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# Wind speaker



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Truth documents must  
never be in the control  
of the perpetrators  
Page 8

Feds skate  
on a  
technicality  
Page 9

Long fight  
ahead expected  
on tobacco litigation  
Page 10

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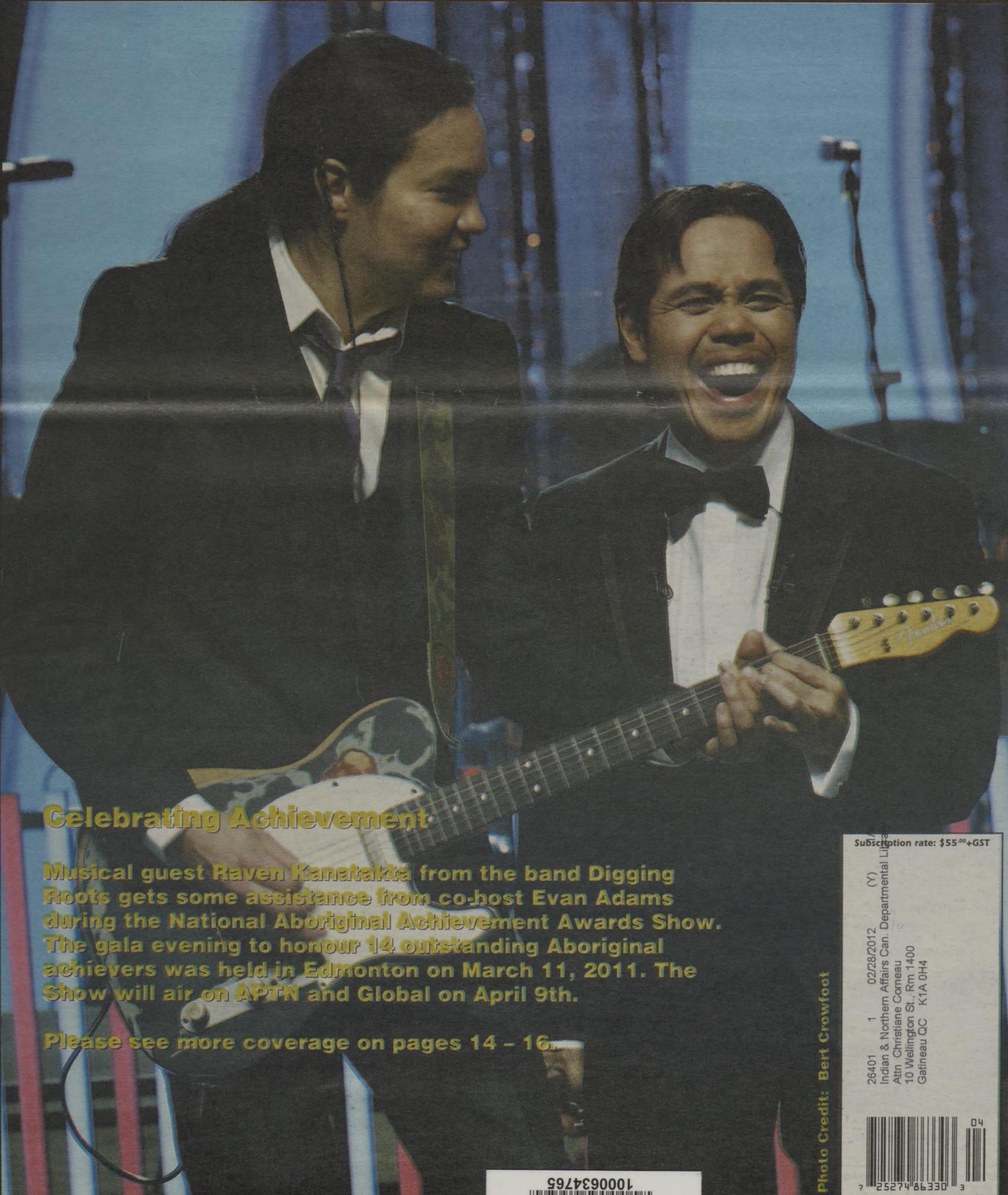
Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

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Established 1983

Windspeaker



## Celebrating Achievement

Musical guest Raven Kanataktta from the band Digging Roots gets some assistance from co-host Evan Adams during the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Show. The gala evening to honour 14 outstanding Aboriginal achievers was held in Edmonton on March 11, 2011. The Show will air on APTN and Global on April 9th.

Please see more coverage on pages 14 - 16.

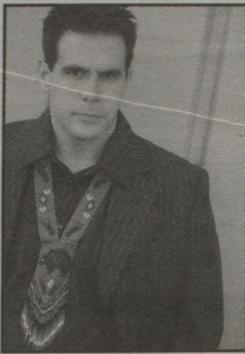
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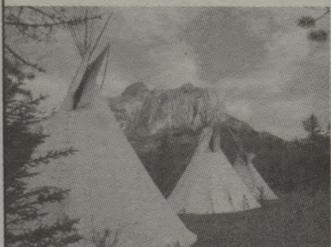
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Canada

## Features

### Truth documents must never be in the control of the perpetrators 8

The truth gathering does not end with the collection of documents. "Creating archives is important, but creating archives only is not enough," said Doudou Diène, chair of the International Coalition of Sites and Programs of Conscience in Senegal.

### First Nations intervene in Métis harvesting case 8

Two First Nations will be weighing in on whether Métis have traditional harvesting rights in southern Alberta. The Blood and Siksika First Nations were granted limited intervenor status in a court decision rendered in Medicine Hat in early March.

### Feds skate on a technicality 9

Legal technicalities should not be what determine if First Nations children on reserves receive services comparable to their off-reserve counterparts.

### Long fight ahead expected on tobacco litigation 10

First Nations in western Canada are taking steps to ensure the unimpeded sale of tobacco products among their people. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) has prepared draft legislation for the sale of tobacco so its 74 members can adapt it to meet their community needs and enact it as a bylaw with the power to supersede provincial laws.

## Departments

[ rants and raves ] 5

[ what's happening ] 7

[ windspeaker briefs ] 9

[ strictly speaking ] 12

[ rank comix ] 13

[ celebrating achievement ] 14 - 16

[ entertainment ] 17

[ provincial news ] 18 & 19

[ windspeaker confidential ] 20

[ radio's most active ] 20

[ business ] 21

[ health ] 22

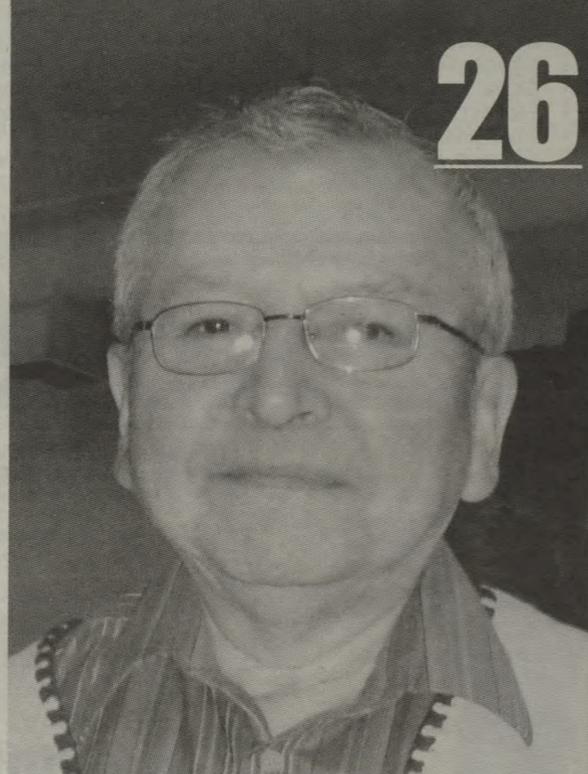
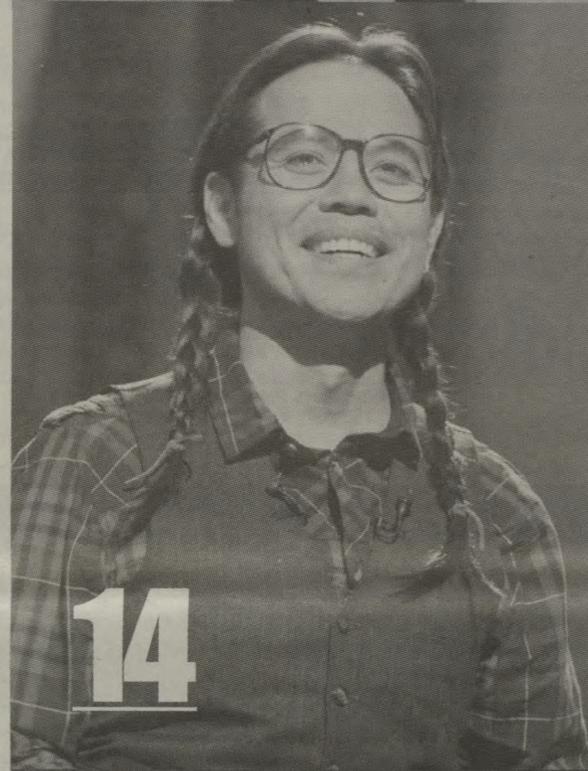
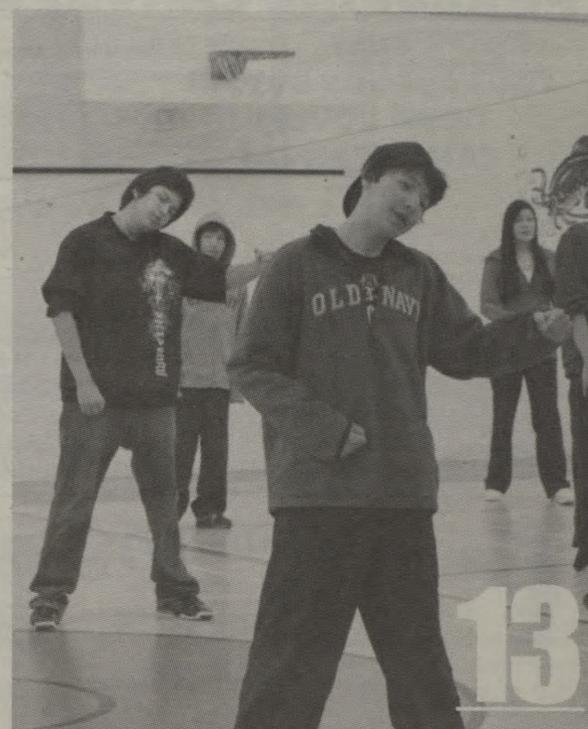
[ sports ] 23

[ education ] 24

[ careers ] 25

### [ footprints ] Chief Ralph Akiwenzie 26

Chief Ralph Akiwenzie was the kind of leader who would open his wallet to give money to people who needed it. "The good deeds he did were done without any desire for recognition. He did them because he was able to do them and he knew it was the right thing to do," said poet and publisher Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm.



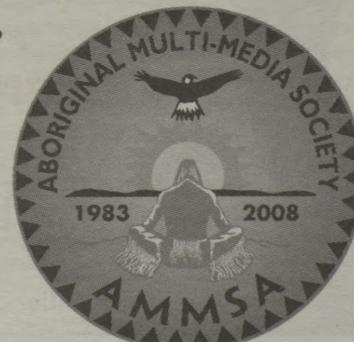
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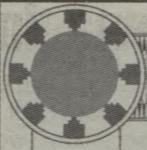


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## Native Women's Association of Canada



The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) would like to thank all the Aboriginal women and youth who participated in NWAC's *Building the Spirit* project. The *Building the Spirit* Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund project provided sponsorship opportunities for Aboriginal women and youth in the areas of:

- Accreditation, certification and designation in Aboriginal program and financial management
- Literacy and essential skills

Aboriginal women and youth gained valuable experience and certification aimed at enhancing their professional and personal growth. *Building the Spirit* provided sponsorship for management certificate online courses, workshops and in-class sessions.

*"I learned a lot about how to manage the Aboriginal program I work with and I am very grateful for the opportunity to gain more knowledge to work towards a management position in my organization. Thanks/Wiliwon again. I would never have been able to complete this course without NWAC's support." - Building the Spirit project participant*

## ~Building the Spirit~

NWAC is committed to providing labour market initiatives utilizing a culturally relevant gender based analysis approach. Employment and training policies and projects are available to Aboriginal women in Canada through the NWAC Labour Market Development department. This includes specific youth and student initiatives such as the *Helen Bassett Commemorative Student Award* for young Aboriginal women pursuing post-secondary studies with a specialized focus in law (2011 Applications available early June).

For additional information regarding *Building the Spirit* or any other NWAC Labour Market Development department project, visit our website [www.nwac.ca](http://www.nwac.ca)



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- Aboriginal Health Care Directors and Managers
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- Medical Researchers and Academics, Associations and Medical Colleges

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- Innovative Programming in Diabetes Prevention
- Mental Health and Related Social Issues
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder: Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis
- Not Just a Matter of Eating Right and Getting Active: Preventing Childhood Obesity in Aboriginal Children in Canada
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## Federal government continues to disappoint

The federal budget that was presented March 22 was an uninspired mess. We guess the Conservatives didn't think to try too hard, considering the threat of a Spring election that was in the air long before the glue on Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's newly re-soled shoes was set.

The tradition of Canada's Finance Minister buying a new pair of shoes before budget day dates back to the mid-1900s. So when Flaherty opted instead to re-sole an old pair of shoes, well, the writing was on the wall.

Even though the Conservatives spent some time wooing the NDP with some special concessions, the budget document still fell flat like a pancake. NDP Leader Jack Layton didn't like what he saw and by the next day announced that he couldn't support the Conservatives' agenda.

The financial blueprint let down middle-class Canadians, he said. But if middle class Canada was disappointed in the offering, one can only imagine the disillusionment of First Nations in Canada. Hardly a mention, hardly a word in the budget about a group in Canada that is so far behind the eight-ball that it will take much time, effort and resources to get it even close to parity with mainstream Canadians.

Perhaps that's why the Conservative government has just stopped trying. In each successive budget over the last number of years, there has been less and less in them that Aboriginal people can care about. We've been abandoned by those whose legal duty it is to ensure our wellbeing.

And where is the uproar about this gross

betrayal? Certainly there would be something from the opposition parties, some compassion for the marginalized, some points to be scored that would mutually benefit our causes; ours to lift the people out of poverty and despair, and theirs to be elected as the next government of Canada.

But it's quiet, quiet, quiet.

So, we look to the elected leadership of the Aboriginal people for response. The Assembly of First Nations dutifully whipped up a press release saying the budget didn't show signs of its hope for a new funding approach, which the AFN says is needed "to better ensure equitable opportunity, stability and safety for First Nation citizens and communities." But the statement lacked any real passion, and that's the real shame here. We're wondering if Chief Shawn Atleo's rockstar image isn't getting in the way of him raising his voice a little about this government's apathetic approach to First Nations issues and concerns. One has to wonder if all the sizzle isn't getting in the way of producing work of any substance.

It's not the first time Flaherty has opted for the more frugal re-sole of old shoes for his budget announcement, but in 2007 he purchased a pair of hockey skates for his son. He should have got a pair of Bauers for himself for this go-round, because Canada is skating on all of its responsibilities to First Nations people, be it in health or education or child welfare. And the sad thing is that it seems that the First Nations leadership appears to be driving the Zamboni.

**Windspeaker**

## Letter: Vicious cycle of abuse

Dear Editor:

The chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Justice Murray Sinclair, is quite right in calling for sensitivity in dealing with student Persons of Interest in the residential school Independent Assessment Process, but quite wrong in suggesting the issue of student-on-student abuse was not on the minds of those who negotiated the settlement agreement. (Sensitivity needed, *Windspeaker*, February 2011)

Those at the negotiating table on behalf of residential school claimants, including legal counsel such as myself, were well aware that student-on-student abuse was one of the realities of the residential school experience.

The fact that such abuse occurred was, in many of our views, a reflection of the pattern of abuse that occurred within such schools and a further example of the sad reality that those who are subjected to abuse are at risk of becoming abusers themselves.

One of the objectives of negotiators representing residential school survivors was to ensure that all those who suffered at residential schools as a result of this phenomenon have proper access to the compensation process.

As a result, specific guidelines were included in the settlement agreement. These guidelines expanded the access of individuals with claims of student-on-student abuse, permitting them to advance such claims through the IAP, a far better process both for the claimant and the student Person of Interest than the ordinary civil courts.

Like all alleged abusers, student Persons of Interest have the option of a separate hearing to put their position on the record in a non-confrontational way.

There is no question that such claims can give rise to tension, embarrassment, anxiety and fear on both sides, and Justice Sinclair is correct to be concerned of their impact on reconciliation within the aboriginal community itself.

Hopefully the research that the TRC is undertaking will specifically examine the phenomenon of how cultures of abuse, such as that within Indian Residential Schools, can lead to more than one kind of victim, including those who wind up committing some kind of abuse themselves. A better understanding of this is essential if there is to be reconciliation or forgiveness.

**Jon Faulds**

## Letter: Move over if you won't fight

Dear Editor:

Where is the support from our chiefs when it comes to federal tax exemption?

How did it happen that Assembly of First Nations' employees are tax exempt and the rest of us who work off reserve are still being bullied and harassed by Revenue Canada to pay income tax?

How is it they can legally withhold the child tax

credit from households they deem are in arrears of federal taxes and penalize children?

It becomes quite apparent that the issue of taxing First Nations peoples needs to be on the chiefs' election platform, or have them move over for someone who is not afraid of not getting their own federal handout!

**Brenda Laforme**

## Letter: Finger-pointing chief should be held accountable

Dear Editor:

Drinking and driving is real admirable.

Quote: "It is nice to see our leadership struggle because it makes them appear more human."

Let us lower the standards and make excuses for someone who knew they had a problem with alcohol and chose to get behind a wheel. Someone who chose to run from the cops and someone who chose to refuse to take a breathalyzer test, and was lucky that he did not run over and kill someone.

The audacity of Lonechild in the public eye, pointing out other Native leaders and their so-called faults, as part of his campaign to get into FSIN, when he was hiding these charges.

Lonechild should tend to the virtue of responsibility and deal with the betrayal of the people's trust.

Furthermore, I suspect that Lonechild had to

provide an apology only because he couldn't hide it any longer. What else could he be hiding or will hide from us?

Let this be a lesson in a now public matter.

I like the way people use drinking and driving as an excuse to build character in others. Drinking and driving is a serious matter and I believe in the laws set in place pertaining to it.

Drinking and driving laws need to be respected and it is why they are strictly enforced. These laws are there to protect lives. We cannot be too lenient.

I give my support to MADD, Mothers Against Drinking and Driving, and to the Canadian Police Association, Cops for Kids Safety program, an interactive school program designed to teach kids about safety on the streets (impaired driving).

May their efforts not be in vain.

**Lauren Knustvik**

## [ rants and raves ] Page 5 Chatter

### GLOBAL NEWS IS REPORTING THAT

the chief and band council of Nova Scotia's Glooscap First Nation has promised more openness and accountability. Chief Shirley Clarke told band members on March 21 that the small Mi'kmaq community is taking action to be more transparent. Last December, Clarke made national headlines when it was revealed that she collected more than \$240,000 in pay and expenses in 2009. The band now has a financial accountability subcommittee, and council is taking part in a study commissioned by the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs which will review the responsibilities, salaries and governance models of First Nations and make recommendations about compensation levels.

### THE BRANDON SUN REPORTS THAT

University of Winnipeg students dressed as waiters on March 23 and served dirty water as a way of drawing attention to the lack of clean running water in many Manitoba First Nation communities. The students say they attempted to serve unfiltered and E.coli-infected Island Lake First Nation water to get people to send postcards to the federal government demanding better water and water infrastructure in these communities. March 22 was World Water Day. Assembly of First Nations National Chief marked the occasion by saying: "World Water Day is an opportunity to make a national commitment to ensuring that First Nations families have safe and clean drinking water. For many First Nations families, it is a daily struggle to get access to clean and adequate supplies of potable water and basic sanitation." There are 116 communities with Drinking Water Advisories, representing 18.4 per cent of the First Nation communities in Canada. The number of high-risk drinking water systems has increased from 48 to 49 in the past year. As many as 62,955 First Nations citizens could be affected by these water problems, and this does not include communities that lack running water, reports the AFN. National Chief Shawn Atleo insists the proposed federal legislation on First Nations drinking water will not address the fundamental problems. "I was pleased to speak with the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples on two occasions about Bill S-11," Atleo said. "I was quite clear that there is a paramount interest in ensuring and protecting safe drinking water for all First Nations. First Nations are working to advance regulation and standards based on their own jurisdiction and laws."

### PRINCE RUPERT MAYOR JACK MUSSALLEM

said a lawsuit by the Kitkatla First Nation against the city could cost \$1 million in legal fees, reports the Northern View. The lawsuit stems from the nation's assertion that the city has a duty to consult before being able to do anything with a piece of property that the city owns. "It's Kitkatla saying that they believe, even though there's no legislation for it and no case law about it, the city, because as a municipality we're a product of provincial legislation, has a duty to consult just like the provincial and federal governments do," said Mussallem. The mayor said that a ruling in favor of Kitkatla would set a legal precedent which would have ramifications for every municipality across Canada, seriously hampering a municipality's ability to use property owned inside a First Nation's traditional territory. "It would require all municipalities to consult with Aboriginal bands adjacent to their communities before doing anything. All of a sudden, if we wanted to make a modification to a piece of property, say a police detachment, fire hall, library, or performing arts centre, there would be this duty to consult. We don't believe that anybody has the ability to require us to consult," said Mussallem.

### THE ALBERNI VALLEY NEWS REPORTS

the judge who presided over the court case involving former students abused at the Alberni Indian Residential School has died. Former Chief Justice Donald Brenner passed away suddenly March 19. He was 64. Brenner presided over the Blackwater vs. Plint case from 1998 to 2001. The trial involved students who attended the Alberni Indian Residential School between the 1940s and 1960s. The case lifted the dark cloak off of the physical and sexual abuse endured by aboriginal children at the hands of AIRS staff. "The court case began a process that really was something that needed to happen for healing to begin," Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council President Cliff Atleo said. Brenner had described the Blackwater case as his most difficult while a judge. "I listened to evidence of physical and sexual abuse that went back many, many years but which involved people who were children at the time," he said. "It was difficult hearing these plaintiffs tell their stories." But hearing the stories opened the doors for many others to summon the courage to tell their own tales of abuse. Brenner sided with the Native victims and that decision was upheld all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. "Our people still struggle. Some haven't yet been able to step forward, but for others some justice was realized because of Justice Donald Brenner's ruling," Atleo said. Brenner graduated from law school in 1970 and was called to the bar in 1971. He was named to the Supreme Court in 1993 and chief justice in 2000. After retiring in 2009 he practiced dispute resolution. He was born in Toronto, and earned his pilot's license at age 17.



# National Energy Board

## Notice of Public Hearing on the Enbridge Bakken Pipeline Company Inc. (Enbridge Bakken) Bakken Pipeline Project Canada (Bakken Pipeline Project)

The National Energy Board (Board) has scheduled an oral public hearing on an application from Enbridge Bakken under the *National Energy Board Act* to construct and operate the proposed Bakken Pipeline Project. The proceeding will also consider matters required by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Copies of the application are available for viewing on the Board's Internet site at [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca) (click on "View" Regulatory Documents then "Quick Links" and scroll down to the application), at Enbridge Bakken's office (10201 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton); the Board's library (1st floor, 444 7th Avenue SW, Calgary); Regina Public Library – Central Library (2311 12th Avenue, Regina, SK); Alameda Community Library (200 5th Street, Alameda, SK); Redvers Public Library (53B Railway Avenue, Redvers, SK); and Border Regional Library, Virden Branch (312-7th Avenue, Virden, MB).

### Project Details

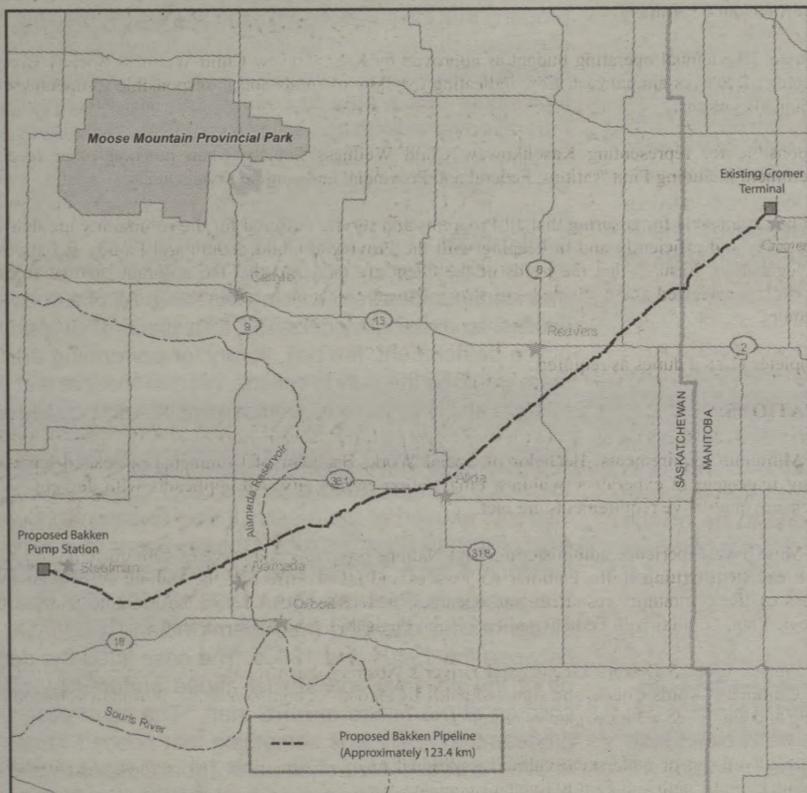
The Bakken Pipeline Project would transport crude oil from the Bakken Formation in North Dakota and Montana to refinery markets in North America via a connection with the existing Enbridge Pipeline Inc. (EPI) mainline at the EPI Cromer Terminal near Cromer, Manitoba. The Bakken Pipeline Project will include:

- the transfer of Line EX-02 from the current owner, Enbridge Pipelines (Westspur) Inc., to Enbridge Bakken Limited Partnership;
- construction and operation of a new 406.4 mm (NPS 16) outside diameter (OD) crude oil pipeline (Bakken Pipeline), approximately 123.4 km in length, from the new Bakken Pump station near Steelman, Saskatchewan, to the existing EPI Cromer terminal;
- construction and operation of the Bakken Pump Station to be located near the existing Enbridge Westspur Steelman Terminal; and
- construction of facilities at the existing EPI Cromer Terminal, including a new NPS 16 pig receiver.

The Bakken Pipeline will be alongside and contiguous to an existing Enbridge Westspur pipeline right-of-way (RoW) and other linear disturbances for approximately 77.3 km of its entire length. With approximately 46.1 km of new RoW, the Bakken Pipeline Project is subject to a screening level environmental assessment.

Enbridge Bakken is proposing to begin construction in the first half of 2012 with an in-service date of early 2013.

### Project Map



### Oral Public Hearing

The oral portion of the hearing will start at **10:00 a.m. local time 4 October 2011, at a location to be determined**. The hearing will obtain the evidence and views of interested persons on the application. Any person interested in participating in the oral portion of the hearing should consult the Board's Hearing Order OH-01-2011 for further background and instructions. The deadline for filing applications to intervene is **29 April 2011** and for providing a letter of comment or to register to provide an oral statement on the application is **30 June 2011**. Federal or provincial government authorities may participate by filing a letter of comment, providing an oral statement, seeking Intervenor status or by filing a declaration that they will be a Government Participant by **29 April 2011**. Further details can be found in the Hearing Order.

### Information for Intervenors

Any person wishing to intervene in the hearing must file an application to intervene by **noon, Calgary time, 29 April 2011** with the Secretary of the Board and serve a copy on Enbridge Bakken and its counsel at each of the following addresses:

Ms. Lisa Anderson Team Lead, Regulatory Affairs Enbridge Pipelines Inc. 10201 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 3N7 Facsimile 780-420-8749	Ms. Ramona Salamucha Regulatory Counsel Enbridge Pipelines Inc. 10201 Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 3N7 Facsimile 780-420-5166	Ms. Laura Estep Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP 15th Floor, Bankers Court 850-2nd Street SW Calgary, AB T2P 0R8 Facsimile 403-268-3100
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You may use a form on the Board's Internet site to file an application to intervene. Go to [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca) and click "Submit" under the "Regulatory Documents" heading, click "Submit Documents Electronically" – then "Application for Intervenor Status". Enbridge Bakken will serve a copy of the application and related documentation on each Intervenor.

### Letters of Comment and Oral Statements

Any person wishing only to comment on the application should file a letter of comment with the Secretary of the Board and send a copy to Enbridge Bakken and its counsel by **noon, Calgary time, 30 June 2011**.

The Board will also set aside time, at the commencement of the oral portion of the hearing, to hear comments on the application. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement must file a letter with the Board requesting the opportunity to make an oral statement and send a copy to Enbridge Bakken and its counsel by **noon, Calgary time, 30 June 2011**. You may use forms on the Board's Internet site to file your letter of comment or request to make an oral statement. Go to [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca). Click "Submit" under the "Regulatory Documents" heading, click "Submit Documents Electronically" – then "Letter of Comment" or "Request to Make an Oral Statement".

### Information on Hearing Procedures

You may access the Hearing Order through the Board's Internet site at [www.neb-one.gc.ca](http://www.neb-one.gc.ca) (click on "Regulatory Documents" then "Quick Links", scroll down to the "Enbridge Bakken Pipeline Company Inc. - Bakken Pipeline Project Canada (OH-01-2011)" application, then "Hearing Order" at the top of the screen). You may obtain information on the procedures for this hearing or on the *National Energy Board Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1995, as amended (Rules) SOR/95-208*, governing all hearings (available in English and French) by writing to the Secretary of the Board, or by contacting Mona Butler, Regulatory Officer at 403-221-3292, or Sharon Wong, Regulatory Officer at 403-299-3191, or at 1-800-899-1265. You may also go to the Board's Internet site and click on "Acts and Regulations" to access the Board's Rules and other legislation.

**Anne-Marie Erickson**, Secretary of the Board,  
National Energy Board 444 Seventh Avenue SW,  
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8 Fax 403-292-5503

**GHOST RIVER REDISCOVERY SOCIETY SUMMER PROGRAMS**  
See ad in this issue for a list of 2011 programs - 403-270-9351

**NATIVE SENIOR CENTRE ACTIVITIES**  
Mondays - Cree and Tea, Tuesdays - Crafts,  
Wednesdays - Soup and Bannock - Edmonton, Alta. Drop In Centre  
Sign up to volunteer - 780-476-6595

**INSIGHT MANAGING ABO. LAND & WATER INTERESTS**  
March 28 & 29, 2011, Toronto, Ont. - 1-888-777-1707

**MELVIN FONTAINE MEMORIAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT**  
April 1-3, 2011, Winnipeg, Man. - 204-340-6117

**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TRADITIONAL POWWOW 2011**  
April 2 & 3, 2011, South Porcupine, Ont. - 705-235-2233;

**GIRL POWER FACILITATOR TRAINING**  
April 6 & 7, 2011, Regina, Sask. - 250-514-1570

**CFAR SOCIETY NETWORKING LUNCHEON - FIRST NATION  
CONSULTATION GUIDELINES - PAST AND FUTURE**  
April 7, 2011, Edmonton, Alta. - 403-271-2262 or 1-877-571-2262

**INSIGHT - ABORIGINAL HOUSING FORUM**  
April 11 & 12, 2011, Calgary, Alta. - 1-888-777-1707

**RECLAIMING PARTS OF THE SOUL/SELF TRAINING**  
April 12-15, 2011, St. Albert, Alta. - 780-473-6732; 1-866-473-6732

**FIRST NATIONS "ANGER MANAGEMENT" WORKSHOP**  
April 13-15, 2011, Prince Albert, Sask.  
1-888-455-6229; 780-455-6229

**FIRST NATIONS UNIVERSITY OF CANADA  
SPRING CELEBRATION POWWOW**  
April 16 & 17, 2011, Regina, Sask. - www.firstnationsuniversity.ca

**NEGOTIATING WITH FIRST NATIONS & ABO. COMMUNITIES**  
April 19 & 20, 2011, Calgary, Alta. - 1-877-927-7936

**TREATY 4 EDUCATION CONFERENCE**  
April 19-21, 2011, Regina, Sask. - 306-526-5917 (see ad in this issue)

**GIRL POWER FACILITATOR TRAINING**  
April 20 & 21, 2011, Barrie, Ont. - 250-514-1570 (see ad in this issue)

**NATIVE MEN'S WELLNESS RETREAT 2011**  
April 20 & 21, 2011, Edmonton, Alta. - 1-888-511-0688

**8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION IN INDIAN COUNTRY  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
April 25-27, 2011, Chandler, Arizona, USA - 480-990-1887

**CCAB'S ABORIGINAL BUSINESS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**  
April 27, 2011, Edmonton, Alta. - 416-961-8663

**GATHERING OF NATIONS POWWOW**  
April 28-30, 2011, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA - 505-836-2810

**A SEMINAR BY DARREN AT THE  
THIRD ANNUAL WAR OF 1812 SYMPOSIUM**  
April 29 & 30, 2011, Freight House Restaurant, Ogdensburg, NY  
Cell: 613-304-1736

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS IN BROADCASTING**  
Application deadline: April 30, 2011  
www.ammsa.com/sabar.htm (see ad in this issue)

**TRAUMA RECOVERY CERTIFICATION**  
May 2-8, 2011, Edmonton, Alta. 780-473-6732; 1-866-473-6732

**TRADITIONAL LIVING IN A MODERN WORLD  
ANNUAL ABORIGINAL GATHERING**  
May 3, 2011, Saskatoon, Sask. - 306-933-1238, Ext 231

**GIRL POWER FACILITATOR TRAINING**  
May 4 & 5, 2011, Saskatoon, Sask. - 250-514-1570 (see ad in this issue)

**FIRST NATION COUNCILLORS CONFERENCE**  
May 9-11, 2011, Edmonton, Alta. - 1-888-511-0688

**LIGHTING THE FIRE CONFERENCE**  
May 11-13, 2011, Winnipeg, Man. - 204-594-1290, Ext. 2064

**ABORIGINAL HEALTH FORUM**  
May 16 & 17, 2011, Toronto, Ont. - 1-888-777-1707 (see ad in this issue)

**VISION QUEST CONFERENCE**  
May 17-19, 2011, Winnipeg, Man. - 1-800-557-8242

**HILO POWWOW & NATIVE HERITAGE DAYS**  
May 22-30, 2011, Hilo, Hawaii - 808-557-8607 (see ad in this issue)

**5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT**  
May 25-27, 2011, Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA - 505-766-9545

**IAAW ANNUAL ESQUAO AWARDS GALA**  
May 26, 2011, Edmonton, Alta. - 780-479-8195 or 1-877-471-2171

**CFAR SOCIETY CONFERENCE & GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
May 31 to June 2, 2011, River Cree Resort, Enoch, Alta.  
403-271-2262 or 1-877-571-2262

**ABORIGINAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCIAL FORUM**  
June 8 & 9, 2011, Winnipeg, Man. - 1-888-777-1707 (see ad in this issue)

**ABORIGINAL DAY ALONG THE HUMBER RIVER**  
June 11, 2011, 4 km run/walk, Etienne Brule Park, Toronto, Ont.  
http://sites.google.com/site/aboriginaldayrun/

**10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL KEEPING THE FIRES BURNING GALA**  
June 16, 2011, Winnipeg, Man. - 204-953-5820

**ABORIGINAL SPORT AWARENESS DAY**  
June 17, 2011, Calgary, Alta. - bbauer@calgaryvipers.com

INCLUDE YOUR EVENT  
Fax: 780-455-7639  
Email: market@ammsa.com

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**ATTENTION CONTRACTORS**

ALBERTA EDUCATION and ALBERTA ADVANCED EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Alberta Education and Advanced Education and Technology are seeking individuals and organizations interested in providing contracted services. Interested parties may submit a response package for one or more of the following categories:

- RFQ# AE-05-01 Education Consultative Services
- RFQ# AE-05-02 Writing and Developing Services (Available March 25, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-03 Editorial Services
- RFQ# AE-05-06 Review Services (Available March 25, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-08 Translation/Adaptation Services (Available March 25, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-09 Facilitation and Event Planning Services (Available March 25, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-11 Educational Multimedia Services
- RFQ# AE-05-18 Psychometric Services
- RFQ# AE-05-19 Examination Services
- RFQ# AE-05-24 Performance Measurements & Planning Consultative Services
- RFQ# AE-05-34 Management Consultative Services (Available March 25, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-64 Research and Survey Services (Available April 24, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-65 Human Resource Programs Services
- RFQ# AE-05-66 Narration Services
- RFQ# AE-05-67 Videography, Media Production and Sound Services (Available March 25, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-68 Graphic Design, Illustration and Photographic Services (Available April 24, 2011)
- RFQ# AE-05-69 User Research and User Centered Design Services

A resource list of pre-qualified vendors will be developed from the successful responses received and will be used in the selection of contractors as projects arise. The complete RFQ packages are available on the Alberta Purchasing Connection (APC) website at www.purchasingconnection.ca or call (780) 415-2227 for additional information.

We encourage vendors to check the APC frequently for additional contract opportunities.

**Government of Alberta**

**Employment Opportunity  
Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society (K.C.W.S.)  
Director**

K.C.W.S provides statutory child intervention services to the community of Samson Cree Nation located in Hobbema, Alberta, 85 Kilometers South of Edmonton. We are currently seeking to hire a committed and motivated individual into the position of Director.

**SUMMARY OF DUTIES**

The Director oversees daily operations of the Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society and is responsible for directing the manager and supervisors of Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society.

**REPORTING ACCOUNTABILITIES**

The Director will report directly to the Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society Board of Directors.

**SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Prepares the budget request along with substantiating data including the annual report for the previous year of operations and previous, the Operational Work plan for the upcoming fiscal year for which the funds are requested. Provide any other documentation, which will help meet the requirements of Federal and Provincial department.
- Maintains the annual operating budget as approved by Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society Board of Directors. Receives annual cash flow indicating the flow of funds and is responsible to operate within funding allocations.
- Responsible for representing Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society when meeting other levels of government including First Nations, Federal and Provincial and community agencies.
- Will be responsible for ensuring that all Programs and services offered for the community are delivered objectively and efficiently and in keeping with the Provincial Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act legislation. Ensures that the needs of the client are met, and that the programs and services are consistently reviewed and evaluated and changes made to continue meeting the changing needs of the community.
- Completes related duties as required

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

Education: Minimum requirements: Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Commerce or related University Degree, senior management experience within a First Nation community. All applicants with degrees will be screened to ensure qualitative requirements are met.

Experience: Must have experience administering First Nations programs and services, administering operating budgets, have excellent writing skills. Familiar with issues and factors affecting the community and an ability and awareness of the community resources and agencies, which can be accessed, to promote Samson Cree Nation Strategic Plan, familiar with Federal and Provincial Legislation and issues arising.

Other requirements: Class 5 Drivers License and Driver's Abstract, have reliable transportation, clear CYIM check, Clear Criminal Records Check, and sign and abide by an oath of confidentiality. Willingness to complete a staff training and employee wellness plan as required.

Ability to speak Cree and or understand cultural traditional practices and ability to implement the reciprocal interchange with Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act.

Please submit resumes to:

Trina Crier, HR Clerk  
Kasohkewew Child Wellness Society  
Box 1050  
Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
Phone: (780) 585-3300  
Fax: (780) 585-4488

**CLOSING DATE: April 15, 2011 @ 4:30 pm**  
**Salary to be Negotiated**

**\*\*Only those applicants selected for interviews will be contacted\*\***

# Funding yet to be secured for additional year

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

WINNIPEG

The parties of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement have consented to add one more year to the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but funding for that extra year is in question.

"The money spent prior to our taking office has not yet been replenished. There was an expenditure of a few million dollars. We are taking steps to have the entire budget of the TRC made whole, effective the date of our appointment," said TRC chair Murray Sinclair.

The commission, headed by

Sinclair with commissioners Wilton Littlechild and Marie Wilson, requested the five-year mandate kick in with their appointments instead of the appointments of the initial TRC commissioners. The initial appointments ended with the resignation of the first chair in October 2008 and its two commissioners in January 2009. Sinclair's commission took over July 1, 2009. With the extension, the TRC's work will end on June 30, 2014.

Sinclair said the settlement agreement was not amended, so court approval was not required.

"The settlement agreement provided that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission commissioners would be appointed for their term by the

Government of Canada so . . . that (determined) that period of time," said Sinclair.

Where the funding for the additional year will come from is unclear. Authorization for the initial funding was subject to a Financial Administration Act order by the federal government.

Sinclair said there are two options for the additional dollars: the parties to the settlement agreement could contribute more dollars, or money could be drawn from the \$4 billion compensation fund set up by the court.

The fund was established to pay out damages awarded under the Common Experience Payment (CEP) and the Independent Assessment Program (AIP); to provide

additional dollars to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation; to finance commemoration projects; and to carry out the work of the TRC. CEP and IAP dollars are to be automatically replenished by the Presbyterian, Anglican, United and Catholic churches and the federal government.

"The TRC money came out of the survivors' compensation fund and therefore that's where any changes to it have to be addressed," said Sinclair.

Deadlines for various reports were based on when the commission started and were set out by the settlement agreement. Those deadlines have been altered, also through the consent of the parties. However, the delivery of the final report was

established by the agreement to be in 2013. The TRC is asking for a year's extension, and this request is still under discussion, said Sinclair.

The secretariat is expected to keep operating in the final year, but the Residential School Survivors Advisory Committee will likely not be as active. Sinclair noted that once the national events wrap up (the last one is scheduled for 2013) and the commemoration work is completed, the survivors' committee's workload would decrease.

"In the last year of operations of the commission we're in a winding down phase so a lot of our expenses are going to be reduced during that time," said Sinclair.

# Truth documents must never be in the control of the perpetrators

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

The truth gathering does not end with the collection of documents.

"Creating archives is important, but creating archives only is not enough," said Doudou Diène, chair of the International Coalition of Sites and Programs of Conscience in Senegal.

"(You need) to transform knowledge from archives to induce transformation, individual and collective (mindset) transformation."

Diène was one of almost 40 international speakers at a forum hosted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Vancouver in March. Speakers shared their expertise in the work they were

undertaking to ensure the painful histories in their respective countries were not forgotten.

The establishment of a National Research Centre is one of the requirements of the TRC as outlined by the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

"The commission has an obligation to ensure there is a national memory about Indian residential schools that has a permanent established place in our history," said Justice Murray Sinclair, chair of the TRC.

"The justice to the true story comes about by looking at the important question 'What do we do about this?' . . . We must always be able to determine for ourselves, to know from one generation to the next, what went on."

That acknowledgement and remembrance is important, said

Stephen Smith, executive director with the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute.

"Today we have a term which is called restorative justice, (which) means . . . in the absence of true justice there still needs to be a process by which we can restore, . . . through acknowledgement, through memory . . . by acknowledging through compensation and through the courts, your loss," said Smith, founding director of the UK Holocaust Centre, Britain's first dedicated Holocaust memorial and education institution.

"By trying to create through education a way forward that what happened was wrong. In whatever way we can we will restore something of the past."

Sinclair said much of the information presented at the forum was not new to him or

commissioners Wilton Littlechild and Marie Wilson, but it did reinforce some of their beliefs.

"One of the things that came . . . in establishing the archive of documents was the importance of ensuring that the documents were never under the control of those who had perpetrated the wrong to begin with," said Sinclair.

"That was a consistent theme. That was a feeling we had from the beginning, but [the gathering] reinforced that strongly and has made us determined to ensure (that)."

Funding, said Sinclair, will be left up to the proponents. However, he noted that presenters stated a sole-source funder meant that the project could collapse if the funder pulled out.

About half a dozen models were made apparent from the

three-day forum that the commission will consider.

"We have to decide well before the end of this commission how this National Research Centre is going to be established," said Sinclair.

What could happen is that the centre becomes a legal entity established by a corporation or foundation only, but without a building. This would present logistical problems for the TRC, which already has a large collection of documents, including video and audio.

"How are they going to be housed if you don't have a place to house them? I think that's the challenge we're faced with," said Sinclair.

A request for proposals for the establishment of a National Research Centre will be going out. A "sooner than later" deadline is expected, said Sinclair.

# First Nations intervene in Métis harvesting case

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

MEDICINE HAT

Two First Nations will be weighing in on whether Métis have traditional harvesting rights in southern Alberta.

The Blood and Siksika First Nations were granted limited intervener status in a court decision rendered in Medicine Hat in early March. Each First Nation will make oral presentations when the Court of Queen's Bench hears an appeal of the Garry Hirsekorn ruling on June 21 to June 24. Hirsekorn was found guilty in December 2010 of two counts under the Wild Life Act related to harvesting in the Cypress Hills area.

"It is our position this is Blackfoot territory and we will

protect and hold it sustainable for our members," said Blood Chief Charles Weasel Head.

The Blackfoot Confederacy encompasses southern Alberta from Cypress Hills west to the Rocky Mountains, south to Yellowstone National Park, north to Calgary and Red Deer south of the South Saskatchewan River, said Weasel Head.

Although the Piikani Nation, a member of the Blackfoot Confederacy, is not part of the legal proceedings, Weasel Head said the Piikani and the Blackfoot First Nation, in Montana, also a member of the confederacy, have given their support.

Jason Madden, counsel for Hirsekorn and the Métis Nation of Alberta, said giving Métis harvesting rights in the traditional Blackfoot territory does not take away from First Nations' rights.

"Their concern . . . is if you recognize that Métis rights are there then (their) rights may be negatively affected or diluted or lesser than what they currently are. But we don't agree with that for the sole issue that just because you recognize other rights doesn't mean you take away rights from other people," said Madden.

Weasel Head is disappointed that both his band and Siksika have only been given one hour each to make presentations in June.

Madden is hopeful that the limited time will allow the main issue to remain clear.

"This is not a case about First Nations rights. This is a case about Métis rights and (the First Nations) can come in and comment and provide their suggestions, but they don't get to take over the case or reframe it," he said.

The MNA will be presenting a three-point argument to the court in June.

"We think the judge misapplied the Powley test because what was required is for the Métis to show their customs, practices and traditions, that included harvesting in that area," said Madden.

Madden believes that Judge Ted Fisher interpreted Powley narrowly and his ruling was contrary to previous ones rendered in Manitoba and Saskatchewan which also drew on Powley. Fisher leaned heavily on the lack of a permanent Métis settlement in the region.

The MNA will also argue Fisher's interpretation of "effective control" and the role of the Northwest Mounted Police, which was to control the whisky trade, and not impact the Métis way of life.

The third point is Fisher's ruling that collateral attack against the province's Wild Life Act by invoking Sect. 35 of the Constitution, which proclaims Aboriginal rights, was not appropriate in a criminal proceeding. Hirsekorn's actions were part of a larger political campaign by MNA to force the issue of Métis harvesting rights.

"More likely if we are successful in the appeal, the decision against Mr. Hirsekorn would be overturned," said Madden.

If overturned, the Crown could appeal to the Alberta Court of Appeal.

If the ruling is not favorable to Hirsekorn, the MNA could also appeal. Madden said he wouldn't be surprised to see the matter go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada as Alberta courts "are conservative in their approaches vis-à-vis Aboriginal rights."

# Feds skate on a technicality

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

Legal technicalities should not be what determine if First Nations children on reserves receive services comparable to their off-reserve counterparts.

"Having a case that's this important, which alleges discrimination and harm to children, decided on the facts, not on a legal technicality," said Cindy Blackstock, executive director with First Nations Child and Family Caring Society. "These are not discretionary services. They are statutory services required by law and the Canadian Charter says that every Canadian has the right to equal benefit under the law. That's clearly not happening here."

In mid-March, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal dismissed a claim put forward jointly by the society and the Assembly of First Nations which stated that funding of on-reserve children by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) "differentiates adversely against these First Nation children contrary to section 5(b) of the *Canadian Human Rights Act*" because funding is provided at a lesser rate than what is provided by the provinces and territories.

In a 67-page document, tribunal chair Shirish P. Chotalia, ruled that comparing services delivered by different levels of government was not possible through the Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA).

Chotalia wrote that "the 'comparator' question is a pure question of law. . . . I find that

the CHRA does require a comparison to be made, but not the one proposed by the complainants. Two different service providers cannot be compared to each other."

"And if it's not under the jurisdiction of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, which is a federal organization, to oversee the implementation of human rights by the federal government, then who's jurisdiction is it," Blackstock said.

Chotalia also said that the inability of the parties to agree to work with a mediator to narrow the scope of the documents provided made it impossible for a ruling on whether INAC could be classified as a service provider. Both the AFN and the society asserted that as INAC provided funding it was a service provider. Wrote Chotalia, "Given the expanse of the complaint, and a lack of reasonable definition to its parameters, I cannot decide the services issue on the evidence filed."

Blackstock said the federal government attempted to blame the discrimination on the service providers it funded.

"The agencies are not in the position to remedy the discrimination. The government of Canada is. . . . It's really an offloading of federal government discrimination responsibility onto the general public," she said.

The society and the AFN filed the complaint with the tribunal in 2007, but the tribunal's decision wasn't made on the complaint brought forward, but on the federal government's motion to dismiss the complaint.

"(Filing with the tribunal) really

was a last resort," said Blackstock. "We had already worked 10 years with (INAC and Inuit First Nations health branch) on a few solutions documenting inequality and developing remedies for it and (the federal government) walked away from both. And 10 years is a long time in anyone's life, but in children's lives that's a humungous period of time. While we were sitting at that table some children stopped being children anymore and they never knew what it was to be treated equally by the government of Canada."

The society will be appealing the tribunal's decision to the federal Court of Appeal where the society has won before on similar questions.

"We cannot allow this decision to stand because if it does stand it not only denies appropriate treatment for First Nations children in child welfare, but it really would allow the federal government to discriminate at will against First Nations children without any recourse under the Canadian Human Rights Act," said Blackstock.

In a news release, AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo said, "We are reviewing the decision carefully and are going to consider all options to ensure this complaint moves forward because this is first and foremost about the welfare of First Nations children."

From the documents and submissions received, Chotalia noted that INAC's funding supported 108 First Nations child welfare service providers delivering child welfare to approximately 160,000 children and youth in approximately 447 of 663 First Nations.

# Swift reaction to budget

The federal budget was brought down by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty on March 22, and the reaction from First Nations leaders has been swift.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo said the budget holds nothing for First Nations people. What he was looking for in the budget was a new approach that would ensure equitable opportunity, stability and safety for First Nation citizens and communities.

"First Nations continue our calls for a new approach that will transform the funding relationship between First Nation and Canada in a way that will support progress and productivity for our citizens and communities," said Atleo.

"The current funding relationship undermines our abilities to plan, predict and effectively oversee critical service areas that provide safety and security in our communities.

"First Nation citizens do not enjoy the same level of service provided to Canadians by their governments and we do not have the same guarantee of stable

funding transfers. Instead, we are subject to arbitrary allocations that are not guided by any overall plan and that do not match our urgent, pressing needs. In a budget aimed at 'stability', we still do not see a stable and sustainable approach and we will continue to advance a First Nations-driven plan for progress."

Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Stan Beardy said the budget doesn't address the critical issues facing NAN First Nations.

"The Harper government has failed to recognize where the real needs are. We see no investments to ensure long-term sustainability for NAN communities. The over \$500 million commitment through Canada's Economic Action Plan does not address the infrastructure needs within Northern Ontario when you consider the funding is intended to support First Nations across Canada," said NAN Grand Chief Stan Beardy.

"The budget included a commitment for an all-season road in Northwest Territories, but what about Northern Ontario? We have been lobbying for all-



Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo

weather roads to connect our remote NAN communities and have not seen anything from the federal government. We once again see no real commitment to strengthen and improve NAN First Nations. As the gap continues to widen between First Nations and the larger society it will create noticeable and costly social burden."

(See *Response* on page 21.)

# Windspeaker news briefs

## THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON, PEI,

has donated a surplus fire truck to a Manitoba First Nations community. The town had recently bought a new pumper, and after one of its firefighters heard that many First Nations communities don't have the equipment needed to fight fires, the town agreed to donate the truck to the Manitoba Association of Native Firefighters. Three people were killed March 14 in a house fire on God's Lake Narrows First Nations in Manitoba. The chief said the victims didn't have a chance because the community had no truck to fight the fire with. "What we have is no hope of putting the fire out within time. It's just a matter of keeping the fire contained and not have it spread to other houses," said Chief Peter Watt. Two young children and a community elder died in the blaze. About 200 members of the community rushed to help, but all they could do was work with two water delivery trucks taking turns with the hose as the home burned for two hours. Derek Folland said he had heard on the news that First Nations have difficulty getting funds for fire service. The 15-year-old truck that Kensington donated had only about 27,000 kilometres on it, and it was still fit for service somewhere, he said. Folland has been in contact with fire departments across P.E.I. to ask for donations of equipment to send along with the pumper truck. Kensington hopes to donate gloves, hoses and nozzles, because some communities don't have any equipment at all, Folland said.

## ANISHINABE KWEAG, A GROUP

of women who successfully protested the garbage dump at Site 41 in Tiny Township, Ont., is calling on Bruce Power to halt its plans to ship 16 de-commissioned nuclear steam generators through the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. "We will, by any and all means, protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River from this potential hazard," said Vicki Monague, spokesperson for Anishinabe Kweag. "We have respectfully called upon Bruce Power to stop its plans to transport the decommissioned nuclear steam generators. Their own original plan (when the generators were built) would have allowed the steam generators with radioactive waste to be safely stored on site, of which Bruce Power would assume full responsibility for what they have created without needlessly exposing our waterways to potential hazards." On Feb. 4, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission authorized Bruce Power, without the full and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, said Anishinabe Kweag, to transport the steam generators to Sweden for recycling. This is the first of four shipments being planned, for a total of 64 decommissioned steam generators. On March 22, the St. Lawrence Seaway opened for the season, allowing Bruce Power to begin shipment. "We, as Anishinabe Kweag, cannot allow this shipment to occur," Monague said.

## A SECOND DEGREE MURDER

trial in Thunder Bay, Ont. was put on hold because the jury pool did not contain any Aboriginal representation. Neither the victim nor the accused in the case is Native, but that did not stop Ontario Superior Court Judge Helen Pierce from being concerned that the jury could not be representative of Thunder Bay because it lacked Aboriginal involvement. One hundred jurors answered the call to attend for jury selection, but were turned away. An Ontario court of appeal decision had previously called into question the viability of the northern community's justice system. The ruling stemmed from two coroner's inquests. The appeals court called for new inquests into the deaths of two First Nations men whose families were concerned that the five-member jury was not representative of their communities. The Nishnawbe Aski Nation, which represents 49 First Nations communities in Northern Ontario, has been seeking some fairness in this area for some time, after discovering in 2008 that the Kenora judicial district jury roll only included names from 14 of their communities. "The court of appeal decision now confirms our concerns were valid," said NAN deputy Grand Chief Terry Waboose. "Now it's spreading not only to coroner's inquests, but also to criminal trials. How juries are selected is governed by the jury act, so it applies."

## THE ATLANTIC POLICY CONGRESS

of First Nations Chiefs and the 12-member Association of Atlantic Universities signed a memorandum of understanding to improve access to education. It's thought to be the first of its kind in Canada. The goal is to encourage Aboriginal people to choose a post-secondary education, and in the process boost their economic chances and create community leaders. Helping young people attend and graduate from university is very important, said Aboriginal leaders. John Paul, the executive director of the Atlantic Policy Congress, said it would also help the region fill a skills gap in the job market.

# Long fight ahead expected on tobacco litigation

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## REGINA

First Nations in western Canada are taking steps to ensure the unimpeded sale of tobacco products among their people.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) has prepared draft legislation for the sale of tobacco so its 74 members can adapt it to meet their community needs and enact it as a bylaw with the power to supersede provincial laws.

First Nations in British Columbia and Alberta have expressed interest in the legislation that Saskatchewan First Nations are moving forward with.

"With this... if we want to do trade with any First Nation tobacco supplier we can do nation to nation trading and (our bylaw) would supersede any provincial laws or bylaws that are taking place. That would exclude the province from having any jurisdiction in First Nation communities when we have our own legislation," said Morley Watson, the FSIN vice chair.

Watson said the FSIN introduced the legislation as a means to ensure treaty rites such as tax exemption and economic development.

Chady Mousterah, legal counsel for the Montana First Nation, Montana Chief Carolyn Buffalo and Rainbow Tobacco Company, said the tobacco bylaw is a strong way to move forward.

"If the First Nations get together and form their own bylaws, which they are entitled to through their own acts, then they would clarify any grey areas and prohibit the enforcement of the provincial legislation," said Mousterah.

If the Montana First Nation were to adopt such a bylaw Mousterah is uncertain whether the bylaw would be retroactive.

"That's an issue to be litigated... There's no clear answer to it whether it be retroactive or not, but certainly it would allow the trade," said Mousterah.

Mousterah is acting on behalf of the three parties following the confiscation of Rainbow Tobacco products from a quonset on the Montana First Nation. Fourteen million cigarettes were seized by the RCMP and Alberta Gaming

and Liquor Commission on Jan. 5 and are being held in an undisclosed secured facility.

Lynn Hutchings-Mah, spokesperson for the commission, said the government investigation is ongoing and no charges have been laid. She would not speculate as to when the investigation would conclude.

Mousterah expects to proceed with litigation as the province has not released the cigarettes.

At the heart of the matter is whether the province has the authority to seize tobacco from First Nations if that tobacco bears federal duty stamps, but not provincial demarcations.

In February, provincial governments in B.C. and Saskatchewan seized shipments of tobacco that were sent from

Rainbow Tobacco Company to First Nations representatives in those provinces.

Rob Dickson, executive director for Rainbow Tobacco Company, located in Kahnawake Mohawk Territory in Quebec, said his company is advising First Nations in bylaw preparation and encouraged by their action. However, the company's efforts will remain focused on the Montana First Nation.

"We will be concentrating our legal action in Alberta," said Dickson.

Mousterah anticipates the issue will take at least a couple of years to be resolved.

"I'm sure there's going to be interveners involved... be it the federal government, or provincial government because it is a constitutional issue," he said.

# The urban challenge of Native population

By Reuel S. Amdur  
Windspeaker Contributor

## OTTAWA

"Most Aboriginal people live in urban areas." That is how Marc Maracle began his talk at a conference on urban poverty at Carleton University on Jan. 22.

While more than half the population are urban dwellers, in Ontario the figure "is closer to 70 per cent." And more than half of the Aboriginal population is under 25.

Who are the Aboriginals? They comprise three and a half to four per cent of the population.

There are more than 600 reserves, representing more than 60 nations. Then there are the Métis and Inuit. While people have the image of reserves taking up vast stretches of land, in fact the area they occupy is quite small. All of the reserves South of 60 would fit into the territory of just one American nation, the Navajos.

Why do people leave the reserves? They leave to escape poor housing, lack of access to health care, poor education, and lack of job opportunities. Women also leave to escape violence. That is what Maracle told the audience. There are now

two and three generations of Aboriginal people who have no connection with reserves.

Marc Maracle is a Tyendinaga Mohawk who is the executive director of Ottawa's Gignul Aboriginal Housing. He has served as a consultant and senior policy advisor with the National Aboriginal Management Board at Human Resources Development Canada and has been executive director of the National Association of Friendship Centres.

In looking at the local Ottawa scene, he spoke of the two extremes of Aboriginal experience. On the negative side, a third of the homeless are Aboriginal. On the more positive side, Ottawa offers opportunities for the more educated Native population, especially with the federal government, but also with Aboriginal organizations.

Maracle spoke of the federal government's Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS), an initiative which promotes collaboration at the local level among federal, provincial, and municipal governments and Aboriginal organizations.

School board involvement is also desirable, but in Ottawa he has not seen the level of cooperation that he would like. The undertaking is to promote employment and the

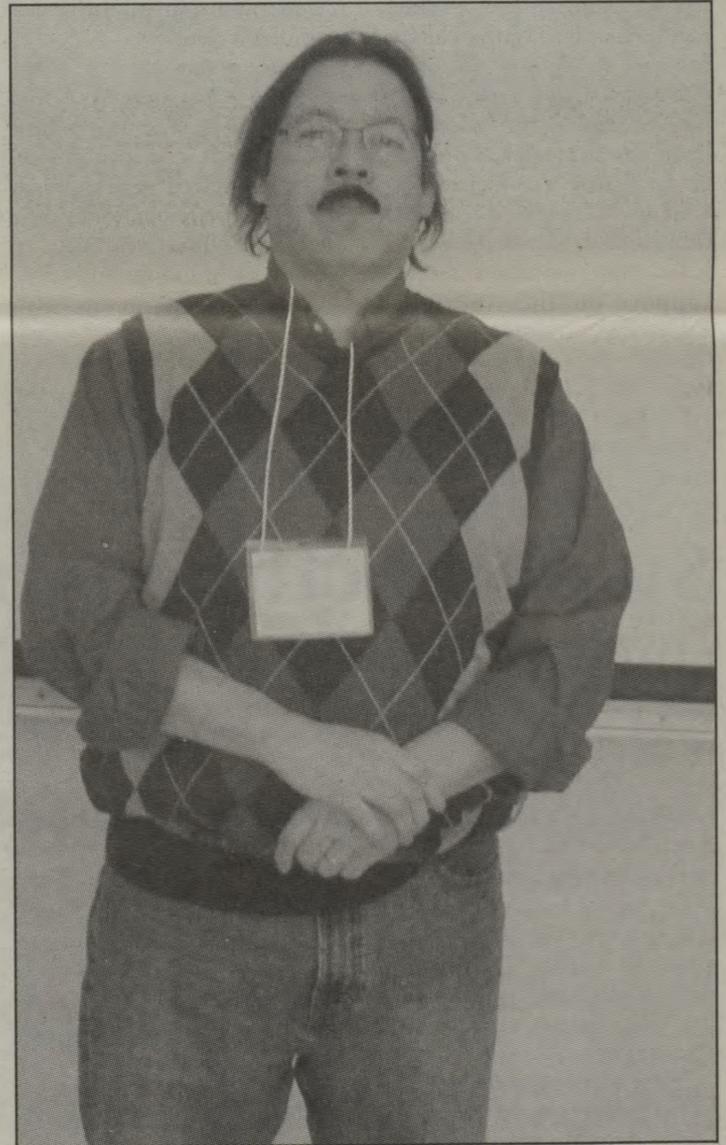
development of Aboriginal business, to address and alleviate poverty, and to create public awareness. UAS programs have been established in Ottawa, Toronto, and Thunder Bay, among other places. In the UAS, it is Aboriginal people who identify the issues and control the process.

Cities aid in employment development through mentorship and job shadowing programs, for example. Provinces respond to Aboriginal matters by saying that they are a federal responsibility, and Indian and Northern Development "has almost nothing to do with urban responsibilities."

Maracle had some critical comments regarding the federal approach to funding programs. The federal government gives time-limited funds for specific undertakings, with the expectation that during that time the program will find some other source to enable it to continue. That approach, he charged, "is not socially responsible."

Reflecting on the Aboriginal experience of government tutelage, Maracle wants Aboriginal people to be given responsibility.

"We have had responsibility taken away from us. We need to have the right to fail. From failure we can go on to success."



Marc Maracle

PHOTO: REUEL S. AMDUR

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# Blazing a trail from the north: Aboriginal students find a home away from home

By Bronwen Duncan  
Windspeaker Contributor

## VICTORIA

Camosun College, situated in Victoria, is drawing Aboriginal students from the north's Fort Providence like a magnet.

Following the trek of others from this little town in the Northwest Territories, like Camosun student Destiny Thom, seven others have recently toured the college.

"It's cool that we've made a trail for other students in the north to follow," said Thom.

Aboriginal education is more than just classes with Indigenous content at Camosun. It means embracing Aboriginal learners with a supportive community and stretching the welcome mat for many miles.

Two years ago, Thom and her friend Sonia Minoza were encouraged to apply to Camosun by Lois Philipp, a school principal in Fort Providence who became familiar with the colleges Aboriginal programming while taking a Masters of Education at the University of Victoria.

"It seemed like a natural fit with lots of support from the Camosun end," said Philipp. Encouraged by the Aboriginal Education and Community Connections (AECC) Web site, Philipp felt comfortable calling Faye Martin, an Aboriginal Advisor in AECC, to help sort out a delay in Minoza's and Thom's applications. The girls

were packed and down to Victoria within a week, with Martin's guidance.

Thom had been to Victoria before as a participant in an Aboriginal youth conference the year before. But it was still intimidating to actually leave a community the same size as the student population of the college.

To ease the transition, Thom's grandmother, Margaret Thom, deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, journeyed down with the young women before handing them over to Martin, who helped them find housing, funding and learn their way around the college and city.

The deputy commissioner even sat in on the two young women's Indigenous College Prep certificate classes, leaving only when she knew they were comfortably settled.

"This has been a powerful experience for me," said Martin. "When Margaret followed traditional protocol, including the gifting of tobacco, I was reminded of how important it is to follow our teachings. I feel honored to be a part of these students' transition."

Six months later, Janelle Minoza followed her sister, Sonia, to Camosun.

"I remember sitting in Faye's office as she handed me bus tickets, and I was just overwhelmed, not only by her kindness, but also because I had no idea how to catch a bus downtown, or even where downtown was," said Janelle.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

College welcomes students from the north, offering tours of the campus and BC's capital city.

"Faye has been instrumental in the success of our students," said Philipp. "They have someone who works with them to help define their academic goals, someone with whom they can touch base for support and who knows where they are from. Camosun does not feel large, overwhelming or impersonal."

"Success builds upon success," says Philipp. She was so pleased with Camosun's reception of her community's students she has twice invited Martin to fly to

Yellowknife, providing a personal driver so Martin could promote Camosun's Aboriginal education options to the Dehcho First Nations students in the elementary and secondary schools in Fort Providence, Fort Simpson and Fort Liard.

Now also attending Camosun are four more Fort Providence students: Ruben Sanderson, Mike Krutko, Jennifer McKenzie and Dori-Anne Lefoin.

"The best part is meeting the

other people and the community feeling to the programs," says Destiny, now in her second year and taking the Indigenous Family Support certificate. "And the program has changed my perspective. Through it, I have had to learn about myself before I could learn about others. This was hard to begin with but then it just flowed."

"Finding identity is a huge part of going to school," said Sonia, "And we've learned about independence."



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# On being dispossessed, and planning a move

It's been said you can't fight city hall, but can you fight the Band office?

That is a more contentious issue around here.

For you see, the house I have lived in for the past five years since I have returned home to the bosom of my community from the cold, alien city, will soon no longer be mine to seek shelter in.

The house that I have rented off the Band is about to be de-drewed. Dis-Haydened. It's to be un-Taylored. Through no actions of my own, I am to be evicted and relocated against my will, like when the Cherokees were forcibly relocated from Georgia to Oklahoma. I don't want to go to Oklahoma. I've been there. It's humid and has lots of tornadoes.

Okay, that's a bit of an exaggeration, but I do have strong feelings about this issue. I am just one lone man raging against the mega-governmental organization, the fearsome faceless Kafkaesque behemoth known as the Curve Lake Administration Centre. I fear I am not up to the battle.

So instead, come the fall, the Reserve police station will soon



## THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

stand where I used to barbecue and cut wood. Where I once fed the raccoons, foxes, deer and bears, will now smell of pepper spray and donuts. And I am sad, truly sad. I thought the band council liked me... at least the ones I voted for.

It's a truly lovely house, hidden in the woods, a place where I have struggled to create great art and master the perfect omelette. But the Band council in their infinite wisdom, has decided my removal is for the best.

But I'm not bitter. Really I'm not. So I am still debating possibilities. Should I move back to the city where it is notoriously difficult for a landlord to evict a tenant unless they do something

truly horrible, like castrating sheep in the dining room. Or renovate my mother's house in downtown Curve Lake and maybe turn it into an abattoir, just to get a reaction. As I said, I am not bitter.

Let it be said, I have nothing against the Anishnabek Police Services. I know many of the fine officers personally. I even play poker with one of them – word of warning, never bluff a man who has access to a taser. But I guess the thing that bothers me is that if the Band wanted to turn this place into some paragon of law and order, they should have let me know. I could have done something. I am a man of resources.

One of my good friends in Toronto is the head of the Police Services Board; basically, he's the civilian boss of the Toronto Police department. I'm sure I could have gotten him to make me an honorary cop. And I already have some handcuffs somewhere around here left over from a prior and best left un-discussed relationship. And my car has some bullet holes in it, again from a prior and best left un-discussed relationship. But what's a guy to do? I am at the Band office's mercy. For merely daring to object, my status card could be revoked.

Still, one tries to find solace where one can. When I was a kid, I read in a Ripley's Believe It Or Not, I think it was, that the main building lodging England's Scotland Yard—that revered investigative and police organization—was built on an unsolved murder. Supposedly when they were digging the foundation, they found a human skeleton and never found out whose it was or where it came from. Hmm... That gives me ideas. Maybe I should bury something around here before I

leave. Not a body, obviously. I'm a little short on those. But perhaps something that will make me smile every time I drive by. I must ponder that for sure.

But the short and sweet of the issue is, 'What to do?' Essentially, I guess just pack up and prepare to move. Or I could write a tell-all about the Band office and council, but unfortunately, unlike a lot of Native communities and their politics, ours isn't exactly rife with dissent or drama. I still have a couple months, so hope springs eternal.

I could do what the ancient Romans did to Carthage. Just before I leave, sow the ground with salt so nothing will ever grow there. It's a tried and true expression of disapproval and social comment. But I don't think the Police department would really care, and it would kind of go against many traditional First Nations teachings about honoring the Earth. As I said right off the bat, sometimes you just can't fight city hall or the Band Office.

More to come, as the plot thickens.

# Listuguj aims for socio-economic integration

By Felix Atencio  
Windspeaker Contributor

## LISTUGUJ, Que.

When Tyler Moffat received the information on career choices from the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Centre he didn't suspect how much it would change his life.

Freshly graduated from high school, Moffat was undecided in what area to continue his education, a dilemma a great number of youth face. Many of the men in his extended family are construction and ironworkers, and Moffat looked further into construction trades.

In fact, Listuguj has a reputable labor force in residential construction and steel structures that are in demand. They helped construct many landmark bridges and skyscrapers in North America, including the Twin Towers. Most of these workers had to leave their community to find work in other provinces, in the United States and even in other countries, because of the scarcity of jobs in the region.

Moffat is aware of the prospect of leaving his family and community to work. He knows that Listuguj cannot offer a job to all of its working-age members that represent almost 1,400 people.

According to Jennifer LaBillois-Metallic, the employment demand is higher than the jobs available. LaBillois-Metallic is the coordinator of the Listuguj Labour Market Information Project, one of two pilot-projects implemented in First Nation communities in Canada under the Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund.

"The membership registry shows that our current active labour force is 1,395 people and our population is growing. We currently have 174 youth of 10 to 14 years old and 172 youth of five to nine years old. This means that by 2018 our labour force will represent 1,741 people," she added.

The implementation of the LMI project is the result of a partnership signed in 2009 between the government of Canada and the First Nation Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec.

LMI helps users make the best-informed decision for future career goals. It helps employers find workers. And it assists local training institutions to decide what programs to deliver. It includes information about careers, job perspectives, trends, salaries, required training and potential employers, where to get training, and it's now available through services provided by the development corporation.

Listuguj's labour market is composed of about 30 businesses in the community, but more than 60 per cent of the community employment is created by public services, such as schools, social services and local government departmental programs.

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government (LMG) administers infrastructure, housing, health, education, policing, economic development, social services and other programs making the LMG the main employer.

Listuguj, one of the 29 Mi'gmaq communities in the Atlantic region, is one of the largest with nearly 3,400 members, including 1,400 living outside the

community. Sustaining and increasing the hiring capacity is a great challenge to any administration in Listuguj.

"When a person has a job, he or she can take care of their family. Most of the jobs are created by the local government and lots of people rely on us to employ them," said Chief Allison Metallic. "We, like any other responsible government, are not resting. We are always seeking ways and means to provide employment to our people. Our fisheries, housing, public services and other activities are not enough. Even job sharing is not enough. On top of that we are experiencing a decline in forestry and fisheries. When the federal and provincial governments cut funding for basic programs and when they deny access to our own land for economic development, they are hurting these families and also hurting our region," Metallic said.

In early November 2010, Emploi-Quebec praised LMI's performance on bringing the unemployment levels in the Gaspésie to 13.2 per cent, the lowest in 20 years. The latest reported unemployment rate in Listuguj, according to 2006 Statistics Canada's data, was 23.4 per cent. But the real unemployment level may be much higher because the data on First Nations communities is done with a low sample rate producing inaccurate information.

Moffat, following the advice from the Career Counsellor at the development corporation, took the training to achieve his goal of becoming a Journeyman Plumber. Combining the resourceful character of his people and adequate training, he



Tyler Moffat and the gold medal he won in Skills competition in Moncton.

demonstrated his capacity at the Skills Canada New Brunswick Competition in 2008 and 2010 where he won gold medals. He represented New Brunswick at the Skills Canada National Competition where in 2008 he took eighth place, and in 2010 sixth place. Tyler is now working in Saint John, N.B. His pride for a job well done and for his culture, are values instilled in young Mi'gmaq workers like himself.

Young skillful workers in Listuguj are prepared and ready to fulfill the labour market needs. Hiring and integrating Mi'gmaq workers into the regional labour market is good for business as the Mi'gmaq contribution to the regional economy continues to grow in importance.

Canada's First Nation population is fast growing. Between 1996 and 2006, it increased nearly six times faster than the growth for the non-Aboriginal population over the

same period, according to Statistics Canada. Young First Nations represent a significant percentage of new entrants to the labor market; a pool of young, skilled and more educated labor force that LaBillois-Metallic wants to link to employers in Campbellton, Bathurst, Dalhousie, Rimouski, Montreal and beyond.

As the Canadian population ages, baby boomers retire and the youth leave for larger cities, First Nation workers are the solution to fill the gaps of the labor needs.

"Business is ready to help First Nations working in partnership. That is important because we will develop more job opportunities by working together," said Chief Metallic. "The LMI project is a good tool that will help us to have a good portrait of our labour force, its training and its needs. We will encourage our people to train for what we foresee in the future in the labor market," she added.

# Young people respond to performance program

By Nancy Doukas  
Windspeaker Contributor

## TORONTO

Imagine having the opportunity to learn how to dance from a professional dancer and choreographer, then taking what you've learned and going on a trip to Toronto for two weeks. Those two weeks will culminate in a performance at the St. Lawrence Centre for an audience of close to 1,000 people.

What would it be like, do you imagine, to be able perform with other professional dancers, to have your hair done and makeup applied by professional artists for the performance, to meet, greet and sign autographs for your audience after the performance, to be interviewed by the media for your opinions and thoughts on the project?

Sound like a pipe dream? Nope. It's Outside Looking In and this opportunity is available to Aboriginal communities across Canada.

Outside Looking In, also known as OLI, was started as a sole proprietorship in 2007 by Tracee Smith. Smith is a member of the Missanabie Cree First

Nation from Northern Ontario.

Smith started her career as a dancer, making her way to New York and L.A. to dance professionally in concerts and music videos, as well as being the first dancer to perform at Rideau Hall for Canada's former Governor General Michaëlle Jean.

She was part of a group of 16 Aboriginal artists in the ArtSayer series that aired during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

What to do for an encore? How about start a group that focuses on Indigenous communities and their youth. What if these students were given access to a school year long art curriculum that featured dance and offers the kids a chance to come to Toronto and perform in front of an audience of people eager to view their talents and gain a glimpse into their world?

"The organization is called 'Outside Looking In' because it gives Indigenous youth the opportunity for self-expression through the arts. Should they seize the opportunity they get to see 'outside' and 'look in' beyond their communities while on their journey to Toronto and everything the experience brings

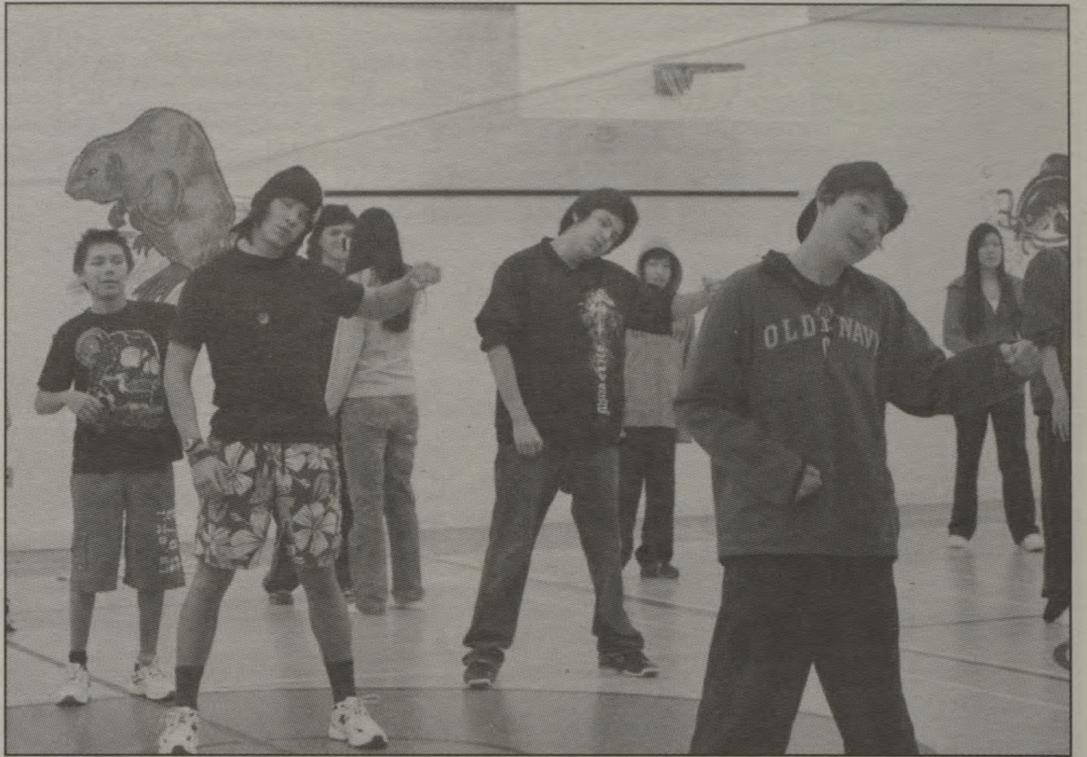


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Young people who participated in Outside Looking In practice for their big performance at the St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto.

to them as they prepare for the actual performance," said Smith.

Since the conception of OLI in 2007 it has evolved and as of February 2009 is now a charitable organization.

This project takes the effort of

more than just OLI. This is very much a joint effort with the community and OLI. Each community must commit to a minimum of six adult volunteers, and some of them need to be the teachers themselves. The program is open to youth from grades 7 to 12.

The program is not for the faint of heart. A lot is demanded of the kids and the volunteers. Most importantly the young people need to commit to the program, and to do that they need to pay close attention to attendance and school performance. If they let this slide, they are dropped from the program.

What the program is looking to instill in the participants is the importance of committing to a project and personal accountability, not just in the program, but in all they do, including their school work.

Apparently it is a recipe for success as the youth will attest to. Ashlay Roni-Lyn from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve had this to say about her experience as an OLI performer:

"Before I joined this program, I skipped school all the time. I never did my homework. And my grades sucked! ... Since I joined this program, my average went from 23.3 to 84.8, which was my finishing average overall... which I'm very proud of myself. OLI kept me motivated to stay in school all year, well, from the point where we started. It helped me learn that I can actually do something so amazing

even if it takes a lot of hard work."

While in Toronto the young people are hosted by Tim Horton's Summer Camp in Brantford, Ont. and bused into Toronto for the dress rehearsals and the performance. During the two weeks they are in rehearsals near the camp and taking part in camp activities.

Jennilee Turtle from Pikangikum First Nation said, "The Tim Horton's Camp is an awesome camp. We did all sorts of activities after our eight-hours of practice..."

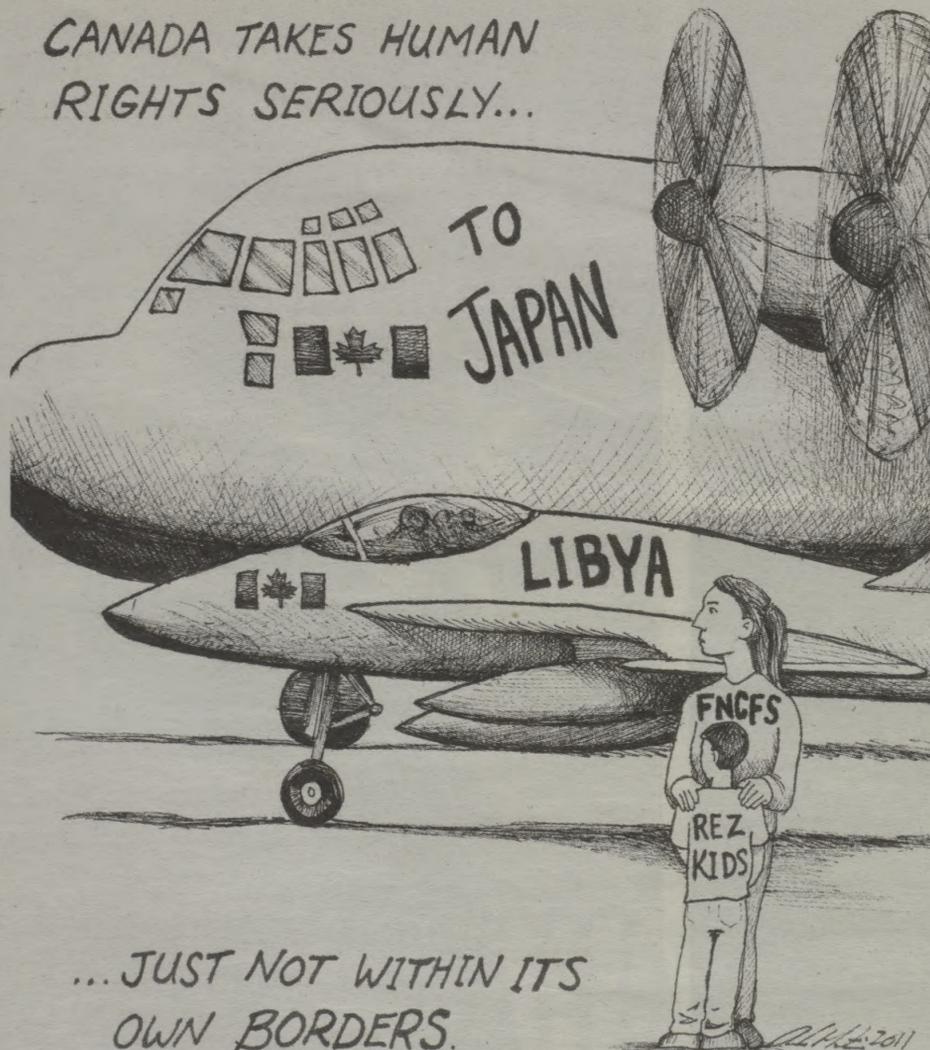
This year's performance at the St. Lawrence Centre is on Wed. June 22 and tickets may be purchased through OLI's Web site at <http://www.olistow.net>. The performance this year comes from the Pikangikum First Nation, Lac La Croix First Nation and Mushau Innu First Nation. To apply for next year's program, you need only go to the OLI Web site. The application deadline is April 30.

"For the communities who have been through our program more than once and youth who have performed on stage more than once, these are the communities that we are seeing the foundational changes occur," said Smith. "We are seeing a strong sense of community pride and empowerment of who they are as Aboriginal people today. It is important for our people to know that they can participate in the world beyond the borders of our communities. We just need a vehicle to realize our potential, and OLI is that vehicle."

## Rank Comix

by Adam Martin

CANADA TAKES HUMAN RIGHTS SERIOUSLY...



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[ achievement ]

# Celebrating Aboriginal Achievement



And a good time was had by all... (Left to right) Raven Kanatakta from Digging Roots, co-host Evan Adams, co-host Adam Beach and ShoShone Kish from Digging Roots share a light hearted moment during the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards show held in Edmonton on March 11, 2011.



Lucie Idlout performs.

ALL PHOTOS: BERT CROWFOOT



ShoShone Kish from Digging Roots



"Thomas" (Evan Adams) from Smoke Signals made an appearance hoping for an autograph from Adam Beach..



(Left to right) Jean LaRose – Media & Communications Award, Audrey Poitras – Politics Award and Roger Jones – Law & Justice Award



Teyotsihstokwathe Dakota Brant – Special Youth Award



(Left to right) Paingut Annie Peterloosie – Culture, Heritage & Spirituality Award, Joseph Dion – Business & Commerce Award, Corrine Hunt – Arts Award.



Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.



### Audrey Poitras sees the possibilities.

Congratulations to Audrey Poitras, one of 14 recipients of a prestigious 2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Award. Suncor Energy is very proud that Ms. Poitras, Métis Nation of Alberta, has been recognized for her outstanding contributions with an award in the Politics category.

Ms. Poitras has shown that the path to success begins with seeing what's possible. As the first woman elected President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) in 1996, she eliminated the organization's financial debt, balanced the budget and began raising the profile of the MNA. She was also instrumental in the creation of the new Métis Centre of Excellence – the Rupertsland Institute, a unique partnership with the University of Alberta that promotes education and training.

Ms. Poitras is the longest serving President of the MNA with 14 years at the helm and was named one of Alberta's 50 most influential people by Alberta Venture Magazine in 2005. We celebrate her achievements!



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[ achievement ]  
**Aboriginal achievers honoured at gala event**



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

A group photo of the 2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Award recipients. Missing is Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Dr. Lillian A. McGregor.

**By Dianne Meili**  
*Windspeaker Staff Writer*

**EDMONTON**

With hosts Adam Beach and Evan Adams reprising their roles as Victor and Thomas from the movie *Smoke Signals*, the 2011 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards Show scored high points for humor.

Laughter resonated from the sold-out audience of 2,000, surpassed only by cheers and shouts for the 14 recipients.

"I sat in the top balcony with lots of high school students and I loved their youthful energy, hearing their positive commentary and their cute comments whenever Adam Beach said something," said Shalene Jobin of Edmonton.

"I really appreciated the push to get so many young people there."

Following local Elder Bob Cardinal's Cree prayer, the show opened with an excerpt from Dora Award-winning Tono, a Red Sky Performance dance piece based on the horse culture shared by Asia and North America.

The first presentation of the night went to Ontario's Teyotsihstokw-the Dakota Brant, who won the Special

Youth Award. The 23-year-old from the Mohawk Nation Turtle Clan of Six Nations of the Grand River is the 2010 Miss Indian World. Her Mohawk name means "One Who Causes the Stars To Be Bright."

In an interview before the awards ceremony, Brant said her volunteer work as a teenager at a local radio station during the Caledonia land claims crisis in 2005 helped prepare her for leadership.

"When we heard the army was preparing to come on-site at any time, we went on 24-hour watch," she recalled. "I realized people who couldn't come to the protest itself were relying on radio reports. So here I am, only 17 years old, and people are holding me accountable for the things I said and who I was allowing on the air to speak their opinion. We had to screen people calling in to give their information."

"It was a maturing experience. I realized I had to become an educated Mohawk citizen so I could understand our history and understand treaty rights."

Brant is inspired by the legacy of the Peacemaker Dekanawidah who united the Iroquois Confederacy and introduced the Great Law of Peace, professing to live her life by it. She also became

functionally fluent in her Mohawk language and spoke it whenever she could in her Miss Indian World travels.

"I hope other young people see this and go back to their own people to learn their language and their history," she said.

Culture, Heritage and Spirituality award recipient Paingut Annie Peterloosie from Pond Inlet, Nunavut is also an ambassador of her people. She assisted with installations in Pond Inlet's Nattinnak Visitor Centre and performed in the films *Kiviuq* and *Diet of Souls* by John Houston. She spends countless hours teaching schoolchildren, tourists and community members about traditional music, stories, art, food harvesting and clothing design, and the Inuktitut language.

"I think mental health and culture go hand in hand," she said in a video screened at the awards about her work as a counselor who relied on traditional knowledge to help her people face addiction and legal problems.

"I want to help the community so much. The next generation is losing the Inuktitut language and culture. I want to make sure Inuktitut is preserved for the people of Nunavut."

Alberta's Margo L. Greenwood, the education award recipient, reflected on her own positive childhood when asked why she chose to work on behalf of children.

"I remember playing along the river that my ancestors walked along, and listening to my grandfather's stories, realizing how rich that time was. Early childhood was so important to me, and so early childhood education seemed a natural choice. I wanted to focus my research in that area because so much brain and identity development is going on in the early years."

Greenwood's academic studies in education and health led to her serving as an expert advisor with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and writing journals, reports and books contributing to policy establishment.

Another champion of children is B.C.'s Cindy Blackstock, who launched a human rights challenge against the Canadian government, arguing that First Nations children in care on reserve receive less funding than children in care under provincial authority.

"I'm sad that I had to sue our own country to get them to treat little kids equally, but I'm also

proud we stood together and said to Canada that you can, and you will, do better for First Nations children ... even if it's under court order," she said.

Blackstock's current initiative is Shannen's Dream, a movement to ensure safe and comfortable schools that impart culturally-based and equitable education for First Nations children.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Dr. Lillian A. McGregor of Whitefish River First Nation in Ontario. Other recipients were Corrine Hunt, Arts; J.F. (Joe) Dion, Business and Commerce; Ronald Edward (bud) Sparrow, Environment; Dr. Marcia Anderson Decoteau, Health; Roger Jones, Law and Justice; Jean LaRose, Media and Communications; Audrey Poitras, Politics; Duncan Cree, Technology and Trades and Fred Sasakamoose, Sports.

"These awards are the highest national honor Aboriginal people bestow on our own," said Roberta Jamieson, president and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. "They are also a tremendous source of motivation and inspiration to our youth to reach their dreams ... we know Canada will be enriched as a result."

# Peter Sackaney's New CD set to launch this month

By Kelly McCombe  
Windspeaker Contributor

## CONSTANCE LAKE, Ont.

Peter Sackaney, who hails from Constance Lake in northern Ontario, has a style that is unique and all his own, but still the comparisons fly: Neil Young, Bob Dylan and Tom Petty, are just a few of the iconic sounds that have been mentioned.

While Sackaney is honoured to be compared to such high calibre artists, he delivers unique vocals and original lyrics and music that he has based on years of experience as a singer, musician and songwriter.

Nominated at the Native American Music Awards for best new folk song last November, it was also a new experience for him to be a guest presenter at the show. Sackaney did not win an award, but he said it was an honor and overwhelming experience for him to be on stage with so many talented Aboriginal artists from Canada and the United States. And an experience he hopes to repeat this year.

In 2008, Sackaney launched his debut CD titled *Hiding behind the Sun*. In the past weeks his second CD was launched. This one is titled *Under a Different Day* and the release

coincided with the artist's first music video.

Inspiration for the songs on the new CD came from many sources, based on both personal experience and sometimes just a random conversation. He says imagination plays a role in his music and lyrics.

Some of the new songs on the upcoming CD are about his personal experience as a Residential School Survivor and there is a song about the environment, the earth and the damage caused by people. These tracks illicit an emotional response that one cannot ignore.

Both CDs were recorded and engineered in Nashville by Greyhouse Studio, owned and operated by Billy Herzig. The music was performed by Loretta Lynn's backup band and the music is flawless.

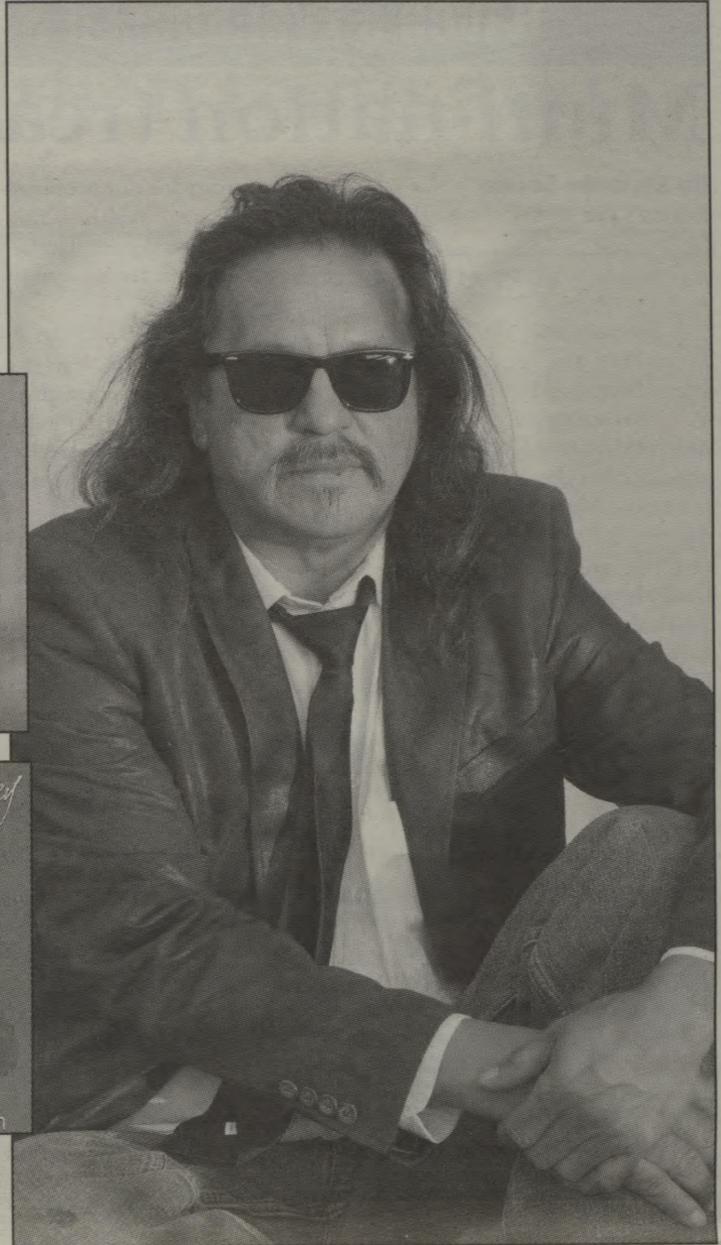
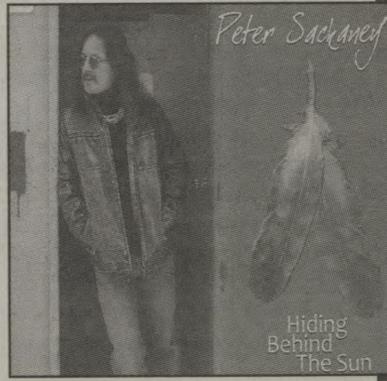
Peter Sackaney's Web site was also recently launched, and this has expanded his fan base, not only in Canada but internationally in such countries as Sweden, Russia, and France.

This was an unexpected bonus for the humble singer, he said. It excites him that he is developing an international fan base and that his music is being heard in such far off places.

He said he never dreamed he would go beyond recording his

music and he has exceeded that dream. He stated that there are moments he pinches himself to make sure he is not dreaming.

Sackaney has already begun writing new material for his next CD which will be co-produced in Toronto and Texas. Also in the works are more music videos and live performances at various venues which are being discussed at this time.



Peter Sackaney

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

## Public Notice

### TransCanada's Proposed Northwest Mainline Expansion project

In August 2010, TransCanada's wholly-owned subsidiary, NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd., announced plans to construct a number of facilities in northeast B.C. and northwest Alberta in order to address increased customer demand to transport sweet natural gas from the Horn River area in northeast B.C. These facilities are required by different customers and for different timeframes, and as such, it is TransCanada's intention to submit separate applications to the National Energy Board for these facilities in 2011. The projects to be contained within the Northwest Mainline Expansion section 52 applications are detailed below:

#### Horn River Mainline Loop (Kyklo Creek Section)

- Approximately 29 km of 42 inch diameter pipeline
- Maximum allowable operating pressure of 9930 kPa
- To parallel existing pipeline from existing Sierra Gas Plant located at Unit 26, Block K, Group 94-1-11 to an end point at Unit 96, Block F, Group 94-1-10.
- Approximately 80 km east of Fort Nelson British Columbia

#### Northwest Mainline Loop (Timberwolf Section)

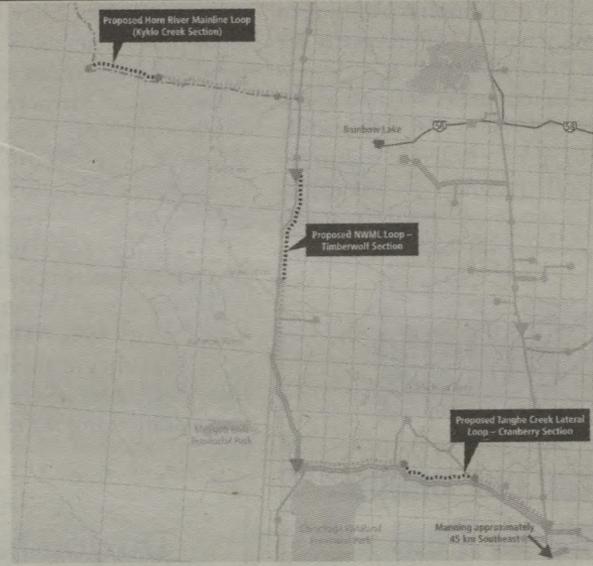
- Approximately 49 km of 48 inch diameter pipeline
- Maximum allowable operating pressure of 8450 kPa
- To parallel existing pipeline from NW 03-109-12 W6M to NW 06-104-12 W6M
- Approximately 30 km southwest of Rainbow Lake, Alberta

#### Tanghe Creek Lateral Loop (Cranberry Section)

- Approximately 32 km of 48 inch diameter pipeline
- Maximum allowable operating pressure of 8450 kPa
- To parallel existing pipeline from SW 31-96-7 W6M to NE 13-96-5 W6M
- Approximately 75 km northwest of Manning, Alberta

TransCanada anticipates submitting a section 52 application for these projects in Q2, 2011. Pending regulatory approvals, TransCanada expects to start construction in November 2012, with the pipelines expected to be in-service in April, 2013.

TransCanada has been engaging Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders on these proposed projects since August 2010 and welcomes additional input from interested stakeholders. For more information on these proposed projects please contact TransCanada using the following information:



Shaded out dotted lines represent additional proposed facilities being applied for in separate regulatory applications

**TransCanada**  
Attn: Rebecca McElhoes  
Community Relations  
450 - 1<sup>st</sup> Street S.W.  
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1

403.920.6456 or 1.800.361.6522  
nwexpansion@transcanada.com

If you would like further information regarding the National Energy Board's approval process, we would be pleased to provide you with information or you can contact the regulator directly:

**National Energy Board**  
444, Seventh Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0X8

1.800.899.1265  
info@neb-one.gc.ca  
www.neb-one.gc.ca



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## Multi-nation treaty effective date nears

By Stefania Seccia  
Raven's Eye Writer

### PORT ALBERNI

A monumental shift for five First Nations on Vancouver Island becomes effective on April 1, bringing hopes of independence, economic stability and ultimate change with it.

The Maa-nulth Final Agreement was decades in the making and now treaty will finally be a realized dream for the Toquaht, Huu-ay-aht, Uchucklesaht, Kyuquot and Ucluelet nations.

On April 2, the five bands will gather in Port Alberni to celebrate the Maa-nulth treaty effective date after many years of negotiations and planning.

"We will take this time to share with our people, our friends and our neighbors, our successes to date, and we will take this opportunity to recognize all the people who were involved throughout this process," said Chuck McCarthy, chief councillor of Ucluelet First Nation. "It was a team effort to bring us to effective date of our treaty."

The Ucluelet First Nation, located near Ucluelet town on Vancouver Island (with some traditional territory extending to Port Alberni), is looking forward to the independence the treaty will finally bring.

The band is set to receive a capital transfer of \$18.6 million over a nine-year span.

"The hope for our nation is that we will have a better and brighter future, because we have

an opportunity for our people to generate our own wealth, within our own treaty settlement lands," said McCarthy in an email interview.

"Yes it has been many years in the making. Over the years we have seen many economic opportunities pass our nation by. Now we will become active participants in the local economy."

McCarthy recognizes that the treaty does not mean all of his band's problems will disappear.

"We realize that the treaty is not an answer to the many challenges we face in our communities, but our treaty provides a tool box for our people to make our own decisions on our own terms to address many of the challenges," he explained.

The band has spoken about plans for a resort to be built within its territory and developing its tourism arm as means to support its 205 on-reserve residents. Ucluelet Nation has more than 600 registered members in all and hopes to bring more back home. The community is creating initiatives to develop and improve the natural salmon and clam habitats within its traditional territory too.

"We look forward to establishing government relationships with our neighbors, Canada and British Columbia," McCarthy noted. "We look forward to developing our official community plans for our treaty settlement lands, and work towards economic growth for our nation."

"Our first priority is to build upon our successes and leverage

funds to bring a strong and secure economy to our area," Robert Dennis, Huu-ay-aht chief councillor, announced in a media release.

The official implementation will deliver a capital transfer of \$26.4 million to the Huu-ay-aht over a nine-year period.

This is a portion of the \$62.6 million worth of the capital transfers in the Maa-nulth treaty, along with almost 25,000 hectares of land, according to the 2007 Maa-Nulth Treaty overview document.

"Our First Nation has a long history of working with people who have come to settle within our territories, and that will continue as we work together for a better future for everyone," Dennis added. The Huu-ay-aht's traditional territory includes the Bamfield community and the southern shore of Barkley Sound.

The community is also active in forestry, fishing, shellfish aquaculture and aggregate mining. It owns and operates the Pacheena Bay Campsite, HFN Forestry L.P., a gravel pit and other businesses.

"It is the largest employer in Bamfield and is working to expand its regional economic development," according to the media release. "Devastated by downturns in the local forestry and fishing economies, the Huu-ay-aht First Nation is planning to spark a new era of prosperity for the Bamfield area."

This sentiment is shared by the Toquaht Nation, which is actively looking into different industries as well in order to attract its members back home to stable

jobs. The Toquaht will receive a capital transfer of almost \$4 million over nine years.

The hope is to bring people of Toquaht nation back home to their traditional territory, said Anne Mack, hereditary chief, in a phone interview. "Over the years people have been moving, basically, for employment and so forth, because of the way forestry and fishery took a dive."

There are about 115 registered members and most live off reserve. The territory is located in Barkley Sound near Ucluelet on the West Coast of Vancouver Island.

"So my hope would be to build an economic base to bring people home... rather than have people come back to something that is not going to benefit their family."

She explained how Toquaht is taking preliminary steps to research on-land, closed containment aquaculture and potentially re-open the Redford property that contains the Brynnor iron deposit. Noranda Exploration Ltd. mined it near the surface in the 1960s, but not the underground portion because of a long strike that ended the project prematurely as workers ended up moving away.

"We have two initiatives we're looking at, just in preliminary talks," Mack said. "We have, as part of our settlement lands, the iron ore mine. They're doing some preliminary work and we'll possibly be reopening that."

Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Toquaht and Ridgemont Iron Ore Corp., agreeing to a long-term business relationship to explore and develop the iron ore property.

"It was open for only seven years," Mack said. "There's still, or at least they're thinking that there's still, a lot of ore there. So that's something we're looking into."

Last year, an airborne magnetic and gravity survey showed additional surface targets. The goal of the 2011 project is to establish a resource estimate, complete a preliminary economic study and acquire permits for the process.

"We're also looking into on-land fish production. Fish farming," she said. "We've been looking at that for over a year now and it could be a reality. It's something we would like to look into, to be producers of fish on land."

Mack also said the area has great potential for tourism, and the band is excited about constructing a longhouse.

"We did an environmental clean-up of where we had our mill site and it looks just awesome now," she added. "We erected totems that represent the new era that we're going into—two welcoming figures."

She said the two new poles, erected last year, bring hope to the community any time they drive by. Also, the presence of her father, who was the previous hereditary chief until 2009 when he named Anne his successor, gives her strength.

"He really developed our nation with business and we're really established as a business nation," she said. "That will make it a lot easier for us to access funds for partnerships."

The only concern Mack shared about the upcoming treaty is the slow process associated with governance and change.

"It won't be a fast change. Nothing in any government happens fast," she noted. "The benefit of being our own government, working alongside the province and federal [governments], will be a new era for us that we will look forward to."

"You want things now, but it doesn't always happen that way."

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University of Victoria | Centre on Aging

Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

# Youth program helps strengthen focus and achievement

By Shauna Lewis  
Birchbark Writer

MANITOULIN ISLAND, Ont.

A First Nation community in Northern Ontario has found an innovative, effective and fun way of promoting resilience and leadership among their youth.

The Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program [OALE] is a collaborative youth-focused program created and implemented by leaders of the Wikwemikong First Nation and researchers from Ontario's Laurentian University.

The program was designed as a youth intervention project to instil psychological resilience and leadership skills. The annual 10-day outdoor adventure program sees Wikwemikong youth connecting with their environment, cultural ways of life and inner self through a canoe journey within their traditional territory.

"We needed to develop a manual that helps us to promote leadership among our youth," said Mary Jo Wabano, OALE coordinator and Wikwemikong community health director. She spoke about the program at the fourth International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health held in Vancouver last month.

Wabano said the project has been very effective in a community where mental health issues are a concern.

"With our community here, mental health is a priority," she said. "We need to do a lot more suicide prevention type activities and empowerment and self-esteem activities. These are qualities and skills we need to implement in our youth. [The program] helps to hone in the skills of the youth so they become more prominent members of the community."

Wabano hopes that young people in the community will become leaders and she says the OALE program can help.

The OALE program is a health and intervention initiative funded by the federal government. Wabano said the cost of the annual expedition is approximately \$40,000. Research and module design was created for the program prior to its pilot excursion in 2008 and it continues to be modified and updated every year.

In 2009 more than 40 youth ages 12 to 18 [10 per cent of the community's youth population] participated in three 10-day adventure journeys.

The canoe trips began at the



PHOTO: STEPHEN RITCHIE, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, LAURENTIAN UNIVERSITY.

The Outdoor Adventure Leadership Program connects youth to their environment, cultural ways of life and inner self through a canoe journey within the traditional territory of the Wikwemikong.

French River and wound their way through the traditional territory of the Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve on Manitoulin Island. The youth camp, live off the land and participate in an introspective assignment in which they are taken to an isolated area and asked to write in a journal and "reflect on life," explained Wabano.

In exploring their goals and dreams, Wabano said the youth became more introspective and gain inner strength. The exercise is a "spiritual journey" of the self.

Culture and history also play a large role in the program, as youth learn the traditional uses of tobacco and participate in spirituality through the teachings of community Elders and through smudging ceremonies.

"You could see the youth in our community out late at night drinking and wandering the streets," said Diane Jacko, manger of Nadmadwin Mental Health Clinic in the Wikwemikong community. She said the program was needed due to the incidences of substance use and high crime rate regarding youth on the reserve.

In the period since the program began, Jacko admits that youth

referral rates for mental health services on her reserve have not declined, but she said she has seen a vast improvement at home with her daughter, Ashlay, who participated in the OALE program in 2009.

Ashlay Jacko was 15 when she took part in the program. Now, 17, Dianne said her daughter's grades and school attendance has dramatically improved since her participation in the program.

"She is seeing in herself that success is part of her future," said Diane.

"The trip was a different experience than I have ever had before," explained Ashlay. "I've learned not to take life for granted, and to appreciate what I have."

The teen admits that she initially was trying to find a way to leave the program, and then on the third day, she realized the impact it had on her life. "I felt like a pioneer," she said of living off the land and being away from modern technology and conveniences.

Ashlay's plan for her future is laid out.

"I really like the feeling of helping somebody," she said. "When I go to college next year I want to get involved in child and

youth work."

"It was awesome! It was so much fun," agreed Wikwemikong youth, Sheldon Manitowabi, 15. "You got to meet a lot of people in the community; people you would never have met," he said.

Manitowabi, who lives in North Bay, Ont., says the program taught him a lot about the importance of the environment and the beauty of nature. Manitowabi is enrolled in cadets and says that since his participation in OALE he has moved to a higher rank in his program.

"It was an awesome experience. One of the best experiences I have ever had."

Stephen Ritchie, OALE program researcher and assistant professor at Laurentian University, said the benefits of the program have been noted and documented in his research.

"The youth seemed to not only get it in terms of the material, but they were living it," he said.

The Wikwemikong community has now extended an invitation to neighbouring Anishinabe communities interested in participating in the OALE program.

"We've had lots of interest from

other communities but it hasn't really caught on yet," he admits.

Ritchie also adds that while he knows that other Indigenous communities throughout Canada are implementing similar outward-bound type youth adventure programs, he says he doesn't know of many communities that are gathering project data as extensively as the Wikwemikong.

He encourages other Indigenous communities to collect information and document similar program findings, adding that funding support at government levels primarily relies on documented proof of program success.

"I would encourage [others] to do evaluations of their programs, because funding relies on endemic-based practices," he said.

But beyond the technical reports and research, Ritchie said the project has even given him more than he anticipated.

"I believe I've grown and learned more in the last few years of this program," he said, adding that he thinks he's learned "at least as much as the youth involved."

"If you want to be a leader, you need to know where you come from."

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THE FIVE FIRST NATIONS

**Windspeaker:** What one quality do you most value in a friend?  
**W:** What is your greatest accomplishment?

**Fred Carmichael:** Honesty.  
**F.C.:** Obtaining my pilots license.

**W:** What is it that really makes you mad?  
**W:** What one goal remains out of reach?

**F.C.:** Those that take advantage of others.  
**F.C.:** Flying a CF18 jet.

**W:** When are you at your happiest?  
**W:** If you couldn't do what you're doing today, what would you be doing?

**F.C.:** When I'm flying my airplane.  
**F.C.:** Probably travelling to see other parts of the world.

**W:** What one word best describes you when you are at your worst?  
**W:** What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

**F.C.:** Miserable.  
**F.C.:** Treat other people the way you want to be treated.

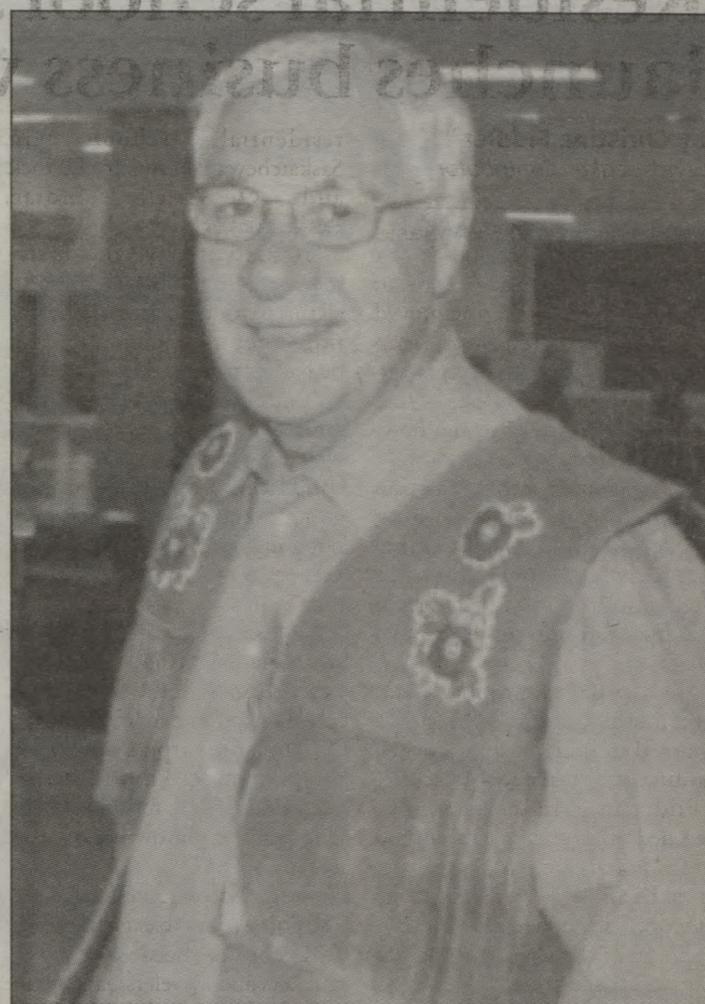
**W:** What one person do you most admire and why?  
**W:** Did you take it?

**F.C.:** Michaëlle Jean (former Governor General) for her compassion and respect for all people.  
**F.C.:** I try my best.

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

**F.C.:** Burying my son in 2008.  
**F.C.:** Just being a decent person and someone who cares about others.

Fred Carmichael was born in 1935 to the parents of an Irish trapper and a Gwich'in mother. He received his private pilot license in 1954 and became the first Aboriginal person in the Northwest Territories to earn his wings as a commercial pilot in 1958. He has become renowned for his business acumen. In 2000, Carmichael was elected president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and continues to serve in this position. In 2002, Carmichael was appointed chair of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group and in 2006 he was inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame by the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. Carmichael is a director on the board of directors for *Outside Looking In*. (Please find inside this edition of *Windspeaker* our story about this organization.) In April 2010, Carmichael was awarded the Order of Canada. As a witness to the many changes of the Beaufort-Delta region, Carmichael has become a tireless advocate on behalf of the Aboriginal peoples of the North to regain their self-reliance through the building of a strong and viable economic base, rather than being forever dependent on government funding.



Fred Carmichael

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

[ radio's most active ]

# OUR PICK

Artist—Black Rain  
 Song—Under the Gun  
 Album—Under the Gun  
 Label—Drumgroups.com

This album starts with great expectations for me. Sirens, helicopters, screaming people and a bomb dropping, a strong catchy guitar riff charges in. Then a warning from the band to "get ready for the show" and promising a good time with rock and roll. That opening song "Electric" delivers a strong rock assault that could have been done by any number of highly successful rock bands.



Black Rain doesn't disappoint. Almost every song has a catchy melody. Black Rain rocks in the traditional early 80's sound. Though they like to rock, they do pay tribute to Johnny Cash by doing a version of Folsom Prison Blues. But they do so as if to say they stand in solidarity by doing their own thing, just as Cash was known to do. Over all, this is a party rock band, no less than Guns N Roses were. Next time you are looking for some good driving music, try slipping this CD into the deck. This is foot stomping, head bobbing, guitar-laden rock and roll. It's good to hear bands like this emerging in the market again giving us memorable songs extolling the fun of excess in a time when excess is considered being reckless by the conservative authorities. As the saying goes nowadays... it's all good. Now turn it up!

Reviewed by K. Kantan

# ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Wayne Lavallee	Big Country	Trail Of Tears
Little Hawk	Metis Princess	Vigilance
Kinnie Starr	A Different Day	A Different Day
Crystal Shawanda	Fight For Me	Fight For Me
W.T. Goodspirit	A Native Woman	Colors Of My Life
Jade Turner	Half An Hour	Thanks To You
Anita Issaluk	Healing Through Song	Arctic Wind
Rebecca Miller	Wouldn't Change You	Single Release
Angus Jourdain	Waiting	Single Release
Joe Maxim Band	Screaming Out Loud	Savior
Lucie Idlout	Lovely Irene	Swagger
Segweh	Open Eye	Segweh
Eagle & Hawk	What If We Could	The Great Unknown
Art Napoleon	Wild Flowers	Creeland Covers
Yvonne St. Germaine	Tennessee Sky	Tennessee Sky
Night Switch	Indian Princess	Single Release
D'Aoust Brothers	Closer To Home	Single Release
Derek Miller	Something Bad, Something Good	Derek Miller w/Double Trouble
Tommy J. Mueller	Changes Everything	Changes Everything
Richard McKay	Now You Know	Single Release

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



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# Residential school survivor launches business venture

By Christine Fiddler  
Windspeaker Contributor

WADENA, Sask.

When Sandra Nataucappo of Fishing Lake First Nation moved back to Saskatchewan from Vancouver Island four years ago she brought with her some experience working in the hotel industry.

So when she got compensation for her years of attending residential school, she decided to use part of the funds to purchase Junction 5/35 Motor Lodge in Wadena and start her own hotel business.

"It was an opportunity," said the mother of three. "And I've worked in hotel business, in the industry. I learned off of my children's grandparents. I've learned off of them the ability to run a hotel. And what will make it work and what will not make it work," she added.

So far it has been keeping her very busy, she said.

"This building has been sitting here for 30 years. My partner bought the building and I used my \$25,000 (in compensation) ... And the first year I made \$80,000 on it."

Nataucappo's compensation was the result of about nine years of attending three different

residential schools in Saskatchewan: Punnichy, Lestock and Qu'Appelle Indian Residential Schools.

"Actually, I wasn't really interested in the big program of all this payout, because I know for myself not enough money could be had to pay me out," she said.

"But I did take whatever I got. And I even appealed it for whatever it was worth," she said. "And I said 'Well, this is how I'm going to start my business. I'm not going to be a loser and abuse victim. I'm going to use my money in a proper manner.'"

Nataucappo speaks proudly of what she has achieved with the hotel business in the four years it has operated under her direction.

"I bought carpets and other things we needed for the hotel," she said. "In 15 months I'll be able to have my own restaurant as well."

Along with a restaurant she is also going to try to expand service to 24 hours, because a lot of truckers and travelers pass by the town looking for a hotel to spend the night. She said she also has a lot of big name companies who stay at the hotel for up to six months at a time, which is very good for business, and not only for herself, but the community.

"The way to grow the town is get people who are coming

through and staying and then going into town and shopping," Nataucappo said.

"I have little fridges and little stoves, little microwave fridges, coffee pots and toasters in each room. And we also have a dining room, like a restaurant in the building," she added.

Nataucappo said that someone has spoken to her about applying for further compensation through the Independent Assessment Process.

"But I passed that stage of my life," she said. She believes that a lot of people are using their treatment in residential school as an excuse to cease trying in life.

"And I do not see it. I've seen the abuse because I went to residential school and everything. But I don't see why people today are still stuck and using that as an excuse not to excel, not to try and get ahead," she said.

"It's a disgrace, yes. Nevertheless, a person can overlook that and get on with (life)."

Nataucappo said she believes she made a good decision to use her compensation to start her own business, and she encourages other survivors of residential school to make wise decisions with their payouts.

"Good luck to all survivors," she added.

## Response to budget

(Continued from page 9.)

The AFN said the 2011 federal budget included modest references to a joint effort to arrive at "concrete and positive changes in First Nation education to bring greater success and opportunities for First Nation students," but the organization complained that the commitment did not include any investment. The budget also committed an additional \$30 million over two years to the First Nation Policing Program. Lastly, \$22 million is allocated for environmental safety standards and \$8 million for deployment of clean energy technologies.

Budget 2011 invests \$22 million over two years to help First Nations ensure that the fuel tanks that power their essential community services, such as water and waste water treatment systems, schools and community buildings, meet new environmental safety standards.

Many remote and rural First Nations communities that are off-grid rely on fuel tanks to power their essential infrastructure.

"This investment will assist First Nations to upgrade or replace their fuel tank infrastructure and contribute to a cleaner environment on reserve as well as to improved health and

safety for on-reserve residents," reads the budget.

The budget is also proposing to provide \$8 million over two years to promote the deployment of clean energy technologies in Aboriginal and Northern communities to reduce their reliance on non-renewable fuels over time.

The government is also proposing to reallocate up to an additional \$20 million over two years as part of its ongoing support for the First Nations Land Management regime which allows participating First Nations to make laws in relation to their reserve lands and resources.

## Business Briefs

### THE FIVE FIRST NATIONS

of the Yinka Dene Alliance want the Bank of Montreal (BMO) and its shareholders to withhold financing to Enbridge and its Northern Gateway Pipeline Project because Enbridge has "failed to respect the authority of First Nations along the proposed pipeline route." The group is calling on BMO to live up to the highest human rights and environmental standards, said Geraldine Thomas-Flurer, the spokesperson for the Alliance. The Yinka Dene Alliance includes Nadleh Whut'en, Nak'azdli, Takla Lake, Saik'uz, and Wet'suwet'en First Nations. "The banks should not raise funds for companies operating within Indigenous territories against the will of Indigenous peoples." Bank of Montreal has raised more than \$286 million for Enbridge, Inc., the general partner in the Northern Gateway Pipelines, since 2007. The Northern Gateway project would include the construction of twin pipelines that would transport crude oil from the Alberta oil sands to Kitimat, B.C. One quarter of the proposed pipeline route passes through the traditional territories of the Yinka Dene Nations. The Alliance sent a letter to BMO on March 2. The request is not without precedent, notes the Alliance. In December 2010, RBC adopted a policy requiring bankers to document where client activities impact Indigenous communities, and to consider whether clients have "policies and processes consistent with the standard of Free, Prior and Informed Consent." TD bank, the Alliance reports, adopted a similar policy in 2007.

### A GROUP OF DIVERS ARE

suing a Vancouver Island band claiming First Nations protestors threatened to harm their oxygen supplies if they harvested geoducks in Kulleet Bay near Chemainus. Commercial geoduck fishermen joined the Underwater Harvesters Association Research Society in suing the Stz'uminus Indian Band, its chief John Elliott and three others for interfering with their harvesting activities. First Nations boats surrounded four commercial geoduck vessels last August, forcing the department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to call off the fishery for safety reasons. The harvesters allege that a protest organized by Elliott and others caused vessels to "harass, intimidate, threaten, block and otherwise interfere" with fishing operations. Members of the Underwater Harvesters Association say they suffered damages to their livelihood, and are seeking injunctions to restrain members of the Stz'uminus Indian Band from approaching closer than 100 metres from licensed geoduck vessels engaged in harvesting. The defendants responded to the claim saying that no damages were sustained by the fishermen. But if they were, it would be the result of "acts and omissions" by the minister of the Fisheries and Oceans.

### AGRIMARINE HOLDINGS INC.,

a company specializing in floating closed containment technology and production for sustainable aquaculture, and the Serpent River First Nation in Ontario announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for a Closed Containment Aquaculture Feasibility Study. Under the terms of the MOU, the parties agree to investigate the feasibility of developing a closed containment fish rearing operation near Cutler, Ont. on the North Shore of Lake Huron. The MOU paves the way for a comprehensive technical, social and economic assessment using AgriMarine's closed containment aquaculture technology for the rearing of trout in Serpent River territory, using environmentally sustainable practices. Chief Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini, Serpent River First Nation, said, "This project has been in the works for quite some time in Serpent River. It is this partnership and the technology that AgriMarine is bringing forward that is providing us the assurance we need to take this venture one step further. Our project must establish and maintain the highest environmental standards possible and, secondarily, this project must meet the economic needs of our community. So far we are showing signs that this project will establish those two high watermarks—that's what we are looking for in a project. At further glance, we are also keen on the ability to contribute to the global demand for food security and access to agricultural marine products." Richard Buchanan, CEO of AgriMarine Holdings said, "The partnership with the Serpent River is significant to AgriMarine as it is an integral part of our expansion strategy into Eastern Canada and produces seafood near urban communities. We are pleased to move forward with this project to further demonstrate that our unique technology can be applied in various aquatic environments with a minimal environmental footprint, while providing sustainable economic development to the region."

### FEDERAL TRANSPORT MINISTER

Chuck Strahl and Prince Rupert Port Authority boss Don Krusel announced March 14 an agreement with the Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla Bands regarding port expansion. Separate agreements were also signed in Terrace that day involving the Kitsumkalum and Kitselas First Nations. Krusel said the agreements align both sides' interests toward the continued growth and expansion of the Port of Prince Rupert, through creation of economic opportunities for the port's Coast Tsimshian partners. Strahl said the deals will contribute to the overall economic stability of the region.

### FIRST NATIONS, METIS AND INUIT (FNMI) PROGRAM CONSULTANT/COORDINATOR

The Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortium is seeking the services of two First Nations, Metis and Inuit program consultants. These positions will involve development of a provincial professional learning strategy focused on FNMI education, the coordination of professional development activities to support FNMI education available in Alberta; the provision of leadership services related to the implementation of the FNMI Education Partnership Council Action Plan and the identification of strategies to respond to the recommendations regarding professional learning in the Northland Inquiry Report.

#### THE POSITION:

- requires a strong knowledge of administrative structures of Alberta's education system, including provincial and First Nation school authorities and community agencies that support education throughout the province.
- requires a thorough understanding of current issues in Aboriginal education, including the historical and political context that impacts education for Aboriginal people, barriers to Aboriginal student success, and promising approaches and strategies that help teachers to support improved outcomes for FNMI students.
- is challenged to identify and encourage the integration of FNMI perspectives throughout the Ministry's work in collaboration and consultation with multiple stakeholders and partners.

- requires the analysis and evaluation of existing provincial education programs and services and the articulation of recommendations for changes, while honouring Alberta's core values and operating within a collaborative framework.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A university degree in a related field, related adult learning experiences. Preference will be given to individuals who are versed in the use of Video Conferencing and related technologies.

**TERM:** 2 year with possible renewal. Secondments will be considered. Travel within the Province of Alberta is required.

Email resumé and references to Northwest Regional Learning Consortium by April 13, 2011 to: Karen Egge at [Karen.Egge@gppsd.ab.ca](mailto:Karen.Egge@gppsd.ab.ca) or submit by mail to:

Karen Egge  
9625 Prairie Road  
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 6G5

For more information on this opportunity please contact:

Karen Shipka@gov.ab.ca  
Phone: 1-780-638-3153

# [ health ] Health and culture go hand in glove

By Shauna Lewis  
Windspeaker Contributor

## VANCOUVER

An integrated and holistic approach to Indigenous health and wellness was discussed at the fourth International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health held in Vancouver March 4 to March 6.

Hundreds of physicians, Elders, caregivers and traditional healers from Canada, the United States and Australia came together to share their knowledge and to examine ways of integrating Indigenous culture and tradition into mainstream paediatrics.

"The conference is important because it brings together people who are sometimes [operating] in silos," explained Sam Wong, conference organizer and chair of the Canadian Paediatric Society.

"Quite often when you talk about Native health or Aboriginal health it's always about the statistics and how bad the health and disease is," said Wong. "And here [at the conference] we're trying to bring people together to show the success that people are having and to give energy to motivate people to do things in their communities."

Wong said many First Nations and Inuit people are challenged with significant health barriers due to the social determinants they face.

"If you do something about the social determinants of health, I think you actually reduce the bad outcomes," he said, pointing to financial strain and the lack of access to safe housing as a few of the roadblocks Indigenous people face.

Wong said the government must play a greater role in overcoming these healthcare obstacles.

"The social determinants of health are determined by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada [INAC] to a certain degree," he said. "Because they are the ones funding water infrastructure and housing, so they can provide more funding for better housing and then that might actually change [the state] of health and disease," he explained.

Workshop topics during the two-day conference included discussion on mental wellness, infectious diseases, obesity, HIV/AIDS, cultural competency and traditional health.

Environmental health issues were also discussed, as climate change and global warming is proving hugely detrimental to many Indigenous communities—especially for those in the North.

"We have become the ground troopers of global change," declared renowned Inuit environmentalist Sheila Watt-Cloutier, referring to the work of independent organizations and people to shed light on the damaging effects of climate change on the planet.

"Climate change has touched every fibre of our being and our communities, and perhaps, most importantly, our children's lives as Indigenous peoples of the North," she told conference-goers.

Watt-Cloutier was nominated for the 2007 Nobel Peace prize for her advocacy work in creating awareness about the dire impact of climate change in the Arctic and its connection to human rights and Inuit culture.

She says global warming is especially concerning to her Inuit people as it transforms the land and ultimately threatens traditional Inuit subsistence patterns and overall culture.

"I don't need to remind you today of the scope now effecting our community built on solid ice," she continued. "And again, it's this whole issue that most people don't begin to understand, the very foundation of Inuit culture that is the ice and the snow and the cold," she explained.

"These [climate] changes are very much connected to the changes in our economy, in our community and our social structures," said Watt-Cloutier.

Inuit populations are being exposed to environmental contaminants by simply eating their traditional foods and these contaminants are then being passed to infants through nursing mother's breast milk.

She maintains that a holistic approach to healthcare makes for healthier Indigenous communities and says that along with catastrophic environmental concerns, the traumas brought on by the historic cultural genocide of Indigenous people largely impacts the health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities.

"The historical traumas cannot be underestimated in terms that they have greatly affected our way of life, because they have definitely eroded our sense of identity [and] our sense of self-worth," said Watt-Cloutier. "And these, in turn, have translated into monumental health and social challenges facing many children in the Arctic, of which all too often, unfortunately, has been misunderstood as an inability to adapt to the modern world," she continued.

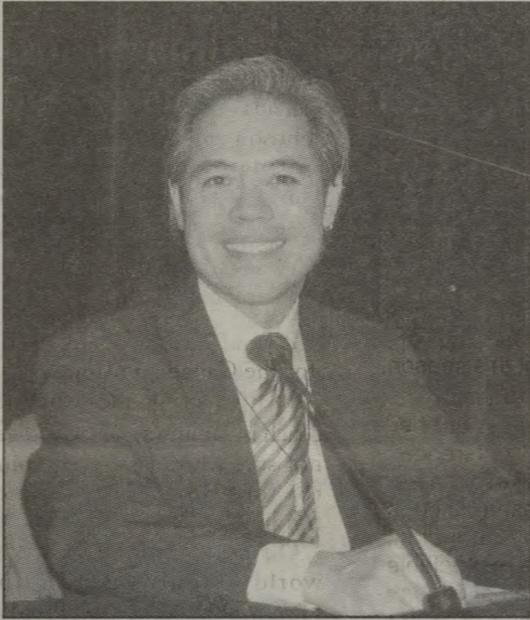
"We have to come to understand and realize that the substance abuse problems and the stress involved and the loss of so many of our young people to suicide is not the natural state of our people, but rather a result of these changes and dependencies," she stated. "We have to understand some of the root causes of these problems in order for us to move beyond them."

Dr. Evelyn Voyageur agrees. Voyageur, a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation, is an Elder-in-residence at North Island College on Vancouver Island and president of the Aboriginal Nursing Association



ALL PHOTOS: SHAUNA LEWIS

From left to right: Dr. Evelyn Voyageur [Kwakwaka'wakw Nation], president of the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada; Dr. James Andrew [Lilwat Nation], co-associate director, Aboriginal People's Health, UBC Faculty of Medicine; Carol Locust [Eastern Band Cherokee], traditional medicine practitioner at the University Medical Center, University of Arizona; and Elder Lillian Elias [Inuit] took part in a plenary session at the International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health.



Dr. Evan Adams spoke at the International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health held in Vancouver March 4 to March 6.

of Canada. During the conference, Voyageur stressed the importance of reconnecting First Nation people with their rich histories as an imperative step toward building the bridge to better Indigenous health.

She contends that one of the biggest health issue faced by First Nations people is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD] and the legacy of dysfunction brought on by the abuses many Canadian Indigenous people experienced in residential schools.

"We hear of all the children that are in care because the parents are no longer able to look after them," she said. "Our coping mechanisms are gone," she added.

Dr. Evan Adams, family practitioner and British Columbia's Aboriginal Health Physician Advisor for the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, closed the conference March 6 with a poignant and powerful talk on Indigenous Health.

He referenced statistics and noted the alarmingly high rates of infant mortality, HIV



Dr. Sheila Watt-Cloutier continues to raise awareness about the effects of climate change on the Inuit people, their economy and culture.

infection and substance abuse among status First Nations in British Columbia in relation to their non-Native counterparts.

When talking about the high levels of alcohol abuse in communities, Adams' tone turned sombre.

"We don't talk about this [alcoholism] because it's an extremely touchy subject," he said, while reflecting on the tragic 2008 incident involving Christopher Pauchay.

Pauchay is an Indigenous Saskatchewan man convicted of criminal negligence which caused the deaths of his two young children. The children died of hypothermia after an intoxicated Pauchay lost them during a walk in the middle of the night on the Yellow Quill First Nation.

"That was the biggest story about an Indigenous person in Canada," Adams said, pointing to the mass media attention the tragedy received. "It wasn't a story of you and your work," he told the group of doctors attending the conference. "It wasn't a story about our

extraordinary heroes. It wasn't a story of our land and our glorious past and Indigenous knowledge. It was stereotyping, which we all know is alive and well, and is an ignorant and impoverishing image of who we are."

Adams said an ignorant view of Indigenous people's social history contributes to a decline of health. While many factors are at play regarding the barriers to Indigenous health and wellness, it is imperative, he said, that communities and physicians continue to be pro-active in determining ways to transform unhealthy communities into healthy ones.

"We may not be entirely responsible of where we find ourselves, but we are entirely responsible for where we are going and we must examine our illness behaviours as individuals and communities."

"Health and well-being is not just about the services provided," continued Adams. "Children's health is about the extended family and practitioners and interconnectedness and a collective well-being."

By Sam Laskaris

## Tournament grows

This year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) will have almost twice as many participants than originally anticipated. The 2011 tournament, which will be staged in Saskatoon, is scheduled to begin on April 26. For awhile it appeared there would be no NAHC this year as no community had stepped up willing to host the event.

But then in January a group from Saskatoon, which was keen to host the 2012 tournament, came forward and announced it would also host this year's event. Due to the tournament uncertainties and late announcement regarding a host, there was not much initial response from provinces who were willing to send squads to this year's event. It appeared that only Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario would be sending female and male clubs to the national tournament.

NAHC officials decided to set a Feb. 25 deadline to see if any others were also interested in sending representatives to the tournament. As it turned out, several others did sign up. The boys' division will now feature eight entrants as British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Quebec-based Eastern Door and the North (EDN) will also take part.

And the girls' grouping will feature seven clubs as B.C., EDN and the Northwest Territories decided to send entrants as well.

## Cooper completes junior career

Vern Cooper has completed his junior hockey career. But Cooper, a 20-year-old forward who is from Quebec's Waswanipi Cree First Nation, is now hoping to begin a professional career next season.

Cooper played five seasons in the Ontario Hockey League. He spent the first three years toiling with the Michigan-based Plymouth Whalers, one of three American clubs in the 20-team Ontario league. And for the past two seasons he was a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

Cooper played his final junior contest on March 19 as his host Greyhounds were defeated 5-3 by the Sarnia Sting. The Sault Ste. Marie club struggled somewhat this season, winning just 24 out of its 68 regular season contests. The Greyhounds failed to advance to the playoffs as they finished in the cellar of the league's 10-team Western Conference.

For Cooper, this marked the first time in his junior career that his squad did not advance to the post-season. Though the Greyhounds did not have a successful campaign, Cooper, who is a left winger, did put up some respectable numbers and averaged more than a point per game. Though he was out of action for a bit, sidelined by an injury, Cooper still finished third in team scoring, collecting 60 points, including 25 goals, in 56 matches.

Cooper had also hit the 25-goal plateau last season when he had a junior career high of 65 points in 61 contests.

Though Cooper was never drafted by a National Hockey League squad, many believe he is capable of playing pro. He's now hoping to catch a break and earn an invite where he can impress the brass of a minor professional team for next season.

## Stars shine

Four Aboriginal players were among those that participated in the National Lacrosse League's all-star game. The match was held Feb. 27 at the Event Center located at Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, N.Y.

The East Division all-stars came out on top in the contest, downing their West Division counterparts by a 30-26 score. The East Division squad included a pair of players from Six Nations, Cody Jamieson (Mohawk) and Sid Smith (Cayuga). Both play in the NLL for the Rochester Knighthawks.

Jamieson netted four goals and added an assist in the all-star match. Smith, who is known for his defensive play, did not earn any points.

The East squad also included Brett Bucktooth, a member of New York's Oneida Indian Nation, which owns the Turning Stone facility. Bucktooth, who plays for the NLL's Buffalo Bandits, also has a Canadian connection. Last year he toiled in the professional field lacrosse circuit, called Major League Lacrosse, with the Toronto Nationals. Bucktooth collected six points in the all-star tilt, including three goals.

The other Aboriginal in the NLL all-star game was Jeff Shattler, an Ojibwe, who suited up for the West Division squad. Shattler plays in the league with the Calgary Roughnecks. He scored the opening goal in the all-star match and later added an assist. For Shattler, this marked the third time he had competed in the NLL's all-star game. Jamieson, Smith and Bucktooth were all participating for the first time.

# Johnson will be key to success in Germany

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

## CALEDONIA, Ont.

Tawnie Johnson was hoping to one day get a chance to represent the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Nationals) at a world lacrosse tournament, but now the 17-year-old player will never get that chance.

That's because Johnson, whose father Jason is Onondaga, has cracked the roster of the Canadian squad that will compete at the world women's under-19 field lacrosse championships this summer.

Johnson is the only Aboriginal person on the Canadian side, which includes 18 players.

The world tournament will be staged Aug. 3 to Aug. 13 in Hannover, Germany.

Since she will represent Canada at this year's world event, Johnson will be prevented from suiting up for the Haudenosaunee team at any future international competitions.

Johnson said uncertainties over this year's Haudenosaunee club made her decide to try out for the Canadian team.

"I still have no idea who their coach is," Johnson said. "And I'm not sure if they are even going to the worlds because of funding."

On the official Web site for the world tournament the Haudenosaunee team is listed as one of the 12 entrants that will compete at this year's event. But no contact information is provided.

Johnson said she is disappointed international rules will prevent her from ever suiting up for a Haudenosaunee squad once she represents Canada in action.

"It's sad I can't ever play for them," she said. "But I just want to play lacrosse now."

Johnson, a Grade 12 student at McKinon Park Secondary School in Caledonia, was named to the Canadian roster in late January, following an 18-month tryout process which began with identification camps in Ontario and British Columbia.

More than 110 players attended the Canadian team tryouts. That number was then cut to 60. This figure dwindled to 30, then 24 before the team's final lineup was announced.

Johnson said she was surprised she made the final cut.

But Scott Teeter, the head coach of the Canadian club, said she shouldn't have been.

"Tawnie is one of the top players in Canada," said Teeter, who is also the head coach of the Buffalo-based Canisius College women's field lacrosse squad.

Johnson will play the attack position at the world



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Tawnie Johnson

tournament.

"She's a key component to our offence," said Teeter, who expects Johnson to be one of Canada's top three or four scorers at the world tournament. "We like her size. She's fairly tall (5-foot-8). And she's got a pretty decent shot."

Johnson realizes her team will be relying on her heavily for some offensive punch.

"It is a lot of pressure," said Johnson, who has been playing lacrosse since the age of seven. "But I've always been a scorer on the teams I've played on."

Besides playing attack, Teeter added he would have felt comfortable inserting Johnson into either a midfield or defender position.

"Attack is definitely my comfort zone," she said.

From her attack position, Johnson has been told she'll be the club's right-handed feeder.

"I'll be right beside the net so I'll get a lot of scoring chances," said Johnson, who plays three sports—field lacrosse, basketball and volleyball—for her high school.

This will mark the fifth time that the world women's under-19 tournament, held every four years, has been staged.

Canada placed fourth at the 2007 event, held in Peterborough, Ont. It had also placed fourth at the inaugural tournament in 1995.

Canada has also won some

hardware at this event. It captured the bronze medals at the 1999 and 2003 tournaments.

Johnson believes her squad will return with a medal this year.

"I'm expecting to be in the top three," she said.

Johnson will continue to play lacrosse after her high school days are over. She's accepted a full athletic scholarship offer from New York's Syracuse University and will head to the American school in August, after the world tournament.

She plans to enrol in the school's social works program while playing for the women's field lacrosse club.

The majority of players on the Canadian team are from Ontario, but the lineup also includes one player from B.C. and one from Alberta.

A handful of the club's players are also already toiling for various American universities. So that means it's been difficult recently to get all of the players in one spot.

"It's hard to get a practice in where we are all together," Johnson said.

But Canadian team members will have plenty of time together prior to the world tournament.

The squad is scheduled to compete in a tournament in late May in Long Island, N.Y. It is also entered in a pair of other tournaments in the state of New York in July.

[ education ]  
**School will ground children in the Okanagan culture**

By Leanne Flett Kruger  
*Windspeaker Contributor*

**PENTICTON, B.C.**

The Penticton Indian Band is one of seven bands that make up the Okanagan Nation in the interior of British Columbia. The people are Okanagan—Syilx in their Nsyilxcn language—and like many other First Nations in Canada they have been working to have authority over their own education and to have their culture and language included in that education.

In the 1980s, Penticton Indian Band members were frustrated with the mainstream school system, racism and conflicting social structures embedded in that system. The system marked children as failing, but it was obvious to band members that it was the system and teachers who were failing their youth.

Parents took it upon themselves to pull their children from school in the Penticton school district and start fresh on the reserve, setting up at the band hall.

The band school was named Outma Sqilx'w, which means "Our People."

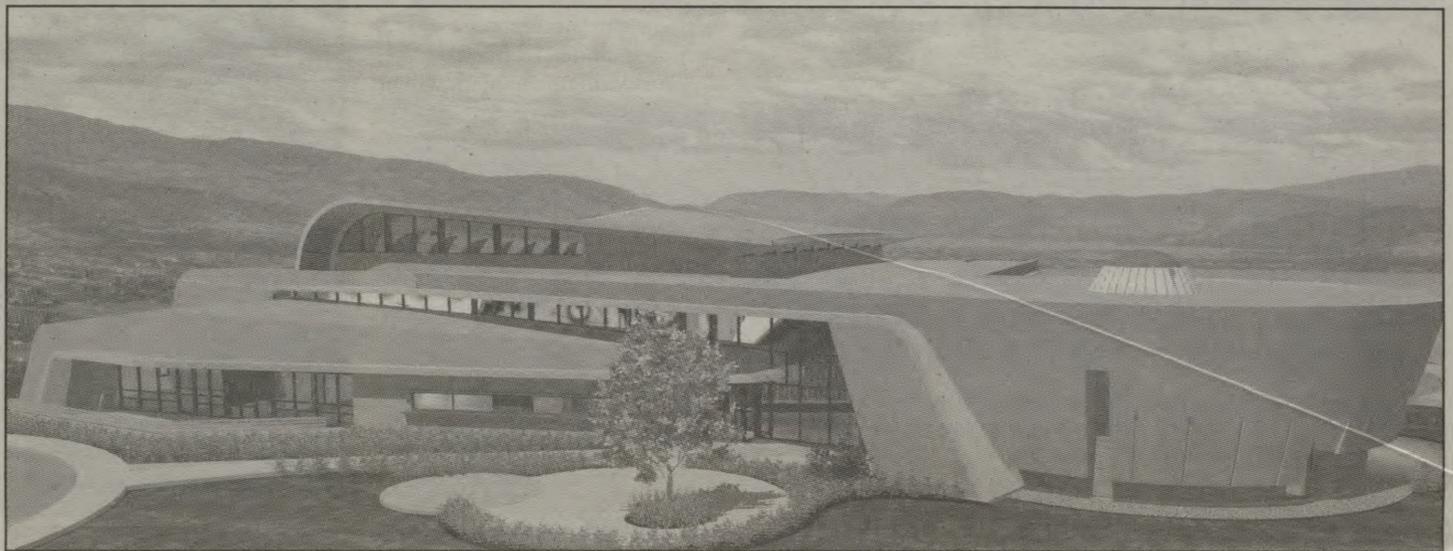
Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School would move from the band hall to portable trailers where it would exist for 15 years. This month it will relocate again, but this time to an \$8-million new building, funded in part by Canada's Action Plan. Construction on the building has been underway since 2009.

Set on the upper-bench of the Penticton Indian Reserve, the school features fluid curved edges influenced by the rolling hillside landscape. It has a capacity of 120 students, who will spend their days overlooking a spectacular view of the City of Penticton and both the Skaha and Okanagan lakes.

Currently Outma Sqilx'w runs junior kindergarten to Grade 7, with a curriculum of standard school district requirements, plus Okanagan cultural components. There are traditional knowledge classes, including root and berry picking, drumming and drum making, Nsyilxcn language and much more.

The new building was designed to provide a nurturing environment to foster cultural pride and restoration of the endangered Nsyilxcn language. The Penticton Indian Band, like most First Nations communities, suffered the loss of language and language speakers as a direct result of Indian residential schools.

Jeanette Armstrong, PhD, fluent speaker and teacher of the language says "There are only 250 fluent speakers left in the whole of the Okanagan." This means that Nsyilxcn is listed as a



Architectural renderings of the Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School being constructed on the Penticton Indian Reserve.

critically-endangered language.

There is therefore hope for fluency to increase with the implementation of language programs at Outma Sqilx'w, Little Paws Daycare and the post-secondary En'owkin Centre, also located on the Penticton Indian Reserve.

Language is one of the main focuses at the school, we are told by Chief Jonathan Kruger during a tour of the new building. Chief Kruger guides Elders Joey and Caroline Pierre and other community members to the cultural education room. This room emulates a traditional pit house, designed with a dome-shaped ceiling, fire pit in the centre and a skylight above.

"This room will be used for traditional teachings, storytelling, and ceremony," said Kruger. "It is a place for this generation and future generations to keep our culture strong." The Elders proudly share with us that the realization of this school has been their dream for many years and they are grateful to see it fulfilled during their lifetime.

The gymnasium is another important feature and source of pride. Previously housed in trailers, Outma Sqilx'w has never had the luxury of a gymnasium. The new gym features various green initiatives, such as geothermal heating.

Every space is designed to take

advantage of natural light, with glazing strategically positioned to permit an influx of light. Adjacent to the gym and connected by a concession window is a full-service kitchen.

A hot lunch program will be run through the kitchen. Both gym and kitchen will serve multiple purposes in the community, as a place to hold band functions and gatherings outside of school hours.

It has been a long struggle and an enormous amount of hard work by many community members over the years to get to this point. As authority over education returns to the people, there is hope for the Nsyilxcn language.

Cultural practices, once forbidden at residential schools, are now a respected part of the curriculum. In this setting for learners, Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School breaks new ground as a place where old traditions meet with the modern world.

Grand opening ceremonies for the new building and a powwow are taking place on April 29 and 30. Expected to attend is Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, Conservative MP Stockwell Day, MLA Bill Barisoff, representatives from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, as well as members from all seven bands that make up the Okanagan Nation.

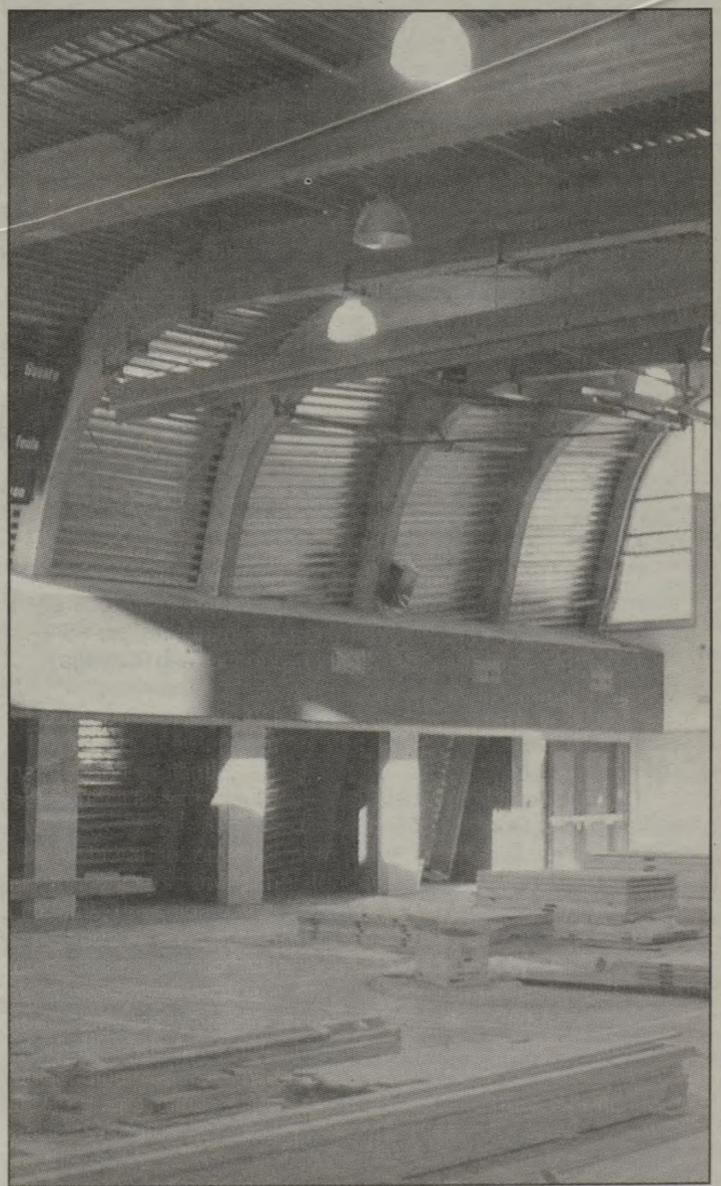


PHOTO: LEANNE FLETT KRUGER

Outma Sqilx'w Cultural School gymnasium under construction.



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[ footprints ] Chief Ralph Akiwenzie

# Chief Ralph Akiwenzie was "one in a million"

By Dianne Meili

Chief Ralph Akiwenzie was the kind of leader who would open his wallet to give money to people who needed it.

"I'm his cousin and I never knew this about him because he never spoke of it," said poet and publisher Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm.

"The good deeds he did were done without any desire for recognition. He did them because he was able to do them and he knew it was the right thing to do."

Chief Akiwenzie of the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation at Cape Croker died of pancreatic cancer at age 64 on March 4. He grew noticeably weak two weeks before his death and was diagnosed only days before his passing.

Saugeen First Nation Chief Randall Kahgee said Chief Akiwenzie knew ceremonies were being held in many communities for him when word of his illness got out.

"His efforts and his reputation aren't just regional. They're right across the country," he said.

As a teen, Kahgee used to drive his uncle, former Saugeen Chief Richard Kahgee, and Chief Akiwenzie, to meetings in Toronto.

"The manner in which he carried himself and the burdens he shouldered and how he carried that burden has me in awe. We have a huge void now...he literally is 'one in a million'," Kahgee said in an Owen Sound Sun Times editorial.

Deference to Chief Akiwenzie is evident from his electoral record. He began a two-year term as band councillor in 1981 and served as chief of the band since 1989. His long service as chief was interrupted in 2005, but he was returned to office in 2007 and again in 2009. He was serving as chief at the time of his passing.

As Nawash leader, Chief Akiwenzie was instrumental in pursuing legal action to confirm Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Anishnabe regarding commercial fishing in Lake Huron and Georgia Bay.

A 1993 Ontario Court decision by Mr. Justice David Fairgrieve in the case of R. vs Jones, Nadjiwon, et al. asserted those rights in law.

A highlight of Chief Akiwenzie's career "was being able to spend 15 minutes on the stand and testify in the Jones/Nadjiwon case", he told Kahgee.

His satisfaction was a result of his painstaking research into, and knowledge of, treaties, combined with familiarity of his language and his people's longstanding presence in the area. He enjoyed being able to inform mainstream society of Anishnabe legacy.

Taking a measured, even-tempered approach to all he undertook, especially regarding legal matters, he won the respect of all, even members of the non-Native society he challenged.

Northern Bruce Peninsula Mayor Milt McIvor, who had dealings with Chief Akiwenzie during the ongoing land claim negotiations covering much of his jurisdiction, described him as "a true gentleman". The land claim has been valued at over \$80 billion and is still in the court discovery process.

Chief Akiwenzie was the first Aboriginal person to graduate from the Stratford Teachers College in Ontario. After teaching in Stratford for two years, he returned to Cape Croker to advocate for, and teach, culture and language for 17 years. He obtained his Native Language Diploma through Lakehead University.

"He had a clear vision of hope for our young people," said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut

Atleo. "He demonstrated the best qualities of leadership, always on top of every issue, carefully reviewing every document and speaking eloquently of the rights and interests of his people."

Chief Akiwenzie understood his first priority was a better quality of life for his people.

"He didn't own a home; he stayed with my aunt and uncle, and more recently his sister," said Akiwenzie-Damm. "There's a housing program here, but he refused to apply to it because he didn't want to take for himself what someone else might need more. By today's standards, he was selfless, generous and humble."

Akiwenzie-Damm said her cousin would get up every morning at 5 a.m. and walk the few kilometres to the band office in all kinds of weather.

"He'd work until 11 p.m. and then walk home. The long hours he put in on our behalf were a large part of the success we had in our fishing, lands and Aboriginal rights."

Friends and family say Chief Akiwenzie was quiet, like many of the old people. Raised by his grandmother, Hannah Akiwenzie, he lived according to traditional values.

"He loved to laugh and sing, though. At the annual Chief's Feast he would always end his introductions, welcomes or speeches with a few songs sung in Anishinaabemowin," said Akiwenzie-Damm. His favourites were "She'll be Comin' round the Mountain" and "Froggy Goes a Courtin'". Everyone would smile and laugh and we'd clap along with him. I'm really going to miss that."

A master at governance, if tension arose during a band council meeting, he was famous for interjecting with the words, "I understand there have been

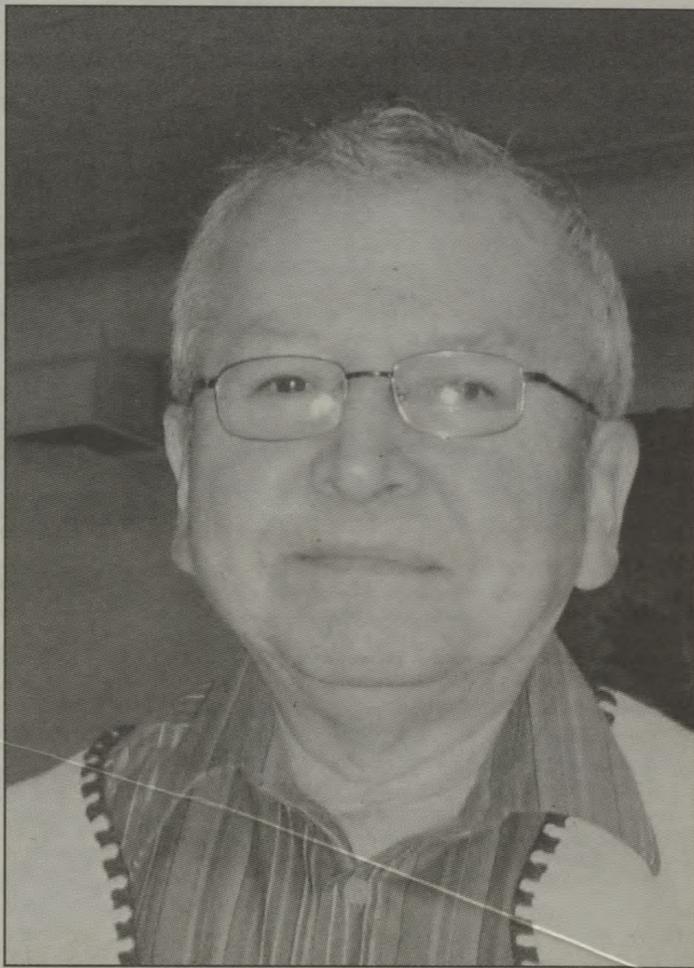


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Chief Ralph Akiwenzie

some allegations made, so what I want to know is, who are the alligators?" Everyone would laugh and then the councillors would return to the matter at hand in a better frame of mind.

A little-known story about Chief Akiwenzie illustrates his integrity, apparent even as a youngster, said Akiwenzie-Damm.

"My mother, Julie Damm, said Ralph and his brother Murray, were kind of arguing and fighting outside one day. Joe Akiwenzie, Ralph's uncle, came along and asked them what they were doing. Too embarrassed to let his uncle know he'd been fighting, Ralph made up a word

to explain. 'Oh, we were just gubbazing,' he said. When Chief Ralph was older, if someone asked him what he was doing, he'd throw his head back and have a good laugh, and he used that same word.

"I imagine our dear cousin and chief is doing a lot of 'gubbazing', singing and laughing now."

Chief Akiwenzie's parents, Donna and Ernest Akiwenzie, and his brothers Carman and Murray, are predeceased. His two sisters, Jean and Donna Lynne, and stepbrother Orland, mourn him, as do many nieces and nephews, two of whom thought of him as a father.

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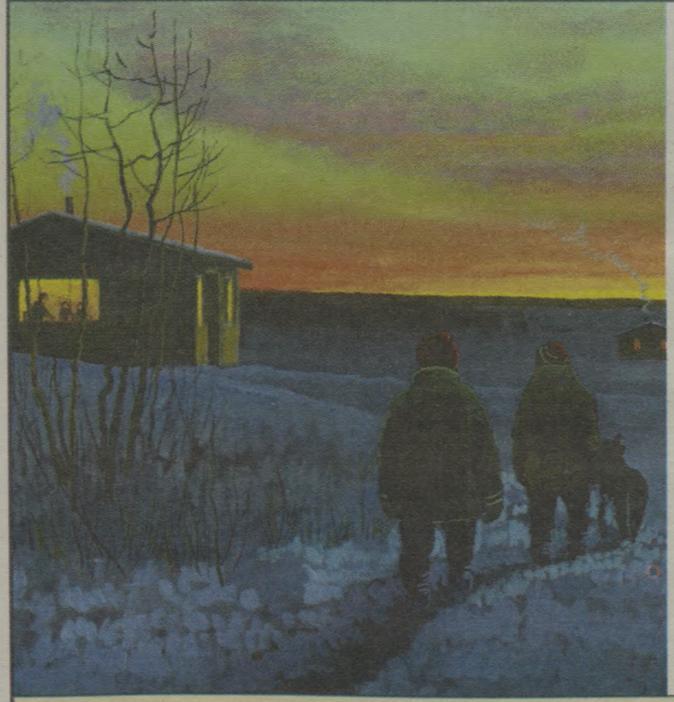
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- Gala Evening Dinner hosted by Cory Generoux of APTN's Bionic Bannock Boys featuring the premiere of the play, "My Kobbuk Prayed For Me" written by Vera Tourangeau and a Keynote Address from Ted Nolan (*sponsored by Ministry of Education – First Nations, Métis & Community Education*)
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**[ footprints ] Sophie Thomas**

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

**Windspeaker News Briefs - May**

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

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

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

**Flying high v Aerospace e!**

By Isha WINNIPEG

Check out the new web site. New material is being added daily. Please be patient as we work out some of the bugs.  
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**Innovative approach to oil, gas development**

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

**Calgary Briefs - April**

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

**Exhibit celebrates lifetime works of Métis artist**

By Isha Thompson, Sage Staff Writer, SASKATOON  
 The memory of one of Saskatchewan's most well known artists is being kept alive... hope is that...

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- CFWE-FM Alberta Radio Network
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**UPCOMING ISSUES**

- June Windspeaker - May 24th
- June Alberta Sweetgrass - June 7th
- June Saskatchewan Sage - June 7th

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