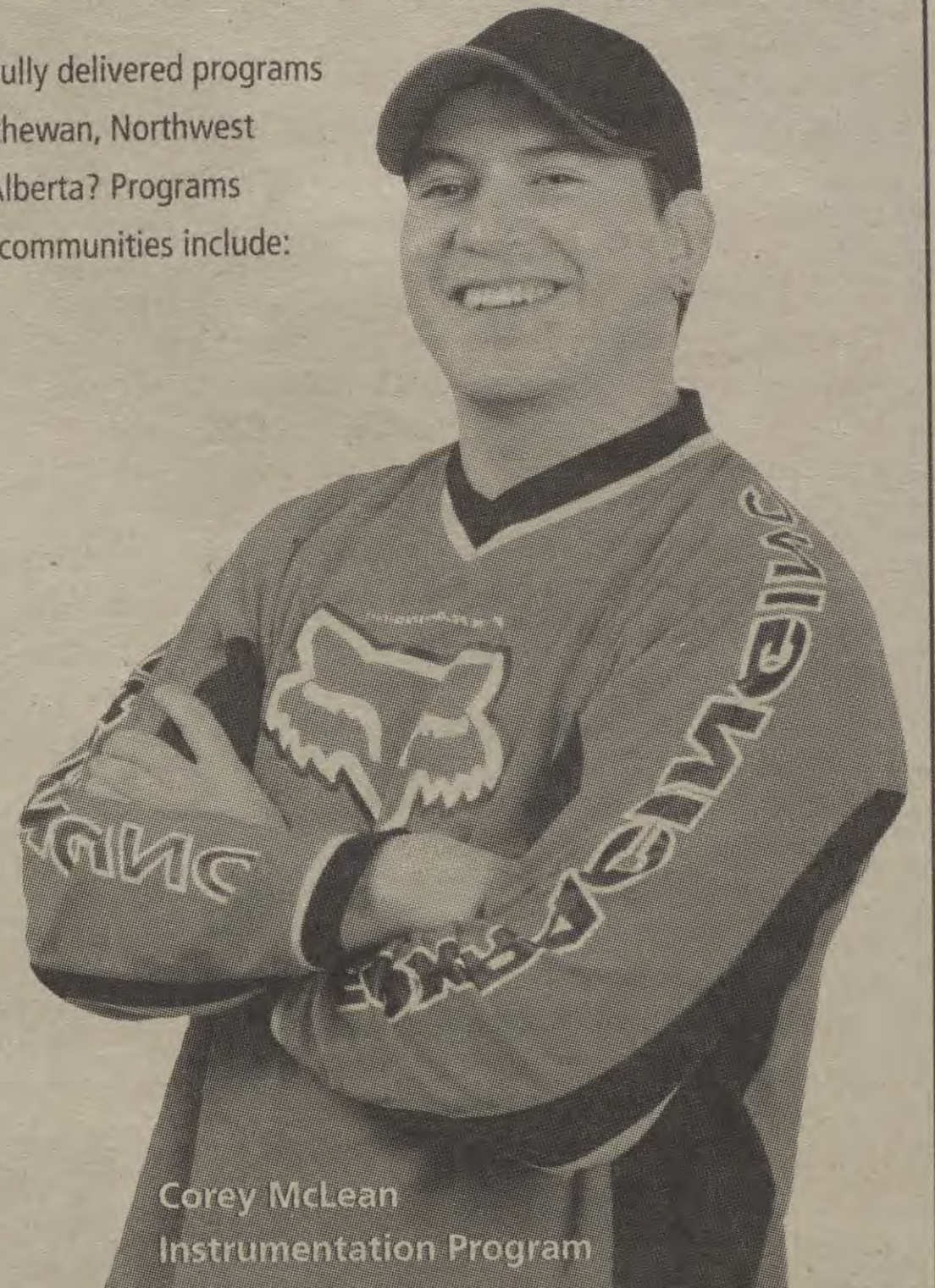
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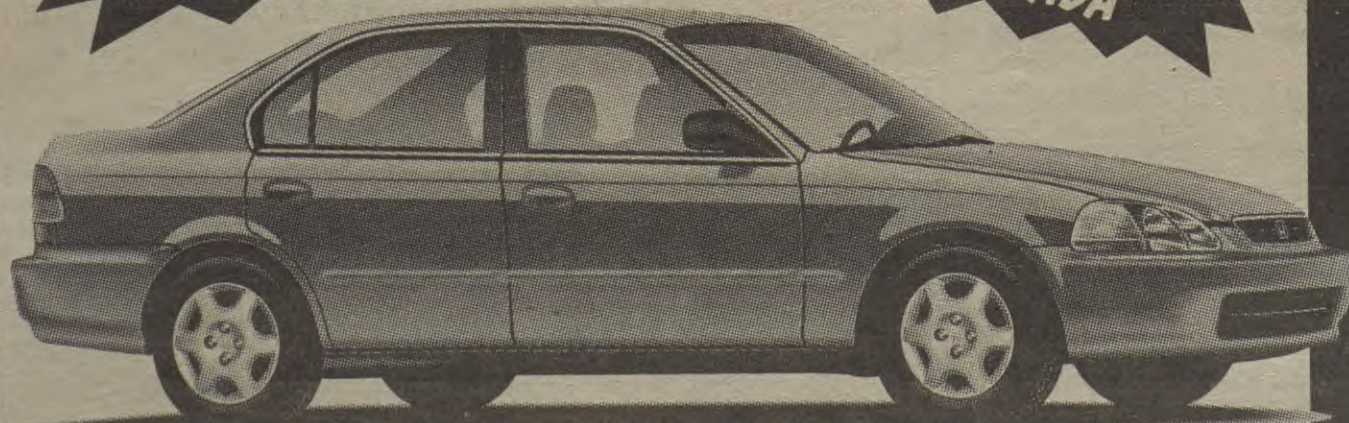
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windspeaker

Wrap it up

It's time to put an end to one of Canada's most shameful legacies. It's way past time; way, way past time.

And no we're not talking about the alternative dispute resolution process for Indian residential school compensation claims, although history will place that shameful boondoggle high up the list.

We're talking about the Indian residential school policy, the original crime, not the cover up.

In the first phase of the crime spree, children were beaten for speaking their own languages, for having their own culture, all in the name of the assimilation policy of the government. Innocent little kids were terrorized by the men and women of God. Some were left to the nonexistent mercy of pedophiles who found a comfortable, and easy place among them. The children were of a certain race, and to remove that race from the child, the government went to extreme lengths.

The residential school policy was evil, ignorant, and vile. It led to evil, vile and disgusting realities, the latest of which is this most recent phase of the crime spree—government's cynical act of pretending to balance the scales of justice while waiting for the witnesses to die off.

The residential school era was a shameful time in human history with effects that linger into the present moment. The multi-million dollar, premeditated campaign of government to first deny the abuses of those schools, and then refuse justice to the victims, has the potential to exceed the shameful of the earlier era.

The national chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) made that point in front of the standing committee on Aboriginal Affairs which heard testimony in February about the abuse of the victims seeking redress for past wrongs. We commend him, heartily, for it. He made the most important point in all of this and it must be underlined and emphasized: "After all, the very reason the schools were set up in the first place was to destroy our languages, culture and family ties. Failure to compensate for these wrongs would effectively condone them."

The time for being polite is long past.

For Prime Minister Paul Martin to talk about transformative change and reconciliation while this heinous Alternative Dispute Resolution process unfolds on his watch is sheer hypocrisy. The Canadian Bar Association and other equally distinguished groups have warned him of the immorality of it all.

For Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan to parrot the party line in the face of so much evidence that a travesty of justice is occurring under her nose is appalling.

But the moral issue is only one aspect of this shameful situation. Has anyone in Ottawa bothered to ask how the Office of Indian Residential School Resolution Canada (OIRSRC) can justify spending so many millions in administration while expending so little on doing the job it was created to do, namely compensating victims of a state-run attempt at genocide?

The AFN has documented a case where a claimant received an offer of \$800 to settle. The government paid \$28,000 in administrative costs in arriving at that piddling amount. The AFN reports that on average the government is spending \$7 for every dollar given in settlement in the lower end categories, and \$3 for every dollar for the higher end settlements. That can only be described as corrupt.

"This kind of extreme waste, where millions of dollars end up into the pockets of everyone but those who deserve it most, is unconscionable. In terms of waste and human suffering, the gun registry and the sponsorship scandals pale by comparison to this boondoggle," Phil Fontaine told the standing committee on Aboriginal Affairs.

Yet the OIRSRC survived an expenditure review that has so far managed to find \$11 billion in bureaucratic fat to trim. One is forced to wonder just how thorough or honest that process really is.

If the government does not take immediate action on this matter, we would urge the national chief and all national Aboriginal leaders to boycott the first ministers meeting scheduled for the fall.

To sit at the table with the same people who would continue to do this to the children who are now our Elders would be a betrayal of the worst kind. This is not a matter to be negotiated.

It's time for strong, decent and decisive action. Any leader who can't provide it should step aside.

—Windspeaker

Free from guilt

Dear Editor:

A real Native protects the planet. A real Native wouldn't demand money from an industry or government that exploits the environment.

I'm ashamed to be Native when my leaders are turning into the oppressors and exploiters that Natives have been fighting against for so many decades. Local First Nations, tribal councils, Treaty 8, and, yes, even the Assembly of First Nations have turned their backs on true Native culture, beliefs and religion.

Natives have been "assimilated" after all! We're fighting for resources just like most advanced civilizations of history and contributing to the factors that are destroying all of the world's traditional cultures, traditional languages and the environment.

Cultures like First Nations in North America can't survive in the traditional sense when the foundation of culture is altered. In our case, our culture is founded on a love for and balance of nature. If First Nations gain rights to a share of money from resource exploitation we will lose our traditional culture. We will lose our soul and connection to the Creator!

We as a culture need to and can bypass resource exploitation (our version of the Industrial Revolution) jumping right to clean high technology and advanced education. Natives should be using new technologies to protect our culture, language, and the environment. We should be developing solar and wind power companies to supply the world's emerging technology and information age. Natives using the Creator's limitless gifts of the sun and wind, what could be better than that? This can only strengthen our culture and place in this world, as we will be free of guilt.

—Ian Hopfe
Wabasca, Alta.

Where do we stand?

Dear Editor:

Let us look at the problems that are rising from the treaty rights issues. When our leaders signed the treaty act in 1899 for Treaty 8, the leaders foresaw the hardships that we would endure. When the Queen signed the treaty with our leaders the bond was formed with her, and yet the federal department makes decisions for us.

Were we consulted to have the federal department act as our interpreter? We were promised reserves, education, medicine, annual payments, farm equipment, stock, seed and ammunition with freedom to hunt, fish and trap, all signed under the treaty. These issues are considered valid as long as the sun shines, grass grows and water flows. The world may have stopped turning in someone's department, as these statements now appear to be in jeopardy.

These benefits that were promised to us are being slashed, shredded. They have put in gun laws, which coincide with freedom to hunt. They have stopped paying some medical costs. They have slashed education funds.

Alberta will be celebrating its 100 years as a province. We as First Nation descendants had our own boundaries before Alberta was established and yet we are left out in deciding if we wanted Alberta as a province.

Alberta reaps in the rewards as a wealthy province from the land that was signed under treaty and yet no help is given to First Nations to cover what is entitled to them.

Can we hold the Queen or the federal department accountable for the decisions made without consulting First Nations? Should the provincial government force us to pay taxes without our input? Is the treaty still valid with the changes made? Is the Queen still in power with the decision being made by other unforeseen powers? Where do we stand?

George Chalifoux

Talk it up

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[rants and raves]

Love and tolerance —Christian values

Dear Editor:

Re: Article entitled "Sweetgrass burning banned."
I find the quote by Mike Rennick "If it's minus 25 and it's that important to you, then brave the cold... The Christian Bible doesn't kill me—Sweetgrass is carcinogenic" as an unfortunate sign of intolerance and ignorance which is unfortunately more common in today's society bred under the protection of faith.

Some people believe that anyone that practices something different is automatically wrong.

I am a 22-year-old born-again Christian. I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and for me this works. Why should I not allow someone else to believe in what their ancestors taught them?

It saddens me when others ignore "Love thy neighbor as thy would thyself" and "Do not pass judgement unto others, lest you pass judgement onto yourself" while begetting intolerance and prejudice towards people by trying to impose their own beliefs. It is unfortunate that they want to ban the burning of sweetgrass. I have always enjoyed participating in ceremonies in which sweetgrass has been involved. I feel cleansed, rejuvenated and energized afterwards. Perhaps I'm an oddity though that sees everyone as connected and that the Creator loves us all and that we should love each other?

—Stephen T.

Ban the illegal drugs not the sweetgrass

Dear Editor:

If the banning of sweetgrass is such a big issue, then any illegal drugs should be banned also. They can't say that these drugs are not in there, because anyone who knows someone in these provincial jails knows what is going on ... sweetgrass is a cleansing agent not a killing agent.

—Ivy, Fort McMurray

Only connected can survive on reserve

Dear Editor:

The December issue states that there are over one million kids hurting big time here in Canada; hurting for things like food, clothing and a warm bed to sleep in. It also states that for off rez kids, that number went way up to 40 per cent! To that I add, if it's 40 per cent off rez, just imagine what it's like on the rez!

With most reserves being breeding grounds for dysfunction, I say the percentage of kids affected on rez would be 95 per cent. Just those kids whose parents are "connected" to the band office, those ones know luxury the likes of which those not "connected" only dream of. Having parents with two jobs each on reserve doesn't hurt! See what I mean by "connected!"

—Harvey

Don't mess with law

Dear Editor:

Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was in force in 1999 when the House of Commons overwhelmingly approved (216-55) a Reform Party bill designating marriage to be "the union of one man and one woman." At that time, the Liberal Party, with its large majority, did not believe that this definition of traditional marriage violated the rights of homosexuals and lesbians.

Now six years later, a Liberal minority government strongly believes that this traditional definition of marriage violates the rights of homosexuals and lesbians. Why? No rights have been taken away from anyone. As the state has the power to authorize social benefits and also protect individual rights for any of its citizens, there is no need to change the law on marriage. This traditional structure of marriage—the union of one man and one woman—was designed to procreate, nurture and protect children. It is a structure shared by Canadians of different cultures and faith and it has served Canada extremely well for countless years.

—Gord Nixon

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Landslides reveal danger of self-regulation

By David Wiwchar
Windspeaker Contributor

PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

Huu-ay-aht and Ditidaht forestry workers documented 20 landslides in their territories after recent heavy rains. Landslides up to 1.5 kilometres in length have put fishery enhancement projects in jeopardy, and are raising concerns about hillside stability in logging areas.

Huu-ay-aht Chief Councillor Robert Dennis said his nation has spent \$300,000 a year for the past 10 years on salmon enhancement, and those projects could be wiped out if something isn't done.

"The province hired people to do terrain assessments, and we've been asking for those reports to no avail," said Dennis. "We want to know what B.C. and Weyerhaeuser are going to do about these landslides, why there is harvesting like crazy where there is terrain instability, and why there is no money for hillside stabilization," he said.

Huu-ay-aht forestry consultant Heath Krevesky surveyed the damage to some streams, saying



A 1.5-kilometre slide came down a mountain and across a logging road into the Darling River south of Bamfield, B.C.

trees and roots were stacked up 15 feet high, and mud and silt-laden run-off was coating gravel spawning beds, possibly killing incubating salmon eggs.

"Harvest plans are not taking unstable lands into consideration, and this is compromising fish habitats," said Krevesky. "It's shoddy logging at the expense of other resources."

According to Krevesky, a 1.5 kilometre-long slide came down one hillside straight into the Darling River, blocking a mainline logging road and dumping tons of dirt into the river. After clearing off the road, Krevesky said logging company contractors "haphazardly tried to clean out the stream with an excavator," but he fears they did even more damage as a

result.

Krevesky is also concerned terrain analysts fail to take into account the heavy rains that often occur in the winter months when they do their assessments.

"It rained 800 millimeters in five days just before the landslides, and although that seems like a lot of rain, it's fairly normal out here," he said.

According to Ministry of Forests district manager Jack Dryburgh and compliance and enforcement supervisor Al Cross, the slides are under review and investigation, so they could not comment on the investigation specifically.

"We will determine the cause and if legislation was complied with," said Dryburgh.

Dryburgh claimed the Ministry of Forests does not see the terrain assessment reports, which are the responsibility of the leaseholder. But it is the responsibility of the ministry to approve harvest plans. How the ministry can approve logging plans without appropriate information on terrain stability remains an outstanding question.

Hayes Forestry holds the terrain assessment reports on Weyerhaeuser's behalf, and according to Weyerhaeuser operational planner Mike Davis, the province entrusts companies to comply with basic rules and make sure they're being followed. "They're relying on the professional foresters qualifications, and if there's an issue the professional association can be brought in," he said.

Survivors fed up with government tactics

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Three days of hearings before the standing committee on Aboriginal Affairs brought the growing anger survivors of Indian residential schools are feeling to a boil.

Lawyers, former students, National Chief Phil Fontaine and others made presentations to the committee in mid-February, while others who attended the schools as children watched on with a heightened sense that the government's approach to redress and compensation of the victims needs to change and soon.

John Okemow, 55, is a citizen of the Driftpile First Nation in Alberta and attended St. Bruno's residential from 1956 to 1965. He has filed a \$725,000 lawsuit against the government and the Catholic church alleging he was sexually and physically abused.

He contacted *Windspeaker* because he believes former students "need to start making noise" and making concerns about government's handling of the residential school issue known to the general public. He's unhappy with the slow pace of the litigation and wondered about the fairness of a system that will see non-Native lawyers skim off huge percentages of any money that may be awarded.

Okemow also said a recent decision by the Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution (OIRSRS) to hire private investigators to look into claims of abuse being made is a dangerous and personally frightening move.

"It scares the hell out of me. What if one of these guys [an



Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan "blew it" when she appeared before the standing committee on Aboriginal Affairs, said lawyer Craig Brown. "She had a chance to reach out to them and to give them hope. She blew it," he said.

abuser] really does flip out and goes crazy? He's going to go to jail anyway because he's going to be charged for how many years of abuse, eh? And this is not only sexual abuse; it's physical abuse," Okemow said on Feb. 16. "It's life threatening: 'If you say anything you're going to die.' That's a threat. If I would have said something at that time [of his abuse], I wouldn't be talking to you. And even if I had said something it would have went on deaf ears because the priests and the nuns, the whole system didn't want news going out to the public and the communities."

Okemow sees the reports that government is spending more defending against claims than it is settling claims and he wonders. Canadians reacted with great generosity when a natural disaster hit Asia, he said, so why is Canada

fighting so hard not to compensate the victims of a state-run human rights disaster?

"They don't want to hear about it. I mean, you hear about the tsunami disaster and they pour billions of dollars into it. What about the Native disaster? How about pouring a few dollars into that? These are your own people," he said.

Survivors say the historical record shows the schools were designed to "kill the Indian in the child" as an Indian Affairs official of the day wrote. They ask why the government is willing to spend millions to discredit claimants who were forced into such institutions, they ask.

"How could a person make up such a horror story and make it so real? This is not a soap opera. This is real life. This is real experiences, eh? Like the sexual abuse, how are you going to make that up? It's forever written in your mind—inside you," he said.

And he wants to know how the private investigators can question alleged abusers based on information he provided during the disclosure process.

"At that time they said everything was confidential. If they practice the true meaning of confidentiality, I don't think they should be looking for the abusers because they told me everything would be confidential but it wouldn't be confidential at all," he said. "They wanted to know every last little detail of my experiences in that school and how are you going to remember everything that happened 45 years ago? I disclosed what I could remember. I heard the court reporter, I heard her gasp I don't know how many times and shake her head. And I'm sure she's heard a lot. They went after me without remorse, so much that I felt I was guilty of the whole thing and

here I'm disclosing things that happened to me. I didn't do these things to myself. They were done to me."

The story he tells is painful to hear.

"The very first day I was there, the very first evening, I was sexually abused. I was sleeping down in the basement area and I was attacked from behind in a dark corner, knocked down and sexually assaulted, physically assaulted and threatened. It was some older boys and, I'm sure, one of them was the priest. I've been asked by the psychologist and in discovery, 'How can you tell?' Well, when you hear whispers like, 'Father, you first,' you know damned well there's a priest involved," he said. "And priests smelled different from the older boys. Their clothing was probably sent to the cleaners and there was the mothball smell and things like after shave."

Okemow uses a word that many consider extreme, even though what happened in the schools matches the United Nations' definition of the word—genocide.

"What really gets to me is they totally ignored cultural genocide and that's one thing I will not let them get away with. I'll fight tooth and nail because they have destroyed my culture; they have destroyed me as a Native person, as a First Nation person."

Having gone through the immensely difficult process of coming to terms with being sexually abused and humiliated, Okemow believes there are still a lot of people who can't bring themselves to face what happened to them in those schools.

"There still is, I think, because they're still living in fear, they're still living in denial because they're

blaming themselves. They look down on themselves so much. They're ashamed. They need someone to tell them, 'It's not your fault. Hey, you didn't do this to yourself. It's OK to talk about it. The more you talk about it the more help you get and the better chance you have to live some sort of a life. It's never going to go away totally, but you can live some kind of a life.'"

And he hates reading newspaper accounts where lawyers and bureaucrats talk about the 12,000 claims against the Crown.

"Claims is claims. It's just a number. But this is lives. Twelve thousand lives have been literally ruined. And not just them but their family, their children and grandchildren. That's three generations. Twelve thousand lives they have wrecked. They're guilty of that. They apologized," he said. "If I took 12 lives but I go to court and say I'm guilty but I'm only going to serve two or three months? You take their two or three or four thousand dollar offer and there's an example of that. They're guilty of it but they write their own sentence. Can I do that? No, of course not."

Okemow is a large man, at least six-feet tall and weighing close to 250 pounds. But he's worried what will happen if some of the people he is accusing of abusing him attempt to intimidate him into silence or seek revenge.

"It's not that I can't care take of myself. I'm a big guy. But that's a worry, too. I'm big enough; what if I squeeze the life out of somebody if they come after me? Then I'll end up in jail. And I've got a lot of anger, hurt and hate inside of me. And what if they go after my children or my grandchildren? I can't watch them all the time.

(see Fear and anger page 12.)

Hot potato! First Nations, you're it!

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

In the high-stakes game of federal/provincial fiscal hot potato, guess who's the potato? Andrew Webster, a veteran Ottawa policy analyst, says if you're First Nations, you're it.

Webster says it's been a long-term strategy of the federal government to resist legislating which jurisdiction is responsible for what when it comes to First Nations peoples. The federal government prefers the lack of clearly defined roles because that situation allows it to take advantage by off-loading the responsibility for programs and services to the provincial governments.

And if the lack of a clearly laid out set of rules—and the hard wired procedures for accountability and transparency that would come with them—allows some unscrupulous bureaucrats or First Nation officials to profit personally, that's seen by federal officials as the cost of doing business, he added.

All of these ideas appear in "Fiscal responsibility for programmes and services to Indians and the forthcoming premiers' conference on Aboriginal issues," a paper Webster wrote that is being widely distributed and discussed amongst First Nations technicians this month.

Windspeaker met with Webster in Ottawa in December and conducted a follow-up interview by e-mail on Feb. 20.

"It is unclear, from the treaties or the Constitution, whether the funding and administration of Indian programmes and services (P & S) are federal or provincial jurisdiction," he wrote. "The federal Crown provides a minimum level of P & S—mainly on reserves—on 'moral' and 'humanitarian' grounds rather than obligation."

He points out that the federal Crown put forward a list of rea-

sons why it thought the provinces should take over responsibility for funding Indian programming at the last first ministers conference to deal with Aboriginal issues held in 1964.

"This was rejected and four decades of dispute followed," he added. "First Nations people—and some would argue all Aboriginal peoples—are in effect 'fiscal lepers' or 'fiscal footballs' whom neither order of constitutional government wants responsibility for."

And that's no way to run a country, he said.

"It seems inconsistent with a modern, western, industrial democracy that the welfare of hundreds of thousands of people is a matter of intergovernmental avoidance," Webster wrote. "Few people in the general population are aware of this financial dispute; most imagine that the federal Crown is entirely responsible."

He said the Crown, if it wished, could exercise its constitutional right to enact Indian-specific P & S legislation, solving accountability problems and fast-tracking the recognition of First Nation jurisdiction in these areas.

"Yet in 1964, cabinet decided that P & S legislation would suggest a legal responsibility and raise expenditures." In the world of public policy, he told *Windspeaker*, the power to write laws (jurisdiction) equals responsibility (legal and financial liability). The Crown, Webster says, doesn't want to be stuck with the responsibility of providing programs and services to a segment of the population that's been put into a very bad and hugely expensive situation by previous federal policies.

Webster says federal lawyers and bureaucrats split a legal hair rather finely in a way that is questionable, funding P & S on moral



grounds, rather than as an obligation of law.

"The Crown's court defense assumes that the power to adopt a law does not translate into a positive duty to use that power: the Crown is not responsible for inaction on its part to assist Indians, no matter how desperate their situation becomes. Thus, the 'moral grounds' rationale is inconsistent with fact and at odds with the protective duties of a fiduciary," he wrote.

He was asked about the division of powers that's described in Section 91-24 of the Constitution Act, 1867, which most people believe is where the federal government's obligation to Indian people is spelled out.

"Here is what federal legal counsel would say: Section 91-24 gives Ottawa legislative responsibility for 'Indians, and lands reserved for the Indians.' Show me where this implies federal responsibility for their welfare. And show me where it compels Ottawa to enact Indian-specific legislation in any area. Section 91-24 gives us the right to legislate, but where does it say we have to? If we pass legislation, we constitutionally occupy areas (like health, education and social assistance) that are currently provincial responsibility. Then we become legally obligated to provide funding and to ensure results like improved health outcomes," he said.

"It is a principle of governance

"It is a matter of priorities. Indians and the Indian sympathetic electorate don't get you elected. Spending money in other sectors does. Therefore, Indians are a problem because they require funds better used for more productive political purposes. Cabinet is always mindful of political backlash when it spends on Indians."

—Andrew Webster,
Ottawa policy analyst

that decisions and spending should be discretionary whenever possible. Policy is better than obligation. Obligation restricts the ability of Parliament to assign funds based on the priorities of the day. Policy good, obligation bad."

Webster finds it especially infuriating that for years before the 1950s, Ottawa insisted on complete control of Indian Affairs.

"The reasonable person reads from the Constitution, and the treaties that it enshrines, that the federal government as fiduciary is the guarantor of Indian wellbeing. Indeed, the federal government established an extensive infrastructure for service to Indians, on and off reserves. Then it wanted out of the business and invented a rationale," he said.

"Until the old Indian policy collapsed in the 1950s, everyone knew that Indians were federal 'wards of the state.' Federal control was absolute and provinces (and municipalities) were discouraged from offering Indians services. Today, Canadians know little about Indians except that they are somehow 'federal.' They have no idea that they are fiscal footballs, kicked between orders of government. They have no idea of things like service gaps."

The fact that most non-Native Canadians spend very little time trying to understand Native issues allows the federal government to

get away with some very questionable actions, he said.

Webster was asked how he knew that cabinet had made the decision to not legislate responsibility for programs and services.

"I cannot quote a cabinet instruction that might still be secret. However, the existence of this directive is no secret, and direct mention of it is quite common in federal files at all levels. It is common knowledge in fact. I have seen many references to it also in public archival records—and other researchers have too. The prohibition against legislation remains firm current policy," he replied.

He said the federal officials are holding out a faint hope that someday a "miracle" court decision will place the responsibility on the provinces, and until that day arrives they'll tread water and allow things to remain essentially as they are.

"It is a matter of priorities. Indians and the Indian sympathetic electorate don't get you elected. Spending money in other sectors does. Therefore, Indians are a problem because they require funds better used for more productive political purposes," he said. "Cabinet is always mindful of political backlash when it spends on Indians."

(see Offloading page 25.)

Chief, AFN too cozy with Liberals, says analyst

AFN calls into question data used to compile paper circulating in First Nation political circles

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

As the federal government and the provinces continue to fight over who has to pay for health, education and social services for Aboriginal people, some Ottawa observers are wondering on which side the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) stands in the battle.

Andrew Webster is an Ottawa area policy analyst who has worked with many First Nation organizations. In a paper he recently circulated, he questioned the national chief's response during the first ministers' conference on health in Niagara-on-the-Lake last summer. He also wondered out loud if the AFN will be ag-



National Chief Phil Fontaine and the governing Liberal party are too close for comfort, say some.

gressive in its demands on the federal government when the first ministers meeting on Aboriginal issues takes place this fall in Vancouver.

"In such high-stakes negotia-

tions the provinces are willing to hurt the federal government to advance their aims," he wrote.

"Yet despite common ground with the provinces, the [AFN] declined to negotiate any issue,

including the federal financial offer for additional First Nations health funding. It fell silent when fiscal responsibility was raised by premiers."

In an interview, Webster was asked how he came to his conclusions.

"First, on 30 July 2004 at Niagara, the premiers issued this statement: 'The health status of Aboriginal peoples represents a significant challenge for all governments. Since it is a federal responsibility, the federal government must provide adequate funding and work with Aboriginal communities to apply dedicated attention to addressing the unique health care challenges, including health determinants, facing Aboriginal peoples.'

"This was not an important agenda item for the AFN, who attended the conference and was

more interested in 'jurisdiction.' The provinces were interested in the feds paying the costs of Indian health care. The AFN was disinclined towards attacking the feds on this issue and left the matter to the provinces."

He said he was present a few weeks later when another development added to his concern.

"I stood by and watched former [Saskatchewan] premier [Roy] Romanow raise federal responsibility in a media scrum, following a meeting with the national chief. Mr. Romanow was passionate about the need to clarify the responsibility question. The national chief declined to take up the lead in front of the cameras."

The premiers, he said, handed the ball to Fontaine who declined to carry it. Webster said his provincial contacts were stunned.

(see AFN shoots back page 17.)

Top INAC official raked over coals

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) deputy minister Michael Horgan had a date with the standing committee on public accounts on Jan. 31 where he was taken to task over his department's record on education.

At the end of a strongly worded exchange between Horgan and several committee members, committee chair John Williams (Edmonton—St. Albert, CPC) warned the deputy minister that he could expect to receive an order that INAC produce a plan with clearly stated objectives and timelines.

"I think what I'm going to do after this meeting is over is ask that this committee pass a resolution giving you a specific date," Williams told Horgan. "At which time you will come back and make a complete presentation to this committee, addressing all the concerns of the auditor general, and say you are doing this and this; this is the timeframe; this is the budget; this is where we're going; this is the plan. I think that's perhaps what this committee will have to do in order to get on the public record a complete commitment by the department of Indian and Northern Affairs that yes, they take this education issue seriously and they're going to do something about it."

Tough talk from the opposition member, but in the current minority government situation, non-governing party and backbench members have more clout. The prime minister, cabinet and the central agencies cannot rule with the unchallenged power wielded during the

Chretien era. That new dynamic was evident during Horgan's appearance as committee members attacked with unusual ferocity.

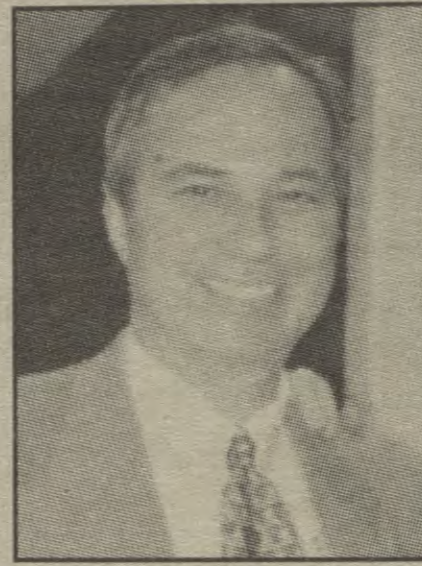
The assault was begun by David Christopherson, NDP Member of Parliament for Hamilton Centre, and then continued by Liberal backbencher Gary Carr (Halton).

Christopherson, a former Ontario cabinet minister in the Bob Rae government, blistered the man at the top of the Indian Affairs department's bureaucracy. He questioned Horgan on the very critical auditor general's report released in late November.

The report said, among other things, that the time required



Michael Horgan



Gary Carr

audit done in 2000.

"I have to say at the outset that I was incredibly outraged the first time we dealt with this. I remained angry the second time and I'm just as angry now as I was then. I would say to the deputy that as a deputy minister, you ought to have received this as the worst nightmare a deputy minister could receive,"

helped your case one little bit. In fact, the lightness of the response you presented shocked me. I really expected a bit of a fight, but there was nothing. That was a really weak response," he said.

He reminded Horgan that INAC accepted the auditor general's criticisms and promised to strike a committee that would begin to address them by June 2002.

"That deadline came and went. This [most recent report] is dated November of last year, and it still wasn't done. To the best of my knowledge, based on your presentation today, I haven't heard that it has been done yet. I'd like to know how that can be,"

ment at the time. Nobody came in here and said 'We can't do it. It's going to take a long [time].' They said 'We'll have it done by June of 2002,'" he said. "Telling us that it's complicated and hard to do is not going to carry any water, sir. What's the new deadline?"

"There is no deadline," Horgan replied.

"Well, there was before, in 2002," Christopherson said.

Horgan said it was seen as an important issue within the department but he did not respond directly to the question of why no new deadline had been set.

Christopherson pounced on that omission.

"That's a fine speech, sir, and I agree with the sentiment, but we've heard it all before," he said. "This is the place of accountability. This is where we want to know why things aren't being done that should be done."

Liberal Gary Carr said he sat on public accounts committees in the Ontario legislature for several years.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life. I thought I had seen it all over two different governments there," he added. "This committee takes its role seriously. In the year 2000, the people around this table did a report, to immediately undertake a comprehensive review and to provide a clear formal statement of the roles and responsibilities. Why did they even bother? You haven't done that. If there is a sense of frustration, it is that the answers we get are totally inadequate, saying that it's difficult. This committee shouldn't even bother, when we take a look at what's going on. It is totally unacceptable."

(see Taken to task page 24.)

"I have to say at the outset that I was incredibly outraged the first time we dealt with this. I remained angry the second time and I'm just as angry now as I was then ... not only are there deficiencies and huge problems within your ministry, but you made commitments to do something about it and didn't follow through on those commitments."

—David Christopherson



to close the gap in educational success between Native and non-Native students was increasing. The auditor general also found that INAC is doing an inadequate job of managing and evaluating government activity on the First Nations education front.

Christopherson reminded Horgan, who has occupied his current position for just over a year, that the recent auditor general's report was a follow-up to an

he said of the report. "What it says is that not only are there deficiencies and huge problems within your ministry, but you made commitments to do something about it and didn't follow through on those commitments."

The opposition MP suggested that Horgan was not suitably concerned about the department's failings.

"I have to say your presentation today, in my opinion, hasn't

Christopherson said.

Horgan told the committee that "most things are actually a lot more difficult and complicated than they seem to be."

Christopherson didn't want to hear excuses.

"I understand that, and I probably would have a little bit more of a sympathetic ear if that were the argument back in 2000 about why it was going to take you until sometime beyond 2005 to get it done, but that wasn't the argu-




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[news]

Funding review complete

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Aboriginal political organizations in every corner of the country may see their fiscal relationship with the government of Canada change significantly in coming years.

The final report of the department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) entitled, "Reviews of funding to provincial/territorial organizations (PTOs) and national Aboriginal organizations (NAOs)," obtained by *Windspeaker*, contains funding amounts for all organizations and discusses problems with the way the organizations are funded.

Late in 2001, former Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault asked departmental officials to review INAC's funding process and policy for PTOs and NAOs. A 25-member working group was created that included nine representatives of First Nation groups from all regions of the country. The group reviewed departmental records, interviewed Aboriginal leaders and officials at the local, regional and national levels and eventually produced a series of recommendations or "next steps."

One recommendation calls for "adjustments to the NAO funding regime and the Interim PTO Funding Policy" to make the funding "more consistent." The report, marked "draft" and dated Dec. 20, 2004, acknowledges that the current INAC approach, where funded projects must be completed within the fiscal year in which the funding was received, makes it difficult for organizations to make long-term plans. The working group concluded that year-to-year or

project-to-project funding makes it difficult to attract quality people who are looking for stable, long-term employment.

While the report doesn't explicitly call on the government to raise core funding levels, the fact that the amounts of core funding are limited by Treasury Board authorities that have not been updated since 1992 is repeated several times.

The report, in the most bureaucratic of language, did call on the department to "develop and implement an appropriate core funding level."

The working group also suggested that pilot projects designed to explore how best to implement multi-year funding arrangements should be developed and given a trial run.

The working group struggled with the idea that government funded Aboriginal advocacy groups have to serve two masters—their funders and their membership. But the group, made up of federal government employees and representatives of government funded Aboriginal organizations, concluded it was not a problem.

"The PTO review suggests that the organizations are both representative and accountable to their members as they are mandated by chiefs in assembly and continue to work with the best interests of First Nations in mind. The means by which NAOs remain accountable to and mandated by their members will vary with each organization and its constituency," the report reads.

During the review process, it was quickly discovered that INAC wasn't entirely sure which group were legitimate PTOs and which weren't. Out of 55 groups that had been funded at least once since INAC started funding such groups in the early 1970s, the list was whittled down to 23. The

23rd group recognized was the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of Prince Edward Island.

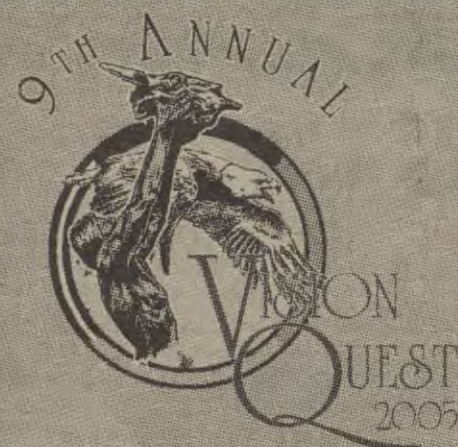
That group is being recognized for the first time in this fiscal year. Six national organizations were recognized: the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), Pauktuutit (a national Inuit women's organization) and the Metis National Council (MNC). The report reveals that the various regional offices were not communicating with each other or with headquarters in any formal way and no national list of PTOs and NAOs existed prior to the start of the review.

But the most interesting reading in the report for grassroots people and those with an interest in Aboriginal politics are pages 64 to 68. That's where the numbers are.

The information shows that funding for the six NAOs is on the rise with \$25,192,049 allocated as of Nov. 4, 2004, about two-thirds of the way through the current fiscal year. That compares to the total of \$18,425,725 distributed in all of the previous fiscal year.

This year so far, AFN leads the way with \$15,051,344 in combined core and program funding. AFN's core funding for the most recent complete fiscal year, 2003-2004, was \$2,070,000. That amount was by far the highest out the six national groups. CAP received \$478,000; MNC \$426,000, NWAC \$364,000, ITK \$333,000 and Pauktuutit \$277,000.

In total, the report reveals that the PTOs received a total of \$57 million in project funding in 2003-2004 and that number represented their total INAC funding.



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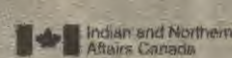
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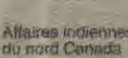
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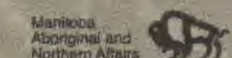
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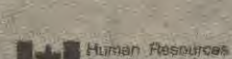
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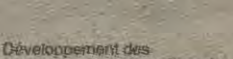
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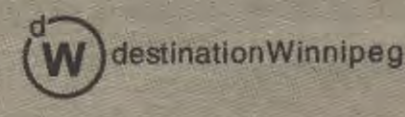
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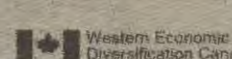
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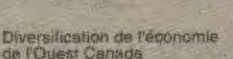
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Fear and anger over government dealings

(Continued from page 8.)

Lloyd Courtoreille lives in Saskatoon. The 54-year-old is a citizen of the Tall Cree First Nation in northern Alberta but his family moved around when he was young. He attended three different residential schools, all in Alberta.

He's really angry to hear that some lawyers are charging close to half of any settlement as their fee.

"That's too much. They didn't suffer as much as us. Why should they get the same as us?" he asked.

He was a 10-year-old in 1960 when he fell under the skids as they were moving a silo on the school grounds. He lost a leg as a result of injuries. He also alleges he was sexually and physically abused. He filed a statement of claim in 1998 and has not yet been through the discovery process. He's not pleased at the pace of progress on his case.

He said the First Nation leadership and the lawyers have allowed the government to drag things out and he advocates letting the survivors be in control.

But he also sees that what he called the government's delay strategy will have one unanticipated effect. He believes a lot of people who were abused in the schools have not gone through the very difficult process of facing the pain and then dealing with it. And those people have not yet filed claims. He's hoping more and more people will be able to get to the stage where they can demand justice, even if it means being put through the grinder of publicly admitting the abuse and being grilled by government lawyers.

Courtoreille reacted bitterly when asked about the government's plan to use private investigators to find the abusers.

"That's going to open up some old wounds. Next thing you know, we'll have to go see the nuns and the priests again," he said, laughing ruefully. "Jeez, that's going full

"And so I ask the prime minister today, and ask the members of his cabinet and his caucus, and ask any parliamentarian who stands in the way of justice on this issue: Have you no shame? Have you no shame?"

—Winnipeg lawyer
Dennis Troniak

circle, eh?"

Courtoreille was attending a conference on sexual abuse in Edmonton when he contacted *Windspeaker*. Courtoreille said he's been talking with other survivors and he hears that they're all fed up with the slow pace of court action and the tactics employed by the government.

"We all agree we need some leadership. I'm thinking I might ride a scooter to Ottawa. That'll get some international attention," he said.

It's not just Native people who are outraged at the treatment of the survivors. A number of non-Native people spoke out in strong terms in front of the standing committee as well.

Winnipeg lawyer Dennis Troniak made a presentation to committee on Feb. 16.

"It is puzzling to me that instead of vigorously pursuing a policy of comprehensive national settlement, reconciliation and healing in the face of one of the greatest human rights injustices in our history, involving the destruction of tens of thousands of families and horrendous damage to the lives of hundreds of thousands of children, the government of Canada hides behind legalisms and platitudes," he said. "And so I ask the prime minister today, and ask the members of his cabinet and his caucus, and ask any parliamentarian who stands in the way of justice on this issue: Have you no shame? Have you no

shame?"

Jim Prentice, Conservative Indian Affairs critic, asked why \$125 million had been spent on administration of the government's alternative dispute resolution [ADR] system while only \$1 million had been provided in compensation.

The committee then heard from Alan Farrer, a lawyer with the national consortium of lawyers that is attempting to get a national class action lawsuit certified in Ontario. He said that an estimated 2,500 residential school survivors died during the first 65 weeks of the government's ADR program in which a mere 50 cases were settled.

Another consortium lawyer lambasted Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan after her appearance before the standing committee on Feb. 22.

"Ms. McLellan could have taken a step towards justice and reconciliation this morning. Instead she stonewalled," said Craig Brown. "Survivors were listening to Ms. McLellan and her government this morning. She had a chance to reach out to them and to give them hope. She blew it."

McLellan, who is the minister responsible for OIRSR, defended Canada's current handling of residential school claims, including its ADR program. This is despite the fact that the ADR process has been criticized by the courts, by the AFN and by the Canadian Bar Association, as well as the survivors.

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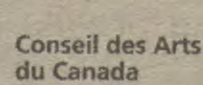
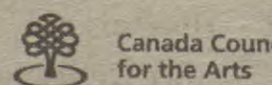
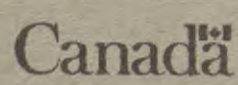
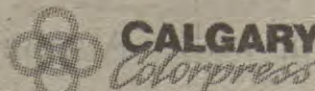
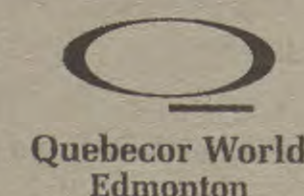
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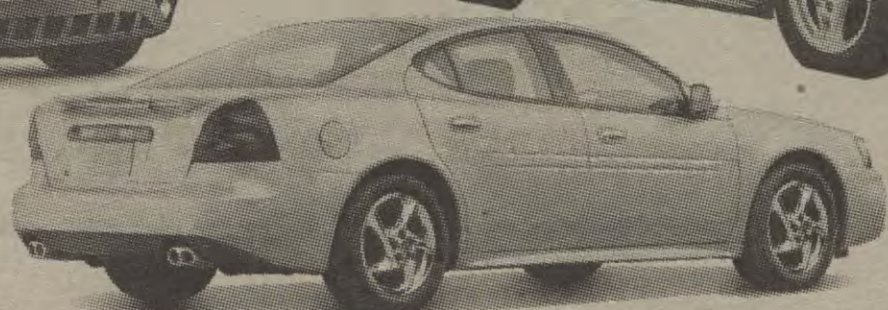
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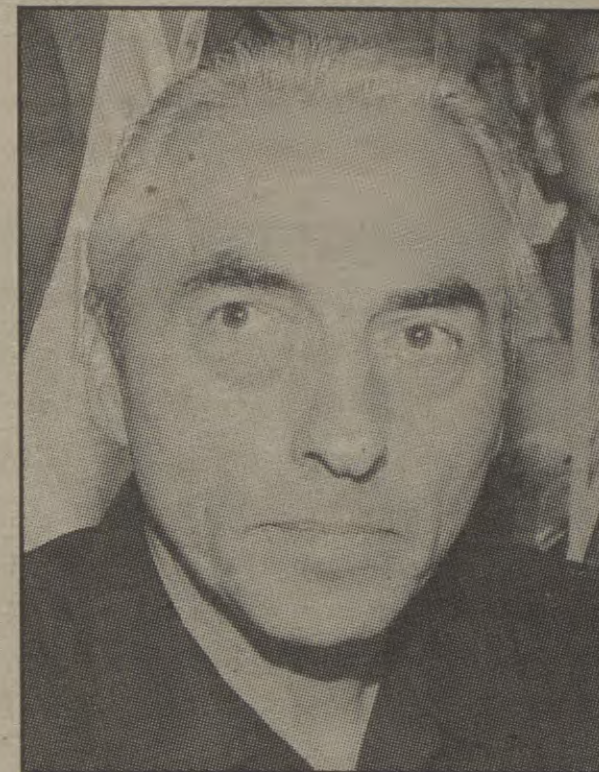
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Chief slams federal budget

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA



National Chief Phil Fontaine

First Nation leaders were not jumping for joy after federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale presented his budget speech in the House of Commons on Feb. 23.

National Chief Phil Fontaine said he was "disappointed" with what he heard. He relied on a quote from the budget speech to kick-start his criticism.

Goodale had said, "For too long in too many ways, Canada's Aboriginal people—our first citizens—have been last in terms of opportunity for this country."

"This budget will condemn our people to last place for a lot longer," Fontaine said. "The prime minister's commitment to transformative change must be backed up by real investments and a real effort to work together to fix a broken system that's holding all of us back. It is impossible for First Nations to create 'transformative change' if we are stuck managing poverty. The theme of this budget was Delivering on Commitments. Our question is: When?"

Goodale bragged in his speech that Canada had recorded its eighth consecutive balanced budget in 2004-2005 and has an economic record that is "unmatched" in the world, leading Group of Seven economies. He also announced that a \$3 billion contingency fund had been set aside that would be used to pay down the national debt if it was not needed for an emergency.

First Nations had heard a lot of promises from the prime minister and while government officials had been warning that major new spending would not be unveiled in the budget, Fontaine was still less than impressed.

"The budget seems to postpone any real action on the crisis conditions facing our citizens until the first ministers meeting in the fall of 2005 which has been sold as the culmination to the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable process," he said. "We brought our best ideas and our best experts to these roundtable sessions and participated in good faith with the goal of making progress, not postponing progress."

Once again, the government virtually ignored the AFN's pre-budget submission which had requested \$5.1 billion over five years to address the serious housing shortage on reserves. The budget offered \$295 million over five years. The AFN had requested \$3.9 billion over five years for education and child welfare, including \$1 billion over five years for special education. Goodale came up with \$345 million for early learning, special education and for child and family services.

The AFN had also lobbied for

a "sustainable funding endowment for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, as well as the improvement of processes for alternative dispute resolution for residential school survivors," an AFN release stated. Goodale announced that the Aboriginal Healing Foundation would receive \$40 million over two years in new funding, but the government "has not taken measures to make alternative dispute resolution more cost-effective, let alone fairer or more results-oriented," said the chief.

The AFN's pre-budget submission also asked for funding for "sustainable" health funding based on need rather than on budgetary considerations.

"The budget makes no reference to these clear requirements despite commitments made at the 2004 First Ministers meeting," the AFN release stated. "In fact, the budget moves away from sustainable First Nations health systems—notably, a \$27 million cut which will affect access to non-insured health benefits and a phase-out of \$36 million in investments in First Nations health information systems."

"We realize that First Nations may not be the top priority for Canadians or number one in opinion polls, but there is a real crisis facing our people and there is a federal budget surplus that allows us to take some action," said Fontaine. "Real leadership means dealing with important issues whether they're popular or not."

Fontaine let the Liberal government know he was not satisfied.

"The plan is there. The resources are there. The crisis is real," said Fontaine. "The federal budget speaks to the United Nations commitment of cutting global poverty in half by 2015, with Canada pledging to double its international assistance within 10 years. I want to remind the prime minister that Canada has a major crisis in its own backyard. First Nations' citizens continue to lag behind all other Canadians in our poor quality of life. We should challenge ourselves to close the gap in the quality of life between First Nations and non-Aboriginal Canadians within a decade. Our expectations will not be diminished. We have done our part and we will push for action on an aggressive agenda."

[strictly speaking]

Racial profiling—The logic behind the practice

In the last little while, the media has been hounding the Toronto Police Department about its alleged tendency to racial profile the public. Simply put, it's their belief that people of a certain race or races are more inclined to exhibit anti-social and criminal behavior.

This allegation seems to follow around our beloved men in Blue. But much like UFOs and the Kennedy assassination conspiracy, the authorities say it doesn't exist. I can tell you, most people believe the truth is out there. As do I.

Let's consider for a moment, that racial profiling exists, and let's consider its merits for a moment. I say this because I would like to take this opportunity to formally say that I believe that racial profiling works. There is logic behind it.

Dogs run faster than chickens.



THE URBANE INDIAN

Drew Hayden
Taylor

Pigeons fly better than trout. Accountants add better than writers. Kids play more hockey than professional hockey players. While there are exceptions to the rule, I dare you to argue this is generally not true.

So as an amateur student of history, it's rather obvious that certain races do tend to be more problematic or socially disruptive than others. I know that may be politically incorrect, but sometimes you've

just got to say what you believe. The facts don't lie.

As a Native person, I can only look back to our long-vanished brothers from Newfoundland, the long-departed Beothuks, driven out of existence by a certain race of people—let's call them the color-challenged—in the last half of the last millennium. Now the Beothuks exist simply as memories.

I look at the well-documented

raping and pillaging of the British Isles, a thousand years ago, by an off-shoot of that same northern pigment-denied population from that land across the water. I look at the death of six million Jews and several million others, sixty odd years ago, again, at the hands of those very same continental people of pallor.

Are you noticing a trend developing here? The abduction, removal, subjugation and exploitation of several million African people can be placed squarely on the shoulders of this blue and green-eyed people, done in the name of their own economic reasons, and further strengthens my convictions about racial profiling.

Try and find a country on this planet that wasn't at some point, "discovered" and colonized by

these very same people over the last several thousand years. It's Indigenous people and their culture, oppressed, depressed and suppressed, all in the name of Manifest Destiny. The resources of their land appropriated. Often times, the country, thousands of miles away from the discoverer's country of origin, is renamed to reflect in some way the conqueror's birthplace.

As you can tell, it's not really that difficult to racially profile these people. With a track record like that, you begin to understand the basis behind racial profiling. I'm surprised these folks are not all arrested on sight. Maybe because here in Canada, they tend to blend in with the snowy background too easily.

(see Profiling page 23.)

New on council and confused about the duties

Dear Tuma:

I'm a new councillor for my band and I really do not know how meetings should be called, who has the authority and what I am supposed to do. I do not feel comfortable asking anyone else, 'cause I don't want to look stupid. Some of the ways the meetings have happened, or not happened, leave me feeling that it is not right. I have my idea of what to do, but I'm not getting anywhere or the other councillors do not seem to listen. What if I miss meetings? Can you help by giving me some suggestions as to what I'm supposed to be doing?

Baby Councillor

Dear Baby Councillor:

The first thing you should do is to read the Indian Band Council Procedure Regulations. You can find them online at the Department of Justice Web site



PRO BONO Tuma Young

(<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/i-5/c.r.c.-c.950/text.html>). The first meeting of the council has to take place within a month of the election and notice is to be given to all chief and council members. Afterwards, meetings are to be held whenever it is necessary to conduct business. Many band councils have regular meetings, either weekly or bi-weekly.

The regulations state that no one is allowed to miss more than three meetings. It does not say what will happen if you do. The chief or the chair of the council

may at any time call for a special meeting of the council or call one if requested by the majority of the council. You should expect to receive notice of when and where the council meeting is to take place.

Review the sections regarding quorum, maintaining order and meeting procedures that tend to follow a type of "Roberts Rules of Order" procedure (a mover, seconder, discussion and calling for the question). At each meeting the minutes of any previous meeting should be read. The

council should deal with unfinished business and present correspondence or petitions to the council. If the council has committees, these committees or the chair of each one should be prepared to report on their work. Finally, the chief or the chair should ask if there is any new business and adjourn the meeting.

Familiarize yourself with the difference between band council resolutions and band bylaws and how each is presented and passed. Learn about the policies of the band, such as personnel, finance and housing amongst others. Learn about the band's programs and staff. The staff can be a very valuable resource as you embark upon your new political career.

Remember you are now working for the people. Good luck.

Dear Tuma:

I am planning on travelling to

the United States for a vacation and would like to know if I need a passport. What else do I need?

What happens in Las Vegas
Stays in Las Vegas!

Dear What Happens:

Right now you do not need a passport, but that will change in 2008. At that point, all folks entering the U.S. from Canada will require a passport.

What you need to take is some type of proof of Canadian citizenship, such as a birth certificate, passport or a type of government identity. A status card is not enough.

Another thing you might want to consider is purchasing emergency medical insurance. Although you will be covered under the provincial plan, those provincial plans only pay the same rate as in your province.

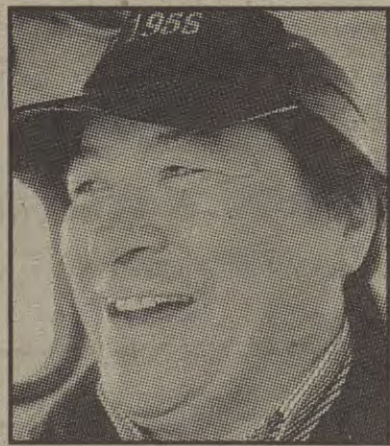
(see Medical page 23.)

Some ideas that will make products Arctic-friendly

In just four decades, life in the Arctic has evolved to great dependence on machinery and accessories manufactured in the "outside." In light of this, here are some ideas that might be useful, and essential, to everyday life in the Arctic, which makes me wonder why we haven't thought of these before.

Snowmobile manufacturers are in the business of making so-called "recreation" vehicles. But in the Arctic, snowmobiles are not used for mere "recreation." It's about time for Inuit to insist that manufacturers establish "Arctic workhorse" sections to their companies. Such entities would be able to plug into practical Arctic knowledge to make products better for Inuit. Ideally, these "Arctic workhorse" sections would be composed of Inuit hunters.

From this arrangement, manufacturers would get advice on features considered essential for machines destined for the Arctic climate, and to Inuit who use them. They would learn, for instance, that models made for Arctic use



NASIVVIK Zebedee Nungak

should come with a ready-made, sturdy hitch. All machines sold in the Arctic are used to pull something. Present "recreational" models overlook this completely, which forces users to devise home-made hitches.

"Arctic workhorse" sections would ensure that Arctic-bound snowmobiles are equipped with windshields designed for functional, rather than ornamental, purposes. All machines would be equipped with fuel primer pumps, and not just warm-up levers. This user/maker relationship would most certainly produce other innovations, and even inventions, making products more user-friendly, and better suited to Arctic use.

Presently, snowmobile producers make all manner of accessories, which are appropriate for the "recreational" market in the sub-Arctic climate. On the instigation of their "Arctic workhorse" sections, they would start making accessories suited for Arctic use, such as removable caribou skin mats for the seat, and portable heaters designed for the contours of the engine, carburetors, and carburetor housing. (Hair dryer companies might scramble for this one!)

Post "Arctic workhorse" snowmobiles will have fuel pumps positioned in closer proximity to engine heat, or at least positioned where thawing with heat or hot water would be easier. Suspension axles will be constructed of sturdier,

longer lasting material. Tool containers will be made of rigid plastic and easy to open and close. Today's pliable synthetic sheeting tool-cases congeal to the shape of the items they enclose, and crack and split when frozen.

The first major company to establish an "Arctic workhorse" section will immediately reap the benefits of operating such an entity. Soon, its products will be the talk of towns across the Arctic. Other companies will notice, and will scramble to set up their own such sections.

Other products that would benefit from such an approach are camp stoves and lanterns. Inuit advisors would point out the necessity of using freeze-proof material for these items' pump flaps. Now, the pump flaps are made of a synthetic material which renders the pumps useless when they freeze. Fuel tank caps would also be placed in more exposed positions, and not in indentations. Finally, a rigid, enclosed case would be designed to protect the accessory from the rough-and-

tumble of Arctic trails.

Camp lanterns would be given a thorough once-over for design improvements. A sturdier mantle would probably be invented. Some way to re-inforce the generator would be brainstormed, to make it more "trail-proof." Products with improvements based on Arctic know-how would be designed to last for years, and not just months, as today's flimsy models are. Built-in obsolescence would be radically reduced.

On seeing motorcycle manufacturers on TV turn sheet metal into fenders by torch heating it and shaping it with a hydraulic press, I thought: "What an ideal way to make ice scoops!" A natural extension of this would be getting a company that makes hockey stick shafts to produce handles of different lengths and sturdiness to fit these fender-cum-ice scoops. (Hockey stick shafts also make ideal handles for sealing hooks and winter fishing lines, but here, I'm digressing into "Eskimo Ingenuity".)

(see Good ideas page 21.)



Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame honors leaders



By Heather Andrews Miller
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

History was made on Feb. 15 when two Aboriginal businessmen were inducted into the newly established Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Dr. Billy Diamond of Waskaganish, Que., and Mr. Irvin Goodon of Boissevain, Man. are the first inductees into the Hall of Fame, created last year by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) to celebrate its 20th year of operations. It is sponsored by ESS Support Services Worldwide, a division of Compass Group Canada. The successful candidates were chosen from a large number of qualified nominees, all of whom had made significant contributions to Aboriginal business throughout their lifetimes.

Jocelyne Soulodre is president and chief executive officer at CCAB.

"Our organization was actually started by Murray Koffler, founder of the Shopper's Drug chain of pharmacies, who, in the early 1980s, saw that Aboriginal businesses were not well represented in the economic activity in Canada. He formed a think tank of prominent Native and non-Native business people who met several times to consider the question of the responsibility and role of the private sector in helping to increase the economic self-reliance of Aboriginal people," she said.

At that time, the government was the only agency or institution active in dealing with the Aboriginal sector of the population. The group recognized that government couldn't be counted on to do it all, and decided to pursue



Businessmen Dr. Billy Diamond and Irvin Goodon were the first ever inductees to the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame.

"It was a very difficult task to narrow the choice to these two outstanding individuals, but after much discussion and reflection, we decided to open the Hall with a bang."

—Peter Godsoe, former chairman and CEO of Scotiabank

funding from the private sector.

"This led to the founding in August of 1984 of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. The mission has been to promote the full participation of Aboriginal people in the Canadian economy, and to help build the economic infrastructure that will lead to economic and com-

munity development," she said.

When Soulodre joined the organization eight years ago, a successful scholarship and bursary program was well underway, but the organization was looking for ways to pursue other initiatives that could do even more.

"In 1997 we began to approach

companies to sponsor a three-year commitment and become major supporters of CCAB. We had our first Circle for 2015 Dinner in 1999, and that was the beginning of a great turnaround for CCAB," she added.

"The goal of the dinner, which has become an annual event, is to establish a network for businesses and for corporate Canada to start to discover the potential and immense capabilities that exist in Aboriginal companies.

The year 2015 was chosen because land claim settlements, which are gradually being settled, will have injected some cash into the economy, and because the Aboriginal population, which Statistics Canada predicts will double in the next generation, will represent a capable and willing

workforce to be employed in the many new ventures, she said.

"Companies who started now to build relationships with Aboriginal businesses will have a proven track record when Aboriginal people emerge in full force in the coming years."

The Hall of Fame selection committee was chaired by Mr. Peter Godsoe, former chairman and chief executive officer of Scotiabank.

"We were presented with a large number of highly qualified nominees," said Godsoe. "It was a very difficult task to narrow the choice to these two outstanding individuals, but after much discussion and reflection, we decided to open the Hall with a bang."

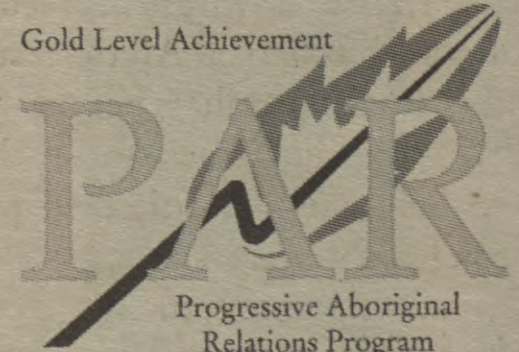
(see Special inspiration page 10.)

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Métis man provides an example of excellence



By George Young
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

Irvin Goodon was born in 1933 in the Turtle Mountains of Manitoba, one of eight children raised in a one-room log house with a dirt floor and sod roof.

Those were humble beginnings for the Métis man who recently retired from running a successful company with revenues of \$40 million a year, and who, on Feb. 15, was inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame.

The recognition comes from the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), and founding sponsor ESS Support Services Worldwide, the largest food service company in the world.

Goodon, along with Quebec Cree businessman Billy Diamond, were the first inductees into the newly established hall of fame, formed to provide examples of excellence to young people, themselves considering going into business.

The son of a trapper and hunter, Goodon learned to hunt for food as soon as he was old enough to hold a rifle. At age seven, he began the first of many successful businesses by trapping muskrat.

In 1951, at the age of 18, he bought his first truck with the money earned from the trap line. He cut fence posts and firewood and peddled them from farm to farm in southern Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan.

"As time went on, I bought some land and started farming and worked hard at it. I kept on trapping and hunting and bought more land and more trucks," Goodon said.

He owned and operated a sawmill where he began treating posts and polls. He diversified into cleaning feed lots and became the largest feed lot cleaner in Canada.

In 1963, Goodon started con-

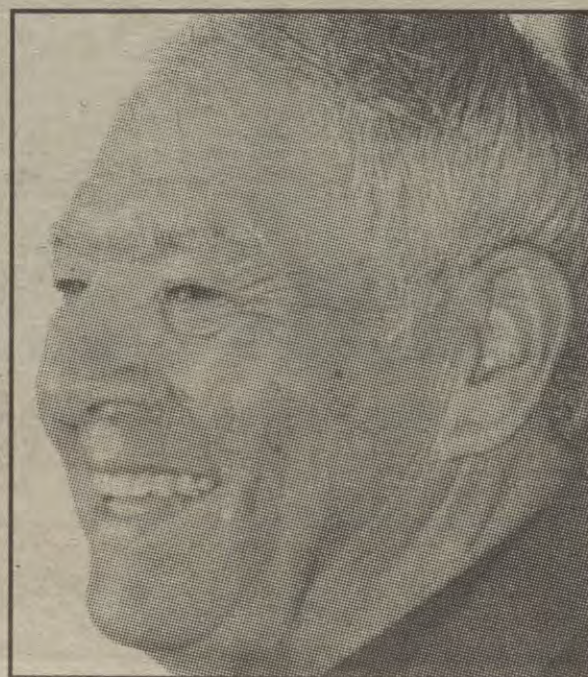


PHOTOS BY RICK CHARD

Marge, Irvin and Will Goodon pose with the award given by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and ESS Support Services Worldwide to Irvin on the occasion of his induction into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame on Feb. 15 in Toronto.

"I consider it a great honor to have been selected from all the nominees in Canada. What I want to do with this award is use it as a tool to encourage other young Aboriginal entrepreneurs."

—Irvin Goodon



structing pole buildings and from this he pioneered and developed Goodon Industries Limited, a company that has experienced impressive growth over the years, with three cattle shelters built in the first year and almost 1,000 buildings in 2004. In its 41 years of operations, the company has built more than 15,000 structures. Included in its list of products are equestrian centres and a full line of agricultural buildings.

Goodon Industries has successfully penetrated the upper Midwest market of the United States from its branch plant in Rugby, North Dakota, with sales

extending from Minnesota to Montana.

Solid employee and sub-contractor relations continue to characterize the firm, operated now by Goodon's son Will, and four owner/managers.

Goodon Industries has 25 full-time employees and with its construction crews and sub-contractors it is responsible for more than 200 jobs.

The company recently received special recognition from the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, which named it as the Outstanding Small Business for 2004.

Goodon's instinct for survival

and a strong work ethic, learned at an early age, served him well in the business world. And all this accomplished with just a seventh grade education.

But it's not been all work all the time for Goodon. Hunting is one of his passions and the pastime has led to expeditions throughout western Canada, the Northwest Territories and as far away as New Zealand. Through it Goodon developed a deep devotion to wild life and that, in turn, led him to establish the Irvin Goodon International Wildlife Museum in 2001.

The award-winning museum, which maintains one of the larg-

est collections of animal exhibits in Canada, fulfilled Goodon's dream of educating and sharing nature's majesty with the public.

Like many successful businessmen, Goodon has no intention of resting on his laurels.

In 2003 he began construction on the Canadian Wilderness Inn in Boissevain, Man., which opened in June 2004. The wilderness theme is carried over from the nearby Goodon museum with hand-painted murals; a selection of Goodon's trophy mounts and rustic furnishings decorate the lobby and some of the 25 guestrooms.

Through his latest business enterprise, Goodon Imports, he is in the process of setting up a network of dealerships to retail recreational products and vehicles imported from China.

Goodon lives with his wife Marge just outside of Boissevain in a new log home. There are no dirt floors in this house. They have three children and two grandchildren.

He walks at least three miles a day and at 71 you can often find him on the back of a horse.

Irvin Goodon's life has been blessed. He says the best personal decision he ever made was to follow the Lord and become born again as a Christian. With the Lord's help he didn't have to make important decisions alone because help was always available, he said.

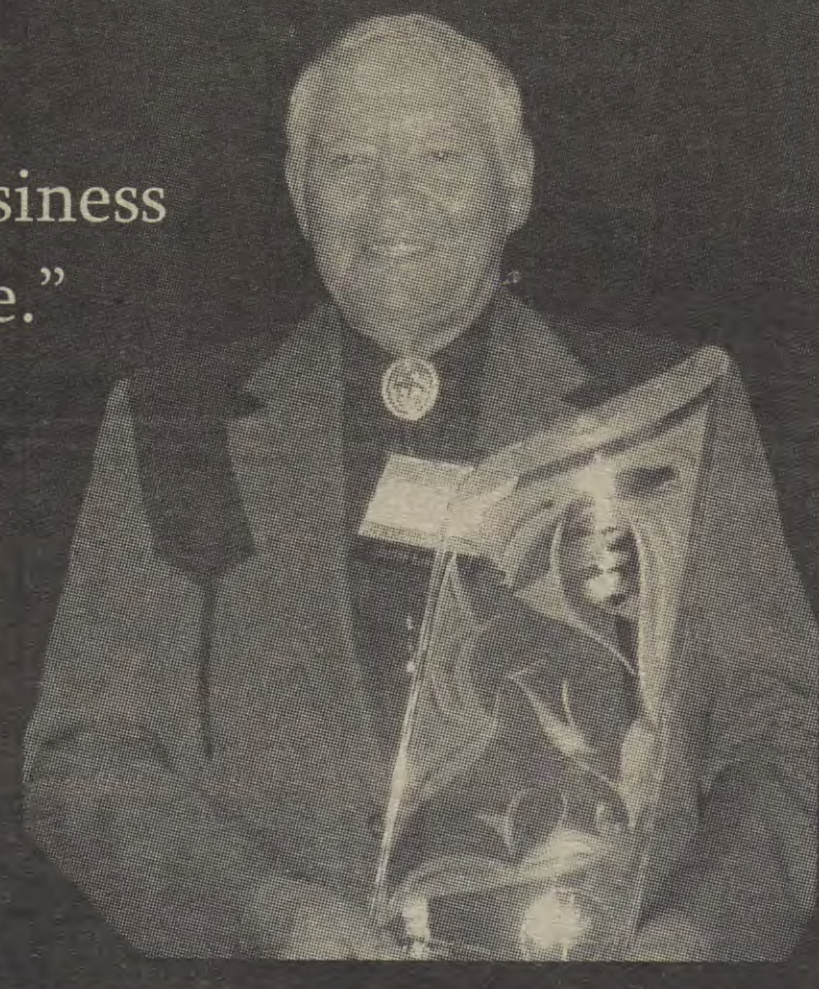
He is also proud of a decision he made 40 years ago to quit drinking. He credits his wife's influence for the decision and attributes much of his success to it.

Goodon remembers how hard it was growing up Métis and experienced much racism in the beginning from the people outside of his community.

"I think that it is important to try and encourage others that get discriminated against, that there is a way to handle it. Use it as an advantage ... to get motivated."



"We are proud to recognize and honour our friend and business associate, IRVIN GOODON, who has demonstrated the personal and business accomplishments we all strive to achieve."



This page was made possible through the sponsorship of Goodon Industries and The Manitoba Métis Federation.



Cree man lead people through the flood waters



By Deirdre Tombs
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

He has been called fearless, shrewd, a visionary, a natural born leader, a contemporary shaman and the "Lee Iaccoca of the North." Billy Diamond, a legend in his own right, is now one of the first inductees into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame.

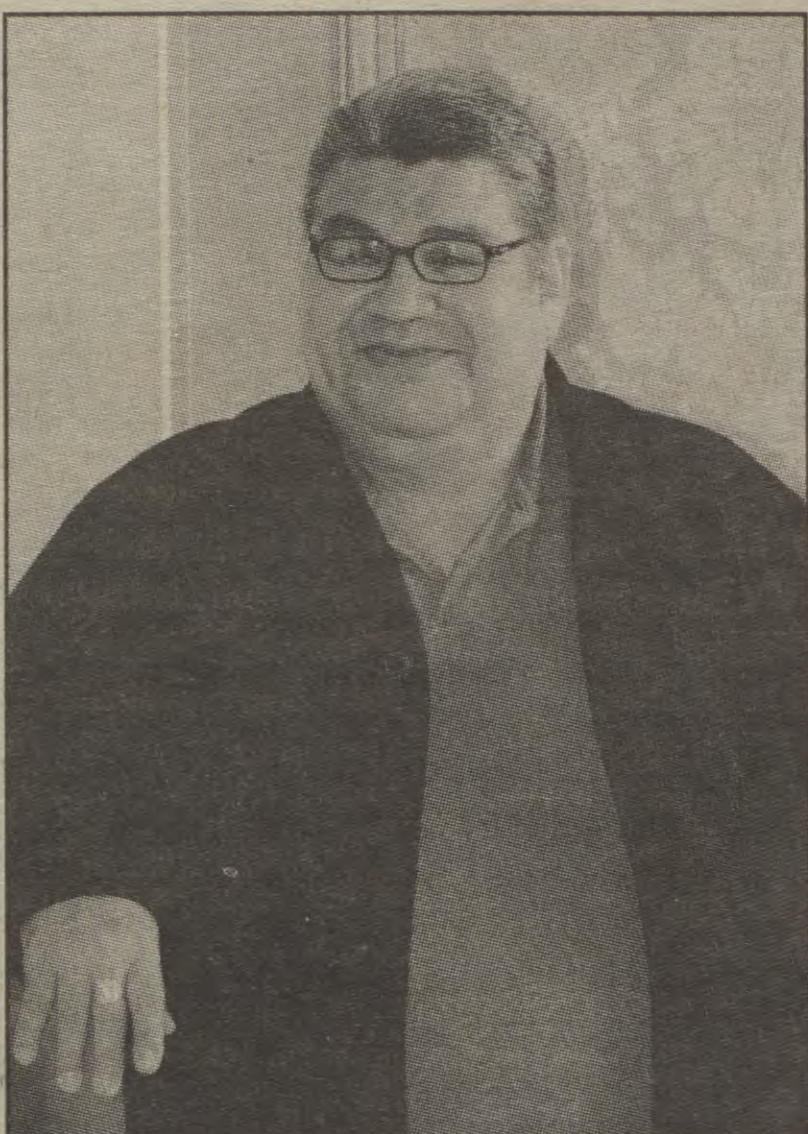
This induction honors Diamond's work to set up numerous and successful Cree-owned and run corporations, including CreeCo, Air Creebec, Cree Construction and Development Company Ltd., Cree Yamaha Motors, Moosonee Transportation Ltd., and Trans Arctic Shipping and Gas, just to name a few. Many have said that every business in the Cree area of Northern Quebec owes something to this visionary and vivacious businessman. But his success in business

would not have been possible without his love of politics.

Born in Rupert House, now Waskaganish, in 1949, Diamond was on a path to greatness from very early in his life. At 21 he was elected Waskaganish chief and held the post from 1970 to 1976 and then again from 1988 to 1999.

He was only 22 when he took on Robert Bourassa and the Quebec government to fight the James Bay Hydro Project, which threatened to flood both Cree and Inuit traditional territories. During his fight, he helped to create the Grand Council of the Crees. Already known as the spokesman of the Crees,

Diamond was the natural choice to be grand chief of the organization. Elected in 1974, he kept



RICK CHARD

Billy Diamond, businessman and political powerhouse.

the position for 10 years. During this time, Diamond was chair of the Cree Regional Authority, a Cree governing body, and held that position from 1976 to 1984.

As grand chief, Diamond led the Crees of Northern Quebec to the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

"Someone had to be the peace-maker in the face of such animosity to mediate the process ... and the [Parti Quebecois] and the Crees weren't seeing eye to eye on anything. If you can get the government of Quebec to a bargaining table, it's an accomplishment in itself," Diamond once told *Windspeaker*.

Diamond's leadership resulted in \$136 million in compensation for the loss of some of their traditional lands because of the hydro project. This set a new standard for how government deals with First Nations in Canada and it has been a model used by other First Nations across the country, leading to economic growth and prosperity for Aboriginal people.

Diamond said that his greatest achievement was his contribution to building one of Canada's strongest First Nations from one of its most impoverished.

As the senior negotiator for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) during the Constitution talks, Diamond was instrumental in putting Section 35, which recognizes Aboriginal rights, into the repatriated Constitution of 1982.

But the chief's contributions to Aboriginal rights did not end on the national stage. His visit to the Pope to fight for Aboriginal rights embarrassed the federal and Quebec governments, helping the Crees get what they wanted—self-government. Again, he set the stage for other First Nation leaders to come forward internationally. In the mid-80s to the mid-90s, Diamond participated in subcommittees of the United Nations to fight for international recognition of Indigenous people's rights.

Politics was not the only way he made the Cree strong. Dia-

mond's wisdom and vision to set up Cree-owned businesses made a big difference. He saw the large cash settlement as seed money to start companies that would eventually lead to their financial independence. The initial settlement of \$136 million is now worth billions.

Albert Diamond said his brother started as many businesses as he could. For every new business the Crees set up, Billy was at least on the board of directors, said Albert.

He turned Cree Construction from a \$300 thousand a year company to a \$60 million a year company in less than 15 years. Albert said that a favorite business of Billy's was the boat building company, Cree Yamaha, that he started after a tragic boating accident where four young men died. One of his most recent ventures has been a holding company set up by himself and his son, Ian. Together they run Diamond-Slyvico, a bug spray company. Billy also owns Waska Resources Inc. He was also heavily involved in his own community, and set up the Waskaganish Development Corporation.

Billy said Air Creebec was his best business decision, but the venture succeeded only after another Cree airline's attempts failed. Billy was president of Air Creebec for the first 10 years. His willingness to form partnerships was a key to his success.

"The wisdom of the chiefs at that time was 'No, we have to take the time to learn about this business guys.' And I know Billy, as the grand chief at that time, agreed with it and in fact I think he was the one that really pushed the chiefs to say 'Hey, this is the way we should be going.' And he is a real believer in joint ventures and partnerships because he was saying we need to take the time to learn this particular business or this particular industry," explained Albert, who is now Air Creebec's president.

(see Hard-nosed page 12.)

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

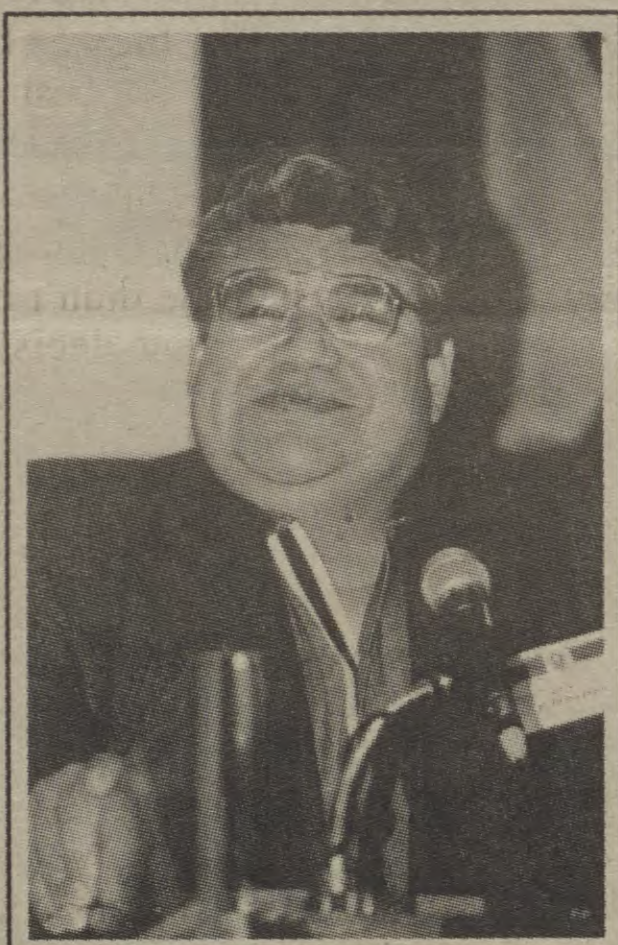
BILLY DIAMOND

on your accomplishments and being inducted into

The Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame

from your friends and associates at
Cree Construction Company
and

Gestion ADC



Billy Diamond



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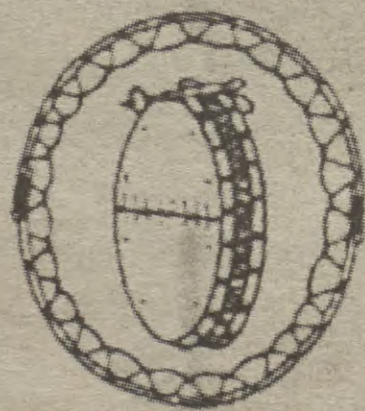
Billy was an outspoken advocate for Cree rights when the James Bay Hydro Electric Complex was first proposed. He was instrumental in organizing the then eight Cree communities into the Grand Council of the Crees. While Grand Chief, he continued to fight for rights but he was also the driving force behind the creation of Air Creebec and the Cree Construction and Development Company. He has always taken the pragmatic view that rights are for improving the employment, economic participation and community life of his people and he continues as President of Niskamoon Corporation to implement this vision.

CONGRATULATIONS, BILLY,

in winning the

CCAB Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame Award

We recognize and are proud of the contribution that you have made to your People and to Aboriginal Development in Canada.



C.R.A.
A.R.C.

Grand Chief Dr. Ted Moses, O.Q.
on behalf of the Cree Nation of Eeyou Istchee



Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Estchee)
Cree Regional Authority
2 Lakeshore Road
Nemaska, Quebec J0Y 3B0
Phone: 819-673-2600
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Cameco leads the way in PAR program

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SASKATOON

As the largest producer of uranium in the world, being in a leadership position is nothing new for Cameco Corporation. So in 2001, the company took a lead role in launching the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business (CCAB) Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program.

Cameco was one of the first 10 companies to get involved in the PAR program, designed to provide businesses with a way of assessing how well they're doing in their efforts to develop good relations with the Aboriginal community. Cameco was also among the first to achieve a gold standing in the program and, this past year, became one of the first to go through a re-certification process that confirmed the company's Aboriginal relations efforts are still worthy of a gold achievement level.

"I think that part of the whole program, part of the whole idea of PAR, is to sort of continually



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMECCO

Cameco Corporation, the world's largest producer of uranium, has recertified at the gold level in the Progressive Aboriginal Relations program run by the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business by continuing to look for ways to improve the way it does business with Aboriginal communities in northern Saskatchewan.

improve," said Jamie McIntyre, director of sustainable development with Cameco. "So essentially what PAR does is it affords you kind of a systematic way to assess how you're doing. We look at our Aboriginal relations programs really broadly

and comprehensively, so it's not just about employment, it's not just about community relations, it's about all those things and many more."

The PAR program lets companies compare how they're doing in developing good Aborigi-

nal relations in comparison to other companies across the country.

"The reason why it's important that companies commit themselves to renewing or re-certifying, if you will, is that it really affords them the opportunity to see if they're continually improving at the rate or pace that others might be," McIntyre said.

"I think for companies that are just starting to understand how to do this and what they need to do, the idea of first applying for PAR and then reapplying two or three years later really does give them an excellent tool to be able to gauge how they're doing.

"The way it works is you self-identify and then you almost self-score yourself. They have a kind of score card system or point system, essentially. And then what they do is the National Quality Institute, which is a Canadian quality institute, actually comes out and they visit you. And essentially they verify whether you are doing what you said you are do-



KEVEN KANTEN

President and CEO of Cameco Corporation Gerald Grandey (left) receives recognition for the company's achievements from Albert Diamond on Feb. 15.

ing in your application, whether or not you have scored yourself appropriately. And essentially it's like an audit."

Once the assessment process is complete, the PAR jury, comprised of leaders in Canadian business, looks at the results and assigns a designation of bronze, silver or gold.

(see Gold page 12.)

XEROX

Soar to New Heights Congratulations

Congratulations to the first inductees of the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame

Dr. Billy Diamond • Mr. Irvin Goodon

Xerox Canada is proud to support Aboriginal business leadership, the CCAB and Progressive Aboriginal Relations. The PAR program is a world-class initiative that produces opportunity and results that benefit the Aboriginal community.

Tom R. Maracle, National Manager, Aboriginal Community Relations 613-783-5913 tom.maracle@xerox.com

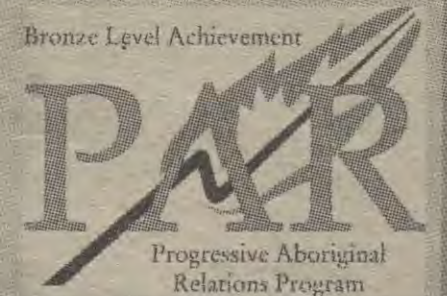


NASITTUQ

Nasittuq Corporation is the agent representing and owned by two dynamic corporations that have provided significant leadership and earned solid reputations throughout the Arctic over the past decade. Nasittuq Corporation a 50/50 joint venture between Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics Corporation (PAIL) and ATCO Frontec Corporation. PAIL is an organization wholly owned by seven shareholder corporations representing Canada's Inuit community in settlement/land claims regions of Inuvialuit, Nunavut, Nunavik and Labrador. ATCO Frontec is a principal operating subsidiary of ATCO Ltd. providing technical services and infrastructure management to government and industry.

Nasittuq Corporation was awarded a Government of Canada contract to operate and maintain the North Warning System (NWS) in Canada on behalf of the Department of National Defense (DND) and the U.S. Air Force (USAF). Nasittuq operates in 5 locations across Canada's Arctic, as well as North Bay and Ottawa, ON

For further information please log on to www.nasittuq.com



Diamond mining company strikes PAR gold

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer

YELLOWKNIFE

Developing good relationships with Aboriginal communities was a priority for Diavik Diamond Mines Inc. even before the first diamond was removed from the ground, said Tom Hoefler, Diavik's manager of external and internal affairs. During the initial exploration process, hundreds of meetings were held in local communities to tell residents what the company was thinking about doing and ask them for their input.

"What I like to say was what we actually did was we conducted an environmental assessment unofficially in doing that. The traditional way of doing it is for companies to go away behind closed doors and come up with their plan and then lay it on the table. We actually met with the communities on an ongoing basis to develop that plan," he said.

Diamond production began at the Diavik mine, located 300 kilometres northeast of

Yellowknife, in January 2003, with up to two million tonnes of ore processed each year. But providing opportunities for community input is still part of the way the company operates, Hoefler said. Diavik has created community advisory boards to ensure all the communities impacted by the mine are heard.

The company has also taken steps to ensure local Aboriginal businesses benefit from the mine operations.

"When we started to construct the mine we actually went out and hired a business development manager to help us find op-



Diavik training commitments include apprenticeship opportunities. Einer Dautel, a heavy duty mechanic apprentice, is among Diavik's 17 apprentices, all northern Aboriginal people.

portunities with local Aboriginal groups," he said. "We also looked at the contracts that we were letting and said, 'Well, can we structure these in a smaller

way so that smaller groups can actually bid on them, in particular, Aboriginal communities?' And so, as a result, we ended up with a phenomenal amount of Aboriginal participation in business."

Building the mine was a \$1.3 billion project. Hoefler estimates about 50 per cent of the work done was with Aboriginal joint venture companies.

One of the companies that has benefited from the mine project is Tli Cho Logistics, a Dogrib company created to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Diavik mine. The company won the contract to maintain the mine site, and is now expanding its services, doing some government work and taking part in a mine site reclamation project.

"So giving them the leg up like that gives them the chance to create their own companies and grow them," Hoefler said. "The intent is that this mine isn't going to last forever, and when it does close then there's going to be companies left over that won't have to fold because they rely entirely on us."

The mine has also meant increased employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and, although the company hasn't yet met the goal it set for itself of having Aboriginal people make up 40 per cent of its workforce, it's getting close. At year's end in 2004, it had reached 38 per cent. That 40 per cent target was based on an anticipated workforce of 450 people, Hoefler said, but the mine currently employs more than 700 people, so the number of Aboriginal employees actually exceeds the company's initial goal.

Diavik went through the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) assessment process over the past six months, and came out the other end with a gold standing, a result that acknowledges the company is on the right track.

Diavik is one of the three biggest employers in the area, alongside the government and another nearby diamond mine, Hoefler said.


"And we're leading the pack on Aboriginal employment, percentage wise. So we're doing something right."

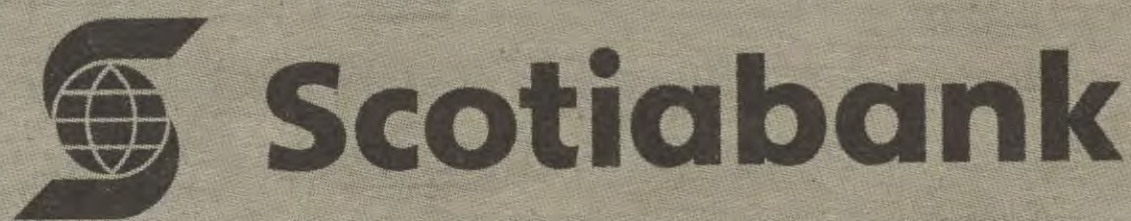
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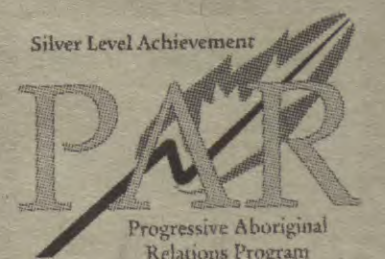


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Joint venture brings opportunities to Canadian Arctic

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Since 1988 the North Warning System—a chain of radar sites stretching across the Canadian Arctic—has been used to detect aircraft approaching North America from the north.

Since December 2001, operating and maintaining the system has been the responsibility of Nasittuq Corporation.

Nasittuq Corporation is a joint venture project between two organizations—Pan Arctic Inuit Logistics (PAIL), an organization owned by seven shareholder corporations representing Canada's Inuit community, and ATCO Frontec Corporation, the company that won the original contract to operate the warning system when it first came online as an updated replacement for the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line. The DEW Line had been in place since the 1950s and the beginning of the cold war. The contract was renewed in 1995 with PAIL, which had been involved in providing some services to ATCO

Frontec during the previous contract, coming on board in a joint venture arrangement. In 1991 the two partners created Nasittuq Corporation to handle the Department of National Defence contract.

Nasittuq joined the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program in 2004, and underwent the assessment process last year, receiving a bronze designation for its efforts.

With Nasittuq 50 per cent owned by PAIL, having Aboriginal people involved in the corporation's operations is a given, because PAIL is in turn owned by the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, the Nunasi Corporation, Makivik Corporation, the Labrador Inuit Development Corporation, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Sakku Investments Corporation and Kitikmeot Corporation. Through PAIL, these organizations jointly represent the Inuit in the four Inuit land claims settlements in Canada—Inuvialuit in the Western Arctic, Nunavut in the Eastern Arctic, Nunavik in Northern Quebec and Nunatsiavut in Labrador.

"We're tightly knit with all the

communities that we work in," said Chris Webb, Aboriginal programs co-ordinator with Nasittuq Corporation.

The company supports community organizations, events and activities through its sponsorship and donation program. Nasittuq sponsors a number of youth related events, and employees give freely of their time to volunteer in the communities in which they work.

Nasittuq has a program in place that provides \$1,000 scholarships to land claims beneficiaries to encourage them to enroll in electrical, computer science, environmental, business and Aboriginal studies programs.

When it comes to employment, filling positions with land claims beneficiaries is a priority, Webb said. This year the company is hoping to have at least half of its workforce comprised of Aboriginal people.

The company has developed two types of training programs to help ensure Inuit people seeking employment with Nasittuq can develop the skills they need. One of the programs provides the training needed for tempo-

rary entry level positions, and the other takes trainees one step further, providing them with the skills and knowledge they need to attain permanent employment. Both programs offer training in all occupation types found within Nasittuq, from accounting and human resources positions to electrician and diesel mechanic.

The company also strives to ensure that, as much as possi-

ble, work that is contracted out is awarded to Aboriginal companies.

"We've got a policy to help continue supporting local business and Inuit suppliers," Webb said. "And we'll provide assistance to potential vendors as well in understanding our bid process. Inuit organizations are also given extra lead time and consideration in awarding of the contracts."

Good for the goose

By George Young
Windspeaker Staff Writer

WINNIPEG

Higgins International Inc., an executive search and human resources consulting company, has joined the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program, and Brenda LaRose, the managing principal of Higgins International, couldn't be happier.

"It's a really important initiative that the [Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB)] is doing. They are leading the way by providing



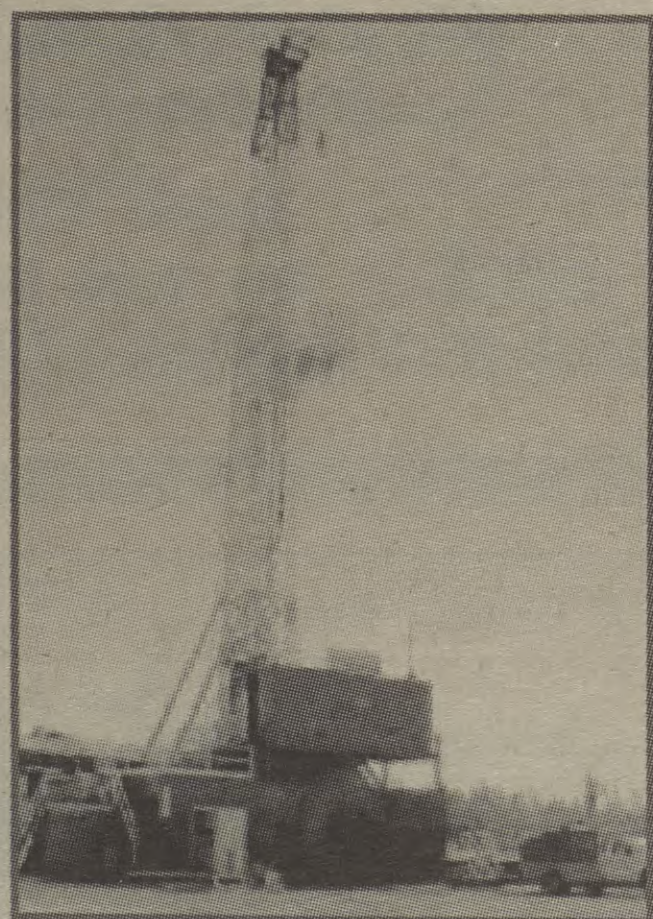
Brenda LaRose

this measurement, and it is very important that Aboriginal businesses get involved as well," she said.

(see Good page 8.)

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Good Aboriginal relations foundation of company's success

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer

CALGARY

Working to develop good relationships with local Aboriginal communities is something Western Lakota Energy Services Inc. is very good at. It is, in fact, an intrinsic part of what the company does.

The Calgary-based energy services company builds and operates drilling rigs in partnership with Aboriginal communities. Of the 16 drilling rigs it currently operates, 12 are run in partnership with Aboriginal communities in Alberta. The Dene Tha' First Nation is Western Lakota's partner on five rigs, while Samson Cree Nation has partnered with the company on three. Saddle Lake First Nation, Duncan's First Nation and the Blood Tribe are partners with Western Lakota on one rig. The company also operates a rig owned by the Métis Nation of Alberta.

While these partnerships mean money coming in to the communities from the resources being extracted, some

communities are beginning to look at ways to get a bigger piece of the pie and Western Lakota is playing a role.

"Some of the Aboriginal communities are looking at buying into the shares of the company as well," said Elson McDougald, Western Lakota founder, president and CEO. "So they're more interested in becoming shareholders overall than they are, some of the bigger ones anyway, than being just partners. They want to be part of the overall company. And I'm not discouraging that. I think that's great."

Employing Aboriginal people is also a priority at Western Lakota, one that the company supports through its Aboriginal Drilling Rig Training Program.

"There's lots of good people there. They just need to be introduced to the opportunity and shown how to get started," said McDougald.

Each trainee spends five days preparing themselves mentally before they even step onto the training platform, learning about their job and about the company. When individuals complete the train-

ing and become employed, the company monitors their progress for 18 months, regardless of whether they work for Western Lakota or for one of their competitors.

Part of the reason for Western Lakota's efforts to develop partnerships with and create employment opportunities for Aboriginal people is because it feels good to do it, McDougald said.

"I mean, we're putting them to work. And we're creating long-term sustainability. And the industry needs people and needs good people and we've brought a lot of them into the business and are training them and moving them up."

The work being done also translates into good community relations for Western Lakota's customers, the oil and gas companies.

"They can point to these partnerships where 50 per cent of everything they pay for that contract drilling rig is going into the community ... that they are putting people to work and creating long-term sustainability and employment," he said.

Western Lakota's efforts to develop good working relation-

ships with Aboriginal communities have not gone unnoticed. In fact the company has developed a reputation within many Aboriginal communities for being one of the companies that is doing it right.

"I guess it's just trying to be as honorable as you possibly can, dealing with their concerns and taking your time," McDougald said when asked to explain why so many Aboriginal communities do business with Western Lakota.

McDougald's hands-on approach is also likely part of what makes Western Lakota a sought after business partner. Every three months he goes out and meets with each one of the company's partners, presenting reports and financial statements and taking time to answer any questions or address any concerns.

"And they know they can call me at any time as president and I always try to get back to them and answer their concerns or their questions or whatever. That's what we're doing and it seems to work."

Western Lakota went through the PAR (Progressive Aboriginal Relations) assess-

ment process over the past year, placing at a bronze achievement level. According to McDougald, the results of the assessment process show that Western Lakota is doing many things right.

"I think overall we were surprised at how high we rated in everything we were doing and what we've done," McDougald said. The only area where the company, which has been operating since 2001, fell short had nothing to do with what it is doing. It had to do with how long it has been doing it.

"We've met and exceeded all the four legs of the stool as far as employment, community support, business and everything else, but we haven't been at it very long. So the biggest concern of the NQI (National Quality Institute) auditor seemed to be how sustainable is it, and we'll just have to prove that over a period of time."

McDougald said the decision to get involved in the PAR program was made so Western Lakota could help lead the way for other oil and gas companies to make good Aboriginal relations an important part of the way they operate.

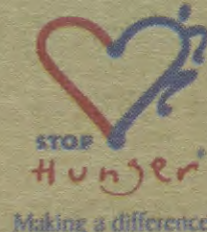
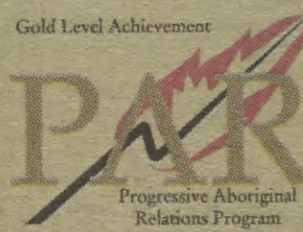


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Good for the gander, says Higgins International

(Continued from page 6.)

Through the PAR program, member companies are given tools to assess how well they're doing in their efforts to improve their relations with the Aboriginal community. The program looks at these efforts in four areas—employment, business development, individual capacity development and community relations.

LaRose said it's not just non-Aboriginal companies that should be making assessments. Aboriginal companies need to be accountable as well.

"We want corporate Canada to know that we're also being involved with this process. If we're the ones who are saying that this is important, we should also be participating," said LaRose.

LaRose said large corporations are making a big commitment in order to meet the PAR standards.

"It's an investment in terms of dollars in order to be a part of it."

But she advised small companies to consider joining in as a show of support for the PAR program and to grow their business.

"We're putting our money where our mouth is," she said of Higgins International.

"We're saying to companies like Bank of Montreal, Xerox, IBM, that we think this is important from my stand point, as a company that is working with those corporations. They're putting huge dollars into it. It's a bigger commitment for them because they have to go right across the board and measure everything in order to conform to PAR."

Higgins International Inc. is a Winnipeg-based company that has been in business for six years. Brenda LaRose has been in the human resources field for more than 18 years. She was working at another consulting company in Winnipeg and started to do more work in the Aboriginal community, because she is Métis.

LaRose felt that there was a market for an Aboriginal human resources company, especially on the executive search side, as she was bringing in about a third of her previous company's revenue.

LaRose wanted to take on a mentoring role and have more control so she went out on her

own and started Higgins International. (Higgins is LaRose's maiden name).

Higgins International Inc. now operates right across the country with 50 per cent of its business in the Aboriginal community.

"We're not just Aboriginal. I don't think that Aboriginal businesses should just do business in the community. Jewish busi-

ness doesn't do business just in the Jewish community. I'm a big advocate of that," she said.

Higgins International has done placements for the Assembly of First Nations, placing both the chief executive officer and the chief financial officer and helping to restructure the management system of the assembly itself.

Higgins International also

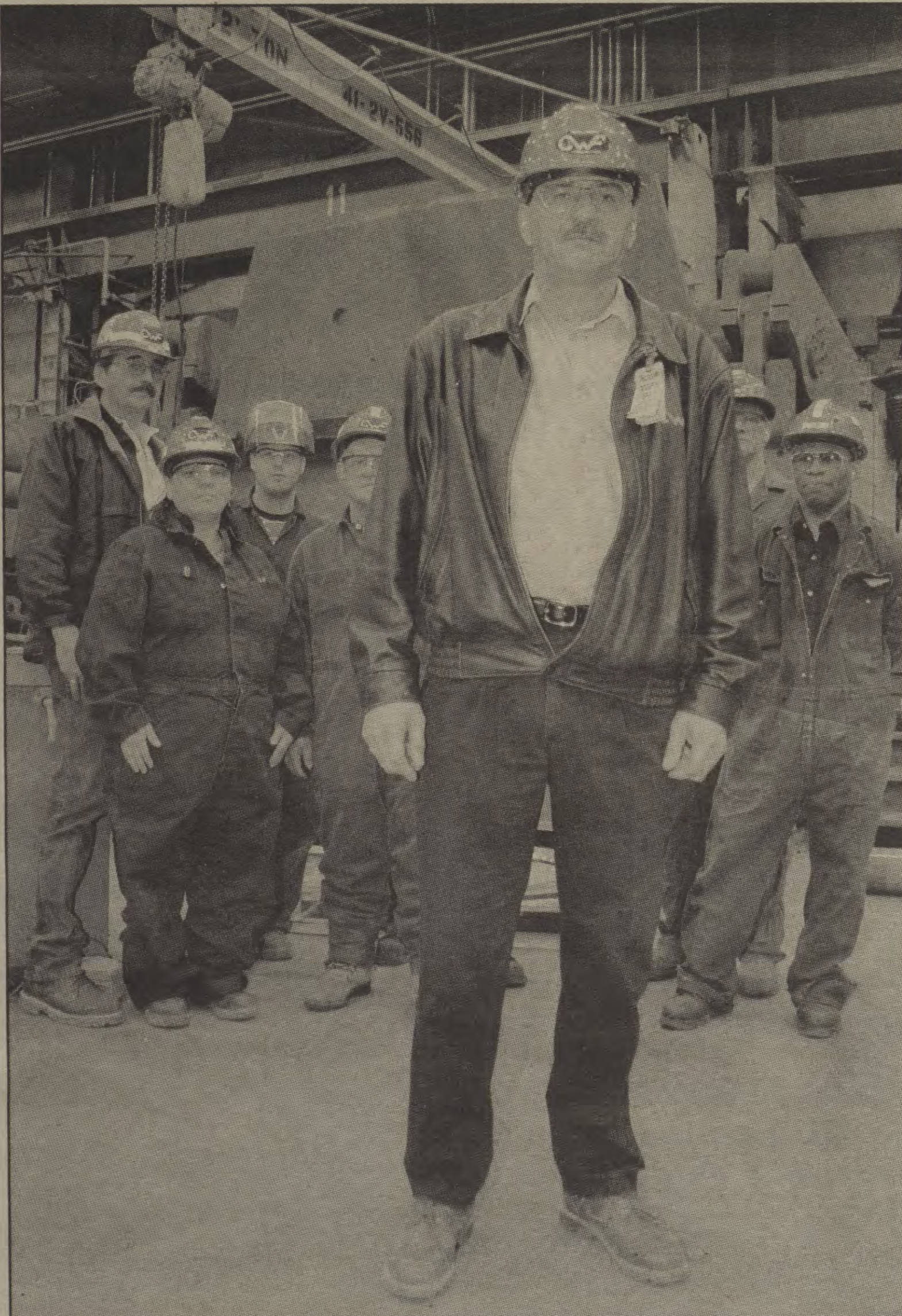
placed the management team for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

LaRose serves on the board of the Arts and Cultural Industries Association of Manitoba. She also serves on the board of Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, an Aboriginal family and community development centre, and the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development.



Rick Waugh, (left) CEO of Scotiabank, accepts recognition from Albert Diamond on the occasion of the bank's silver level achievement in the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program through the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.

KEVEN KANTEN



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Global Television develops national approach

By Deirdre Tombs
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

Global Television, a subsidiary of the international media conglomerate CanWest Global Communications Corp., entered the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program last fall, prompted, in part, by the Canadian Radio and Television Commission's emphasis on cultural diversity in the workplace.

Jonathan Medline, the director of regulatory affairs for the television network, credits the CRTC with forcing Global to look closely at what they were doing in terms of Aboriginal participation in the workforce and in its on-air portrayal of Aboriginal people and their issues. PAR, said Medline, looked good to Global because of its mandatory self-assessment for accreditation at either the bronze, silver or gold level.

Medline said the network acknowledges it is not currently accurately reflecting the Aboriginal population across Canada. He hopes the PAR assessment will

help them find out why.

"So what is it, structural, systemic, is it us? We just don't know. So that's step one, and that's actually I think the most important step for us because until we do that step, we really are just guessing."

The good thing about PAR, said Medline, is that it has a strong track-record and can offer good advice based on the experience of others.

"We're quite excited about it, because it's exactly what we were looking for... We're looking for someone to help us, guide us through this, and to say 'Look, other companies have done this and it hasn't worked,' or 'other companies have tried a self-assessment this way and it hasn't worked.'"

After the assessment, Global Television will develop a strategy to make improvements

where needed and build on the strengths the network identifies. Then it will monitor its progress toward its goals. Regular re-certification is a requirement of the PAR program.

"It adds rigour to us. It makes us pay attention to it and do it in great detail and follow through with it."

Medline recognized that some of the local stations are already doing a lot on their own initia-

tive, but Global needed a national corporate strategy.

"So we're really looking at the PAR program from a national standpoint to layer on top of what the stations are already doing."

Medline is optimistic about Global's involvement in the program.

"You know, you hope that everything works, but I think this one's got a real good shot," said Medline.

PAR ranks continue to grow

The number of businesses involved in the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program have more than doubled since the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) first launched the program in 2001.

Ten companies demonstrated their commitment to developing good Aboriginal relations in the initial year the program was run—Donna Cona, Xerox Canada, Alberta Pacific Forest Industries, BP Canada Energy Company, Cameco Corporation, Casino Rama, Pharmacia Canada, Piruqsajit, Sodexho

Marriott Services Canada and Syncrude Canada.

This year, when the CCAB held its annual Circle for 2015 gala dinner in Toronto on Feb. 15, there were 25 companies that have signed on to be part of the PAR program.

A number of companies sit at the gold achievement level—the highest level awarded in PAR—Diavik Diamond Mines Inc., which joined the program in 2004; ESS Support Services, a division of Compass Group Canada, which joined in 2003; BMO Bank of Montreal, which

joined the program in 2004; Place Louis Riel All Suites Hotel, which came on board in 2003; and three companies that have been with the program since its inception—Sodexho, Cameco and Syncrude.

Companies at the silver achievement level include Scotiabank, which joined the PAR program in 2002, and three companies that joined in 2001—Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, Donna Cona and Xerox.

Sitting at the bronze level are Nasittuq Corporation and Western Lakota Energy, which both joined in 2004; the operations di-


vision of Canada Post Corporation, which came on board in 2003; and Manitoba Lotteries Corporation, a PAR member company since 2003.

A total of 10 companies sit at the commitment level, including three new additions to the program—Global Television, Higgins International and SaskTel. Also at the commitment level are BP Canada Energy Company, Casino Rama, Pitblado Barristers and Solicitors, Prairie Architects Inc., Radisson Hotel Winnipeg Downtown, TELUS Corporation and World Wildlife Fund Canada.

BMO Financial Group is a strong supporter of CCAB and the initiatives of the PAR Program.



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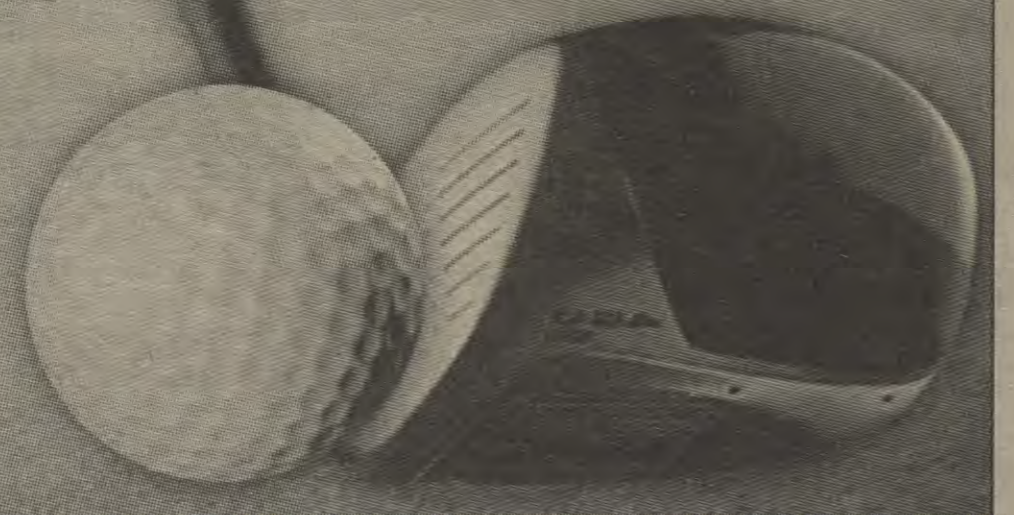
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Special inspiration to Aboriginal people playing a vital role in business

(Continued from page 1.)

The contributions of these distinguished business people deserve to be better known by all Canadians, and they provide a special inspiration to those Aboriginal Canadians who are playing an increasingly vital role in the economy, he continued.

The Hall of Fame came into being when CCAB and ESS Support Services Worldwide became founding sponsors of the new program, which recognizes the people who are leading the way into the future and will serve as role models for the generations who are following them.

"There has been such a lot of growth in terms of Aboriginal businesses in the last 20 years and we wanted to recognize the senior states-people

whose track record was established," said Soulodre.

Also honored at the Feb. 15 banquet were the recipients of the Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program. PAR represents a way for businesses to earn the right to use an identifying hallmark indicating that they are committed to increasing Aboriginal employment, assisting business development, and enhancing community relations. It provides a framework for businesses and other organizations to self-assess their approach to the emerging Aboriginal marketplace and tools to help them improve their performance.

"Over the past few years we've recognized companies, such as BP Canada Energy, Telus, World Wildlife Fund, and many others whose performance in dealing with Aboriginal businesses and communities was mutually benefi-

cial," explained Soulodre, a Métis originally from St Boniface, Man.

Twenty-plus companies are now involved and with no government funding, the CCAB remains entirely supported by the private sector.

"We were pleased to welcome seven more businesses into the PAR program this year," said Soulodre.

Another initiative of the CCAB is the Foundation For Aboriginal Youth which was begun in 1994 and facilitates scholarship programs for companies who wish to contribute to high school and post-secondary education.

"In the past 10 years, we've distributed almost one-and-a-half million dollars to over 1,000 students in all areas of study," she explained. A selection committee comprised of members of the sponsoring companies, as well as commu-

nity representatives, meets in November so the young people can receive their awards before Christmas.

"Through the programs that we've established, a transformation has begun to happen. A change is occurring and there are so many more kids now who are staying in school, and going on to post-secondary education. We have 27,000 Aboriginal businesses now,

and statistics tell us that one out of every three people entering the labor market is going to be Aboriginal in the next 10 years," concluded Soulodre.

"What a wonderful atmosphere we have now. Things are so much better than they were even 10 years ago." Whether a company is Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal,

the time has never been better to participate in partnerships with the opportunity for dialogue and relationship building so positive, she added.

"When we have Aboriginal organizations recognized by their peers, such as our PAR and Hall of Fame companies and individuals, it further instills a sense of pride which is very moving and very encouraging."



Jocelyne Soulodre



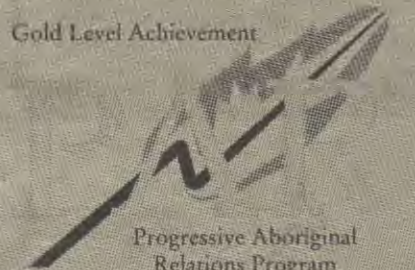
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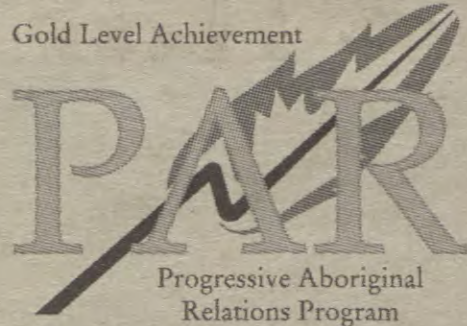
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Silver level for Scotiabank

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

The reason why developing good relationships with the Aboriginal community is a priority for Scotiabank goes well beyond being a way to increase profits, said Michele Baptiste, the bank's national manager of Aboriginal relations.

"From my perspective, it's about just recognizing that Aboriginal people are the first people in this country. We're the most international bank and when the bank goes into another country they really make a concerted effort in getting to know the original people of where they're going, the Indigenous people or the culture of the country that they're going into to do business. And it's no different here," she said.

Working to improve Scotiabank's relationships with Aboriginal communities has been a priority for Baptiste since she started working with the bank nine years ago. Now, thanks to the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business and its Progressive Aboriginal Relations (PAR) program, the importance of such initiatives has been communicated across the entire organization. The bank went through the PAR assessment process over the past year and was awarded with a silver achievement level.

"The PAR process was really good for the more senior people in the organization to really see a structured process that we went through and the results of the process, so we can sort of look at that more as a 'Where are we going to go from here' and to help us with a structure to develop a strategy," she said.

"I know that Rick Waugh is

extremely engaged in reviewing where we're at and looking at where we're going to, so when the CEO of the bank is showing the interest then the rest of the senior management sort of looks at it as well. And it's not that the bank hasn't been committed in the past,

it's just that we haven't had a structured program that enabled us to kind of put all our ducks in a row, so to speak."



Scotiabank has demonstrated their commitment to the Aboriginal community in a number of ways, from offering scholarships to Aboriginal students studying business and commerce to sponsoring events like the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. The bank has also provided funding for construction of Trent University's new First Peoples House of Learning.

"We support a number of youth initiatives, stay at school programs. We sponsored the development and implementation of an Aboriginal Junior Achievement program ... there's been so much that we've done," she said.

"At the grassroots level, the community level, we've done a number of things. We just donated money to Bent Arrow Healing Society so they could buy a school bus to take all their kids and Elders and people around to do different things. And you don't get more grassroots community than that."

When it comes to employment of Aboriginal people, Scotiabank is meeting the targets set out by the Canadian Human Rights Commission, but Baptiste would like to do even better.

The bank has undertaken a number of initiatives to make that happen, from adapting its accommodation policies to allowing time for cultural practices to finding ways to support Aboriginal employees and help them move up through the organization.

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Hard-nosed, soft heart

(Continued from page 3.)

Peter Lumby, a long-time business associate and friend of Billy's, called him a "hard-nosed businessman," who can size up a person's character in a snap. Combine that with his incredible sense of humor and his keen negotiation skills, and Billy is a powerful force at the table.

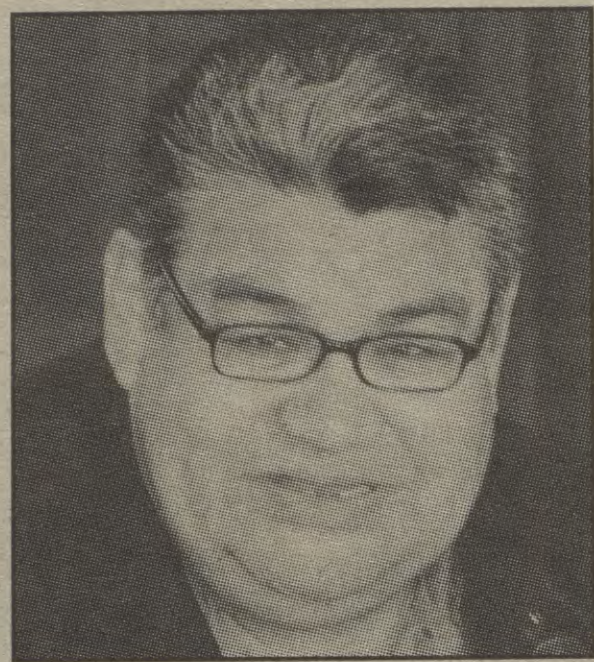
Lumby, a housing and development project planning and control consultant, said Billy also doesn't hold a grudge; he can become partners with former enemies. For example, once a thorn in the Quebec government's side, after his term as the Cree representative on the impacts of the Great Whale hydroelectric project expired, the Quebec government appointed him as their representative so he could continue to act as the committee chair. He is also a member of the Order of Quebec.

More recently, Billy was a key negotiator in 2002 with Hydro Quebec, leading to the creation of Niskamoon Corporation. This joint venture between the Crees and Hydro Quebec serves to alleviate negative impacts from hydro projects and ensures economic prosperity for Crees. He is now Niskamoon's president.

Billy is acting as an advisor to National Chief Phil Fontaine on the AFN's efforts to set up a national Aboriginal housing authority. He is very knowledgeable in this area partly due to his involvement in the Cree Housing Authority—the first housing corporation in Canada where First Nations had control over housing and infrastructure.

Billy Diamond realized very early on that education was where opportunities for his people lay, said Lumby. He was a founder of the Cree School Board, which is now one of the country's largest educational bodies for First Nations.

Diamond is also a deeply spiritual man and he works tirelessly doing volunteer work with chil-



Billy Diamond

RICK CHARD

dren, promoting wellness through the church and community.

With greatness comes sacrifice, and in Billy's case, it was with his family. As a baby, Philip, Billy's youngest son, developed gastroenteritis and other diseases due to poor sanitary conditions in the impoverished Cree community. Philip continues to suffer to this day with mental illness. This pushed Billy to fight for his people, a fight that, ironically, often took him away from his family. Fortunately, time has allowed Billy and his family to become closer. Ian, his eldest son, considers Billy to be more than a father. He is also a mentor. For Lumby, Billy is one of the great leaders that rose in the 1970s.

"That generation of leaders were just incredible. They were the ones that set the stage and now people across the country are benefiting from the work that they did, and Billy's one of those," said Lumby.

Billy's induction into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame is his second award for his work in Aboriginal business; he received the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1997.

"Guys like him don't come around all that often and sometimes, especially in the Native world, sometimes you tend to forget those people," said Ian. Many believe Billy Diamond is one person in Canadian history that people should never forget.

Gold retained

(Continued from page 4.)

Cameco received a gold designation after its first assessment, but the process still showed the company where improvements could be made, Jamie McIntyre said.

"One of the advantages of going through it the first time is you can kind of see where you need to sort of dedicate some more resources or a different approach. For example, we recognized that although we were doing a lot of consultation and engagement in Aboriginal communities, we realized that we needed to do it better.

"We needed to develop a different model, a different strategy for getting out into the communities and working with communities and informing them and consulting them and mostly

listening to what their concerns and issues are."

Cameco continues to earn recognition at the gold level by continuing to make inroads in its relationships with Aboriginal communities. The company employs about 700 Aboriginal people and has 16 northern suppliers providing goods and services for the mine operations.

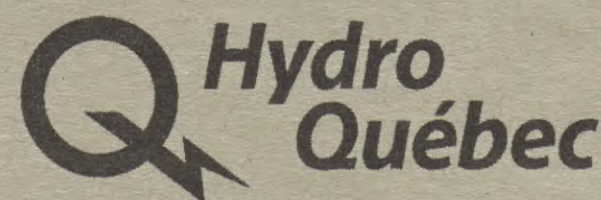
"We're really improving in all of the areas that we need to improve in because we're in this for the long haul," McIntyre said. We're going to be in Saskatchewan, and in northern Saskatchewan, for the next 30 years. And so we're talking about multiple generations of Aboriginal people that we're going to impact. And it's our intention to keep getting better and keep doing better. We're not going to stop."

For more than 30 years, Billy Diamond has been actively promoting harmonious relations between the Crees and other members of Québec society.

His vision has led to the creation of joint ventures with partners from Québec and even outside Canada.

He has shared his experience and insight with major business leaders on numerous occasions.

As a true leader himself, he has blazed a trail for others to follow.



Nadjiwan has a new beginning with Begin

By George Young
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

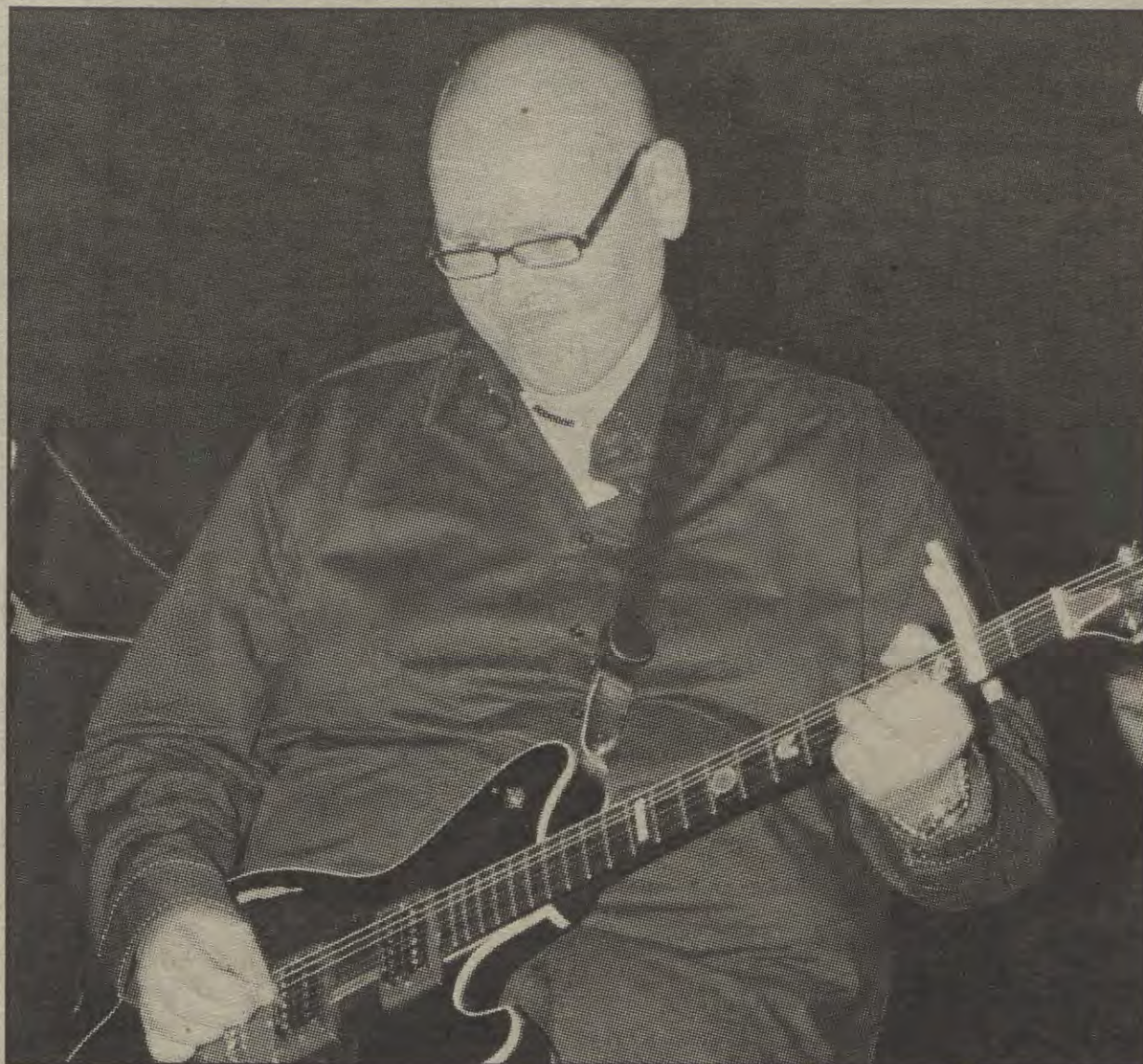
Marc Nadjiwan's new CD *Begin*, due out in stores March 16, actually has two titles, the second being "Because Everything Will Come To An End."

"It goes to the whole principle that the glass is either half full or half empty," Nadjiwan told *Windspeaker* in a telephone interview from his home in Toronto. "Because out of the letters of that statement it spells the word begin."

"The concept of the whole album is that everything does have an ending to it, but there is always a new beginning that starts from that ending. People are always focused on the negative when something happens ... We have to focus on the positive. It depends on how you choose to see it, and how you view the world."

Nadjiwan's view of the world is something the CD very much reflects, with textures and layers that make it interesting to listen to. He credits his upbringing with providing that in his music.

"A lot of it actually comes



DEBORA STEEL

Marc Nadjiwan's new CD *Begin*, *Because Everything Will Come To An End*, will hit music stores March 16.

from when I was a kid. We used to go to the various powwows and stuff around Thunder Bay and we would be sitting in the car. This is when I was six or seven years old. And in the car there would be the local rock station on, and then outside you would hear the singers and the drummers bleeding through the window.

"At the time I remember that

it was a perfect mix in my head, the rock stuff and the traditional stuff. From there I started developing my own melodies and chants, which I do to this day," said Nadjiwan.

Though known primarily as a guitarist, listening to *Begin* it is apparent that Nadjiwan also employs the use of his voice as another instrument. He said that is inherent to all Indigenous cul-

tures across the world.

"They use the voice as an instrument, in addition to anything else that is being played."

What's interesting on this CD, is the use of the piano, which featured large in *Begin*'s creation.

Nadjiwan said he wrote the CD on the piano, because he was bored with playing the guitar. The CD features the use of one of the most famous pianos in the country in its production. CBC's grand piano in their Toronto studio, the one played by such luminaries as the late Glenn Gould, was accessed by *Begin* producer Ron Skinner. The producer works for the mother corp., and has worked with such acts as Radiohead and Our Lady Peace.

"I've known him for a number of years, and he is onboard for the new album and I am very pleased with the results. I first met him in music school and we have kept in touch. He has been doing all these big productions, but he still has time for the little guy."

Little guy Nadjiwan hails from Lynn Lake, Man., but grew up in Thunder Bay, Ont. He moved to Toronto about seven years ago, because of the city's proximity to established media and culture.

"Toronto is pretty much, I hate to say, the centre of the universe for the music industry. All the major record labels are here. My publisher is in Toronto and since being here, it's opened up opportunities I wouldn't have had if I stayed in Thunder Bay."

For example, Nadjiwan did the pilot for *Buffalo Tracks* as seen on APTN.

"I don't think we would have had that opportunity if we were in Northern Ontario."

His mom, Hilda Nadjiwan, lives close, at Curve Lake near Peterborough, and teaches Ojibway at Nipissing First Nation. Nadjiwan tries to get together with her often to get lessons in the language.

"It's something that us kids, I'm one of six by the way, never picked up because my mom would always be talking with my aunts and such, and that was almost their secret language, like when they would talk badly about us or when they didn't want us understanding."

"And now my mum tells us years later she almost regrets doing that because she wanted us to grow up knowing the language because that is very important to Indigenous cultures no matter where you are in the world."



Shell Canada

Shell Canada Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Environmental Impact Assessment Peace River Oil Sands - Carmon Creek Project

Shell Canada Limited (Shell) is considering an expansion of its Peace River Complex, an in-situ bitumen recovery facility that has been in operation for 25 years. The proposed Carmon Creek Project would increase production to approximately 5 000 m³ per day (30,000 bbls per day) of bitumen from the current license limit of 2 000 m³ per day (12,000 bbls per day). It would be located approximately 40 km northeast of Peace River in portions of Townships 84 to 86, Ranges 17 to 19, West of the 5th Meridian, in the Northern Sunrise County. The proposed expansion would continue to use Horizontal Cyclic Steam (HCS) technology for bitumen extraction.

Initially, development may include:

- a new cogeneration and processing plant adjacent to the existing facility,
- up to 15 new well pads containing about 200 wells,
- distribution and gathering systems,
- new roads, and
- external infrastructure tie-ins for the new well pads.

Over the remaining life of the Project, a similar number of additional well pads and associated infrastructure may later be developed. A new pipeline connection from the processing plant to Fox Creek may also be built, however this would be the subject of a separate regulatory approval. Construction for the Project could begin in 2007, with start up expected in 2009. The Carmon Creek Project is only conceptual at this time. A decision on whether or not to proceed with the expansion project would be made after regulatory approval is obtained.

Shell is committed to sustainable development and conducting its operations in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Regulatory approval for the Project will be sought through the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB). As part of the approval process, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report is required under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

Specific focuses of the EIA include:

- cumulative environmental effects
- climate, air quality and noise
- water resources (hydrogeology, hydrology, surface water quality and aquatic ecology)
- historical resources
- socio-economic assessment
- biodiversity and fragmentation
- terrestrial (lands use, geology, terrain, soils & vegetation)
- wildlife
- traditional ecological knowledge and land use
- public health and safety issues
- public involvement

Shell has prepared a Proposed Terms of Reference for this EIA report and an accompanying Public Disclosure Document describing the Carmon Creek Project. The EIA report prepared pursuant to these Terms of Reference will be reviewed as a cooperative assessment under the Canada-Alberta Agreement of Environmental Assessment Cooperation. Alberta will be the Lead Party for the cooperative assessment.

Through this notice, Shell invites the public to review the documents and provide comments on the Proposed Terms of Reference for the EIA report.

The Proposed Terms of Reference & accompanying Public Disclosure Document may be viewed at:

Peace River Town Office
9911 - 100th St.
Peace River, AB
Phone: 780-624-2574

Peace River Municipal Library
9807 - 97th Avenue
Peace River, AB
Phone: 780-624-4076

Grimshaw Town Office
5005 - 53rd Avenue
Grimshaw, AB
Phone: 780-332-4626

Grimshaw Public Library
5007 - 47th Avenue
Grimshaw, AB
Phone: 780-332-4553

Northern Sunrise County Office
Junction of Highways #2 and #688
Peace River, AB
Phone: 780-624-0013

Village of Nampa Office
9810 - 100th Avenue
Nampa, AB
Phone: 780-322-3852

Metis Nation of Alberta, Region 6
9621 - 90th Avenue
Peace River, AB
Phone: 780-624-4219

Copies of the Proposed Terms of Reference and accompanying Public Disclosure Document may be obtained from: **Shell Canada Limited Website** • http://www.shell.ca/code/products/refineries/peace/dir_peace_news.html

Shell Canada Limited
Attention: Ken Zaitsoff
Health, Safety and Environment Coordinator
Peace River Complex
P.O. Bag 1200
Peace River, AB T8S 1B1
Phone: 780-624-6808 • Fax: 780-624-4873
E-mail: Ken.Zaitsoff@shell.com

Alberta Environment
Attention: Patti Humphrey
Register of Environmental Assessment Information
Main Floor, Twin Atria Building
4999 - 98th Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3
Phone: 780-427-5828

Persons wishing to provide written comments on the Proposed Terms of Reference should submit them by April 14, 2005 to:

Director of Environmental Assessment, Northern Region
Alberta Environment
Main Floor, Twin Atria Building, 4999 - 98th Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3
Fax: 780-427-9102 • E-mail: environmental.assessment@gov.ab.ca

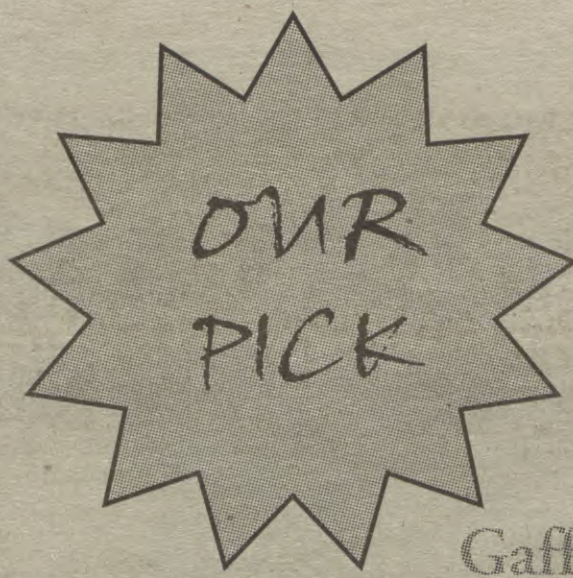
If emailing comments, please forward original signed copies to the above office. Any comments filed regarding this notice will be accessible to the public.

[radio's most active]

ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Leonard Adam	Spirit Flies	Spirit Flies
Billy Joe Green	Don't Ask Me	Muskat Blues and Rock & Roll
Donna Kay/Little Island Cree	Beat Goes On	Single
Rayne Delarond	A Little On The Wild Side	Rayne
Los Lonely Boys	Heaven	Los Lonely Boys
Heritage	I Can't Take This Anymore	Evolution
Jay Ross	Tough On The Outside	Old Town
Remedy	Into The Daylight	When Sunlight Broke
Rory Collins	Stay	Single
Ashley Green	Like No Other	My Desire
Little Hawk	Sand Creek Massacre	1492-1975
Wayne Lavallee	Heart Land	Green Dress
Eekwol	Too Sick	Apprentice To The Mystery
Just the Boyz	Me And The Boyz	Shotgun Rider
M.E.B.	Pushing Me Away	Open Your Eyes
Shaun Roulette	Here Without You	NCI Jam 2004 Winner
Dawn Marquis	Choosin' To Lose You	Single
River Gypsies	Honky Tonkin' Cougar Woman	Single
Ray Villebrun & Red Blaze	I Found Her Tonight	Sound Of Thunder
Chris Beach	#1 On NCI	Single

CONTRIBUTING
STATIONS:



Artist—Little Hawk

Album—1492—1975

Song—Do You

Eat This Gold?

Label—Arbor Records

Producer—Chris Burke-Gaffney; Troy Westwood and

Luke McMaster

CD a musical lesson in post-contact history

Troy Westwood is probably best known as placekicker for the Canadian Football League's Winnipeg Blue Bombers, or as the co-founder and former lead singer of Eagle and Hawk. But Westwood, who performs under the name Little Hawk—a name given him by Elders more than a decade ago—is now trying his hand at a solo career.

While Westwood is not Aboriginal, he has had an interest in Native culture and spirituality for most of his life, and over the years has become very involved with the Aboriginal community. That involvement is evident in the songs he writes and performs, both in the subjects he chooses and the style in which they are presented.

His first solo effort, 1492-1975, is an interesting melding of music and message, a quick history lesson highlighting the uneasy and often violent relationship between the Aboriginal people of the Americas and the colonizing forces that came to make the land their own.

The album starts in 1492 with the arrival of Christopher Columbus and ends in 1975 with the shootout on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation that left three people dead and resulted in Leonard Peltier's imprisonment. In between, Westwood sings about the decimation of the Aztec and Inca empires at the hands of the Spanish, the arrival of newcomers to North America, the massacres of Native men, women and children at Bloody Island, Sand Creek and Wounded Knee, the Battle of Little Big Horn, and the efforts of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce to resist when the American government tried to force his people onto a reservation.

The CD's liner notes include the words to all the songs, presented alongside historical images and quotes relating to the events portrayed in the songs, driving home the fact that the atrocities being sung about are all very real.

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Left to right: Ernie Daniels, President, AFOA; Marilyn Osecap, Chair, AFOA; Harold Calla, Chair, FNFMB; Richard Morano, CFO, Mnjikaning First Nation; Tom R. Maracle, Xerox

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The Dominion Institute/L'Institut du Dominion
Telephone: 416.368.9627 Toll-Free: 1.866-701-1867 Fax: 416.368.2111
Email: staff@dominion.ca

Courtesy of the Department of Canadian Heritage and its Canadian Culture Online Program.



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Important Notice to Employers

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The Summer Career Placements initiative, a key element of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy, provides wage subsidies to help employers hire students for 6 to 16 weeks during the summer. Private, public and not-for-profit employers are invited to submit their application by:

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To apply or to find out more about this initiative, please contact the nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada or call **1 800 935-5555**.

Or visit www.youth.gc.ca and click on *Employers*.

Canada

AFN shoots back

(Continued from page 9.)

Phil Fontaine ran for national chief in 2003 on a platform of working with government. Since his election, Fontaine has hired a number of former senior government officials, including former deputy minister of Indian Affairs Scott Serson. His political opponents wonder if his ties to the federal Liberals are influencing his leadership approach.

The national chief has had to deal with this matter before. During the 2003 campaign he told *Windspeaker* that he has never carried a Liberal Party membership card.

Many long-time observers of First Nations' politics were astounded when several Aboriginal organizations came out explicitly in favor of the Liberals during the last election campaign. The AFN encouraged their members to vote without endorsing the Liberals. But Fontaine did issue a statement during the campaign slamming the Conservative Party of Canada's political advisor Thomas Flanagan, author of *First Nations Second Thoughts*. Traditionally, First Nation leaders do not openly take sides in mainstream Canadian elections.

Andrew Webster is careful not to make statements about specific issues in First Nations' politics. He is a non-Native man, but he believes the First Nation incursion into mainstream politics opens the door for him to comment.

"I accept that the average registered Indian does not get to vote for their AFN representatives. It is not for me to interfere. Yet I am outraged by the possibility of my tax dollars bankrolling federal party objectives in any way—especially through First Nation interest groups," he said.

Windspeaker asked the AFN for comment on Webster's remarks. In an unusual move, senior political staff compiled an eight-page response. It took issue with a number of Webster's conclusions.

"Federal-provincial off-loading: in reality provincial governments are off-loading to First Nations—straining their capacity to deliver services. The emergence of the acute care substitution sector of home care is one good example. First Nations home care programs are being pressured to accept increasingly higher acuity patients as hospitals continue to discharge patients earlier. Complex post operative clients with need for multiple nursing home visits per day, home dialysis, home IV therapy, and acute phases of chronic conditions are just some of the types of clients that First Nations communities are now expected to service. These clients were not envisioned in the original design of the program," the statement read.

The statement called the data the analyst relied on for his paper

"questionable."

"The paper appears to follow others that intend to contribute to the discussion of First Nations health care, but bandies about numbers with no explanation attached," it read. "On page 22, the author states that: 'Health Canada continues to whittle down what it considers its discretionary services. In the case of NIHB, various drug and medical supplies are gradually dropped from the benefit lists, or else put on unpublished lists where special permission is needed.' AFN has looked closely at this—the actual numbers are: from October 2001 to January 2004, 27 drugs were added to the open list, 25 were deemed limited use, three were assigned as exceptions, and 22 were classed as either non-benefits or exclusions. In reality, there has been no significant delisting of pharmaceuticals, as the majority of those which have been removed are discontinued drugs. Certainly the NIHB program has significant flaws, particularly related to its management, but we need to make defensible arguments to promote real change and not take the approach in the paper."

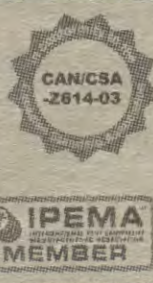
Webster was accused of being out of touch with the reality of First Nation health care.

"Finally, the document is simply out of step with the reality of First Nation peoples actually involved on the ground in health care delivery," the AFN charges. "First Nations, regional health authorities and [First Nation/Inuit Health Branch] regional offices are, in many cases, working collaboratively to find creative ways to address First Nations health needs within the existing system. In addition, AFN is actively pushing through the inter-governmental processes to achieve real change and sustainable systems for the future."

Webster called the final chapter of his paper "Prognosis." In it he raised the question of whether or not the AFN would risk angering the federal government at the upcoming first ministers' meeting. He asks why the AFN did not use the media presence to take a more aggressive approach at the previous meetings of ministers. Webster maintains that his contacts tell him the AFN had advanced notice that the prime minister would set aside \$700 million for Aboriginal healthcare improvements. He criticized the national chief for not pushing for more.

The AFN says Webster got several points wrong.

"Information regarding internal AFN briefings and the preparation of our strategy are completely unfounded and false. The speculation about information received by AFN prior to the [first ministers meeting] commitment is also simply not true."



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Saskatchewan's new laureate Alberta-born

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SASKATOON

Louise Halfe is a wife, mother and grandmother. She has a bachelor of social work from the University of Regina and has completed addictions training at the Nechi Training, Research and Health Promotions Institute. She is a respected writer with two books of poetry to her credit. Now she is adding another credit to her list of accomplishments. She has been named Saskatchewan's new poet laureate.

The poet laureate program—the first such program in the country—was begun in 2000. The goal of the program is to celebrate Saskatchewan and its people while raising the profile of writing—and writers—in the province.

Halfe, who's Native name is Sky Dancer, was born in Two Hills and raised on Saddle Lake First Nation, but has called Saskatoon home for the past 18 years. She was named poet laureate in January, becoming only the second person to hold the post. She takes over from Glen Sorestad, who served as Saskatchewan's poet laureate from December 2000 until the end of 2004.

Halfe was chosen as Sorestad's successor by an independent committee comprised of representatives of the province's literary, academic and government communities.

Halfe said she was surprised

when she was first approached about becoming poet laureate "because there are a lot of great poets and writers in this community. It's an honor."

Halfe's poetry was first published in 1990 in the anthology *Writing the Circle: Native Women of Western Canada*. She published her first book of poetry, *Bear Bones and Feathers*, in 1994. Her second, *Blue Marrow*, was published in 1997. Both efforts were well received.

Halfe's relationship with the world of poetry began at a young age, but it took a while for her to determine it was a relationship she wanted to nurture.

"I was led there when I was 16, and then I left it alone, not really contemplating that I was a writer," she said.

"And then I started writing again when my kids were little and I was spending a lot of time alone in the woods in Northern Saskatchewan. And just keeping a journal, you know, dear diary kind of stuff. And found that as I wrote daily for a number of years the writing turned to poetry."

Halfe said she finds inspiration for her writing from her experiences and the things around her every day.

As poet laureate, Halfe will be travelling around the province doing presentations and readings, and taking part in discussions about writing. One of her priorities, she said, will be reaching out to Aboriginal communities.



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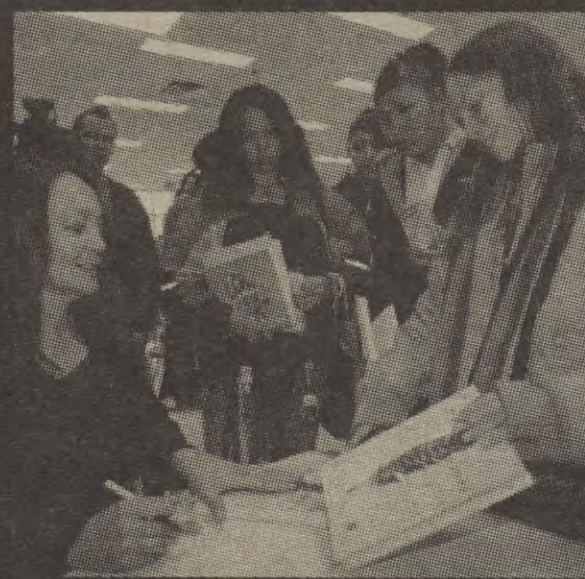
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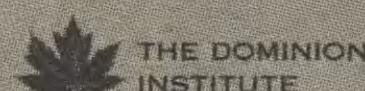
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NEXT MONTH IN WINDSPEAKER: ABORIGINAL SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

CESO helps Labrador Métis expand economic development horizons

HAPPY VALLEY-GOOSE BAY, Labrador – The leadership of the 6,500 Métis people who call Labrador home is working on a five-year plan that includes a strategy for tourism, a new cultural centre and value-added processing of forestry products.

Their quest for economic development has had the wholehearted support of CESO Aboriginal Services which has provided several expert advisers who have helped in the process that led the Labrador Métis Nation (LMN) to this point.

“When you’re funded by government, it’s very, very difficult to carve out a significant amount of money for a consultant to do this kind of thing,” said John Fleet, general manager of the Métis Development Corporation, the economic development arm of the LMN.

“CESO was a real saviour in that they were able to give us expertise. We had to pay minimum costs and we’ve received really, really high value for the minimum investment that we did make.”

The expertise was drawn from CESO’s roster of 3,400 Volunteer Advisers (VAs), a nation-wide talent bank of senior-level professionals committed to sharing knowledge gained through a lifetime of practical on-the-job experience.

CESO VAs are highly active and motivated individuals who have the ability and expertise and passion to provide business advisory services, mentorship and technical expertise to clients who could not otherwise afford a paid consultant.

Mr. Fleet worked with CESO VA Renaud Levesque in exploring possible tourism opportunities in the area.

What Mr. Levesque offered the LMN was years of experience working in the tourism industry in Quebec, in other parts of Canada, and internationally. In addition, he is a well-travelled tourist who could look at tourism opportunities in Labrador from that perspective as well.

While the tourism industry is a going concern in the rest of Newfoundland, it’s still in its infancy in Labrador, said Mr. Fleet.

The LMN had commissioned a

company out of St. John’s to do a study in early 2004 to identify tourism opportunities. What Mr. Levesque was able to do was help the LMN take the results of that study and turn them into a tourism strategy that was not only in sync with what tourists would want to see and do, but also had the Métis culture as its centrepiece.

Mr. Levesque worked with the LMN to set up a number of

value-added forestry products in Labrador and provide the LMN with advice and expertise in the area of governance structures and responsibilities and in the area of financial management

Currently, about 90 per cent of the wood being cut in Labrador isn’t processed in Labrador, but is shipped by barge to Newfoundland, explained Greg Mitchell, forestry planner with the LMN.

undertaken, the provincial government has now committed funding for a study of the potential for secondary manufacturing and value-added wood products development in Labrador.

While CESO has previously worked with Labrador’s Innu and Inuit communities, this is the first time CESO has worked with the Métis community, said Joanna Dupras, CESO’s Regional Manager for Quebec.

She said CESO was able to get involved in so many projects at one time because of the funding provided through the RBC Foundation, which enabled CESO to create a Métis Development Fund to serve the Métis peoples, an ever-growing population.

“It doesn’t happen very often that we have funding made available like this,” said Ms Dupras. “It was a bonus, really, for us, because we knew that there was a Métis community in Labrador. We knew that there were some capable people at the head of it who were trying very, very hard, but because of lack of money, they weren’t able to get all the help that they needed. We had this funding and we could go and sit down with them, say ‘We have the expertise needed. What would you identify as priorities?’”

One of the advantages of having CESO VAs come into a community is that they do it *with* the community rather than for the community. Whereas a consultant might come in, do the work and hand over a report at the end of the day, the work done by CESO is done in partnership with the client, with the volunteer adviser working closely with the community and transferring knowledge to community members in the process.

Ms Dupras said the work of CESO and its volunteer advisers doesn’t end once a report is completed or a plan is in place. The organization is also available to help in the implementation stage.

“We can either use the same consultants, or we can pick out people with different expertise as they are needed. And they will go in and help you make this move ahead so that (the report) doesn’t end up on the shelf with all the other reports.”

“CESO was a real saviour in that they were able to give us expertise.”

**John Fleet,
General Manager, Métis Development Corporation**

community meetings throughout the territory and used the information gathered to create a proposal for tourism development for the southeast coast of Labrador. He also provided the organization with a discussion paper about the creation of an interpretation centre.

The LMN has taken all the information that came out of their work with CESO, along with information from the earlier report and research done by regional development associations and the

Just over two years ago, the Métis of Labrador stopped one of those barges to protest that fact. The negotiations that followed resulted in a forest management agreement between the Métis and the province. One part of the agreement dealt with developing secondary and value-added products in Labrador.

“We didn’t have all the expertise on hand here to look at that issue,” Mr. Mitchell said. “And that was one of the reasons why we turned

“I wouldn’t hesitate to use CESO again... It was quite beneficial to us.”

**Greg Mitchell,
Forestry Planner, Laborador Métis Nation**

government of Newfoundland and Labrador’s department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, and is working to create a five-year strategic plan for tourism.

That plan is being done in partnership with other organizations with a stake in tourism development in southeast Labrador, including the Southeastern Aurora Economic Development Zone, the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Aboriginal Business Canada, and the Department of Culture, Tourism and Recreation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

At the same time, CESO also worked in partnership with the LMN to help the organization identify opportunities for development of secondary and

to CESO.”

He worked with CESO volunteer adviser Fred McNutt, who shared his expertise in the forestry sector gained during more than a quarter-century in the business.

“And one of the things, of course, that he brought to the table for us was he has been involved in much larger processing facilities,” said Mr. Mitchell. “People here talk about a pulp mill or a plywood mill or a chip mill or whatever the case might be. And he was able to sort of put that into some perspective in terms of what’s economically viable. I wouldn’t hesitate to use CESO again ... It was quite beneficial to us.”

Thanks to the work done by Mr. McNutt, coupled with other initiatives the LMN has

Quick Facts about CESO

- The Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) was founded in 1967.

- CESO’s mission is to promote and extend the economic growth of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples of Canada, developing nations and emerging market economies through the transfer of knowledge by Volunteer Advisers.

- More than 1,500 assignments will be completed this year.

- International programs are largely supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) while National ones receive primary funding from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

- CESO also receive funding from clients, multilateral agencies, Canadian corporations, interested individuals and foundations, plus scores of VAs.

- Thousands of assignments have been completed in more than 40 countries, including Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union and Canada.

- A 14-member board representative of Canada’s Aboriginal, francophone/anglophone, corporate and volunteer communities governs CESO.



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The Métis Development Fund was made possible through the generous sponsorship of the RBC Foundation.



Métis Tourism Project, Labrador

Our expert advisers give of their time and knowledge on a volunteer basis.

Canada's north grew this year's crop of achievers

By Debora Steel
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has announced the recipients of this year's National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, and the people from Canada's north seemed to receive the lion's share.

Included among them is this year's community development award recipient Judy Gingell. She hails from the Yukon territory and is a member of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. Gingell has held the position of chair of the Council for Yukon Indians, and was the first First Nations person appointed as Commissioner for the Yukon territory. Gingell is a current board member with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

Brenda Chambers is the recipient of this year's media and communications award. She also has an APTN connection. Her program *Venturing Forth*, a series that focuses on Aboriginal business, language, culture and youth, is in its fifth season there.

Chambers currently calls Kelowna home, but she was born in Whitehorse and is a member of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation of the Yukon.

Bertha Allen will receive the lifetime achievement award. Allen is from the Gwich'in First Nation in the Northwest Territories. She is the former president of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women in the territory, and founding president of the Native Women's Association there. Allen also once held the top post of the national women's organization. She currently lives in Inuvik.

Lolly Annahatak is an Inuit from Nunavik, Que. She will receive the award in the social services category. Annahatak is a champion of the challenged, having had to break down barriers herself since she lost her sight at age 16. She was the first Inuk to earn a certificate in Northern Social Work and went on to get her bachelors of Social Work at McGill University where she develops and teaches classes.

Andy Carpenter Sr. is an Inuit from the Northwest Territories, born and raised in the Inuvialuit region. He will receive the environment award. Carpenter has devoted his life to conservation and sustainable use of wildlife by all peoples.

Sharon Firth is the sports award recipient. She is from the Tel'lit Gwich'in First Nation of the Northwest Territories. She is perhaps best known for her Olympic games achievements, competing in skiing at four Olympic games beginning in 1972 at the Sapporo, Japan games.

This year's youth award recipient has a northern connection as well, having moved to Iqaluit

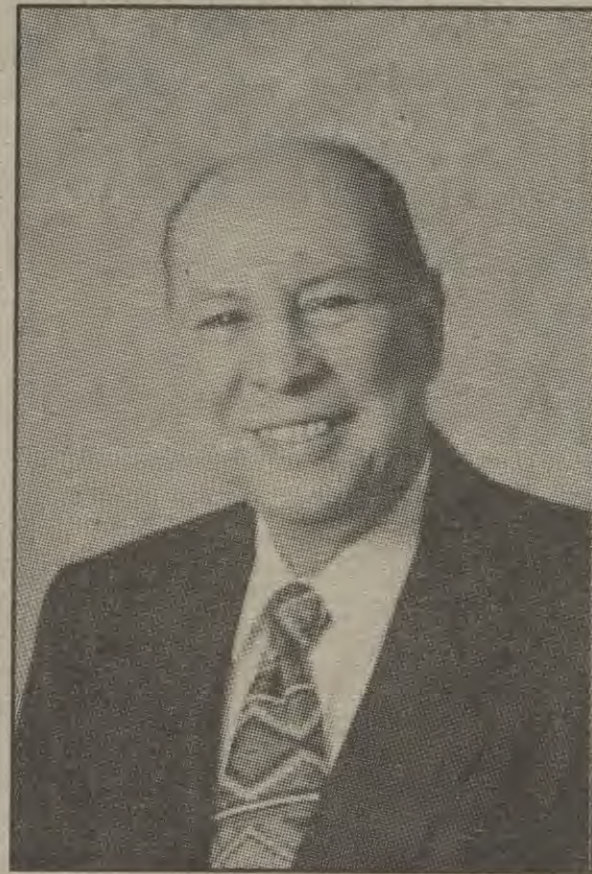


Brenda Chambers

with her family from Erickson, Man. when she was just five years old. Fauna Kingdon was one of the first pages for the Legislative Assembly for the territory of Nunavut. She is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Commerce program at the University of Manitoba's I. H. Asper School of Business.

Slightly farther south lives this year's business and commerce award winner, Douglas Golosky. The Golosky Group of Companies has its headquarters in Fort McMurray, Alta. Golosky is Métis and his companies provide a wide variety of industrial products and services to clients in the oil and gas, pulp and paper and construction industries.

From Lac La Biche, Alta. is Emma LaRocque, this year's recipient in the education category. She currently lives in Winnipeg, Man. and has a 25-year career as a professor with the University of

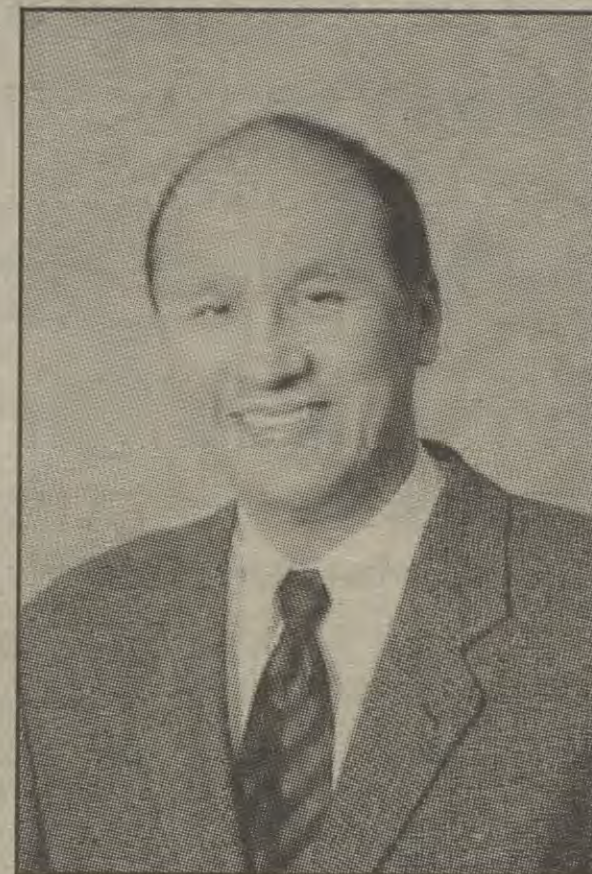


Eber Hampton

Manitoba where she developed the core courses in the Native studies department.

Joe Jacobs from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory will receive the arts and culture award. He is a self-taught carver and sculptor. His pieces are in collections at the Museum of Civilization, the Joseph Brant Museum, the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and the Royal Ontario Museum, among others. He currently lives in Lewiston, N.Y.

Thomas Dignan is also a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. He receives his achievement award in health. Dr. Dignan was a nurse before he became a doctor, and was the first president of the Native Nurses Association and the founding member of the Native Physicians Association. At the time of his graduation (1981) he was the first First Nations person and

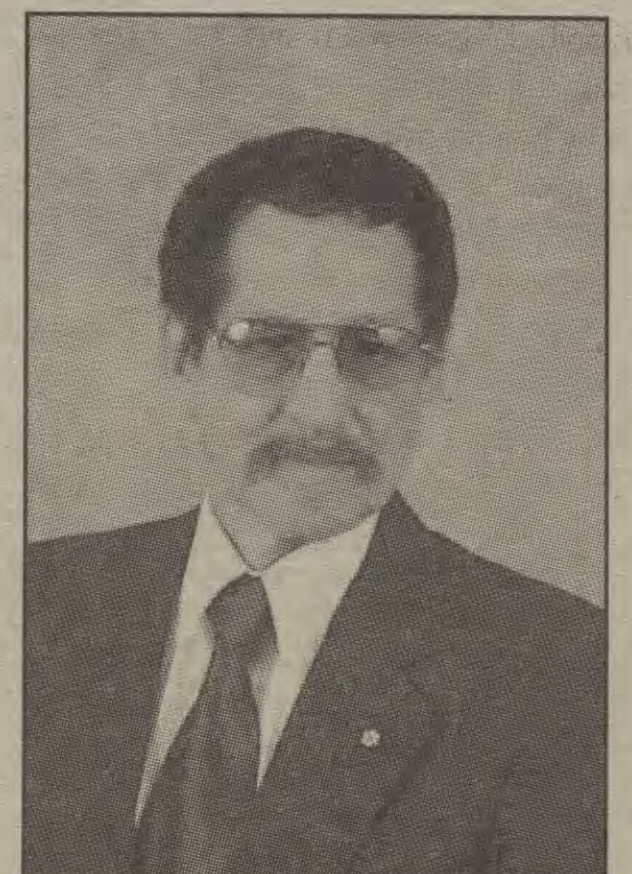


Gerald McMaster

the oldest to graduate from the Faculty of Medicine at McMaster University.

Canada's East Coast is represented in the heritage and spirituality category with recipient John Joe Sark. He is from Lennox Island First Nation, P.E.I. and currently lives in Charlottetown. He is a spiritual leader for the Mi'kmaq, and was involved in the drafting of the United Nations' Declaration of Indigenous Peoples of the World. He was executive director and artistic director of the film *Spirit World—The Story of the Mi'kmaq* and wrote a book of history about the Mi'kmaq people.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Award show gala will be held in Saskatoon, Sask. on March 31. Two of the 14 recipients have connections to that province. Eber Hampton, Chickasaw Tribe, Oklahoma, will receive his award in the education



category. Dr. Hampton became president of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, now First Nations University of Canada, in 1991. He spearheaded the fundraising campaign to build the university's main campus. Hampton currently lives in Regina.

Dr. Gerald McMaster is a member of the Siksika Nation in Alberta, but has a greater connection to the Red Pheasant First Nation in Saskatchewan. He was curator of the Canadian Museum of Civilization from 1981 to 2000 and then was appointed as both deputy assistant director for cultural resources and director's special assistant for Mall exhibitions at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. In 2001, Dr. McMaster was the first Aboriginal person to receive the ICOM-Canada Prize for national and international contributions in museology.

Grand plans in store for NAAF

By Debora Steel
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

Roberta Jamieson, the new CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, could never be described as a shrinking violet.

She's achieved much in her life. She was the first Aboriginal woman to obtain a law degree in Canada. She was the first woman appointed to the position of Ombudsman in Ontario. Most recently she was chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation, the first woman to hold the top position there. And, perhaps most famously, she ran second to Phil Fontaine for the top position of the Assembly of First Nations, later becoming his unofficial opposition during tense political skirmishes on the ground at confederacies and general assemblies of the nation's chiefs.

Jamieson calls them as she sees them, and that is not about to change anytime soon, not even in her work for the foundation.

In a recent speech to the august members of Toronto's Empire Club she took Canada and the



Roberta Jamieson

prime minister to task over their inaction on the issues that will raise Aboriginal people out of their woeful situation in this country.

Jamieson makes no apologies for biting the hand that has been feeding the foundation for the past decade. She said the prime minister is fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead in regards to Aboriginal people's wellbeing.

"I don't think there's any difference in opinion of where we are right now in the country and that we need to pay attention to these issues, and that Canada has not done enough. I was struck as I

prepared for the Empire Club speech at how much I said, quite independently, was echoing what he said [in his speech last April]. So, I think that there's public acknowledgment that we have a long way to go and a lot more to do," Jamieson said.

She took the opportunity presented to her with the speech to give a history lesson to her audience that she hoped would be a call to arms for change, and more private and corporate donations to help the work of the foundation.

"I've been troubled by some of the things I'm reading; about what people are taking away from what the polls are saying about Canadian's support for Aboriginal issues, and I think a lot of the thinking is ill-informed. I know it is."

She talked about the policy of involuntary enfranchisement, where during the early part of the 20th century, First Nations people who chose to become lawyers, ministers, or graduated from university, had to sign away their identity.

"So, things like involuntary enfranchisement, that policy. I mean, who knows about that in this country? A lot of our own

people are not aware that that was a policy. And I know Canadians don't know. And they don't know that it wasn't until 1960 that we got the vote. There are so many myths and stereotypes that need to be addressed and that's what I'm hoping to achieve."

She said the foundation is well-positioned, standing independent between the public and private sectors, to help raise awareness and "alerting all of the stakeholders on issues involving education, our youth and so that they can see the kinds of challenges and barriers that our people continue to be faced with. We're all of one mind in wanting to change the picture, where 70 per cent of our kids drop out of high school. If we are going to do that we need to address the whole picture. I don't think there's a difference of opinion about that and I don't think there's anything wrong with reminding people of our shared challenges."

She said the foundation sees first-hand the challenges faced by the students the foundation provides with scholarships. It tracks the students, knows whether they've been successful, knows whether they got jobs.

(see NAAF CEO page 21.)

NAAF CEO calls 'em like she sees 'em

(Continued from page 20.)

"This is how we are filling the need. This is what works. This is what doesn't work. And I think that all leadership, political and private, would expect us to share that information with them," Roberta Jamieson said.

She says the time is now for government and the private sector to step up and effect change.

"We're talking about the population increase. We're talking about the auditor general shining a light on [Aboriginal education]. When she says in 2004 the gap has widened to 28 years it will take us to close the gap between post-secondary achievement of Aboriginal people compared to Canadians, and it was 20 years in 2000. When she tells us that, she's telling us that we better pay attention to this.

"When we know there's a labor shortage and we know that conditions, by and large, are not dramatically improving in our communities, by whatever standard, health, the prime minister talked about housing, I think the clock is ticking and I'll keep saying it's ticking un-

"I think the clock is ticking and I'll keep saying it's ticking until we take some dramatic steps to turn it around. I don't think that message gets old."

—Roberta Jamieson

til we take some dramatic steps to turn it around. I don't think that message gets old."

When asked to choose her most immediate goals in her work for the foundation, there was little hesitation.

"To bring stability to the work of the foundation," she said was first. She acknowledges the foundation has been in transition of late. Founder and president John Kim Bell had been relinquishing his plateful of duties over the last year to 18 months, and there has been a number of hands in the foundation's mix over that time.

Her second goal was "to ensure that our vision and our work going forward is focused

best on the challenges as we see them in 2005. And that's something that will take some work, some listening on my part."

Jamieson said she'll be traveling a lot in her work, talking to the leadership, but focusing on the membership.

"One of the challenges I think is to make the foundation's work known and relevant at the community level," she said.

Her third goal is to enhance the public/private opportunities for collaboration through the foundation.

"You know, it allows our young people to reach their potential, so really focus on that collaboration. I think it's unique. The potential here for every private dollar to

have a public dollar and the other way around is unprecedented, and also private donations not to be discounted. So to look at ways of doing even more than what we've done in the past. More scholarships, more students served."

Jamieson also hinted at other programs the foundation is looking to initiate.

"I think there is lots of achievement beyond what we already celebrate. I would very much like to see us celebrate a community that has taken a hold of its circumstances and changed its overall well-being, and showcase community achievement and national achievement, you know at a nation level. I think what I'm say-

ing is that there are different ways of looking at achievements, and for me, that is the key word—achievement. But I have a multi-dimensional take on that. It's not only individual achievement."

She tell us to stay tuned. "Call me in about a year from now. Talk to me again. I'm doing a lot of listening. There are lots of partners here. We have donors, sponsors, recipients, leadership, that I need to talk to and take their views on board as I kind of chart the future for the organization, but that is one thing I am exploring and that's being very well received. But have I got the application form all figured out and mailed out? Not yet."

Good ideas from Inuit hunters

(Continued from page 14.)

"Arctic workshop" sections of ice auger manufacturers would vividly encourage producers to design a good "trail-proof" case to protect the motor and make it last longer.

Another ice auger accessory designed through Arctic know-how would be a contoured casing for the auger bit, to make it easier to lash down, without damaging other items loaded on the sled.

If companies don't jump on this bandwagon soon, enterprising

Inuit should get busy setting up all-purpose Arctic workhorse consulting firms. The result will be a wide range of manufactured products, which are more Arctic friendly, and of greater use to Inuit who depend on them for subsistence, and for making a living off the land and sea.

This is an Arctic products revolution waiting to be triggered. Inuit development corporations would do well to massage such ideas, then plant them with major companies with extensive product sales in the Arctic.



OGEMAWAHJ TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 46
Rama, Ontario L0K 1T0
Tel (705) 329-2511
Fax (705) 329-2509
Email: admin@ogemawahj.on.ca

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

POSITION: OTC Infrastructure Specialist
CLASSIFICATION: Permanent, pending successful completion of probationary period
SALARY: Commensurate with qualifications and experience
LOCATION: Tribal Council Office currently at Mnjikaning First Nation
CLOSING DATE: April 14, 2005 at 4 p.m.

The Ogemawahj Tribal Council (OTC), consisting of the following member First Nations: Chippewas of Beausoleil, Chippewas of Georgina Island, Chippewas of Mnjikaning, Mississaugas of Alderville, Mississaugas of Scugog Island, and the Pottawatomi of Moose Deer Point, supports the overall goals and objectives of its member First Nations in the development and facilitation of a superior service delivery organization. In keeping with this mandate, a self-starting, highly motivated individual is required to assume the responsibility for the infrastructure development and maintenance advisory services of the Tribal Council and member First Nations.

Reporting to the Tribal Council Engineer, you will oversee, direct, manage and coordinate all program functions and activities of the OTC Infrastructure Specialist under the umbrella of the Technical Services Department. You will be responsible for managing and providing enhanced technical services including: housing inspections and plans reviews, advisory services for Minor Capital planning and budgeting, non-professional aspects of Major Capital projects and various Operation & Maintenance related duties including Capital Asset Management System (CAMS) reporting and the planning and development of a Maintenance Management Program as well as provide advice regarding the utilization of training resources.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. College diploma in engineering, architecture or other related specialty with two year's related experience;
2. Must have familiarity and practical experience with National and Ontario Building Codes;
3. Willing and capable of obtaining required Building Inspector designation(s);
4. Minimum of five years experience in the construction industry;
5. Must have experience working with First Nation Government, First Nation Communities and other levels of Government. A keen appreciation of OTC First Nation Cultures and community aspirations is required.
6. Must have proven well-developed communication, staff/public relations and negotiating experience; must be highly self-motivated and able to work independently or as a team.
7. Must have excellent computer skills, proven experience with word processing, spreadsheet, database, and AutoCAD or related technical software.
8. Demonstrated experience and ability in policy, planning and program development and implementation.
9. Criminal Reference check and Current Medical confirming fitness to fulfill duties outlined in job description if employment is offered.
10. Must have valid Ontario Driver's License with access to reliable transportation and must be able to acquire public liability insurance.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

- Must have inspection; operation and maintenance, contracting/tendering processes, and implementation skills;
- Must possess excellent project management skills and must be able to establish and effectively achieve measurable objectives within directed work plans; must be capable of performing and working within a 'multi-task' environment;
- Excellent knowledge of federal and provincial legislation and policies that affect First Nation government, and a sound knowledge of contemporary public sector operating systems and procedures are required;
- Experience with theory and practices in operation and maintenance of community buildings, water and sewer systems, health & safety concerns, environmental requirements, landfills, roads and other community infrastructure;
- Must be innovative and decisive with high-level organizational, managerial, research and analytical skills;
- Must demonstrate the ability to work with a high level of tact and discretion;
- Surveying skills would be a definite asset.

Please send applications by April 14, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. to:

Ogemawahj Tribal Council, Attention: Executive Director
P. O. Box 46, 7410 Benson Side Road
Rama, Ontario L0K 1T0

Candidates must provide a detailed resume and three references. Please mark on the envelope "OTC Infrastructure Specialist." Only those selected for an interview will be notified. Full job description available upon request at (705) 329-2511.

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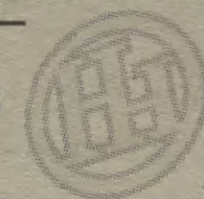
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AFN plan before standing committee

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

National Chief Phil Fontaine put the Assembly of First Nations' plan for resolving Indian residential school claims before the standing committee on Aboriginal Affairs on Feb. 22.

The national chief began by saying he was "saddened to be here yet again, finding myself pleading with the Canadian government to fulfill its legal and moral obligations to the First Nations peoples."

Fontaine then asked the committee members, "Why is this necessary when we all know that so many lives were irreparably broken from this terrible travesty called the residential schools legacy. This is not a new issue. Certainly not for me. Certainly not for the people I represent."

He told the MPs that 20,000 survivors have died since 1991 "without justice and reconciliation."

"The rest of us are still waiting," he said. "Waiting for the government of Canada to come to grips with the worst human rights violation in this country's history. Waiting for it to do the honorable thing—the right thing—the decent thing. Waiting for Canada to clean up its shameful past and begin to travel down the long road towards reconciliation with its first peoples. Waiting for

Canada to stop hiding behind phony arguments, denials, and unconscionable delays allowing more and more people to die empty-handed, without the redress and healing they deserve and are owed."

He reminded the committee that Canada's residential school policy was designed "to solve the 'Indian Problem' by removing us from our homes and families to prevent us from learning about our culture, our languages, and our fundamental connection to the land. Canada set out to destroy our connection to the past so that we could have no future."

Fontaine provided a long list of objections to the federal government's alternative dispute resolution process (ADR), a process that has been criticized by several high profile non-Native organizations and in court judgements.

"First, under the government ADR, no compensation is awarded for loss of language and culture or for the loss of family life. We believe that it is essential that compensation be awarded for these losses in the form of a lump sum payment to all of those who attended residential schools. After all, the very reason the schools were set up in the first place was to destroy our languages, culture and family ties. This is what caused the most anguish and hurt to us all and to our children and grandchildren," he said. "Failure to compensate for these wrongs would effectively

condone them. This is intolerable to us."

He presented an alternative plan for resolving claims outside of court.

"Instead of lengthy forms and hearings, we are proposing a more streamlined and cost effective approach where the lump sum payment would be simply paid upon verification of school attendance. In the case of sexual, physical and serious emotional abuse, a settlement would be negotiated and offers made quickly. Only if the offers were refused would there be a hearing," he said.

Figures provided by the AFN show that the plan Fontaine presented to the committee would actually save Canada more than \$2 billion while at the same time increase the amount of money paid to survivors. Right now, the Office of Indian Residential School Resolution Canada (OIRSRC) is spending up to four dollars for every dollar paid out in compensation. Under the AFN

plan that number would drop to a maximum of 20 cents per dollar. By paying each student who attended a residential school a lump sum of \$10,000, plus \$3,000 for each year in school, whether they claim abuse or not, the government could send a signal that it acknowledges that the residential school policy was wrong. Those who claim sexual or physical abuse would be compensated under a formula that would greatly speed up the process and reduce the share of spending eaten up by administration.

The AFN plan would take a few years and compensate all of the estimated 87,000 residential school survivors. The current government approach will take up to 30 years and compensate, at most, 12,000.

Once Canada comes to terms with the reality of residential school history, Fontaine said, the reconciliation that Prime Minister Paul Martin has said he wants to achieve between Native and non-Native people in Canada will

be possible.

"The terrible truth of the residential school system must be made a part of our shared history. First Nations peoples need to know why we were subjected to such treatment in order that we may all begin to understand and to heal. Only through a full investigation and documentation of the origins, purposes, and effects of residential school policies and practices will this be known," the national chief said.

"The AFN proposal requires a truth and reconciliation component. We believe that by Canadians recognizing our full history, we can start a very different future between Canada's first peoples and the rest of the country. By opening this door on Canadian history our proposal pursues justice and promotes mutual healing through a truth sharing and reconciliation process to operate in tandem with the compensation process."

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Reporting to the Chair of Counselling, the Aboriginal Counsellor will:

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- Assist students in making the transition from high school or home to college
- Assist students in identifying career and life interests when developing career goals
- Deliver workshops designed to increase student success, e.g. stress management, anxiety, depression, relationship issues, etc.
- Administer and interpret standardized tests

Qualifications:

- Appropriate Master's degree (i.e. Psychology and/or Social Work) with a professional designation (i.e. Chartered Psychologist or Registered Social Worker). A combination of designated education and relevant experience may be considered.
- A clean Class 5 driver's license with a minimum of three years of active adult career counselling experience preferably in a post secondary environment.
- Extensive work with and in aboriginal communities and an excellent understanding of northern communities and aboriginal cultures.
- Fluency in Cree and/or Chipewyan would be considered a definite asset.
- The successful candidate must be prepared to travel to various locations in and away from Fort McMurray.

SALARY: A competitive salary and benefits package including an excellent professional development program are offered based on qualifications and experience.

THIS COMPETITION WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL A SUITABLE CANDIDATE IS FOUND.

Please submit your current resume to: **Human Resources by fax (780) 791-1555 or e-mail: humanresources@keyano.ca**

We sincerely appreciate the interest of all applicants; however, only those individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

Keyano College welcomes diversity in the workplace and encourages applications from all qualified individuals including visible minorities, aboriginal people, and persons with disabilities.

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Profiling works

(Continued from page 14.)

Now some might argue that I'm being unfair by lumping all the different cultures of Europe (rumor has it that's where they come from) into one big mixing bowl and further mixing my metaphors, painting them with a broad brush. Perhaps I should be a little more considerate, especially as a Native writer who has spent a career battling the concept of "pan-Indianism." However, it does occur to me to wonder if all the melanin-lacking police officers out there, when they stop a Black person, for example, if it occurs to them to say, 'Excuse me, are you Jamaican? South African? Third generation Canadian? New Zealander?' (There are Black people in New Zealand. I know, I've seen them with my very own eyes. Call the embassy if you don't believe me.) Or even if the officers care. Somehow I don't think so.

Now don't get me wrong. I have

nothing against White people. Some of my best friends are White and, should the occasion arise and I ever have a daughter, yes I would consider letting her marry one. Provided, of course, that he is not "too" White, if you know what I mean. We try to keep the raping and pillaging and conquering down to a minimum in my family. It brings the property values down quite a bit.

In all fairness, though they are a troubled people, I do want to mention that they can be a charming and inquisitive people with good intelligence, a fine attitude towards life, and who have created some excellent literature over the years. I've also heard their pastries and handicrafts are quite fabulous. So they can't be all that bad.

So get off the back of the Toronto Police Force. Read your history, people. Racial profiling does work. Especially for people who do the profiling.

Medical insurance

(Continued from page 14.)

The cost of medical care in the United States far exceeds what the provincial plan will pay. So call your insurance broker, take along sunscreen and other types of "personal" protection.

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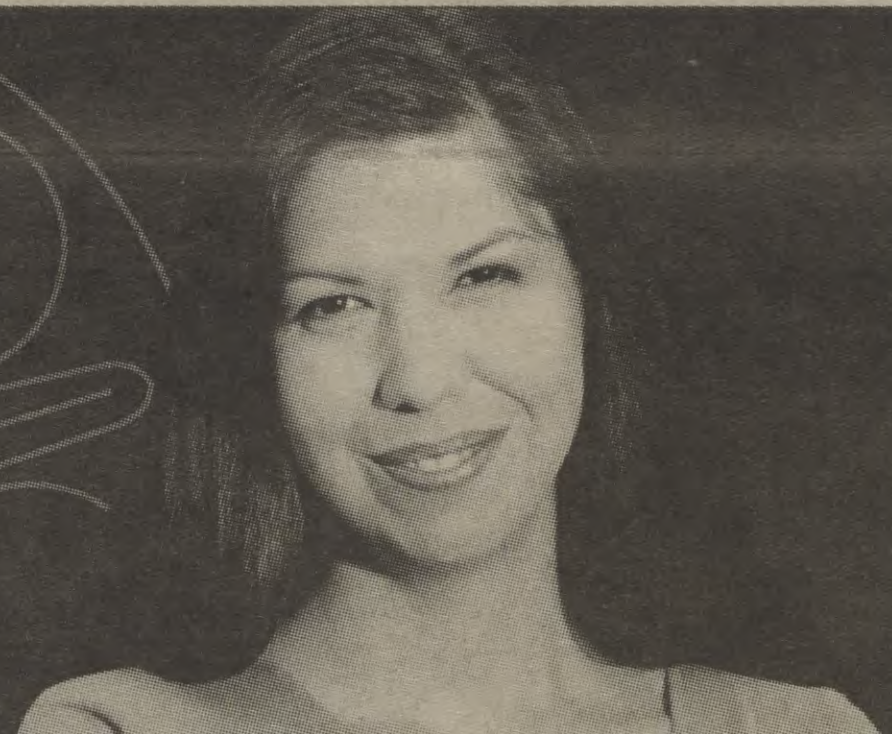
Tuma

Dear Readers:

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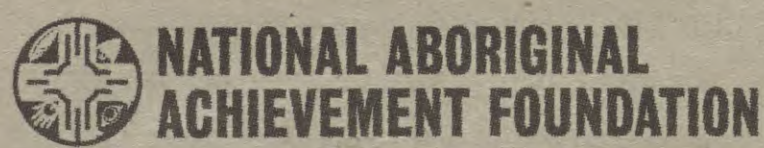
This column is not intended to provide legal advice, but rather highlight situations where you should consult with a lawyer. Questions can be sent to Tuma Young at tumayoung@yahoo.ca

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TASHA HUBBARD is preparing the thesis for her Master degree from the University of Saskatchewan and will be focusing on the illuminated lives of Aboriginal filmmakers through their autobiographical documentaries. A luminary in her own right, Tasha's courageous and unflinching gaze at difficult subject matter is producing provocative and compelling film images of Aboriginal life.

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Announcement



Mr. Michael Horgan, Deputy Minister and Ms. Suzanne Tining, Associate Deputy Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in conjunction with the Co-Management Board of Directors of Indian Oil and Gas Canada (IOGC) are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Gregg Smith as the new Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of

Indian Oil and Gas Canada. Mr. Smith is joining IOGC after 15 years heading the Treaty 7 Tribal Council as its Executive Director. He was also co-founder of the Alberta Indian Health Commission, past President of the Indian Association of Alberta and elected Council member of the Piikani Nation.

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Taken to task over education results

(Continued from page 10.)

Gary Carr told Horgan that the committee members were "frustrated" that the department had apparently ignored the recommendations of the auditor general.

"In fact, my question isn't even what you are going to do to fix it, because I wouldn't believe you if you told me, quite frankly. It's a waste of time. My question is this: Why don't we just give our First Nations complete autonomy, which they want. Give them the money and let them do what they want with the money? Quite frankly, when you look at what we're doing with it, it couldn't be

any worse under that system," he asked.

Horgan said he'd like to turn over control of First Nation education to First Nations.

"Actually, that's exactly where I'd like to go," he said. "My view is that we have to really follow through on control of First Nations education. I think the direction we have to go in is indeed providing the First Nations with the actual autonomy and responsibility for their own education—and that would be full autonomy. And we've moved in that direction, for example, with self-government agreements and the like."

But, he added, many details still need to be worked out.

"My one caveat on that would be this—At the same time, one of the problems we are confronting is that we have more than 500 communities that are almost too small to realize the kinds of economies of scale that are really important in the area of education," he said. "And there has to be some sensitivity to having some aggregation in the education area. We need greater work, greater integration with the provinces, greater work with the communities themselves, to develop First Nations school systems, not

just isolated schools in reserve communities. The direction I think we have to go in is indeed the one you laid out."

Carr suggested that, since INAC had shown so little interest in responding to calls for accountability, any move to turn over control of education to First Nations should happen quickly.

"The ministry has clearly shown that it isn't going to proceed and it isn't going to listen, whether that be to the auditor or this committee. I think what we need to do is move quickly in terms of turning over the responsibility," Carr said.

He then slammed INAC's overall performance.

"As I look at it, we're saying that as a ministry we're going to help the First Nations administer the program. Do you know what? There isn't one of them that couldn't do a better job than we have done. Not having clear roles and responsibilities... As a ministry, you are supposed to be the ones guiding and setting the directions so that the money gets spent in the right areas. Quite frankly, you're the worst abusers of the system, and when that is brought out, it doesn't even get changed," he said.

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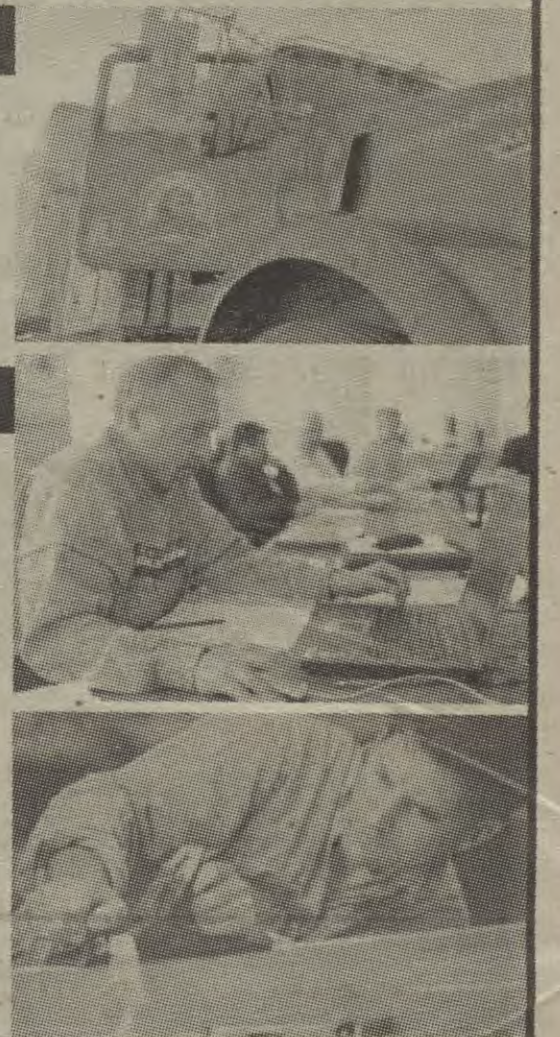
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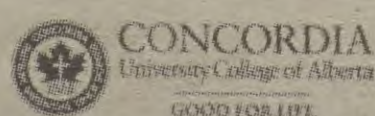
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Offloading by stealth a federal practise

(Continued from page 9.)

Andrew Webster says lawyers acting for the federal Crown consistently argue against federal responsibility at the same time as politicians make carefully crafted statements that leave the public with the impression that the government is taking responsibility and doing something about the serious social problems in First Nation communities. He pointed out that in Gathering Strength, a statement of federal government policy issued by then Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart, Canada said it "accepts responsibility" for on-reserve expenditures. Later, Webster wrote, the government said that was "not an admission but a statement of the status quo."

Sometimes the difference between "accepting responsibility" and admitting you are responsible can be a huge one, he added.

"It is not legally binding and is directly opposite to what, say, federal counsel has said in years of Samson testimony," he said, referring to Samson First Nation's

oil and gas trust monies lawsuit against the federal government.

The federal government continues to download certain responsibilities to the provinces and that hurts the provinces and Native people. Webster provided examples in his paper.

Research numbers show that the rate of First Nations' people with diabetes now meets the World Health Organization's definition of an "epidemic." That will mean that health care costs will skyrocket.

"A situation of 'offloading by stealth' is therefore occurring. The federally funded clinic system has been re-oriented towards the efficient processing and out-transport of patients needing to access diagnostic and curative services available only in off-reserve provincial hospitals," he wrote. "The patient transportation component of NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits) is critical to this efficient flow. To First Nation people this medical necessity to travel inordinate distances is a

question of access and wait time. To Health Canada, the send-out policy amounts to sound management of fixed budgets. To the provinces, the high and rising influx of patients amounts to a growing financial burden and a source of deep concern. These patients are often unwelcome. They arrive from different cultures and with no possibility of charging back the costs. The anxiety that they instill is perhaps best explained by the poor ability of provinces to predict trends in cost and volume regarding Indian patient traffic. Consequently, the provinces are hyper-sensitized to the growing fiscal burden of providing diagnostic and curative health services to First Nations people sent from reserves to provincial service points. The provinces are particularly mindful of the trajectory of the diabetes/chronic caseload."

And the offloading of costs inflames federal-provincial relations, he wrote, "without regard for potential impacts on federal-

provincial relations or relations with First Nations at regional or national levels."

Health Canada continues to whittle down what it considers discretionary services. In the case of NIHB, various drugs and medical supplies are gradually dropped from the benefits lists, or else put on the unpublished lists where special permission is needed. Frequency limitations are tightened. Bulk packaging and special issue requirements are imposed. Services are sometimes discontinued. Health Canada, through the NIHB program, formerly paid most of the provincial health plan premiums for First Nation people. Most of this was phased out gradually, generally with the provinces deciding to waive the premiums for First Nation people on reserves. To be correct, the federal government had maneuvered them into this position, Webster said.

In 2004 alone, Webster cites three major incidents of off-loading. Indian Affairs stopped social

assistance payments to Indian students attending provincial universities, even when these students came from a reserve household that qualifies.

Chiropractic coverage, under the NIHB program, was stopped within weeks of Ontario de-listing chiropractics from its provincial medical plan. And Health Canada stopped patient transportation funding when patients travel off-reserve for more than three months to access dialysis treatment that is not available locally.

"The third example is especially instructive," he wrote. "The province must then pay for relocation, social housing and welfare for these patients. Health Canada is presumably glad to be rid of this caseload burden at a time of vast and escalating out-migration of high-need chronic cases towards provincial hospitals. While the patient exodus can be maintained, Ottawa has little incentive for making substantial investments in diagnostic and curative services on reserves."

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“Voice of Indian Hockey”

remembered and honored

By Cheryl Petten

In March, for the fifth year in a row, Aboriginal hockey players from across Western Canada, age 35 and over, will strap on their skates, pick up their hockey sticks and take part in a tournament held to keep Aboriginal athletes in the game once their prime playing days are behind them.

That tournament is the Lawrence Weenie Cup, named in honor of a man who gave endlessly of his time and his energies to provide young Aboriginal people with opportunities to take part in sporting events of all kinds.

Residential school

Weenie was born on Poundmaker reserve in Saskatchewan on Aug. 25, 1932 to Alex and Harriet Weenie. His mother died when he was very young, and he was raised by his extended family. He attended Delmas Indian residential school, also known as Thunderchild Indian residential school, which opened its doors in 1933 and operated until students burned it down in 1948. It was while at the school that Weenie was introduced to organized sports, playing hockey and soccer.

Weenie joined the Royal Canadian Engineers Airborne parachute unit in 1951 and served for six years. He continued his involvement in sports during this time, playing on the unit's fastball and soccer teams.

He was one of the first First Nation players to play for the Paynton Pats men's fastball team and helped the team win a provincial title.

His own career as an athlete was cut short, however, due to an injury

he'd suffered to one of his knees while in the army. For a time he continued to play, wrapping the bad knee tightly in a tensor bandage for a game and then feeling the pain for days after. Eventually he had to stop playing, but by no means did his involvement in sports end there.

Community leader

Weenie was a leader in the community and although he served as councillor for many years and as even as chief for a time, his interest didn't lie so much in the political arena as it did the sports arena. He believed that by giving young people a chance to participate in sports and recreation they would develop self-esteem and feel pride in their culture and heritage.

He also believed that the values gained through involvement in sports—like working as a team and doing your best—would help young people grow into successful adults. Many of the youth he encouraged and supported did just that, and today are in leadership positions within the Aboriginal community.

When his children were young Weenie always worked to put together teams to play soccer, fastball or hockey. He wore many hats, including coach, manager and driver. He worked to make sure athletes got their entry fees together and in on time and would drive them to various tournaments, many times covering the expenses himself. While they were at the tournaments, it was Weenie who ensured they had something to eat and somewhere to stay.

His dedication to developing youth didn't end when his own children grew up and moved

away. He continued to organize sports in the area and became a mentor and father figure for a whole new crop of young Aboriginal athletes.

He started out promoting and organizing sporting opportunities on his home reserve, but soon expanded his reach, becoming the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) sports co-ordinator for the North Battleford area. In this position he continued the type of work he'd done on Poundmaker, only on a larger scale. His efforts included raising money and organizing so that area athletes could take part in the Saskatchewan Indian summer and winter games.

Years later, Weenie's skills and experience in organizing sports were put to good use again when Poundmaker played host to the Saskatchewan Indian summer games in 1995.

Broadcast training

Weenie also made his mark as a broadcaster. He was fluent in both English and Cree and had a great voice, so he decided to take a broadcasting course in Saskatoon. Soon he had parlayed his skills and training into broadcasting jobs with the FSIN communications program's Moccasin Telegraph in Prince Albert and later with the Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation in La Ronge. It wasn't long before he developed a reputation and would be invited to announce at sporting events across the province.

Over the years he tried his hand at announcing at a number of different types of events, including rodeos, horse races and gymkanas. He also announced during numerous fastball events, including the Canadian Native

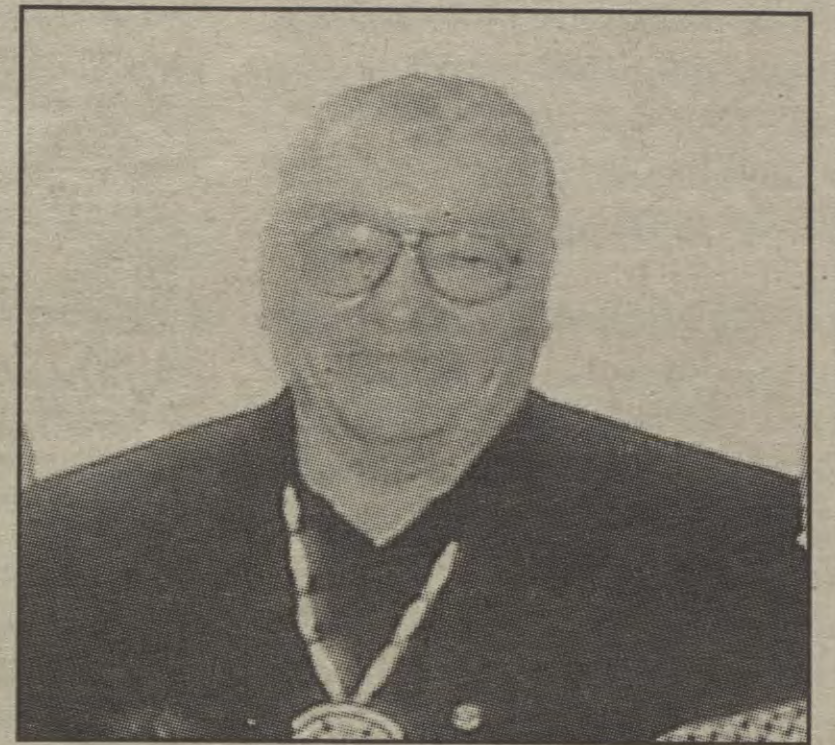
Fastball Championships. But the sport he became most closely associated with was hockey, earning the nickname “The Voice of Indian Hockey”. For many years his voice could be heard during the Battleford's Indian and Métis Friendship Centre annual hockey tournament—the Native Stanley Cup. His presence is still felt at the tournament. Each year a trophy is awarded in his name. The Lawrence Weenie Cup is held during the same weekend, and the final games of the two tournaments are held back to back in the same location.

As a veteran, Weenie was also acutely aware of the gap that existed between what Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal veterans received in benefits after the Second World War. He spent many years working as part of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association to right that wrong.

Hall of Fame induction

On Aug. 26, 1997, a day after his 65th birthday, Weenie was inducted into the FSIN Sports Hall of Fame in the builder category, joining such noted Saskatchewan athletes as runner Alex Decoteau and hockey great Fred Sasakamoose.

His story is one of those featured in *Saskatchewan First Nations—Lives Past and Present*, published in 2004 by the Canadian Plains Research Centre at the University of Regina. The book includes biographical entries for more than 125 First Nations peo-



Lawrence Weenie was committed to his community and the children in it. He believed that sports built self-esteem and good leaders.

ple who have made—and continue to make—contributions to Saskatchewan.

In 1995, Weenie was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He died five years later in 2000.

The annual Lawrence Weenie Cup, which this year takes place March 25 to 27 on Moosomin First Nation near North Battleford, brings together a number of people who remember Weenie, and remember him fondly. The older generation, Weenie's contemporaries, meet at the tournament to share stories about the man they knew. They are happy the event continues to keep his memory alive. The players on the ice who were among the youth Weenie worked with over the years remember how he dedicated so much of his time and energy to opening doors for them and are honored to be taking part in an event named for him. Even many of the players who never knew Weenie have heard of him, of his dedication to sport development, and of the voice that for years was such an integral part of Indian hockey across Saskatchewan.

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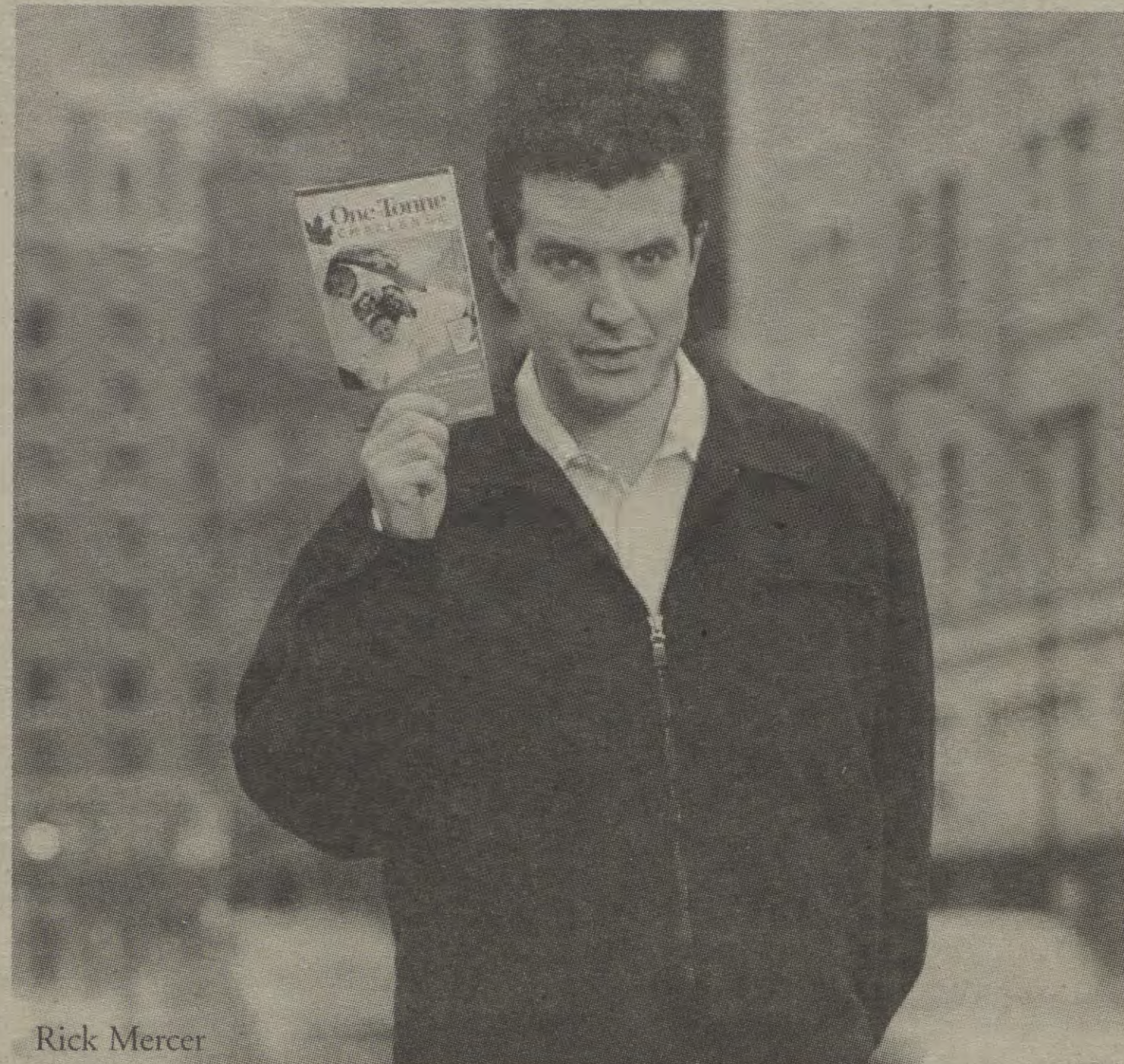
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