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Wind speaker

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INSIDE THIS WEEK

FIRST MINISTERS CONFERENCE



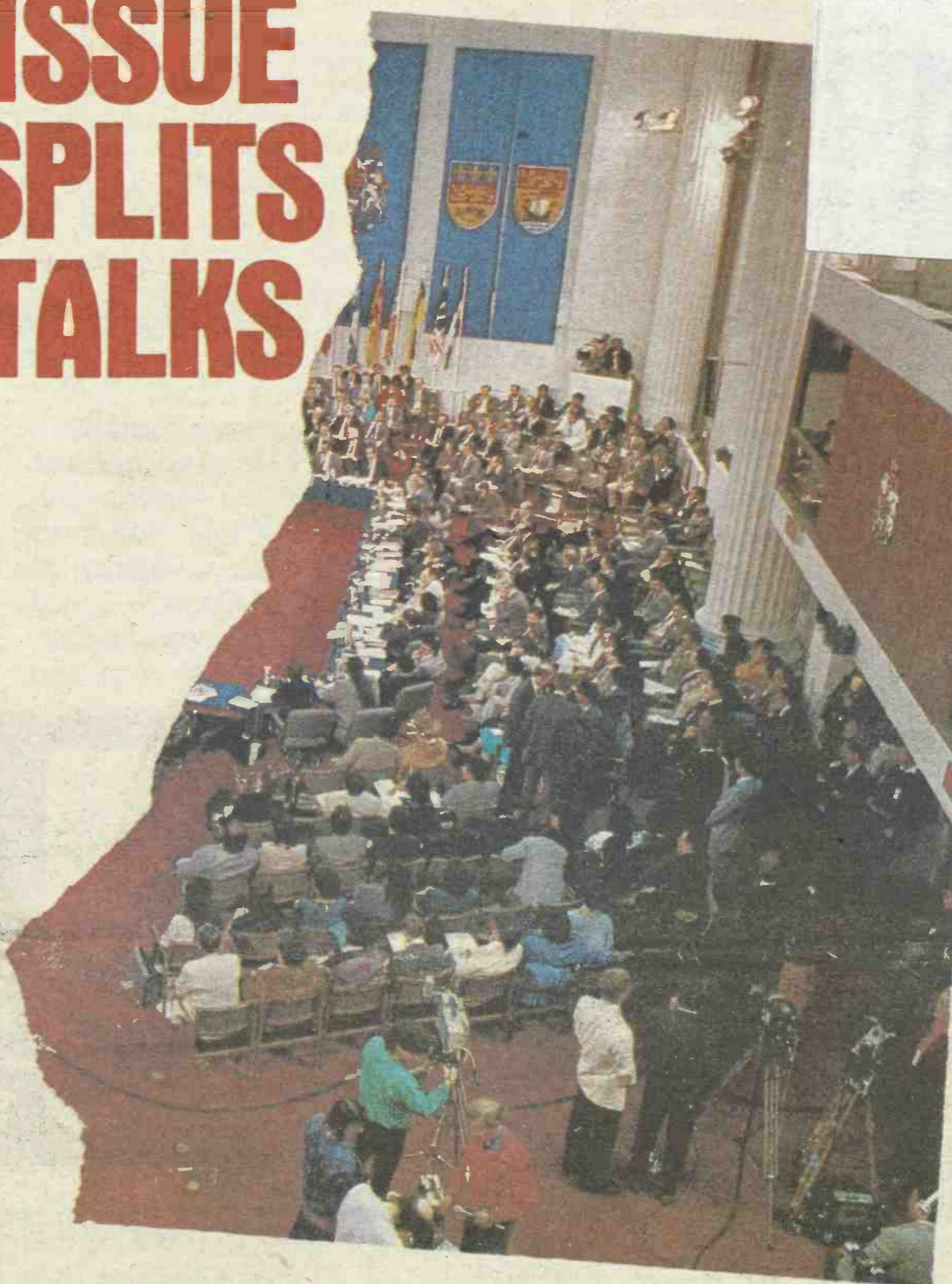
B·A·C·K·G·R·O·U·N·D·E·R

This week Windspea
an indepth look at the
First Ministers Conf
See Pages 4 through

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Aboriginal Groups demand self-governn

ISSUE SPLITS TALKS



OTTAWA ONTARIO — The Aboriginal leaders' hopes for an entrenchment of their 'inherent' right to self-government at the First Ministers Conference on Constitutional Matters vanished as the talks collapsed on the second day, March 27.

The political aspirations and hopes of the Native groups to have the 'inherent' right, rather than the 'contingent' right to self-government enshrined in the Constitution evaporated when the federal draft failed to gain support from the western premiers and Native groups.

In a last bid attempt to appease the hard-line premiers (Peckford, Newfoundland; Devine, Saskatchewan; Getty, Alberta; and Vander Zalm, British Columbia) and the Native leaders, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney proposed a middle-of-the-road constitutional package that failed to gain support behind a close door session.

The federal draft was offered by Prime Minister Mulroney when it became evident that the Ontario and New Brunswick amendments were rejected by the three western premiers on the first day of the conference.

The federal draft amendment proposed by Mulroney outlined provisions for recognition and entrenchment of a Native right "to self-government within the context of Confederation;" and it also would have enshrined a constitutional criterion for parliament and the provinces to negotiate Native governments.

This particular federal draft offered a constitutional process that would have paved the way for involvement of the provinces and parliament to define the Aboriginal right to self-government and it would have included provisions facilitating judicial interpretations if the issue of self-government was taken to court by Aboriginal peoples.

It also included a provision for a review of the constitutional process on self-government after a period of 10 years.

This five-year constitutional amendment was rejected unanimously by all Aboriginal groups and the premiers of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Quebec (Quebec's representative, Gil Millard, Intergovernmental Affairs Minister, attended the talks as an observer).

To couple this veto, the Native groups themselves refused to compromise their 'inherent' right to self-government.

The Aboriginal leaders were adamant in their demand for some guarantee of enforceable right to self-government and were not willing to accept watered-down principles that would jeopardize 'inherent' rights to self-government.

Jim Sinclair, president of the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan, put it very clearly during an interview with CBC, "we cannot accept watered-down drafts. As you put it, if the glass of wine is watered-down too much, you cannot taste the wine," said Sinclair.

When it was evident that the federal draft was rejected, Mulroney blamed some provinces that "have started to go backwards. We had seven provinces on side in 1985 and they will have to accept their share of blame for the failure," he said.

He expressed "disappointment" and "regret" that his commitment to resolve the Aboriginal right to self-government was unfruitful and said, "the price of our failure will be paid by those least able to pay" and whose right to self-government is not protected.

The Prime Minister assured the Native leaders that the constitutional amendment process is not a dead issue, "as sure as spring follows summer" there will be continuous discussions and the door is open.

Brian Mulroney blamed some provinces for the failure, "because the will was not there."

(By Laurent Roy, freelance journalist on location.)

For complete coverage of the First Ministers Conference, See Pages 4 through 11.

National

Courtoreille taking feds to court

By Bernard Pilon
Fort McMurray Today

An architect of the multi-million dollar land claim settlement in Fort Chipewyan, last December, plans to go to the supreme court of Canada to hammer out his own deal.

Lawrence Courtoreille, former Chief of the 1,190 member Ft. Chipewyan Cree Band plans to launch a case against Ottawa, in an attempt to force the federal government, to settle his land claim.

Courtoreille, now one of three vice presidents of the Indian Association of Alberta (IAA), says he's fed up with the Indian Northern Affairs refusal to recognize his rights, under the 88 year old treaty 8, "so it looks like we are going to court," Courtoreille said from his Edmonton office on March 31.

"I think once we file you'll see a change in attitude from (the federal government)."

In a telephone interview from his Ottawa office the senior Native plans negotiator for Indian Affairs, reaffirmed the government's position that Courtoreille, is legally bound by the Ft. Chipewyan deal.

Robert Weir said the justice department feels the Courtoreille claim has no legal basis.

The dispute revolves around an April 1986, referendum by Cree band members which saw 95% of all ballots end up in favour of a proposed settlement.

The agreement gave the band, located on the western tip of Lake Athabasca, 225 km north of Fort McMurray, more than 1200 acres of reserve land and 26.6 million in provincial

and federal funds.

Weir said an amendment to the deal automatically binds Courtoreille and his party to the results - since the application for land in severalty was not filed until seven months after the band accepted the deal.

"The negotiations were on the basis that...everyone is part of the negotiations," says Weir.

The only federally recognized exception, he says, is the separate land claim filed in 1981, by another Cree band member, Gordon Denoid.

Denoid's application for 480 acres of land on behalf of himself and two family members, stalled with Alberta's refusal to grant him the land he wants in an unspecified area, north of McMurray.

For Courtoreille to succeed, he said he would have to fight a previously undisclosed indemnity clause that would limit his choice of land from the nine parcels given to the Fort Chipewyan Cree band in the December 1986 deal.

Courtoreille has said he wants land apart from the reserve and cash compensation.

"The question is, was the agreement in place at the referendum...they're saying it was," said Courtoreille, "Yet later they say the revision (indemnity clause) wasn't in place until December. That puts (Indian Affairs Minister Mr. Bill McKnight's) whole position in jeopardy."

Courtoreille and Ottawa have been at loggerheads since the former chief publically declared in January that he wasn't happy with the Fort Chipewyan Cree band settlement.

He notified Ottawa that he and 17 family members were opting out of the package, claiming changes made to the document since he stepped down as chief, ignored central points in earlier negotiations, the special clause in treaty 8, band members can apply for land apart from an established reserve.

The 1899 document stipulates that in such cases the federal government must lay aside 160 acres or 65 hectare's of land, for those who wish to live apart from the reserve.

"I haven't heard a thing from them," said Courtoreille.

The former chief says he has instructed two prominent land claims lawyers, James O'Reilly and Kenneth Sparoszik, to petition the Supreme Court of Canada for leave to hear the case.

"We're going to start

action immediately said Courtoreille. "They're trying to scare us out of this."

But Weir said he doubted that the supreme court would agree to hear the case until lower courts have handed down a decision.

"All parties would have to agree that the (Courtoreille claim) is a key to case to get leave to appeal directly to the supreme court," he said.

"But I don't think the supreme court would entertain it, unless it goes through the normal process."

Courtoreille says he now expects the issue to drag through the courts for at least two years.

"This is not between me and the band," he said. "The federal government has a responsibility to uphold."



LAWRENCE COURTORIELLE
...fed up'



OTTAWA REPORT

By Owenadeka

The Crees of northern Quebec have given Ottawa 31 million reasons to be upset. That's the size of the lawsuit they've filed against the federal Government. The Crees have gone to the Federal Court of Canada to force Ottawa to honour a three-year-old financing agreement.

The lawsuit, however, is more than a financial dollar argument involving 9,200 Indians in northern Quebec because it could affect the rights of Native people across the country — no matter how it ends.

In August, 1984, the Crees negotiated and signed a financing agreement with the Liberal government that was then in power. One month later, though, the Liberals were defeated in a general election so the financing agreement was never approved by the federal Treasury Board.

The Conservatives have since refused to honour some parts of that agreement. They have agreed to pay \$12 million a year to provide a measure of self-government for the Crees but they refuse to pay increases that were guaranteed in the original agreement. The Conservatives say they don't have to honour the agreement since it was never given final approval.

That might have been the end of the story if that had happened to any other group of Indians in the country. It wasn't the end for the Crees, though, thanks to the Cree-Naskapi Act — the legislation that provides self-government for the Crees. The Act requires that an independent commission be appointed to oversee the progress and problems related to self-government. Quebec Superior Court Justice Rejean Paul was appointed to head the three-member commission a year ago. Last fall, the commission listened to the arguments from the Government and the Indians about the financing agreement. Last week, the commission's report was released and it came down squarely on the side of the Indians. The financing agreement was "legal and binding", the commission said, and it called on Ottawa to increase its payments.

The Crees were clearly pleased with the commission

report. It's the third time in the last five years, they said, that an official inquiry has found that the Government has failed to honour its agreements with them.

It's not unusual in situations like this for the Government of Canada to take a long time to make its reply. (For example, the government took nine months to respond to the report of the land claims commission headed by Murray Coolican.) In this case, though, Minister of Indian Affairs Bill McKnight took just two days to reply. He rejected the conclusions and recommendations in the report. What's more, he was almost as critical of the commission as it was of him. He issued his own list of complaints: that the commission made factual errors; that it ignored major financing increases; that it ignored Indian responsibilities for some of the problems; that it wasn't doing its job; and that it sometimes didn't know what it was talking about.

That prompted the Crees to fire back with even more complaints. They accused McKnight of using innuendo to discredit the commission and attack its credibility. They also said he shamefully and flagrantly abused his power when he rejected the commission report — a commission that was established by federal law to correct the problems related to Cree self-government. But the Cree complaints against the minister were mild compared to the charges they levelled against his officials. They accused department officials of cover-ups, threats, intimidation, blackmail, and extortion.

Like the Rolling Stones the Crees got no satisfaction from the Minister's reply so they've gone to court. They're asking for the \$26 million they say they are owed and for another \$5 million in damages.

But there's more to the Cree lawsuit than money — much more. They want the courts to issue an injunction against the Prime Minister, the Minister of Indian Affairs and the members of the Treasury Board to force them to stop interfering with Cree self-government. They also want the courts to declare the Government guilty of fraud for the way it's dealt with the financing agreement.

The most important part of the lawsuit has to do with Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution. That's the section which recognizes the "existing" aboriginal rights of the Indian, Metis and Inuit people. Indian leaders have always maintained that those rights include the right to self-government. With this lawsuit, the Crees are asking the courts to declare that self-government is an Aboriginal right. This lawsuit could well be the first major legal test of Aboriginal rights in the constitution. The final decision of the courts will likely be years away but no matter which way it goes, the decision will be momentous because it will affect Native people everywhere.

Wind speaker

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Provincial

Kainai Industries to sign with OCO

Indian company gets \$1.7 million contract

By Lesley Crossingham

Kainai Industries, a Blood-reserve based construction company, is about to sign a \$1.7 million contract with Olympic Committee Olympique '88 (OCO) for housing for the Calgary Olympic Winter Games.

The contract comes four months after Windspeaker broke the news that the Blood Band controlled company had its back against the wall after OCO had awarded the media

housing contract to Atco, a Calgary-based construction company which manufactures similar housing units.

The Kainai contract has been approved by the 27 person OCO board of directors and only the logistics of where the units will be built are to be worked out says OCO General Manager of Accommodations, Jean Filion.

In an interview in his Calgary office March 25,

Filion said that several locations are being considered for the Kainai units, including Kananaskis country and Canmore, a small town which lies just outside Banff National Park.

"This is a positive step forward," said Filion. "But we are still working on the details. We need to get final layout of the units approved and then the final contract with Kainai will be signed."

The controversy arose in November last year when

Windspeaker learned that the construction company, one of the most successful reserve-based companies in the country, could be forced out of business when the Atco units are put onto the market shortly after the close of the Olympics in February next year.

At the time, Robert Laboucane, a former Department of Indian Affairs (DIA) Economic Development Coordinator, accused DIA of deliberately

trying to break the successful reserve-based company.

Calgary district manager, Bob Dickson vehemently denied Laboucane's accusations, saying the former coordinator was "over reacting."

"The problem was the Kainai Industries did not even have the opportunity to bid on the construction contract for the Olympics" said Dickson in a January interview.

However, also at this time DIA had been holding workshops and meetings with chiefs in Alberta in an effort to sell the units to the reserves.

DIA coordinator Jerry Tighe admitted in an interview at the time that none of the Atco units had been sold. Tighe pointed out that the federal government is committed to assist in the Olympic Games and that they are further committed to the purchase of the Atco units.

Tighe also made a commitment at this time that any "benefits or any offers we give to Atco is also open to Kainai."

Shortly after the workshops, Lubicon Lake Chief Bernard Ominiyak entered the fray by writing an open

letter to Regional Director Dennis Wallace saying he was "shocked" to find the department was in "the business of selling used Atco housing."

Ominiyak added that he hopes "Indian people buy such housing they might need from Kainai Industries, and reject the used Atco units for what they are, a modern day version of blankets infested with the smallpox virus."

The original contract for media housing went to Atco, a Calgary-based company. The Atco contract was for \$18.3 million as opposed to the Kainai contract for \$1.7 million. The Atco price tag, however, has an offset of \$13.3 million in rent expected to be received from journalists using the facilities during the games.

The other controversy over the Atco contract is known as the "Lougheed connection". According to a Calgary Herald story, before Peter Lougheed stepped down as premier, he had interceded with Calgary's mayor, Ralph Klein over the contract. Lougheed now sits as an Atco director and is also honorary chairman of OCO.

Metis must pay, treaty Indians don't

By Mark McCallum

FORT MCKAY — The Fort McKay Infrastructure Corporation will begin work on a \$4 million water and sewage project this summer at Fort McKay.

Under the Indian Act, Fort McKay treaty Indian residents, will get running water and sewage facilities in their homes. But the 22 Metis families that live on 623 acres of leased crown land in the community will have to pay for the same facilities.

Ian Faichney, one of the family members and a

member of the advisory council of the Red River Point Society, which represents the Metis community of Fort McKay, says that "it is going to be hard on the Metis families here because they just don't have the money to put water and sewage pipes into their homes."

According to Des Broadhurst, Improvement District 18, North Manager, the same situation is occurring in Janvier, Anzac and Conklin where there are large Metis populations.

But, Broadhurst points out that the treaty Indians,

at any of these areas, get financial support from the federal government. The Metis people must rely on their own pocket book and funds from the Improvement District, which receives monies from provincial government grants and the tax payers' dollar.

"It's never been a question of give to one and not the other," said Broadhurst, explaining the two-year water and sewage project at Fort McKay. "Water points will be put at intervals on the main road running through McKay, where the Metis population

can get water from."

Broadhurst adds the water source for the project will come from the Ells River (13 km north of Fort McKay) because, "the water is probably the best quality that is accessible to that area."

Although the Athabasca River is closer to McKay, its water would need a more costly water treatment method than water in the Ells River.

"There's nothing running into the Ells River," said Broadhurst, adding industrial waste from surrounding tar sands refineries, pollutes the Athabasca River.

Interim board takes over Bonnyville Rehab

By Donna Rea Murphy

BONNYVILLE — An interim board of directors has taken control of the Bonnyville Indian-Metis Rehabilitation Centre following the dismissal of the former directors during a special meeting held in February. The meeting was called for, after an advisory committee circulated a petition for signatures of society members to force the former directors to call the meeting.

The advisory committee was appointed by other society members concerned over representation of the nine Native communities that make up the board of directors.

At the special meeting a motion was introduced to have the advisory committee act as an interim board of directors. Members of the interim board include August Collins, Albert Lapatac, Liz Poitras, Allen Jacob, Chairman Roland Dion and Vice-Chairman Andy Collins.

August Collins, who is also the Metis Association of Alberta's Zone II Vice-President, says the main thrust of the interim board

is to go over the existing constitution and by-laws and suggest changes that will clearly reflect the centre's mandate.

One area that will be specifically looked at, he said, is the practice of "selling memberships to the society to anybody who's

got a dollar to pay for it."

Collins says he believes membership should be restricted to Native people only. Currently, nine communities make up the membership roll. They are Heart Lake, Fishing Lake, Frog Lake, Saddle Lake, Beaver Lake, Cold Lake,

Bonnyville, Kehewin and Goodfish Lake.

Another concern that is closely tied to the issue of membership is the yearly open elections held for board members. Collins believes a better system is for each of the communities involved in the centre to

appoint their own representative. He says "if a person is simply elected in an open meeting, he really isn't answerable to anybody."

Collins says the by-laws state, board members must be elected at the centre's annual assembly.

In the past, if the elected community representative resigned from the board, the community would simply select another person to fill the vacancy until the next election. But this, says Collins, is actually contrary to the existing by-laws.

He said selling memberships left the electoral system open to abuse. A person running for the board of directors could actively sell memberships prior to the election or could conceivably bring in friends, relatives and other supporters to the election to buy a membership at the door and vote solely to influence the vote count.

Collins says the centre is a non-political service agency but the present set-up leads to a lot of political jockeying for position by private interest groups each year.

Collins says he is confident the changes in the constitution and by-laws will better reflect the needs of the communities and their people rather than profit individuals looking for prestigious titles but no commitment.

Soop hired as executive director

By Donna Rea Murphy

BONNYVILLE — Oliver Soop, originally from the Blood Reserve in southern Alberta, has been hired as the new executive director of the Bonnyville Indian and Metis Rehabilitation Centre.

Soop is the sixth person to fill this position since the beginning of 1986.

He says being a "total stranger in this area" is a benefit to his position in that he can work with issues rather than personalities. "Personal interests can't enter in," he says, since he knows virtually no one in Bonnyville or the surrounding district.

Soop says the interim board is working on changes to the centre's by-laws and will give their recommendations for changes to the new directors, to be elected at the up-coming (April) annual assembly. The new board will decide which recommendations to implement.

One of the recommendations will be that anyone

considering a position with the centre must have a minimum of one year's sobriety.

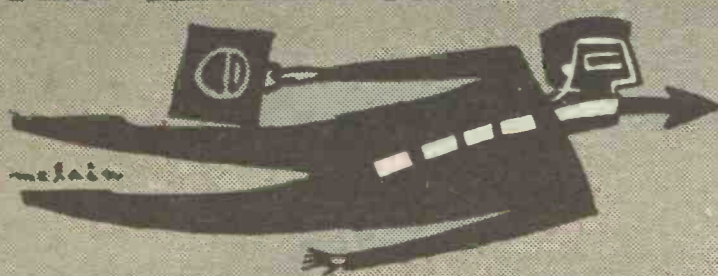
Soop has six years of sobriety behind him and over 20 years of administration and management experience. He has worked with the Indian Association of Alberta, Syncrude Canada, the Blood Tribal Administration, and more recently, put in five years at the St. Paul Treatment Center on his home reserve.

Soop's first job at Bonnyville is to work out an organizational chart.

"There was a chart in place" he explains "but nobody was following it. This created tension between staff and board and resulted in conflict. But now, with a new chart in place, everyone will have clear direction and proper channels to go through. It'll make for better lines of communication at all levels."

He says another area he will tackle is changing the structure of the treatment program, with emphasis on Native cultural values and tradition.

FIRST MINISTERS CONFERENCE



B·A·C·K·G·R·O·U·N·D·E·R

"For once in our history we have solidarity, even though we failed, we have a unified stance..."

--Smokey Bruyere, NCC

"Louis Riel was hanged for the protection of those rights."

--Jim Sinclair, MNC

Native leaders voice anger

By Laurent Roy

OTTAWA, ONTARIO — The collapsed talks on the constitutional amendment to entrench Aboriginal rights on self-government ignited the Native leaders, who voiced anger and embitterments during the concluding session of the First Ministers Conference on Constitutional Matters.

As the talks and negotiations crumbled behind closed doors, Native leaders recognized the political struggle to have their Aboriginal right to self-government enshrined in the Constitution, was over.

This sudden reality of events stunned the witnesses and delegates who gathered in the cavernous bedecked convention hall and the impact of this reality was evident by the stillness in the hall.

The Aboriginal leaders had visions of entrenchment of their right to self-government, no one expected the sudden collapse of the talks.

Despite the impassioned speech from Prime Minister Mulroney, and support from Hatfield, New Brunswick; Buchanan, Nova Scotia; Ghiz, Prince Edward Island; and Pawley, Manitoba; "to take the right road" and "go beyond the status quo", the constitution talks collapsed.

George Erasmus, Grand National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, eloquently told the astonished assembly that the federal draft "was not easy to accept" because it permitted provincial jurisdictional powers to legislate statutes defining Aboriginal rights, and how those rights should be developed and implemented.

Erasmus, directing his address to the Prime Minister, referred to the Indian Treaties that exist within the Canadian confederation and how those Indian Treaties guarantee a 'bilateral process', and that he "was not accepting principles that would threaten the powers of those treaties."

The federal draft would have "diminished our inherent rights" and would have "expanded provincial powers" through "delegation of authority" to define Aboriginal rights. Those rights are not contingent, stressed Erasmus.

He told the Prime Minister that the federal draft is

"creating a right for Native people, a right we never relinquished or were extinguished by treaties. It is a right that always existed," emphasized Erasmus.

He stated that the inherent rights of the Native people are "...not a gift, not yours to give, they are our rights..." and "...I cannot live with this proposal", said Erasmus.

"We were here to amend the Constitution, not to expand the way in which provinces could interfere into our lives and force us under their thumbs.

"We proposed unequivocal drafts, realistic positions which were moderate and sincere", said Erasmus.

He chastised the Prime Minister for "not taking our advice" given by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) over the past three years.

"We failed, but there is one historic event that is evident today. There is a unified front among the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This achievement of solidarity is historic because we were always divided and with this solidarity, we will succeed with our struggle. The amendment process is not finished, even if we failed today," commented Erasmus to a cheering audience.

"Thank you, for making it easy," said Erasmus.

Jim Sinclair, spokesman for the Metis National Council (MNC), described the constitutional amendment talks as "a failure" and "as one of the leaders, I take some responsibility for this failure".

Sinclair expressed his "disappointment" and seriously questioned the "political will" of some of the premiers and was irked by the premiers reasons to refuse entrenchment of Aboriginal rights to self-government.

"Your reasons are invalid," stated Sinclair.

He expressed his annoyance and his disappointment with Quebec, for not supporting the entrenchment process that would have guaranteed an "inherent right" to self-government.

He reminded the Quebec representative, Gil Remillard, that the political resistance by the Metis also included the rights of the French and the guarantee of those rights.

"Louis Riel was hanged for the protection of those

rights," Sinclair said to Remillard, the Intergovernmental Affairs minister.

Turning to the British Columbia Premier, Sinclair bitterly criticized Vander Zalm, who earlier had made reference to the liberation of Holland by the Canadian soldiers and of those liberators that were buried in the Netherlands.

"It's a shame that you can come here and in a few years become the Premier of one of the largest provinces in Canada and you will not recognize the rights of our people.

"The Canadians you mentioned in the liberation and owed so much, some of those liberators were Native Canadians, who fought and died for your freedom.

"And for the ones that returned home, there was no recognition when they stepped out of the trains," said Sinclair.

In a stinging attack on the Saskatchewan Premier, Sinclair vehemently accused Devine of granting a "blank cheque for oppression" in Saskatchewan to a forest products company warehouse, who received more land than is contained in all the Indian reserves in Canada.

He grilled Devine because of his insolence towards the \$1-million-a-day expenses for the Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan, saying Devine knows that the direct beneficiaries of those grants are not the Native but the civil servants of that province.

Sinclair condemned the prioritizing of subsidies by the Premier who pays subsidies for liquor in northern Saskatchewan and, "not milk for Metis children", and the Metis people who need those subsidies to survive.

Arousing the assembly, Sinclair mentioned that the Saskatchewan Premier capitalized the plight of the western farmers, and allowed Mulroney to buy Devine's recent election with \$1-billion aid package to western farmers. The assembly erupted with jeering remarks and applause that resounded through the convention hall.

Attacking the attitudes of Vander Zalm, Devine and Getty, he said, "Your attitude at this conference...is not going to bring 5,000 members to the Ku Klux Klan meeting next July, in Calgary and Edmonton. It's going to

bring 50,000 because there's an open market on racism and white supremacy", Sinclair said.

The impact of Sinclair's embittered attack on the western premiers was stunning to the participants at the First Ministers Conference. Even Prime Minister Mulroney was speechless and can only utter a "Thank You" to Jim Sinclair.

Louis "Smokey" Bruyere, president of the Native Council of Canada (NCC), viewed the conference as "not a failure" and felt some "good will" at the negotiating table.

He stressed the urgency for "equity of access" for the non-status Indians of Canada and that NCC will continue to push toward equitable reinstatement of its members and towards the definition of Aboriginal rights pertinent to its Metis members.

Bruyere applauded the support of Premiers Ghiz, Buchanan, Pawley and Harfield and commended the Aboriginal groups for not breaking away from the unified front.

"For once in our history we have solidarity, even though we failed, we have a unified stance to take us over the next hurdle", said Bruyere.

Zebedee Nungak, co-chairman of the Inuit Committee on National Issues (ICNI), took a moderate approach, expressed his frustration and disappointment with the manner the Prime Minister disregarded the last minute counter-proposal of the ICNI.

He informed the assembly that the Inuit had drafted an alternative but because of Mulroney's reluctance to pursue further negotiations, it was tabled for future development.

Zebedee cited the FMC as "not a complete failure" but because of respective hidden agendas of some premiers, "we could not salvage the ash heap", said Nungak.

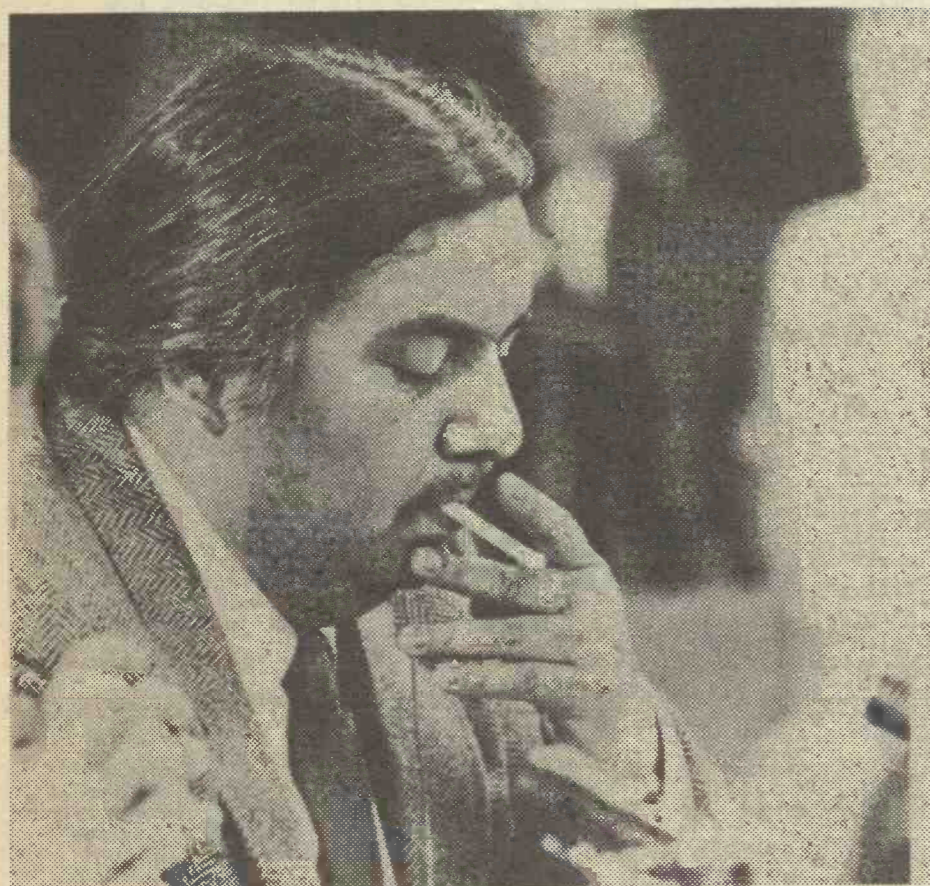
John Amagoalik, chairman of the ICNI, criticized some of the participants for having "no vision."

He briefly referred to the South African nation with its policy of apartheid and its parallelism in those "who are working hard to steal (the land) from us."

"The ICNI's tabled document will be pursued and there is hope for another conference," said Amagoalik.



GEORGES ERASMUS...AFN



SMOKEY BRUYERE...NCC



ZEBEDEE NUNGAK...ICNI



JIM SINCLAIR...MNC

"It a shame...you come here and...become premier...and will not recognize the rights of our people"

--Jim Sinclair, MNC

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--Zeebedee Nungak, ICNI

"...not a gift, not yours to give, they are our rights...I cannot live with this proposal."

--Georges Erasmus, AFN

Premiers split on self-government issue

By Laurent C. Roy

OTTAWA, ONTARIO — True to the prediction by the press and Aboriginal leaders that the First Ministers Conference on the Constitutional Amendment process would collapse, this became a reality on the second day of the constitutional talks.

Nine premiers and the Quebec representative were split over the federal draft outlining provisions to guarantee some form of enforceable right to self-government.

The western premiers of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, vetoed the federal amendment formula. The premier of Newfoundland and the Intergovernmental Affairs Minister of Quebec also refused to endorse Brian Mulroney's last-ditch attempt to entrench 'middle-of-the-road' right to self-government in the Constitution.

The moderate premiers of Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Manitoba supported the federal constitution amendment draft. They expressed some hope of reaching a compromise that would have enshrined an explicit right to self-government in the Constitution.

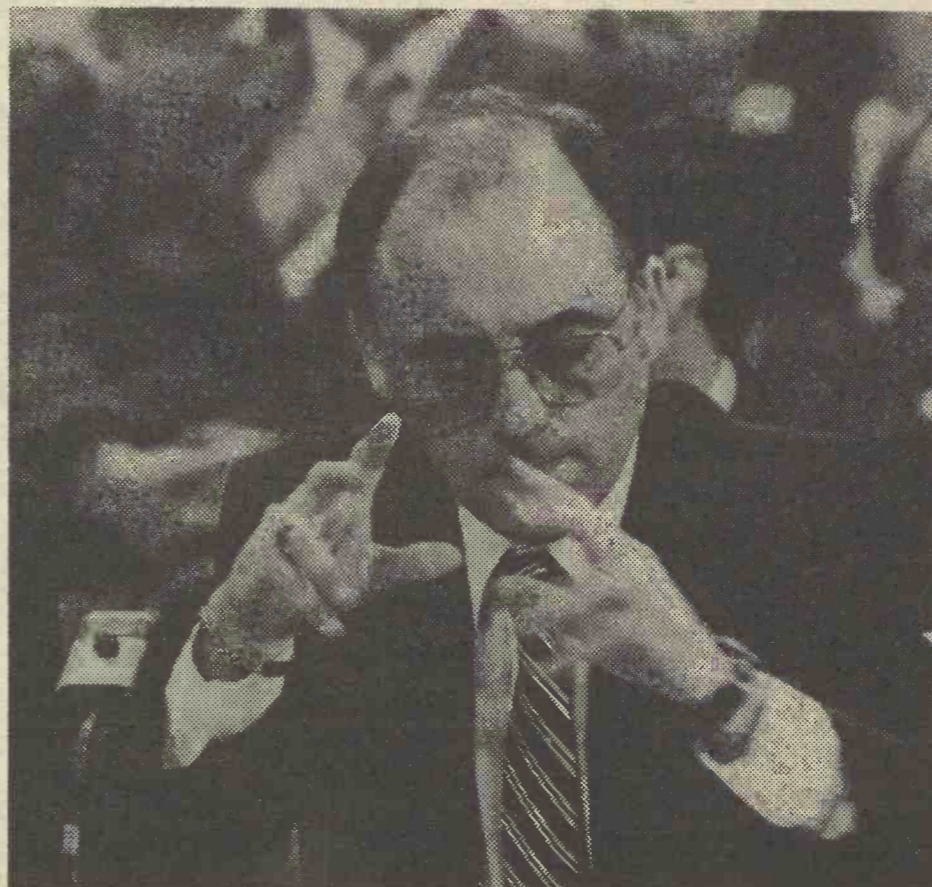
However, behind closed doors, it was visible that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, would not receive the support of seven provinces, representing over 50 per cent of Canada's population, to be successful with his draft.

If the failure to gain support from the premiers was not enough, the

NEWFOUNDLAND, WESTERN PREMIERS SAY NO



DON GETTY...Alberta



BRIAN PECKFORD...Newfoundland



GRANT DEVINE...Saskatchewan



BILL VANDER ZALM...British Columbia

Aboriginal groups showing solidarity, totally rejected the federal proposal, adding salt to the injury Mulroney received from the four premiers and Quebec's representative.

Just as the Aboriginal groups were steadfast in their demand for an inherent right, or unqualified right to self-government, to be entrenched in the Constitution, the western

premiers (Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia) and the premier of Newfoundland, were equally adamant not to entrench an unqualified inherent right, or an explicit right to

self-government.

The premiers from Alberta and British Columbia totally rejected any form of a right to self-government, however, Newfoundland and Saskatchewan premiers were inclined to compromise a 'contingent' right to self-government enshrined in the Constitution.

The impasse was confirmed during the first day of the First Ministers Conference on Constitutional Matters, when the premiers from Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, rejected the Ontario and New Brunswick drafts for constitutional amendment.

The impasse solidified on the second day when the premier from Newfoundland and Quebec's representative joined ranks with the western position.

The premiers - Devine, Getty and Vander Zalm - demanded that negotiations between provincial govern-

ments and Aboriginal groups first occur to try and define Aboriginal rights, the right to self-government and the powers and jurisdiction of self-government status.

They could not support the unqualified "right to self-government", whether or not those were defined as 'inherent' or 'explicit', because it would have provided accessibility to the Aboriginal peoples, if entrenched in the Constitution, of a process to take those unqualified rights to the court for definition/interpretations.

Peckford, Devine, Getty and Vander Zalm, all agreed that the entrenchment of an 'inherent' or 'explicit' right to self-determination would have paved the foundation to have the judicial system involved, and that this process would have eroded the powers and jurisdiction of the provinces as outlined in the Constitution Act (1867).

The premiers cited that the foundations of entering into Canada's Confederation were clearly defined and the Constitution Act (1867) also provided the provinces with legislative powers and jurisdiction and that those rights of the provinces must be protected.

They argued that the provinces are guaranteed legislative powers to define Aboriginal right to self-government and how 'self-rule' is developed and implemented in their provinces.

The premiers would never see that legislative power be transferred to the judicial system because the legislative powers belong to the provinces, not to the courts, explained the premiers.

In their statements, the premiers did acknowledge that the Constitutional Amendment process is the proper one and it should continue but only after those Aboriginal rights, rights to self-government and powers of the respective self-government status should be defined at the provincial level.

The premiers recognized the need to define Aboriginal rights that are "recognized and affirmed", under Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1983), but as it stands now, they could not allow entrenchment of those unqualified rights.

Contingent and inherent popular terms

By Albert Crier

Two buzzwords used throughout the coverage of the First Ministers Conference (FMC) were the terms 'inherent' and 'contingent,' which were used in the FMC discussions and positions.

Inherent, as in "entrenching the inherent right to self-government," which Aboriginal groups wanted, means those Aboriginal rights which were given to Aboriginal people by the Creator, and not by the federal or provincial government.

Inherent comes from 'inherit' as in to receive, especially from one's ancestor.

The Aboriginal FMC position reaffirms that Aboriginal rights to self-government were handed down from the ancestors, who in turn received those

rights from the Creator.

Contingent rights, is in "entrenchment of the right to self-government, contingent on negotiation," is the federal and some provincial government's FMC position, which means conditional on government approval.

As Georges Erasmus said, "contingent means we have no rights until the FMC negotiations with provincial involvement is complete."

Right now, Aboriginal rights are contingent or "conditional" on government approval and that includes provincial government approval.

The approval hinges on whether the government accepts the terms, conditions and parameters of Aboriginal governments, during negotiations on self-government definition.



"There is an urgent duty to keep the spirit alive and we are committed to...getting another conference."
--Zeebedee Nungak, INCI

"We must all recognize that this process will come to nothing if it isn't done in good faith."
--Nick Sibbeston, NWT Gov't

Native aspirations demand action

Guest Editorial By Terry Lusty

The outcome of the First Ministers Conference in Ottawa did not really come as any great surprise. The failure to arrive at an agreement which would see the entrenchment of Native self-government into the Constitution of Canada, had been anticipated and forecast by the media and in political circles for some time.

However, the failure to arrive at an agreement does not necessarily symbolize "gloom and doom." It does not mean the conference was a total failure.

Although the Native position was unable to secure a majority vote, it is not the end of the world. On the contrary. In fact, it may be just as well because any agreement seemed to only be possible if the Native delegates had compromised their original position and that would not have achieved the desired effect for some.

For example, the disgruntled (and rightly so) Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance and the Coalition of First Nations, who did not participate at the talks, are not now in a position where they can point the finger at the Native delegates who were representing Native interests and say, "you guys screwed up."

There has been no compromise and no watered-down version because there has not been any agreement. It is true that a compromise almost came about but almost is not good enough. We are concerned with facts and the one fact is that there was no agreement.

Where Native leaders will take the matter from here remains to be seen. They are now back to square one and must begin the process all over again. They must hit on a plan of attack. This means a return to the drawing boards to analyze their situation and then strategize and implement a new formula for success.

If nothing else, it is crucial that Native leaders do not allow the issue to die. As with anything else, it is the follow-up work which is important to the ultimate attainment of success.

The regular media has been partly to blame for the ignorance of the Canadian public on

Editorial

Native issues. Nor is the educational system above reproach, not to mention the individual need for Canadians at large to become aware.

So long as Native conditions and concerns are not addressed by the media, the public will remain blind on the issues. That bridge must be gapped and it is incumbent upon Native circles to press the media and anyone else they can, into executing its duties in a responsible fashion. The public must be informed, must understand.

To help open the eyes of the public may require a return to the radical politics of the 1960. Going public can be a very effective tool if used properly. To inform the public en masse is no easy task nor is it an impossible one.

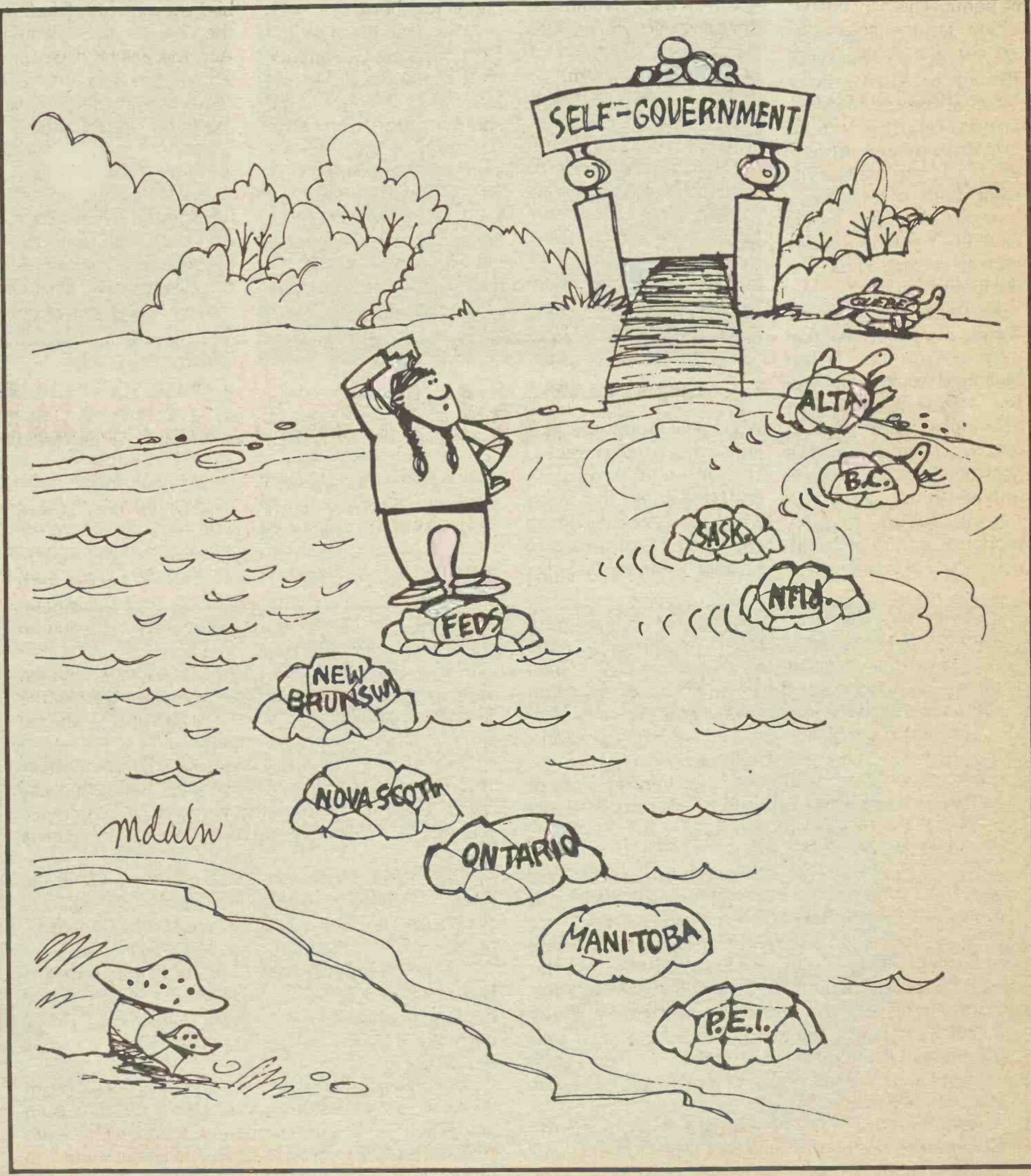
Natives have used the media effectively in the past and can do so again. Their ability to

articulate themselves was more than apparent at the conference. Now those abilities will have to be reapplied. Public support for Native issues will have to be sought but not by damning the government. Rather, an aware and informed society is central to garnering their support of the Native position.

Continued lobbying and education of the political powers will, likewise, be of importance. Each premier, justice minister and the MLAs, need to be tutored and won over, if they can be won over.

Should all else fail, there is the United Nations and the courts. These institutions of society have acted as arbitrators on Native issues before. There is a very good possibility that they will again and that could very well turn out to be a major embarrassment for Canada.

Meanwhile, it is no time to sit and sulk or to lick one's wounds. One must move forward with the times and heed the call of our children and the call of our future generations who cry out for justice to be done.



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**"I'd rather hug than fight,
but before I hug, it
must be right."**

Grant Devine, Saskatchewan

**"We were told to leave
our sting at home, so
my speech will be brief."**

--Zeebedee Nungak, ICNI

**"I am afraid if the problem is
delayed it would damage both
the Aboriginal people and the
unity of Canada as a whole."**

--Erican-Irene Daes, UN

Opinion

Metis journey to self-determination

By Laurent C. Roy

It was devastating to witness the final constitutional conference slip into a no-win situation for the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. This historic event was destined for failure because some of the 17 poker players held the aces of power.

In the end, the western poker players (Devine, Getty and Vander Zalm) won the biggest stakes — no entrenchment of Aboriginal rights into the Constitution.

Shucks, here I was prepared to come home with a "shiny used car." Instead, I had to rely on the "Red River cart" to bring me home. This dependable vehicle you can count on, not like the "shiny used car," the one we didn't get. The Red River cart justifiably served our forefathers, therefore, it should only be just what we Metis come home on this cart.

No offence to Yvon Dumont, Manitoba's Metis president, who used the "shiny used car" analogy to describe what the Metis

nation wanted from the constitutional talks. Dumont was stating that the Metis nation was not willing to deal with any second-hand proposals from the governments. Hell, Rusty, I can still give you a lift in my Red River cart.

Historically, this special cart, was the invention of the Metis and throughout the years has become a political symbol for many Metis people. This particular cart has journeyed through two Metis resistances in western Canada.

The political symbol associated with this cart symbolizes the durability and adaptability traits of the Metis people. The symbolism of the cart and the Metis flag will carry us over the next hurdles of oppression and racism.

The Red River cart with its Metis flag, containing a horizontal figure eight and the Metis Battle Standard, will continue to squeak along the deep rutted trails laid by our forefathers. This deep rut trail will guarantee that our Metis political aspirations stay on

track as we push for self-government and lands.

Dumont was dead right, the Metis people of western Canada will not settle for a "shiny used car," when have in our possession, a vehicle that will carry us forward toward our political struggle for self-government and lands.

The right to self-government and the right to ownership of land was the cause of the Metis nation which culminated into two major resistances. Why should the cause be any different now?

When the first Metis flag was hoisted over Red River district in 1815, the trend for political independence was established. The Metis nation was born.

Now, just because the First Ministers Conference on Constitutional Matters failed, the Metis people should not be subjugated to the political yoke of the provincial governments. If we do, and settle for legislative agreements that are not protected under the Constitution Act (1982), we have sacrificed the principles of our forefathers. Those

same principles outlined in the Declaration of the Metis Nation.

Alberta Metis Guaranteed Lands

Alberta's premier, Don Getty, although he opposed signing any constitutional amendment agreement, was in a better position when dealing with the Metis people of Alberta.

Don Getty committed his government "to propose a revised Metis Betterment Act, to grant existing 1.28 million acres of Metis settlement land to the Metis, and to confirm this grant of land in the Constitution of Canada," said Getty.

Getty also affirmed that his government is "drafting the new Metis Settlement Act, this will be developed cooperatively with the Metis Settlements and we expect to table this act before the end of our current legislative session.

"Following enactment of this new act and transfer of the land, we will then propose an amendment to the Alberta Act. That will require agreement of both

the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and the Parliament of Canada.

"This will confirm and protect the grant of their settlement lands with the constitution," said Getty.

Alberta's Metis people living on Metis Settlement lands will have a constitutional protection of their lands, if, the proposed amendment is passed by Parliament and the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

The Metis leaders applauded this sincere commitment of Don Getty to protect Metis lands, but one unresolved question remains in the minds of the settlement Metis and their fellow Metis outside those lands. *What about the ownership of resources on those lands?*

One evident result will happen even with the constitutional protection of settlement lands. Those Metis settlement lands without the exclusive mineral rights and usufructuary rights will eventually become a welfare have-not state.

The Federation Metis leaders are very much

aware of the possible results if they do not succeed with their political demand for 'ownership of minerals' on those lands. Randy Hardy and the Federated Settlement Council are heavily engaged in a litigation over this issue.

Creating a land base for Metis people without any rights to the minerals on those lands creates some uncertainty as to how the Metis will attain some form of independence.

Establishing a land base without financial support agreements to bolster Metis institutions on those lands is another unqualified issue. How do you implement self-government and self-reliance when you do not possess a surplus of finances needed to establish community independence?

The status quo of the Metis Settlements on those Metis lands will elevate to some degree, but his municipal form of self-government will still need the 'goodwill' of the province. This, I suppose is better than being landless, without a home base, a place to call home.

FMC: An international viewpoint

By Roy MacGregor
The Ottawa Citizen

The prime minister was on his way to a working lunch, and hurrying.

Perhaps his vision was blocked by the large wedge of security, perhaps his attention was diverted to the buttons of his raincoat — whatever it was, Brian Mulroney did not notice the only figure he passed by on the way through the lounge to the rear exit.

Had the prime minister looked, he would have seen a gray-haired woman in a thick black coat, carrying a purse that could store another. Apart from the cut of her jaw — his own might concede — she seemed to have arrived at the Conference Centre through confusion, intending to lunch at Eaton's.

But Erica-Irene Daes knew precisely where she was, knew who he was, and had a remarkable fix on everything she had heard on Thursday morning.

Sitting just behind Georges Erasmus of the Assembly of First Nations, Professor Daes had watched the sweetgrass ceremony, and listened intently to what the prime minister, the premiers and the Natives themselves had to say about the prospects of self-government ever coming to Canada.

Sweetgrass she had never before smelled, but sweet talk she knows only too well.

As Chairman of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, she has listened to most of

what has been said on human rights, and been able to answer back in five languages.

She has come to Ottawa as an observer, to sit and to listen as Canada's leaders come to terms with Aboriginal rights in the Constitution. But she is here, she says, as a "friend of the Canadian people and an admirer of Canada."

And though she holds passionate views on human rights — as might be expected of one who fought for the liberation of Greece as a 15-year-old student — she did not come to preach or to embarrass.

She was herself upset, her friends say, when earlier this week she sat in an Aboriginal gathering that saw Yusuf Saloojee of the African National Conference raise his fist in solidarity and speak of the importance of force.

And though she is too diplomatic to speak of the matter, her eyes leave little doubt of what she thinks of South African Ambassador Glenn Babb's headline-grabbing tour of the Pequis reserve in Manitoba.

"I do not see any similarity between apartheid and the situation of Aboriginal people here," she says in clipped English, at times so concerned with stating things correctly that she will indicate where the commas should go.

She decided before she arrived here from Switzerland last Saturday that she would not even grace questions that compare Canada with South African or Chile with an answer, and she has stuck to that resolve.

But that is by no means to say she is not vitally concerned with the state of human rights in Canada and what will happen on this, the final day of what may be the final first ministers' conference on self-government.

As she says, "The international community is watching Canada."

What is vital now, she says, is simple speed, that Aboriginal rights to self-government be dealt with in the constitution now and not simply shelved yet again for future conferences or — as some fear — forgotten entirely.

Her fear — though she avoids voicing it officially — is undoubtedly concern that has grown out of the recent contacts between Canadian Native groups and the various political interests in South Africa.

Ignoring the problem of self-government today might conceivably produce a tomorrow in which Canadian Aboriginals unwittingly become instruments in someone else's plans — as already happened in the Babb tour of the Manitoba reserve, though mercifully without much damage.

And though Erica-Irene Daes is very careful to make no direct reference to the fist that was briefly raised at this week's gathering there is little doubt of her very real concern for what may come of nothing today.

"I am afraid if the problem is delayed," she says before heading back to listen, "it would damage both the Aboriginal people and the unity of Canada as a whole."



**"(amendment process) is somewhat flawed, as it excludes most of Alberta's Treaty people."
--Premier Don Getty**

**"Polling is very depressing to contemplate. I suggest we have a coffee before we break down in tears."
--Brian Mulroney, PM**

Getty takes hard-line stance

By Laurent C. Roy

OTTAWA, ONTARIO — With all the arm-twisting from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and the supporting premiers, Alberta's premier, Don Getty, never did yield or waver from his hard-line position towards the entrenchment of Aboriginal rights to self-government.

Getty says his government "will never sign" any constitution amendment that would enshrine an unqualified Native right to self-government "...even if we have to go to court, so be it", quipped Getty.

He also stated that the constitutional amendment process, "is somewhat flawed, as it excludes most of Alberta's Treaty people, and this issue is a concern to us", said Getty.

The premier alluded to the serious flaws in the constitutional process are "flawed from our viewpoint and flawed from your point", he said, addressing the Aboriginal groups.

His main concern of entrenching undefined Native rights to self-determination, "could lead to the establishment of a third order of government in Canada, possibly

sovereign or equal to both the federal and provincial governments", stressed Getty.

"It is the uncertainty associated with the impact on the rights of all Albertans that prevents Alberta from giving support for an undefined constitutional amendment of this type", said Getty.

Premier Don Getty was also concerned with the federal proposal that would transfer too much power over to the courts to define self-government.

He questioned the proposal that would allow the provinces to possess powers and jurisdiction over treaty rights for the first time.

The premier suggested that he would only be interested in establishing a municipal form of self-government for Aboriginal peoples in Alberta.

Addressing the conference, he said that Alberta "was not here to out-negotiate, or out talk anyone" but to establish some equitable formula that would satisfy both levels of governments and the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

He said that the only constitutional amendment

PREMIER WANTS CLEARER DEFINITION

he would support is the one that "maintains the basic historic fabric of our Canadian system".

Getty's message was crystal clear. The only way he would support any constitutional amendment to any entrenchment of self-government had to be designed on the existing Constitution Act (1867) and on the Municipal Act, which receives authority and power from the provinces.

He said, "The Alberta Government remains committed to self-government opportunities for Aboriginal people in Alberta.

"We believe that Aboriginal groups should be given the authority to establish a form of self-government clearly protected by legislation passed by either federal or provincial governments".

Premier Don Getty reaffirmed that his government is committed to the hard work (involved) in establishing self-government models for the Native people in Alberta.



**JIM HORSMAN AND DON GETTY
...the Alberta delegation**

Pledging the commitment of Alberta, Getty said, I dedicate Alberta, our

government, in a spirit of compromise and that compromise that prevailed

around this table and in Canada since Confederation".

Alberta Metis get deal

By Everett Lambert

OTTAWA — Not all Native groups at the First Ministers' Conference (FMC) on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters were unsuccessful. The Alberta Federation of Metis Settlement Associations (FMS) got their agreement from Premier Donald Getty at the FMC, which took place on March 26 and 27.

Getty made a commitment that the FMS's self-government proposal will be dealt with in 1987.

As part of his opening remarks to the conference, the Premier stated that "we are currently undertaking an initiative that is unique within Canada, to transfer officially 1.28 million acres of land to the Metis..."

Before Peter Lougheed left the premiership, Resolution 18 was passed unanimously on June 3,

1985. The resolution committed the Alberta Government to propose a new Metis Settlements Act and a constitutionally protected land transfer.

In return, Lougheed asked that the FMS devise fair and democratic principles for membership on the eight Metis settlements involved; Big Prairie, Paddle Prairie, East Prairie, Gift Lake, Fishing Lake, Caslan, Kikino, and Elizabeth. On March 20, just prior to this last FMC, in response to the proposal, Getty told Edmonton Journal's Karen Booth that he would be setting a target date for completing the process. However, he did not say when the date would be, or when it would be announced.

At the first day of the conference Getty came forward with his target date, although he was

careful with his wording, "with good efforts from both sides, this will be concluded in 1987."

Further, "we agreed in principle on the fair and democratic criteria for settlement membership and land allocation, and on the unique and appropriate governing bodies," all set out in the FMS's proposal called By Means of Conferences and Negotiations "We Ensure Our Rights."

Getty also went on to say that, "we agree with the concept of territorial integrity." This means that all land on a given settlement would be owned fee simple by the Metis settlers, e.g., although the province has jurisdiction over numbered highways crossing any of the settlements, the settlers nonetheless own it.

With the self-government proposal in hand, and in cooperation with the FMS,

the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party "are drafting the new Metis Settlement Act. The act will be tabled before the end of our current legislative session."

Next, the PC's "will...propose an amendment to the Alberta Act. This would require approval of both Alberta's legislative assembly and the Canadian Parliament." Ultimately, the act "will confirm and protect the grant of their...lands within the constitution."

In a news conference after the FMC concluded, Saskatchewan's Jim Sinclair of the Metis National Council stated, "It's their choice", referring to the FMS Alberta deal, adding that "legislation can be changed. He also said that "the Metis went to war with the federal government, not the provinces."

WHY BE LEFT OUT?

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Wind speaker

"Everyone is trying to ride on the backs of the Treaty Indians. The Metis tried to get under the Treaty umbrella..."

--Eugene Houle, Treaty 6

"The prime minister tried to make the provincial premiers and the Aboriginal groups look ...unreasonable."

Gregg Smith, IAA

"Equity and justice is the supreme act of a civilized nation and Canada promised... rights of Aboriginal people."

--Tony Penikett, Yukon Gov't

IAA responds to FMC

By Albert Crier

The First Ministers Conference (FMC) on Aboriginal constitutional matters is not a failure, since it did not pass anything that would jeopardize Treaty Indian positions, said Gregg Smith, president of the Indian Association of Alberta (IAA).

Smith was commenting during a telephone interview on March 31, on the results of what some called a failure to reach an agreement on entrenching Aboriginal self-government, at the FMC meeting between Native leaders, the prime minister, Canadian premiers and territorial leaders on March 26 and 27, in Ottawa.

The IAA, which joined forces with the Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance, PTNA, in attempting to gain a seat at the FMC, maintains its position that only a relationship between the federal government and treaty Indian nations, can treaty matters be dealt with, said Smith.

"We wouldn't like to see the provinces involved, unless we want their involvement," said Smith.

The PTNA had been

offered a one time chance to make a presentation, using the one of the federal government FMC seats and also a seat on a rotating basis with the AFN delegation, reported Smith.

These offers fell "far short of what the PTNA require which was full participation during the FMC debate", rather than as an observer with a chance to make one presentation, explained Smith.

"We also did not want to be seen as a supporter of the federal position if we had used their seat," said Smith.

The IAA saw, after looking at the process leading up to the FMC, that no substantial progress was made, said Smith, citing lack of federal leadership at pre-FMC meetings to negotiate an agreement.

"The prime minister tried to make the provincial premiers and the Aboriginal groups look like unreasonable people at the (FMC) table," said Smith.

The IAA had met with Alberta premier Don Getty prior to the FMC, to remind that premier that there was no Treaty Indian representation at the FMC, reported Smith.

"Alberta supported a bi-

lateral relationship between Treaty Indians and the federal government, with a little twist from the former premier Lougheed's position on this matter. Getty said that Treaty Indians finish their work with the federal government and then talk with the province, if they so wish, at that point. Lougheed

was against provincial involvement with Treaty Indians," said Smith.

Smith was wondering what happens to the self-government unit within the Indian Affairs ministry, which had on-going meeting with some individual Indian bands on self-government. Smith believes that this

particular unit no longer has any mandate to do what it is doing.

Kerry Kipping of the self-government unit of Indian Affairs, clarified that the self-government unit still has a mandate from the federal government to continue on-going negotiations with interested Indian bands, a process he described, was separate from the constitutional process.

This community negotiation process has at least 5 Alberta Indian bands interested in the government's band negotiations, which are outside the FMC or constitutional process, according to Kipping.

"To my understanding the community negotiation process will continue. That is not going to change," said Kipping. He did clarify that the Office on Aboriginal Constitutional Affairs is no longer in operation, since the last FMC meeting was over.

The IAA will encourage Alberta Indian bands to assert their own forms of self-determination, based on the band's tribal customs and traditions, reported Smith.

Educating Indian people and the general public about the inherency argument and the enforcement of Indian self-government based on Indian

customs, is another area the IAA will actively pursue, reported Smith.

Smith stated that the upcoming court case on the Ruperts Land Transfer will have direct bearing on federal obligations to treaty Indian nations. A case Smith described as addressing issues, over and above Treaty rights issues.

Treaty issues still waiting to be resolved include Aboriginal ownership title to land and resources and which the IAA believe, have to be dealt with, said Smith.

"We are not forming a third order of government. Our treaties were signed before the creation of Alberta as a province. The provinces are the third order of government," said Smith.

"Indian self-government could go far beyond the elections of band councils," explained Smith, "Indian band legislation would be looked at, particularly where the provinces have jurisdiction."

The IAA encourages Indian bands to examine the federal-provincial "memorandum of agreements" specifically, on how they impact on reserve economies, said Smith.

"So the federal government does not push off economic programs over to provincial governments," said Smith.



PARLIMENT PROTESTORS
...came from all corners of Canada

Treaty Six on FMC

By Albert Crier

The federal government failed to ease out of treaty responsibilities at the First Ministers Conference, FMC, on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters and in that sense, the FMC is not a failure for the protection of Treaty rights, said Chief Eugene Houle.

Chief Houle of the Saddle Lake First Nations, who was a participant at the Treaty Six forum, which was held on the same days as the FMC meeting, commented on the FMC outcome, in a telephone interview with Windspeaker on April 1.

"We were not involved in the FMC process. We don't see the FMC as a

failure, in that it recognized that Treaty Indians have no business in that process. I think the provinces helped in that respect," said Chief Houle.

Houle believes that "everyone is trying to ride on the backs of Treaty Indians. The Metis tried to get under the Treaty umbrella and they failed in that attempt," said Chief Houle.

The Treaty Six forums held at Red Pheasant, Saskatchewan, on March 25, 26 and 27, reaffirmed the bilateral process, between Treaty Indians and the federal government, reported Chief Houle.

The United First Nations of Treaty Six continue to insist on resolving the issue

of self-government within the framework of the Treaties, which were made between Great Britain and sovereign Indian Nations, said Chief Houle.

The Treaty Six area encompasses about 50 Indian bands in an area including central Alberta and Saskatchewan. Participants at Treaty Six forums have consistently declared that they do not belong with or want the Assembly or First Nations (AFN) or the Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance (PTNA) to speak on their behalf.

"We don't expect to become an organization. Each Indian nation speaks for itself," explained Chief Houle.

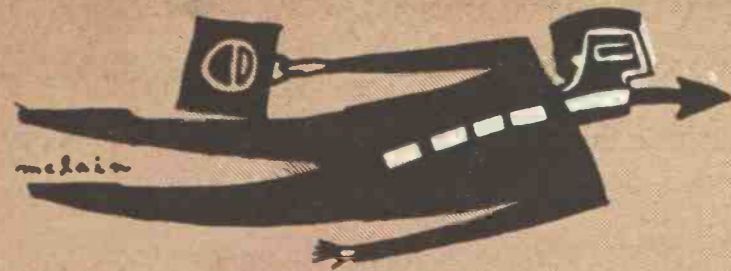
Options that the Treaty

Six Nations will pursue in gaining recognition of their forms of self-government in Canada, include a wide-ranging educational campaign, reaching national and international audiences, which would be aimed at gaining support of the affirmation of Treaty rights.

"We plan to set up an office that would spread information and help facilitate Treaty Six forums. We also will lobby around the world," said Chief Houle.

"Treaty obligations come first, before talks can begin on land claims, self-government, etc. Treaties have to deal with on a separate basis, the government's intent is to eliminate the treaties," said Chief Houle.

FIRST MINISTERS CONFERENCE



B·A·C·K·G·R·O·U·N·D·E·R

"The whiteman understands only his way...the Indian has learned both the white way and his own."

--Jim Many Bears, Elder

"People have no idea what we are doing here — sad, because it's probably true..."

Brian Mulroney, PM

Elder's prayers not answered

By Jamie McDonell

Almost two weeks ago now, Jim Many Bears took what little money he had and bought two \$99 bus tickets from Glietzen to Ottawa.

Over the next few days, Elder Many Bears and his granddaughter, Diane Brass, sat in cramped bus seats across better than 3,000 kilometres, travelling to Ottawa to ask blessing for the First Ministers Conference.

"I prayed that they should have good thoughts," says the Blackfoot elder. Unfortunately, his prayers were not answered.

From the conference's start, four provincial premiers stood against the entrenchment of the Aboriginal right to self-government. This opposition, with Quebec's refusal to participate in the talks, sank the conference halfway through its second day.

British Columbia Premier, Bill Vander Zalm, stood as the prime opponent of Aboriginal peoples' inherent right to self-government and is said by many to have been the man most responsible for the talks' failure.

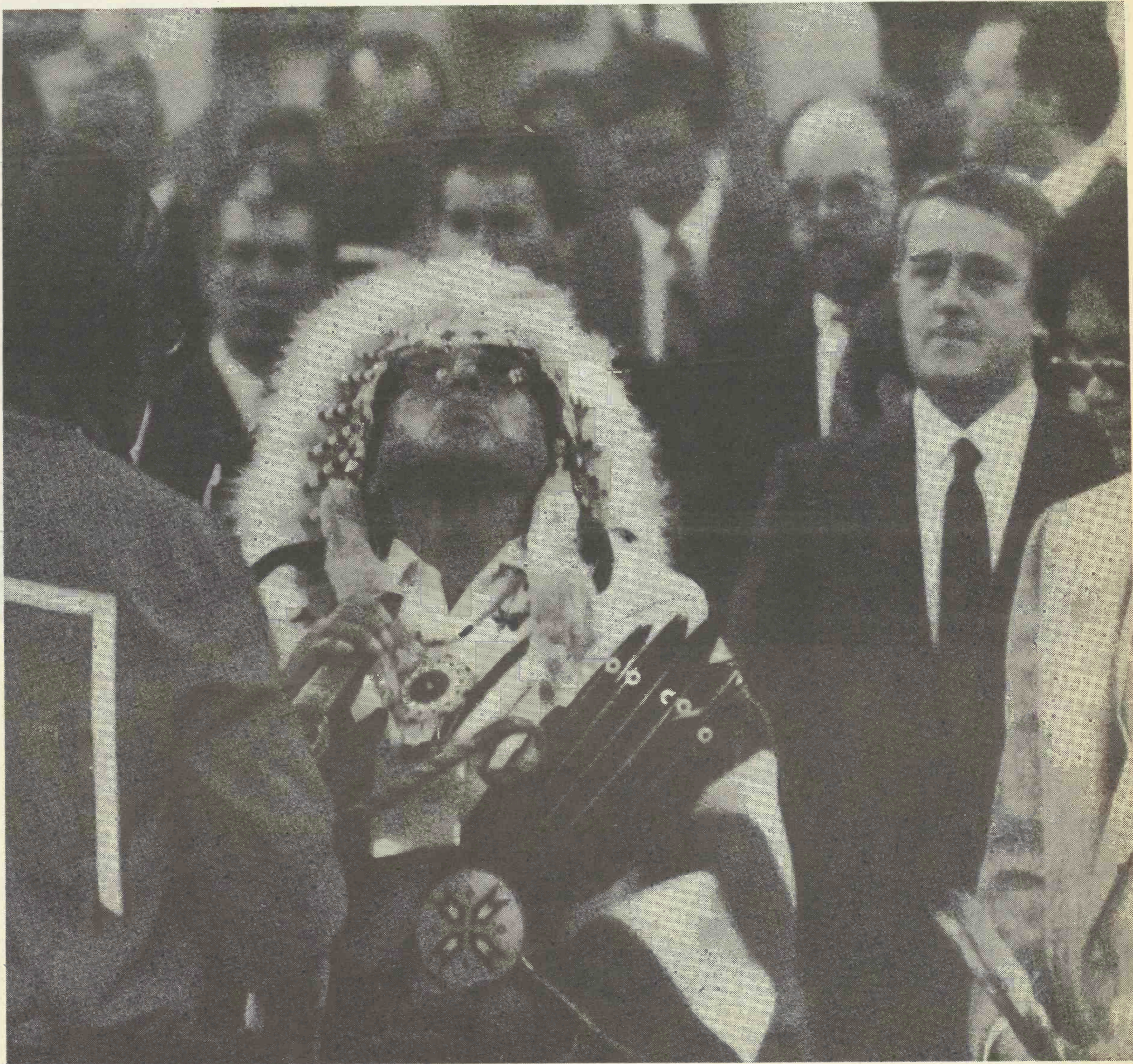
He and Alberta Premier Don Getty, usually with the support of premiers Grant Devine of Saskatchewan and Brian Pickford of Newfoundland, stood as the main supporters of the concept of contingent rights for Aboriginal peoples.

Contingent rights, as described by Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief George Erasmus strip Aboriginal people of all inherent rights and then give them back those the federal and provincial governments choose.

"Such rights," says Erasmus, "are not a gift, not a present."

Chief Erasmus questioned whether they could depend on the good faith of the provinces, even if Aboriginal peoples were willing to accept the largesse of the feds and the provinces.

Citing the 40 year struggle of the Lubicon people for their own lands east of Peace River, the record of British Columbia on land claims and the present problems of Innu hunters in Labrador, he asked, "Where



ELDER JIM MANY BEARS
...at the FMC opening ceremony

is there this tremendous good faith of the provinces?"

While Metis leader, Jim Sinclair, had even harsher words for the provinces, saying that their breaking of the talks makes it "open season for racists," Elder Many Bears credits the problem to a lack of understanding.

"The whiteman understands only his own way," says the Elder, "the Indian has learned both the white way and his own."

In counterpoint to Vander Zalm, who constantly asked the dollar cost of self-government, Elder Many Bears showed a lack of concern for money. The

elder's trip to Ottawa took all the money he had. "Now I'm broke, but I'm not afraid," he said. "When white people have no money, they go crazy. I am not afraid, money is not everything."

For all the disappointment that the inherent right to self-government wasn't entrenched in the constitution, there was optimism among Aboriginal groups coming out of the conference.

The one bright spot in the dark hours of the conference was the unbroken solidarity of the four Aboriginal groups at the negotiating table, the AFN,

the Inuit Committee on National Issues, the Metis National Council and the National Council of Canada.

Narcisse Blood of the Prairie Treaty Nations' Alliance, which was not included at the table, says that it is just as well that there was no agreement at the conference to which his people had only observer status.

The PTNA, which represents Treaty Indian Nations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northeastern British Columbia, says relations between First Nations and Canada must be bilateral (excluding the provinces,

or at least reducing them to a role secondary to First Nations and the feds) and must be based on the treaties that already exist between the Crown and First Nations.

Unless the federal government can be convinced to hold another First Ministers Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters, it is likely that the question of the inherent right to self-government will eventually end up in the courts.

"Going to the courts, as we have stated, is not our preferred course of action," says AFN Chief Erasmus, but "if we don't convince

the ministers at some point to address the entrenchment of rights in the constitution again, we will have to go to the courts, whether we like it or not."

While Aboriginal leaders, in the face of the opposition of four provinces and the desertion of Quebec, were unable to change the constitution, they are a self-confident and determined group coming out of the talks.

In the words of Chief Erasmus, "Looking back on the last 20 years, I think it is apparent that, with or without a constitutional agreement, our powers will grow."

"If we don't convince the ministers at some point to address again, we will have to go to courts,"

--Georges Erasmus, AFN

"I am stepping down, but there are young Metis members with determination...who will take the cause."

--Jim Sinclair, MNC

"The Inuit Council on National Issues tabled document will be pursued and there is hope for another conference."

--John Amagoalik, ICNI

What do we do now?

By Laurent C. Roy

OTTAWA, ONTARIO — Because of the uncertainty resulting from the collapsed constitutional talks, the Aboriginal leaders were uncertain as to what strategies would follow in their journey to achieve some form of self-government.

With visible signs of wear, shock, disbelief and disappointment and still reeling from the reality, the Aboriginal leaders endeavored to muster enough energy and courage to answer questions during a press conference held at the conclusion of the FMC.

Recognizing that their inherent right to self-government will not be entrenched in the Constitution, the Native leaders

were still clinging to a dim hope that a constitutional accord could still be achieved sometime in the future.

The Aboriginal leaders pledged that on-going negotiation plans are immediate and vowed to keep pursuing those negotiations in hopes of establishing some form of self-government.

Georges Erasmus, grand national Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, affirmed that taking the issue court "is not the favourable route to take", but it is open and "we must take serious consideration" before launching court actions.

Erasmus reiterated the fact that Indian Nations have fared better in courts when they were defending

actions brought against them, however when they initiated actions, the results were usually unfavourable.

"To pursue this route is the last resort", stated Erasmus.

He is confident that the Indian Nations would continue the process, in their respective regions, to develop forms of self-government.

The Assembly of First Nations will continue negotiations with the federal government because "it is not powerless, it still can take the bilateral process to deal with any changes of the Indian treaties", said Erasmus.

Alluding to the public support and political will, he said that the Indian struggle has gained support and there is "no doubt of the

political will growing, and this political will is solidifying", said Erasmus.

He recognized that the organizational development skills of Indian Nations is in its infancy, however "our communities will continue to grow" and he implied that the developmental growth will reinforce and strengthen the fabrics of the Indian nations in the next decade.

"I have no doubts we will succeed", said Erasmus.

Zebedee Nungak, co-chairman of the Inuit Committee on National Issues, emphasized that other avenues are open besides the courts.

He suggested that the tabled Inuit amendment draft could still gain recognition and the possibility still exists from

this recognition that there could be enough consensus to accomodate another constitutional conference.

"There is an urgent duty to keep the spirit alive and we are committed to a vigorous attempt to get another conference. There is a determination of steel to protect our interests.

"They have chipped away our rights and it will take a real battle to correct the wrongs", stated Zebedee.

Jim Sinclair, spokesman for the Metis National Council, said, "I still hold them responsible" for the failure and "I also take some of that responsibility", he said.

Sinclair questioned the hidden agendas and the political will of some of the premiers and vowed that

the Metis will pursue the on-going process to have their rights defined and protected.

"I am stepping down", warned Sinclair, "but there are young Metis members with determination and commitment who will take the cause.

"These Metis members will guarantee that the Metis cause is not dead", said Sinclair.

Louis "Smokey" Bruyere, president of the Native Council of Canada, endorsed the position taken by the Assembly of First Nations and pledged that his organization will regroup and develop other strategies to accomplish their task of achieving "equitable access" for their members.

Metis National Council's Wayne McKenzie's face reflects the mood of the Aboriginal participants.



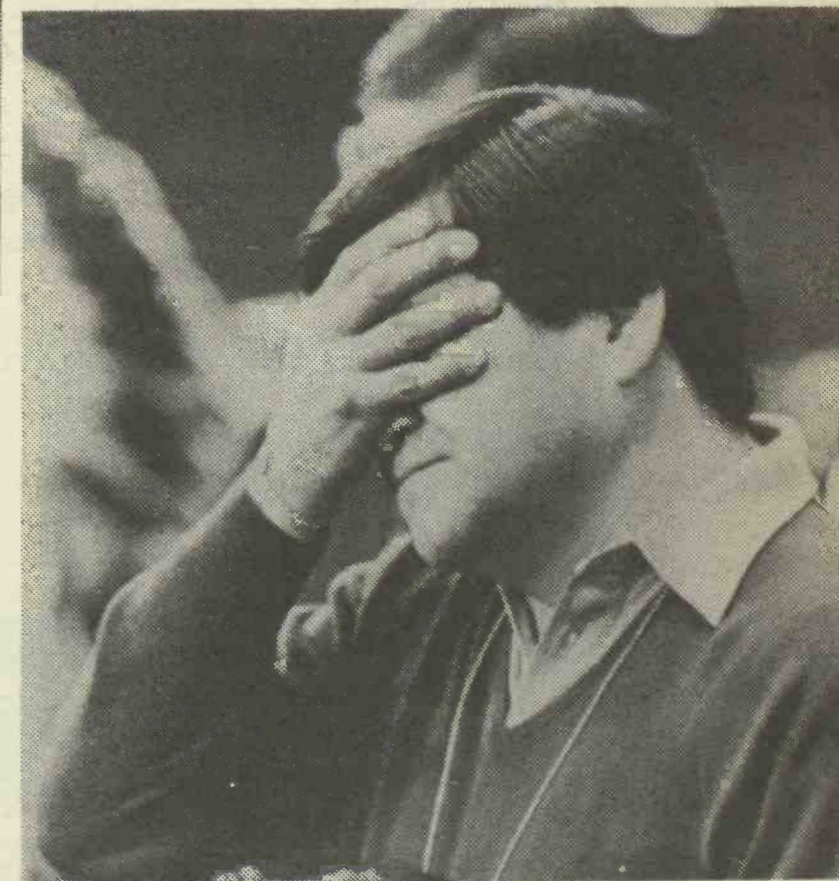
An Ojibway Elder offers the pipe to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.



Inuit spokesmen, John Amagoalik and Zebedee Nungak, supported by friends and family.



Alberta Metis leader Sam Sinclair upset by the Alberta government's stand.



Aboriginal delegate Bill Wilson, from British Columbia reacts to B.C. Premier Bill Vander Zalm's speech.

FMC PHOTO REPORT

By Bert Crowfoot and Jerome Bear

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Fishing Lake welcomes five new council members

By Diane Parenteau

FISHING LAKE — On March 16, the Fishing Lake Settlement welcomed five new council members. Eleven candidates had only a week between nomination and election day in which to campaign for the five positions vacant.

The first nomination meeting was held on February 25. Poor attendance and the surprise resignation of long time councillor and chairman, Ross Daniels, prompted a motion asking to have the nomination meeting postponed until Monday, March 9.

That evening, the community hall was filled to capacity. Twenty people were nominated during the two hour meeting. Eight declined on the spot with a ninth withdrawing the following morning.

Election day, voter turnout was comparable to last year, with 133 of the 211

eligible voters casting ballots.

At the close of the 12 hour voting day, candidates and scrutineers were present to tally the ballots.

Positions were filled based on the five highest number of votes.

First time candidate, 27 year old Billy Parenteau, in for a three year term, received the highest number of votes with 72.

Parenteau, elected chairman by the council, worked 4 years with the MAA in Edmonton, coordinating housing programs. He also operated a truck and loader business for three years.

Also elected for three years, was 41 year old Clifford Calliou. A graduate of Victoria Composite High School in Edmonton, Calliou spent a number of years in the welding business. He previously served one year on council and worked as a Settlement Co-ordinator and Family

and Community Support Services Director, before again being elected. Calliou wants to see more done for the farmers.

"I hope to help the people who are trying to make it in agriculture. They should have the same opportunities as farmers living off the settlement," said Calliou. "We also need to negotiate for jobs in the oil and gas industry".

Clifford Calliou received 65 votes.

Back for her third term in seven consecutive years, is veteran councillor Margaret Fayant.

Fayant has had past experience as council chairman and several years as vice chairman. The 60 votes Mrs. Fayant received, put her in office for one of the two year terms.

Fayant wants to accomplish "completing the seniors drop-in center and setting up a seniors lodge."

The youngest member of council is 23 year old



NEW COUNCILLORS — (back row, left to right) Clifford Calliou, Bruce Desjarlais, Billy Parenteau, (front row) Marg Fayant, Wayne Anderson

Wayne Anderson.

Anderson attended school in Heinsburg and completed one year of Commercial cooking at AVC in Lac La Biche. He is employed as head cook with the JF Dion school hot lunch program in Fishing Lake.

"I would like to see more jobs", said Anderson, who with 53 votes fills the second two year term, "and more things done for the farmers, especially those who are just starting up."

The single one year councillor position was

filled by Bruce Desjarlais, who received 49 votes.

Desjarlais is a 41 year old laborer, and was councillor for a year in 1975, but as he put it "things were a lot different".

He is presently acting chairman for the local school board. Desjarlais was labor foreman for the Metis Branch and worked for Waskeyigan as a housing carpenter.

"I'm willing to work at whatever it is the people of the Settlement want", said Desjarlais.

We'll be able to work

together and everything should be good," he added.

Swearing in ceremonies were performed by Commissioner of Oaths, Brenda Calliou, at the administration office boardroom the morning following the election.

Other candidates votes were as follows: Sylvester Gladue - 44 votes, Morris Aulotte - 38 votes, Charles (Chuck) Daniels - 35 votes, Shirley Parenteau - 30 votes, Clifford Gladue - 28 votes, and Lloyd Gladue with 22 votes.



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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

St. Paul Friendship Centre gets okay for family support services funding

By Mark McCallum

The St. Paul Mannawanis Native Friendship Centre family support services program received approval for funds from the St. Paul Regional Office of Alberta Social Services on February 20.

Pending the signing of a contract, which was developed by friendship centre Executive Director Ray Chambers and the Regional Office President Mike Steinhauer, the program will get \$17,454 for a six month period before the fiscal year ends on March 31, 1987.

When families are in danger of losing their children to social services, the St. Paul Regional Office refers these families to the friendship centre program.

Ray Chambers explains that "the program's Native family support workers are given a case load of about 10 families. A plan is developed with each family, covering problems they might be having with the education system, law, or alcohol and drugs."

During a period of six months to a year, says Chambers, "if for some reason the family does not hold up their part of the

plan, then the children are apprehended. So our workers are actually the last stop before families we deal with have their children taken away by social services."

Chambers reasoned, "our Native workers interact better and are welcomed into Native homes. They're not only a social worker but also a family friend."

Native family support worker, Charlotte Harris, has been working with 10 Native families since she joined the program in October of 1986. She explained, "In the first visits I had with the families they didn't talk much. But after that the families opened up to me."

Harris emphasized, "I have no problems communicating with them because I think the families feel more comfortable with a Native person."

Regional Office Director and Manager Henry Loewen says, "our offices want to work with the friendship centre to refine the program to ensure that the best possible service is given to the people they work with." He concludes that "we want to go in the direction of hiring Native people to work with Native families."



DROPPIN IN

By Rocky Woodward

Hi! Well the First Ministers Conference is over and we're still without self-government.

You know, I didn't really know how good politicians could talk until I watched the two day affair happen right before my very eyes, on television.

They can dress up any situation and make themselves look positively splendid!

Let me say...I have to give them credit for knowing how to use words and knowing how to take a bad situation...and make it look good.

Thanks that our Native politicians can see through these "gifted speakers." Otherwise...one of them I am sure, would by now own my dogs, without me knowing it...that's if they don't already.

I like what the premier of British Columbia had to say...what's his name?

I am so happy that he mentioned remembering the liberation of Holland by Canadian soldiers, and sooo happy, he recognized that many of them were Indian, and Metis soldiers. But then he says, almost in a nut shell...he will not recognize Aboriginal rights in the constitution of Canada.

As a good politician will do...he first dressed us up, made us feel good, and then said no...to everything his liberators were asking for.

I tell you...I was shocked!

I know if I were him, I would not have opened with a statement such as he made. Why did he? Only to bring us down in the end.

So here is a man from Holland...who crossed the "Big Pond" in 1947, received his Canadian citizenship...became the premier of B.C., called us heros, and then says no to a perfectly legitimate right...for Aboriginal people. The right to self-government.

I'm sick. My ugly dogs are sick.

Bill Vander Zalm...I will not holiday in your Province anymore. Your government cannot support...Aboriginal government entered into the constitution...then I no longer recognize you or your government and will not permit myself to spend another Aboriginal dollar in your province.

I wonder what Manitoba is like in July.

GIFT LAKE: Leonard is the only person I know that can just call to talk and still come up with a story.

"Well Rocky. I didn't make it to the talent show (held March 28) back at Gift Lake...but I hear they donated a trophy from me, so I owe \$15," said Leonard from Cadotte Lake.

Leonard explained he missed the talent show because he couldn't find any dresses for his ugly cats??

"They were going to be my go go cats," he laughs. Very funny Leonard. Now, who can I call for information on the talent show?

"Try Bev or Angeline."

Hi Bev. How are you doing? Dropping In picks good words to open conversations with.

Bev Laderoute tells me, the talent show put on to raise money for the Gift Lake School was a success. The show raised \$620.

This young lady also won first place in the female vocal competitions, with Be Anderson, also of Gift Lake, taking home second prize trophy.

In the male vocal event, Francis Auger from Grouard won first place, while Cameron Laderoute, Gift Lake, finished second.

Although Bev was not sure where Ron Cardinal was from, Ron was the winner of the Fiddle Championship and, "I think he is from Sucker Creek or High Prairie," said Bev.

The Best Gospel song was won by Floyd Flett, (Leonard's brother) and second place was won by Pete Goulet.

The Air Guitar competition saw the Renegades, from Atikameg, go through the motions to capture first place over second place finishers, the "Seventeen's".

Thanks loads Bev. Don't forget to send me a tape of your winning voice and anyone else for that matter, from the community.

STANDOFF: What's this about a team of National Hockey League NHL legends having had a game at Standoff last April 2, without Dropping In knowing about it?

Hey! Jim Goodstriker, I hope you were there.

John Fletcher tells me all these good news bits, two days before they are about to happen.

GRANDE PRAIRIE: Here is an interesting letter from the city of Grande Prairie.

Dear Sir;

My name is Robert Glass. I work for the McMan Youth Services. We are developing a Parent Counsellor Program in Grande Prairie and would like to avail ourselves of your newspaper, to recruit Native families in our area.

I'll end it there but I really think mentioning what the program is about is important. Read on.

The program's purpose is to provide a supportive, home-like environment for troubled youth and to facilitate caring relationships with trained Individual/Family Counsellors.

The program's client profile is children between 8 and 16 years of age who have Child Welfare status with Alberta Social Services, and who potentially require institutional care, due to emotional or behavioural problems.

One description of the many services this program will offer is that each young person lives with individual/family counsellor, who possess the skills, awareness and attitudes necessary to meet the child's emotional needs, and assist in the resolution of problem behaviors. Youth attend neighbourhood schools and are encouraged to develop a positive, community-oriented lifestyle.

For further information, please call the Director at 538-4244, Grande Prairie.

Thanks Robert, wish I could have added more.

EDMONTON: I just want to show off the "Little Warriors" hockey team, after their win in the championship (one game) playoff game.

Champions they are, and I was very lucky as COACH to have such a well-oiled, mean-machine, who won 80% of their games over the season.

These small little tykes are all beginners and responded quite well as a team, on the road and back at their home arena, (five arenas, we never really had a home).

Congratulations team!



We need more ugly pussycat pictures or drawings. Now that everyone is back from the First Ministers Conference, why not send in those ugly mug shots of your favourite pussycat and win big money...\$149.74. Hurry! Time is running out.

Still in Edmonton, Dropping In is receiving many tapes of great vocalists across Alberta. So keep it up.

We have received tapes from as far as British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

LETHBRIDGE: Here is a group picture of the Lethbridge Friendship Centre Champs, who performed brilliantly at the National Indian Athletic Association Regional Native Basketball Tournament, held at the Standoff rserve, March 27-29. Congratulations.



DROPPING IN: That's all for now. Try not to forget the one important thing about weekends...have a good time. See you next week.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Northland School Division No. 61 will hold its next Regular Meeting on Friday, April 10, 1987, commencing at 7:00 p.m. at the J.F. Dion School, Spathinow, Alberta.

All interested members of the public are invited to observe, and to gain an understanding of their Board operations.

A question and answer period will be provided for the public as an agenda item.

G. De Kleine
Secretary-Treasurer
Northland School Division No. 61



Northland SCHOOL DIVISION No. 61

Sports

NIAA Regional basketball tourney

Lethbridge takes first place

By John Fletcher

The National Indian Athletic Association (NIAA) Regional Native Basketball Tournament, which was held at Standoff, Alberta March 27-29, drew ten men's and five ladies' teams from Western Canada. The teams that placed in this tournament will go on to compete in the NIAA National Indian Basketball Championships in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 14 - 18.

The men's side saw the Lethbridge Friendship Centre take top honors by beating the St. Mary's Warriors 104 to 94. The game was close for most of the game, but with superior size, the Lethbridge team, with Elliot Fox scoring 29 points, took control in the last minutes.

The ladies' side saw Hobbema Jazz of Hobbema, Alberta, win a see-saw game with the score changing hands four times. They went on to win with a last-second shot by Josie

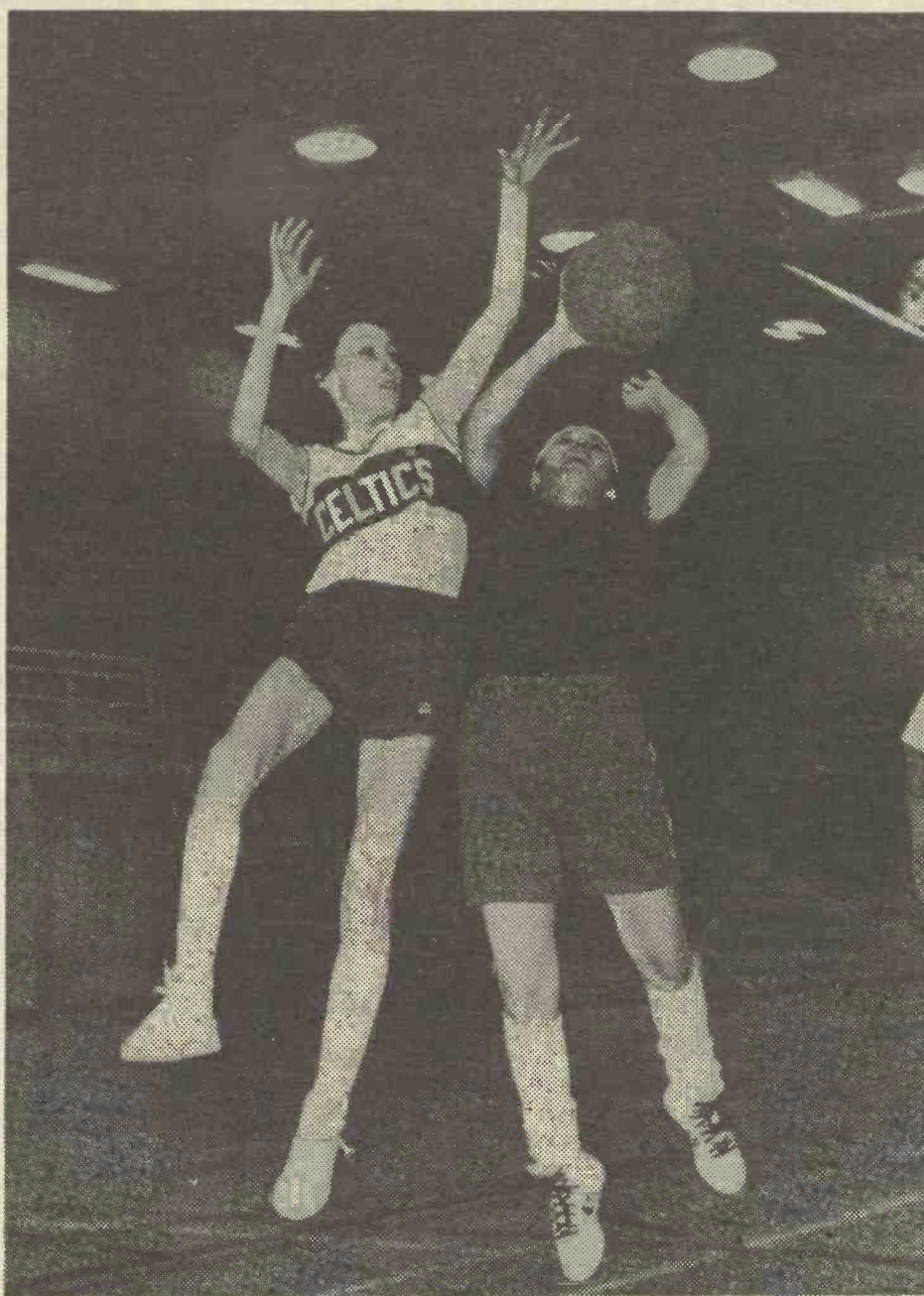
Big Plume to note the score at 56 to 54.

This team from Hobbema, in winning the NIAA Regional Championships, has come a long way. I can remember when this team first started in organized basketball. It was people like Holly Johnson and Kara Currie who motivated other people like Colleen Buffalo. They added Sharon Currie, who is an all-star player, plus Angie Lightening, a barrel racer, who has the potential to be an outstanding player.

The team added some outside talent to help in their quest to the NIAA Nationals in Oklahoma City. These two players are seasoned players and their presence spells danger to other teams.

Mandy McMaster and Josie Big Plume are good ball handlers, plus their scoring ability, especially Mandy's, will help. So it's hats off to the Hobbema Jazz from Hobbema, who now will represent Alberta in Oklahoma in April.

Good luck and maybe I



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ACTION
...Kara Curry gets stuffed

will come out of retirement. I hear they need a coach.

Following are the statistics for the NIAA Regional Tournament.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Mens' Champion

Lethbridge Friendship Centre
2nd Place - St. Mary's Warriors
Final Score 104 to 94
3rd Place - Puma - Sask.

Mens All Stars

Wes Stevensen
Brent Singer
Clifford Star
Blake Standing Alone
Marcel Weaselhead
Mr. Hustle - Marcel Twigg
High Scorer - Blake Standing Alone
MVP - Elliot Fox

Ladies Championship

Hobbema Jazz
2nd Place - Silver Bullets, Standoff, Alberta

All Stars

Josie Big Plume
Rene Heavy Shields
Rochelle Goostriker
Michelle Qinton
Jackie Davis
Ms. Hustle, Sharon "Polki" Currie
MVP and High Scorer... Mandy McMaster

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Mark McCallum

It's time to let your hockey blades go dull and sharpen up your throwing arm because spring is officially here.

The "boys of summer" are just around the corner, and the natural tan which covers Native bodies will no longer be the envy of those less fortunate in a colorless world.

But, no matter, the perfect tan still belongs to Natives because no sun screen or sun tan lotion is needed for their skin.

No sir, Natives don't have to change the color of their complexion. But, lighter counterparts of, brown-all-around, must feel the need to hide their true face. Can't blame them, but do you get the feeling it's another one they're trying to pull on the Red Man?

Nah, the First Ministers Conference is over. Now, there's nothing to worry about except western bics.

STANDOFF — At the National Indian Athletic Association (NIAA) Basketball Regional Finals, the men's side of play was won by the Lethbridge

Friendship Centre, says NIAA board representative John Fletcher. In the final game they beat the St. Mary Warriors, who were runners up at the event, 104 to 94.

John adds, the ladies end of action was won by a Hobbema team in a close game against the Standoff Silver Bullets, 56 to 55.

Wes Stevenson, Brent Singer, Clifford Star, Marcel Weaselhead and tournament high scorer, Blake Standing Alone, were selected as all-stars for the event.

The ladies all-stars were Josie Big Plume, Rochelle Good Striker, Michelle Quintum, Jackie Davis and Rene Day Chief.

The ladies "Most Valuable Player" award went to tournament top point getter Mandy McMasters, while Elliot Fox was chosen as the men's MVP, and Marcel Twigg was presented with the "Mr. Hustle" special award.

These four teams will be joined by a Saskatchewan-based basketball club that was at the tournament, when they go to the National NIAA Basketball Championships, at Oklahoma City, this year, from April 14 to 18.

PAUL BAND — Recent losses at the Pee Wee Provincial Finals was a learning experience for the Paul Band pee wee hockey team, says recreation director Alex Belcourt.

The team beat all comers in zone three to represent that area at Trochu, Alberta where the finals included all of minor hockey's seven zones.

Alex says, the Paul Band pee wees lost their first two games but came back strong to beat Trochu, 8-2 in the last game they played.

The lop-sided score was due in part to the great play of Paul Band defensemen Jason Giselbrecht, who got four goals and three assists. Teammate Terrance Adams added two more goals and two assists.

Other goal scorers were Lee Henkel and Erin Bird with singles. Adrian Bull and John Saultaux both had three assists.

The game's "Most Valuable Players" were selected after each game. In three games, Paul Band players Giselbrecht, Saultaux and Adams were picked, respectively.

"This was the first time the pee wees went to the finals," explained Alex, "and they did a respectable job against some of the best competition in the province."

KIKINO — Recreation Director, Dave White, says that their bantam team finished fourth and made the play-offs in a local league, "but they got eliminated in the third go-round of play."

Now that their season has ended, Dave says that Kikino hockey teams of all age groups are available for tournament play.

He turned to baseball. "We're just getting set up for the baseball season," Dave explained, "but there's nothing definite on that yet."

Contact Dave, at 623-7868, if you have a hockey tournament in your neck of the woods needing teams.

GRAND PRAIRIE — Danny Belrose, a youth worker, says that he would like to thank Winston Wuttunee and the Driftpile Dancers who appeared at schools in Grand Prairie for Native Awareness Week in March.

Danny says, regular gym night at Montrose school, is still running every Saturday (2-4 pm) and Thursday night at the South Side Recreation Centre (7-9 pm).

He adds that they need coaches, volunteers and players for a fastball team they're trying to start up. Call Danny at 539-7514 for details.

EDMONTON — The Edmonton Eagles Native fastball team is still looking for players to fill out their team for city division league play. Contact team coordinator, Alvin Waquan (489-9948) or team coach, Eric Fayant (470-0509) for practice times and more information.

Until next week, that's all.

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April 28 — 7:00 p.m.
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CULTURAL EVENING OF THE YEAR

EXHIBITION HALL

Gabriel Dumont Dancers

Cree Nations Singers

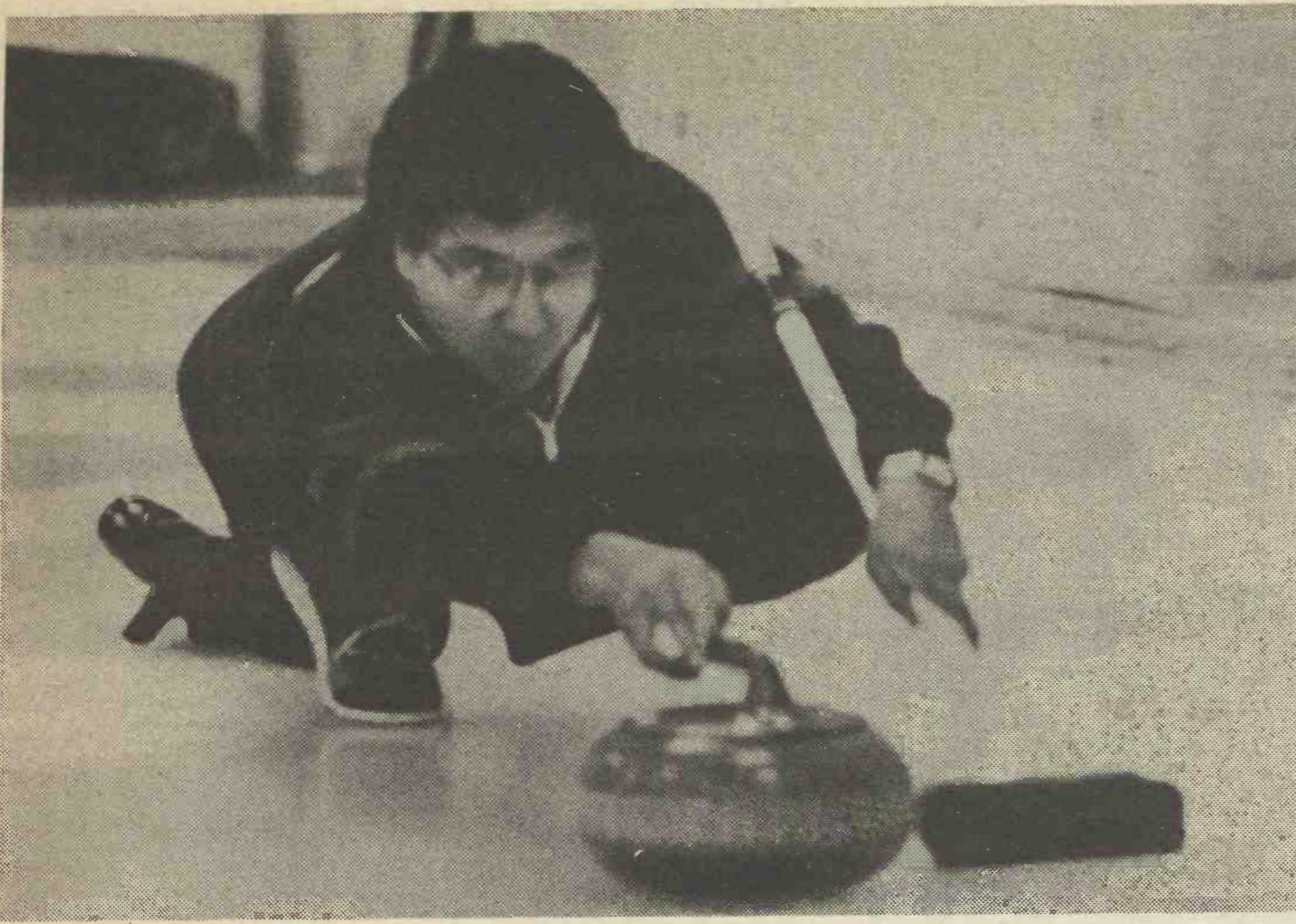
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DALE SPENCE
...winning skip

Hobbema rink wins first

By Bert Crowfoot

The 1987 Native Curling Provincials were held last weekend in the town of Fort MacLeod in southern Alberta.

In the men's A event, Dale Spence from Hobbema easily defeated John Cryer, also of Hobbema 10-4 after nine ends.

It was not as easy a victory as the score may indicate, because Spence once trailed 3-1 after three ends.

Spence tied it in the fourth end and really turned his game around after stealing one in the fifth end.

His rink scored a two ender in the seventh and finally put Cryer away with a four ender in the ninth.

Spence stated that the John Cryer rink was the

toughest rink here and the ice was very keen.

His rink enjoyed good draw times and he was pleased with his rink's performance as they just got together before the tournament.

Eric and Jim Morin usually curl with the Enoch club while Allan Nepoose and Dave curl in the super league in Leduc, Alberta.

In the ladies A event, the Evelyn Chalifoux rink out of Kinuso (Slave Lake area) had an easy time with the Marie V. Crowchild rink of the Calgary area, scoring a 12-1 victory.

Marie Crowchild responded that now she knows how other rinks feel when they play against her. She just wasn't making her shots and wished she could have given Evelyn a closer game.

Evelyn, on the other hand, was very pleased with how her rink of Yvonne Sound, Darlene Nadeau and Rubi Sound had played.

Their only criticism of the tournament was that they missed two nights of bingo and that they had hoped for more rinks to enter.

The organizers next year have got to advertise earlier, so that more northern rinks can make it.

In the men's B event, it took an extra end for Fuller Glass of Westaskewin to sideline Howard Beebe 8-7.

Howard could have won the contest in the tenth end as he tried to draw with shot rock, but he came up short, allowing Fuller Glass to tie and eventually win.

In the C event, Dexter Red Gun of Gleichen, easily blew away Rod Buffalo 10-4 after seven ends.

Finally, the ladies B event saw Dorothy Simon squeeze by Glenda Omeasoo 7-5.

The tournament, although lacking in numbers, certainly wasn't lacking in skill as the rinks provided exciting play for all spectators. Hopefully, next year the word will get out to more curlers in time to make plans for the provincials.

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CALLING LAKE, ALBERTA

Eagles over Cowboys in hockey

By Bert Crowfoot

The 1987 Native Senior Hockey provincials saw two Peigan teams meet in the finals of the six team true double knock-out tournament held at Brocket on March 28 and 29.

The Peigan Eagles jumped to an early 4-1 first period lead over the Peigan Cowboys and cruised to a 6-1 victory.

There was no love lost in the game as it featured end-to-end action and some pretty heavy-duty hitting. The all stars that were

chosen were: Goalie - Brian Shining Double (Peigan Eagles); Left Wing - Lyle Smith (Peigan Eagles); Right Defence - Roland North (Peigan Eagles); Right Wing - Evans Prairie Chicken (Peigan Eagles); Centre - Dickie Plain Eagle (Peigan Eagles); Left Defence - Ken Greer (Peigan Cowboys); Most Valuable Player - Brian Shining Double (Peigan Eagles).

The tournament wasn't without controversy as the Kainai Chiefs filed a protest to recover their entry fee.

The Chiefs paid only half their entry fee prior to their first game and then were an hour and fifteen minutes late for their second game against the Peigan Eagles. The Chiefs paid the second half of their entry fee in hopes of convincing the tournament committee of allowing the late game to be played.

The game was defaulted anyway, to the Eagles, so the Chiefs filed a protest in hopes of recovering their entry fee.

To add to the confusion,

the Chiefs had some outstanding fines incurred from the Ranchman's League, so the protest won't be reviewed until the fines are paid.

The outcome of the protest should be known in a couple of weeks.

There were no northern teams at the provincials, as there was another tournament at Saddle Lake.

Hopefully, next year, the provincials could be a true provincial tournament and all entry fees will be received on time.



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Any protest against the granting of the above mentioned closure and sale must be forwarded to the Minister of Transportation, Edmonton, within thirty days from the date of this notice.

**Dated at:
Fort McMurray, Alberta**

**Applicant:
Improvement District No. 18(N)**

05 March 1987

Signature of Development Officer
W.D. Broadhurst

Alberta

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
Improvement District Administration
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BEST FOR GARDENING IN 1987

INTERVIEW: A candid conversation with an ex-smoker

Ruth: Do you smoke cigarettes?
CO: Yes, I do.
Ruth: How long have you smoked cigarettes?
CO: About twenty years.
Ruth: Are you addicted?
CO: Yes.
Ruth: How do you know that you are addicted?
CO: Ignore it. I ignore people when they talk about smoking and the health hazards of that. I don't read the side of the cigarette package where it says, "smoking can be hazardous to your health." I don't really know what that statement says anymore, can't remember it. Anytime there's an argument about whether smoking is good or not, if there is some studies that I see that says smoking is good for you, those are usually the stuff
Ruth: Are you affected by non-smokers?
CO: I suppose I am, although I believe that the air is for everybody. I really don't have any control of where my smoke goes.
Ruth: How are you affecting non-smokers?
CO: The way I affect non-smokers is my having to disappear at some times to have a cigarette where there are places where you cannot smoke, so that way I distract people and I'm holding from them. Also, some non-smokers that used to smoke before and now that they don't smoke it's hard for me to be around those people. They can become very uncomfortable. From my viewpoint, rather they joke about it, they can become very extreme about their uncomfortableness

and, in turn, take extreme measures for a person not to smoke. Short of throwing their cigarettes in the garbage can.
Ruth: What do you do, say, if you're in a room full of 10 non-smokers and you want to smoke?
CO: I usually just go somewhere and smoke.
Ruth: Out of the room?
CO: Out of the room.
Ruth: Do you ever try to quit?
CO: Yes.
Ruth: Why?
CO: It was a bet, purely for selfish reasons. Six women at the office one time (I was the only guy) would bet each other \$20 to see who would stop smoking the longest, and after six months I won \$120 that they had put in because they had starting smoking before I did.
Ruth: Did you ever try to quit any other time?
CO: No.
Ruth: What were some of the ways that you tried other than that?
CO: When New Years came around, I would sometimes make the resolution. It goes for about a week. Then I would say, "Well, it's my decision." I would then go right back to it.
Ruth: What method would you use which you think would be effective to help you quit smoking?
CO: I think the method I would have to use is one of these days, and of course, that's kind of like a denial or defense stand again, but I'll have to not want to smoke

again and let the days build up again, because at that six month period when I didn't smoke was really good for me.
Ruth: Did you do the cold turkey method?
CO: Yes, cold turkey.
Ruth: What is the point, do you think, of becoming and staying sober if we are perhaps killing ourselves with tobacco?
CO: It's a person's own decision. It's just like the people who have made the decision to stop drinking and get addicted to other non-prescription drugs, sometimes to prescription drugs. Or they might become overeaters and become over weight in the long run. So the danger is that there is always something to replace that.
 There are so many things nowadays that people can be addicted to. That's including things like coffee, caffeine, tylenol, aspirin for every little ache and pain, vitamins, macrobiotic eaters and that are going full force or of being a vegetarian, going the way the Japanese and eating only raw fish and raw vegetables. So, I guess each person has their own decision to make about that.
Ruth: I would like to thank you very much for your co-operation in this interview. I would like you to state your name, please. It is okay if your name is used in this article?
CO: That's one of my defenses. Don't ask. I'm known as a conscientious objector. Ha! Ha!

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Few Indians inducted into Alberta Sports Hall of Fame

By Terry Lusty

Alberta has had and still does have more than its share of accomplished Native personalities. Some have even been acclaimed and recognized on a much broader plane than just the Alberta scene.

Nineteen long years have passed by since the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame (ASHF) was inaugurated. Would you care to hazard a guess as to how many Native people have been inducted into that prestigious group? Two. No more, no less, according to the ASHF coordinator, Lorraine Wylant.

One is Jim Gladstone, a Blood Indian, who was the 1977 world calf-roping champion. He was nominated and inducted in 1980.

The only other Native person to be inducted has been Blood Indian, Charlie Smallface. Selected in 1974, he won eight provincial boxing championships between 1950 and 1959 and was also the runner-up in the Dominion Boxing Championship.

Of 50 career flights, he won an impressive 49.

After discovering that there were a mere two Natives who had been honored in the Alberta sports world, this writer began to wonder why that was so?

Curiosity got the better of me and I was on the phone to Wylant at her downtown Calgary office. Prepared for the worst, I braced myself for what I thought was to come. It never did.

Wylant explained that very few Native people had ever been nominated to the ASHF. Thus, I discovered that the fault did not lie with the ASHF staff, nor its selection committee. The fact is, according to Wylant, nobody has been putting forward the names and backgrounds of many of



JIM GLADSTONE
...Sports Hall of Fame recipient

the fine Native talents that have been around, over the years.

"I believe," said Wylant, "any of the Native people that have ever been nominated are in the hall of fame, so they have been qualified." She said the organization selects up to seven sports people a year and that, "it's strictly from the lack of nominations" that a more representative sampling of Native athletes has failed to surface and be honored.

All in all, it is nothing new to our ears that Native country has indeed produced a good portion of sportsmen and women. If you will, consider the following examples.

Lloyd Sutton is one individual who automatically comes to mind. He was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame and has been most active in refereeing professional bouts for some years.

Rufus Goodstriker, Frank

Pruden and Randy Jackson are only a few of the many Native boxers who have been former Golden Gloves champions.

Cindy Ladoceur, who used to play for the Edmonton friendship centre fastball team, went pro with the Edmonton Snowbirds.

The late Tom Three Person was a world champion bronc rider from the Blood Reserve. For many, many years, Calgary Stampede crowds were entertained by the performances of one Peter Bruised Head, another Blood Indian.

Teddy Hodgson of Hobbema played in the National Hockey League and Grant Fuhr, is today's number one goalie in the NHL.

In track, the late Alex Decoteau was unrivalled in this province. Willie Littlechild, only recently, was inducted into the "Sports Wall of Fame" at

the University of Alberta. He played for the university's Golden Bears hockey club.

In team sports, the Sarcee women's basketball team, have been winners of the North American Indian championships. As well, the CNFC's women's fastball team, the Native Daughters, won the North American title three out of five years competing.

While the above-named are only some of the many who have excelled in the sports world, it does give one a fair idea of the calibre of people who are available for nomination. I would also draw your attention to two specifics that all of the aforementioned people have in common - all are of Native ancestry and none have ever been inducted, nor nominated, into the ASHF.

If any of our readers wish to pursue nominating any accomplished sports person(s), you may obtain the nomination forms by writing to; The Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, #130, 111 - 5 Avenue, S.W., Calgary, T2P 3Y6.

Besides individual sports people and teams, there is an additional category for builders of sports. To qualify in this category, one would need to have had involvement as a coach, promoter or manager over a number of years.

Individual nominees are evaluated on the basis of their contribution at the provincial, national or international levels. Consideration is given to whether one was trained in Alberta, represented the area and continued to live in the area after one's achievements.

All entries are subject to a screening process and selection or rejection by a review committee. Therefore, a detailed outline of a nominee's achievements and background would be required.

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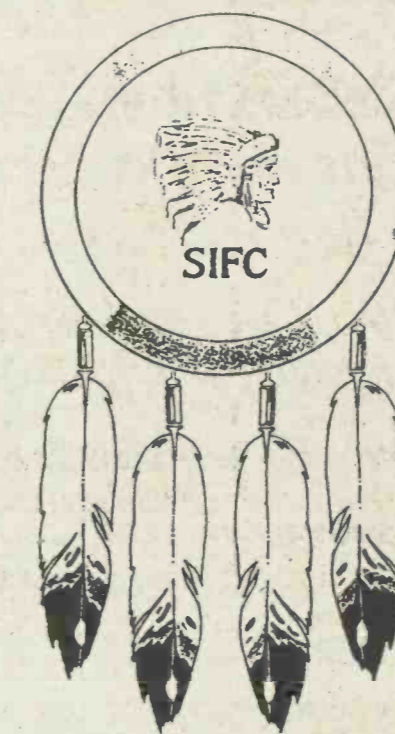
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Chiefs winning hockey team

By Mark McCallum

Eight hockey players from the Fort McMurray Chiefs, and their team goalie, who put the pads on for the first time this season, recently won the Fort Smith Invitational Recreation Hockey Tournament, held at the Muffaloosem Winter Carnival.

The carnival was named after the Muffaloosem Trail, near Fort Smith.

The Fort McMurray Chiefs, know this trail

well, after hitting a tree and flying into the ditch twice, after winning the tournament in four games straight.

The Chiefs defeated teams representing Arctic college (11-7), Fort Chipewyan (15-3), Hay River (6-4) and Arctic College (11-6) again in the final game.

Big scorers for the McMurray squad were centre Kevin Daniels (17 goals), right winger Charlie Umperpille (10 goals), centre Tom Clark (7 goals)

and left winger Rocky Peevers (6 goals). Top gun Kevin Daniels says that the four played most of the tournament together.

The Chiefs finished the season in the very competitive Molsens Gentlemen Hockey League with a record of 18 wins, 18 losses and three ties, but missed the play-offs by one point, finishing the season in fifth place over-all.

McMurray coach, Nathan Chultz, explained, "the team's weakest point was

on defense, but the power play was strong."

Chultz added that "next season we're going to try to keep the team 70% Native, but that's hard to do because there's only so many players available here.

The Fort McMurray Chiefs are still open to invitations to hockey tournaments. They can be reached at the McMurray Nistawoyou Association Friendship Centre by phoning 743-8555.

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BOYS' FANCY (7 - 12 yrs)	40 ⁰⁰	30 ⁰⁰	20 ⁰⁰
	40 ⁰⁰	30 ⁰⁰	20 ⁰⁰
TEEN GIRLS' FANCY (13 - 17 yrs)			
TEEN BOYS' FANCY (13 - 17 yrs)	\$50 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	25 ⁰⁰
TEEN GIRLS' TRADITIONAL (13 - 17 yrs)	50 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	25 ⁰⁰
TEEN BOYS' TRADITIONAL (13 - 17 yrs)	50 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	25 ⁰⁰
	50 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	25 ⁰⁰
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MENS' FANCY (18 yrs & over)	\$125 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	50 ⁰⁰
WOMENS' TRADITIONAL (18 yrs & over)	125 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	50 ⁰⁰
MENS' TRADITIONAL (18 yrs & over)	125 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	50 ⁰⁰
TINY TOTS DAILY PAYOUT	125 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	50 ⁰⁰
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