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Volume 32 No. 3 • June 2014

Wind speaker



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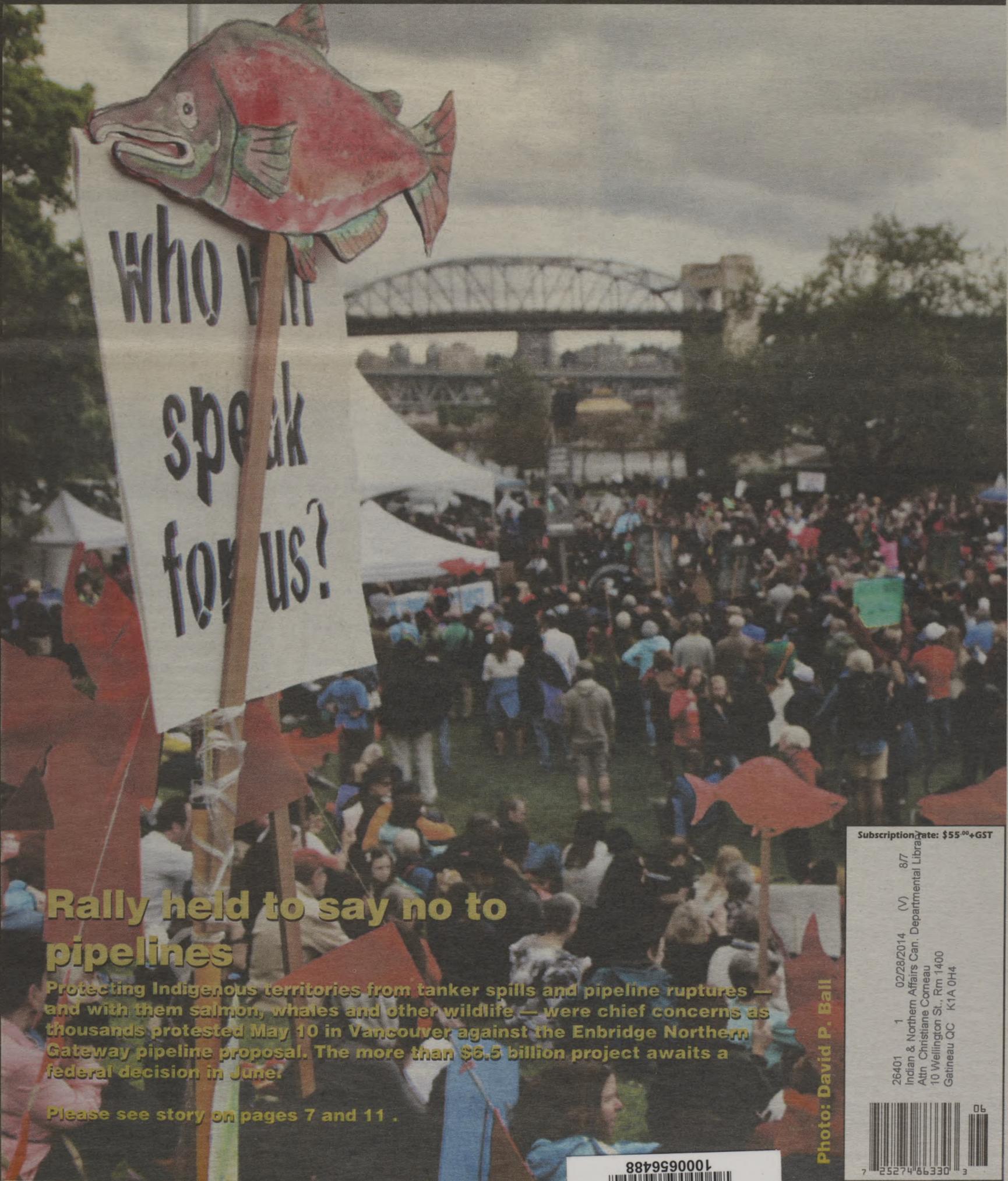
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Rally held to say no to pipelines

Protecting Indigenous territories from tanker spills and pipeline ruptures — and with them salmon, whales and other wildlife — were chief concerns as thousands protested May 10 in Vancouver against the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline proposal. The more than \$6.5 billion project awaits a federal decision in June.

Please see story on pages 7 and 11 .

Photo: David P. Ball

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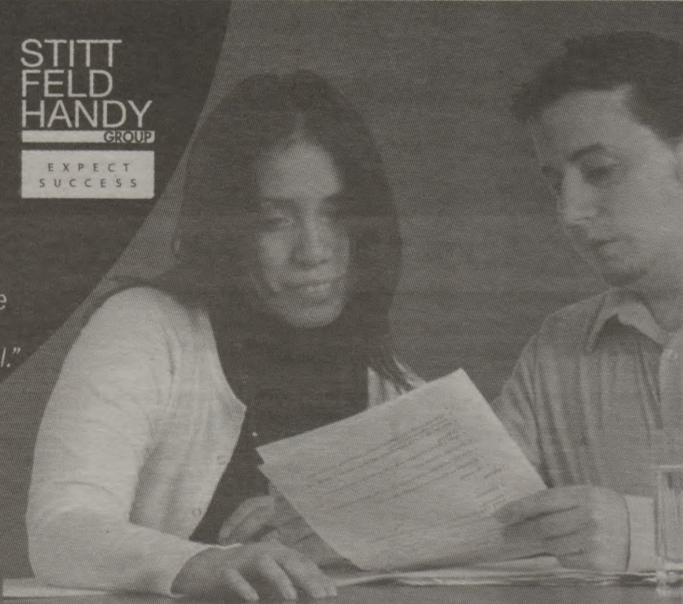


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Atleo resignation: The writing was simply on the wall for years 10

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo's sudden resignation as Assembly of First Nations national chief on May 2 caught much of the country off-guard. He is the first national chief ever to throw in the towel.

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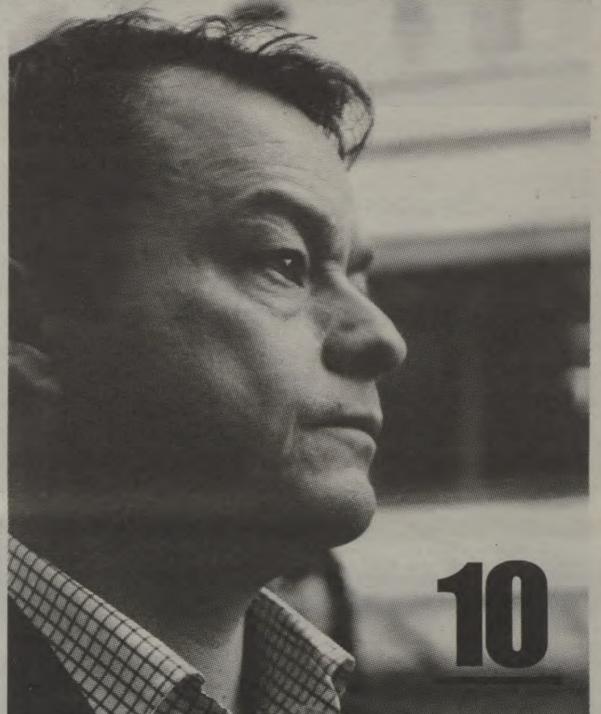
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As a touring Métis musician in the 1960s, Manitoba's Charles Nabess had to assume the pseudonym "Carlos" to perform on some stages, and was introduced to audiences as a Spanish guitar player.



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AFN in the way of real progress

On April 26, 2013, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs wrote to federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt thanking him for attending a meeting of BC's First Nations Leadership Council early that month in Coast Salish territory in Vancouver. It was a kind of back-handed thank you, however. The second line in the letter read "it appeared that you were not aware of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs' long history, mandate and large active membership."

Astounding as that might seem to many who know UBCIC as a very active First Nations organization led by a most prolific communicator and critic of the federal government, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC still was willing to grant Valcourt the courtesy of looking past his lack of knowledge about the organization, given he had just been recently appointed. Perhaps they shouldn't have.

A year and a bit later, with all eyes now on the Assembly of First Nations, the national First Nations organization that seems to be swirling the drain after the resignation of its elected leader, Shawn Atleo, it might now be time to really evaluate if a national organization just gets in the way of the needs in the regions. It had been a long time that anyone from so high up in the federal government had met with the BC's First Nations Leadership Council in B.C., and this meeting was prompted by the needs of Ottawa to get those nations onside with the pipeline progress across the province, not the

very real needs of B.C. nations.

It seems the very existence of the AFN gives Ottawa an easy out from dealing with nations on the ground where they live. If you're not in Ottawa at the AFN, you're just not seen and Ottawa remains blinded to the realities in the regions, resulting in short-shrift to the diversity of situations across the country. The AFN has become an important tool used by Ottawa to hold the regions at arm's length. What can be achieved by that?

While the AFN is trying to figure out how it is not only to remain relevant, but survive, how it will react to the grassroots people demanding a real voice in the organization, it's perhaps time that the regional organizations spend some effort to determine if such representation in the AFN works to their best interests. If all that results is infighting—that old treaty, non-treaty divide is only part of the problem—and that's all the AFN can really boast about in these last five years, then it may be time to turf membership in the organization altogether.

Atleo has gone away, but the very real problems of the AFN remain. The AFN will change leaders, but that's not going to bring the nations any closer to getting what they need from Ottawa. Perhaps it's time to just push the organization over the side of the ship, and start to make Ottawa come sit with the people, not the other way around.

Windspeaker

Letter: First Nations Education Act harms First Nations

An open letter:

Do you have children? I do. Thinking about my children's future, and the future of other kids in my community is what motivates me to get out into the world and work hard for my community.

One of my biggest joys in life is watching my kids grow and learn. This winter, my four-year-old daughter took to the ice in her first-ever hockey tournament. She was eager to learn, fiercely determined to win, and proud of playing for Whitefish River First Nation. I thought my heart would explode with pride and joy, watching her develop exciting new skills and seeing her represent our community.

Our kids are our destiny. I look at them and I know that our children hold the future of our communities in their hands. Harm our children, and you strike at the very heart of our people and our culture.

That is why I care so much about the federal government's proposed changes for First Nations education. Proper education is the key to the future of our children and our communities.

I know that many Canadians are wondering why Aboriginal communities are reacting so passionately about Bill C-33, the federal government's so-called First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act.

It doesn't help that the name of the Act is completely misleading. The federal government wants you to believe that the proposed Act promotes First Nations control of First Nations education, but, in fact, it does nothing of the sort. It does the opposite.

There is not a single thing that the proposed Act "allows" First Nations to do that we don't already do. It does not advance First Nations' control. In fact, it would significantly set back that control by making everything we do subject to unpredictable federal approval by a ministry that has zero expertise in education.

Instead of building the capacity of First Nations' institutions, Bill C-33 would require an army of federal bureaucrats in the department of Aboriginal Affairs, which hasn't governed First Nations' education since residential schools.

Bill C-33 would dramatically increase federal control of First Nations' education, by taking power away from First Nations' governments and centralizing that power in federal hands.

The proposed legislation creates new federal rules, federal regulations, and numerous discretionary decisions, left at the whim of the federal Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. All of this is

backed up by a new federal enforcement regime, which would also be deployed at the Minister's say-so. It's a recipe for chaos, not for success.

Yes, you can presume to understand Bill C-33 on its face value if you read past the title, and it's not a pretty face.

But it's probably best to understand Bill C-33 with some context.

I want to make sure the children of my community have an outstanding education that prepares them to be both strong Anishinaabe citizens and strong Canadian citizens. That will require more resources than we've had to date (and more than the federal government recently announced), but I have no hesitation in saying that resources alone are not enough. It also requires clear standards, planning to measure and improve our achievement, supportive institutions that assist each school and classroom, and full accountability to our students and parents.

I'm not alone in supporting more standards and accountability. For example, my own First Nation has been working with 38 others to design an Anishinabek Education System that includes all of the above – under First Nations' control, not federal control. We have been at a negotiation table with the federal government for years to implement those efforts. Many other First Nations are involved in similar initiatives of their own.

Setting standards and building institutions that are accountable are essential to any successful education system. The question is whose standards, and whose institutions?

I know with every fiber of my being that the answer is with First Nations and the honourable negotiation of agreements, not with the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The paternalistic era of "the Minister knows best" should have been closed with residential schools. For the sake of our children, we are not going back.

In 25 years I want my children to be able to look back and say, "I remember when my father and other First Nations' leaders stood up and fought to make sure that I had a good education." I want them to be proud, smart Anishinaabe people, whose wisdom and leadership benefits their own First Nation as well as Canadian society as a whole. I want a better First Nations Education Act for them, one that gets us closer to the goal of a better future for our communities, and not further away. If you have kids, put yourself in my shoes: wouldn't you want the same thing?

**By Chief Shining Turtle
Whitefish River First Nation**

[rants and raves] Page 5 Chatter

#FNCFNEA: REGIONAL CHIEF BILL TRAVERSE

directed the F-bomb at an APTN reporter when he asked about the unofficial gathering of the AFN's Confederacy of Nations. It was hastily assembled for the first time in 10 years (behind closed doors) in response to Bill C-33 and Shawn Atleo's resignation from the top job at the AFN. Sto:lo Grand Chief Doug Kelly called some grassroots people he engaged with on the First Nations education act "twits". And federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt in the House of Commons denounced a group of First Nations leaders, labelling them "rogue chiefs" and a threat to the security of Canadians for rejecting Bill C-33 and suggesting direct action.

It seems the discussion around the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act and the fallout from the Atleo resignation has taken a decidedly disrespectful turn.

"In my experience, people who start calling others names are at the end of their arguments," tweeted APTN News anchor Michael Hutchinson.

#ATLEORESIGNED: AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT, THE TWITTER

the Twitter comments about the Shawn Atleo resignation May 2 were as polarized as the reaction to the former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations himself. Kelly Lindsay, President & CEO of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council, called Atleo "an unwavering champion & friend of Indigenous Peoples, inclusion & education" while other tweeters were just happy to continue the refrain of Atleo as Prime Minister Stephen Harper's collaborator.

But there was also plenty of finger pointing in all other directions. Sto:lo Grand Chief Doug Kelly was in fine form this month, calling out FSIN Grand Chief Perry Bellegarde, who ran against Atleo in 2009 in that "marathon" 23-hour election, as Atleo's betrayer, and complained about Atleo's treatment at the hands of other chiefs. "The way some #AFN chiefs + wannabe nat'l chiefs treated Shawn Atleo is disgraceful," Kelly tweeted. Kelly, readers will recall, was a very big part of Atleo's election run in 2009.

Other tweeters also said sour grapes and bitterness at losing to Atleo was at the root of his ouster. "WOW!," tweeted Shana.

"Haters who sabotaging NC ever since he WON & THEY lost, now trying 2 rewrite THIER role in BS politics they played." Bill Ironstand of North Battleford tweeted "the 3 wolves attacked today. All want the NC job, we are weaker as a people today."

Cowboy Smithx, a self-described Zombie Killer, thinks Atleo will land on his feet however. He tweets "Expect #Atleo to show up in #BigOil within the next 6 months #JustLikePhil", referring to the also former national chief Phil Fontaine.

However, Rachel Ann Snow, an Indigenous consultant, was concerned about the AFN's reaction to replace Atleo in the interim. She tweeted "#AFN exec will set up a new poobah in place! Good grief. CANT ask for collective consultation then set up a hierarchy! Same crap diffnt NC".

"THE THING ABOUT ANGRY MOBS IS SOMETHINGS THEY'RE RIGHT."

That was a tweet from Stephen Lautens, recovering lawyer, smartass and occasional columnist, from way back in March 1, 2013. It was a reaction to #tomflanigan and his public comments about child porn. 'member Tom? Well, he was back in the news this month with his new book "Persona Non Grata: The Death of Free Speech in the Internet Age." Tom Flanagan, former advisor to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who long ago became Persona Non Grata in Indian Country for his "expert" opinions on First Nations issues, explains in the book what happened one night about a year-and-a-half ago during a public speaking engagement in Lethbridge where he was "trapped" into a discussion about a comment he had made about child pornography. The Globe and Mail writes Flanagan had been "targeted" by a group of Native activists "who were out to get him" with an old comment where Flanagan distinguished between crimes of abusing actual children and those that involve "just pictures."

The discussion was recorded and uploaded to Youtube with what has been described as an inflammatory headline: "Tom Flanagan okay with child pornography." Within hours, the video had gone viral, and Flanagan's career had burst into flames. Andrew McDougall, the Prime Minister's communications director, soon tweeted "Tom Flanagan's comments on child pornography are repugnant, ignorant, and appalling. Flanagan said, he's misunderstood."

The Globe and Mail says the book allowed Flanagan a way to understand how his life managed to crumble in just a few short hours. "The most powerful theme of his book is a how a changing political culture has interacted with new media to create a toxic environment in which people are executed in the public square when they become inconvenient. "Damage control is a big part of politics today," [Flanagan] says. "There's a demand for virtually instantaneous action. So human sacrifice has become institutionalized."

There was not much sympathy, however, for the man that The Globe and Mail described as an architect of the current political climate. "He was complicit in the cultivation of a climate of ruthlessness that put the PM into power and has kept him there. The iron law of this political culture is that you do whatever it takes to win. People and principles are expendable... Everything is evaluated through the prism of whether it will help or hurt the leader."

Flanagan "was instrumental in creating a monster that later turned on him," one tweeter wrote. "He gets no sympathy."

[strictly speaking]

Annoying Writer Fact #756

As with many things in life, there are many benefits and just as many drawbacks to being a writer: The proverbial double edged sword. I have frequently written about many of my favourite aspects to the career I have chosen. I love the travel opportunities it has provided. I love the people it has allowed me to meet. I love being able to discuss issues, topics and humorous stories that tickle my fancy. No getting up at 7 in the morning, grabbing a quick shower, breakfast, feed the kids, and making it to work at the same time everybody else does. Don't have a sore back at the end of the day. No office politics to deal with (unless they are with yourself). That's just to name a few. All in all, a pretty good life. It's usually indoors, air conditioned, and clothing optional (while writing that is).

And the downsides to a literary career? Some of them may seem silly. Waking up and figuring out what city you are in when on a book tour. Sitting in a chair the entire day. Not getting out



THE URBANE INDIAN

Drew Hayden Taylor

of the house all day. There are also the infrequent cheques to manoeuvre, but you learn to deal with it. Trying to figure out the difference between a split infinitive and a dangling participle. Stuff like that.

But occasionally, one of the more unique annoyances pops up when you least expect it. Lately, it's been at poker. About a month or so ago, when I was taking a break from a casual game at a local restaurant, a man stopped me on the way to the bathroom. He had heard I was a writer. Most of the other

players were retired working class white guys so I guess I stood out as both Native and actively employed in the literary arts.

Eagerly, he told me he had tried to get a book published, a series of short stories about Algonquin Park, and realized upon rereading it, he needed somebody to ghost write it for him. Another perspective to rewrite and polish the tales he was trying to tell. He asked if I wanted to take a shot at the stories for him.

Several months before, in the midst of a similar game, a new

member to the poker festivities found out I was a writer. For the next fifteen or twenty minutes during the game, this man immediately tried to convince me that I needed to write his biography. He swore up and down it was a fabulous story and that I should drop everything and put his life on paper. This man literally seemed confused and puzzled that I didn't jump at the chance.

What gets me is they never ask what kind of writer I am. The term "writer" is such a broad term, with so many different genres, they never ask what kind of writing I do—fiction, journalism, prose, poetry, creative non-fiction, theatre, etc. Granted I do write in most of those fields but that's beside the point. It's like saying you are a scientist. There are so many different branches of science that to say you are just a scientist is practically meaningless.

For all these people know, I could be a writer of technical manuals for the operation of Zambonis. Or episodes of

Murdoch Mysteries. Or even more interestingly, maybe I only write gay porn. That would definitely add a unique flavour to those short stories about Algonquin Park or that man's biography!

You want to be polite, but frequently they are quite insistent. Nobody more than a writer knows the hope and occasional desperation that can come from wanting to tell your story, and finding a way to do it. Still, it never occurs to them that maybe you have projects of your own lined up for the next year or three. Books these people suggest are a serious investments of your time, taking up a sizable chunk of the year. This means you have to really have a personal attachment to the concepts. You don't troll restaurants and poker games looking for projects like this to occupy your time.

Oh well, I suppose it's a small cross to bear. My mother once told me she worked for 40 years and never once had a job she enjoyed. Now that scares me.

Minister Bernard Valcourt must resign or be replaced

Guest Column
By Judith Sayers

To my recollection, there has never been a more combative and disrespectful Minister of Aboriginal Affairs than Minister Bernard Valcourt. He has come out swinging against First Nations in a manner that is stirring up a lot of First Nations communities to retaliate against his statements and methods. He has called our chiefs "rogues" and made use of lateral violence by misconstruing a draft strategy for an economic shutdown to be a security threat. At a time when the Minister should be reconciliatory, he has chosen his battlefield on the floor of the House of Commons, where First Nations do not have a voice, and in the media. He is an alarmist, or at the very least, a drama queen. His conduct cannot be considered conduct becoming a Minister of the Federal Government and here is why.

On May 16 in the House of Commons, Valcourt said the following after facing questions from NDP Jean Crowder over whether he was ready to meet the Confederacy of First Nations.

"The members of the House will agree that we should, as members, *condemn* in the strongest terms the threat of those *rogue chiefs* who are *threatening the security of Canadians, their families and taxpayers.*"

Who is Valcourt to determine whether or not the Confederacy was a duly convened meeting? It was a meeting of chiefs and must be respected. Who is he to call chiefs "rogue" because he thinks their meeting was not properly called, and to tell all MP's to condemn the chiefs when they

met to determine action on a very important issue? And finally, who is Valcourt to scare Canadians that "rogue chiefs" are a threat to their very security (safety) when the plan is only draft and must go to the chiefs meeting for consideration? This is beyond what is acceptable for a Minister to be saying in their house of government.

Valcourt said he would not meet with these chiefs who were at the Confederacy until they withdraw their alleged threat. National Chief of the Dene Nation/Regional Chief NWT of the AFN Bill Erasmus issued a letter to the Minister saying this public statement by Valcourt was of great concern to his people. He went on to say the Dene have a legal relationship with the government Valcourt represents and expects them to conduct themselves accordingly and meet its legal obligations. Erasmus then asked Valcourt to clarify his position to not meet with the Chiefs of the Dene Nation. Valcourt has not yet responded.

In order to clarify what Valcourt is basing his condemnation on, the Confederacy in a draft statement said that they want have Canada sit with them on a Nation-to-Nation basis to negotiate an accord that will implement First Nations jurisdiction on education. An opportunity to dialogue on a very important issue: Education on reserve.

But if Canada was not willing to sit down and negotiate then "Should Canada not withdraw and cease all imposed legislation on First Nations without our free, prior and informed consent, we will strategically and calculatedly begin the *economic shut-down of Canada's economy*

from coast-to-coast. First Nations will determine whether or not there is international economic certainty for economic development on Turtle Island."

An economic shut down is what the draft statement said which Valcourt construed as a security threat to Canadians, families and taxpayers. Not the same thing. Valcourt was fear mongering and trying to get the Canadian public onside by deliberately misconstruing the document and the action that has yet to be considered by all chiefs.

The draft document agreed to at the Confederacy meeting was leaked to the press. The chiefs intended to take this home to their members for their input and consideration. The document would then be brought back to the chiefs in Assembly on May 27 for their consideration. It was going through an internal process.

Valcourt should have waited to pass his judgment until such time as the direction of the Chiefs in Assembly of the AFN on Bill C-33, First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, is finalized. Instead he created a negative situation that makes it impossible for chiefs and him to work together. Mistrust is rampant.

Valcourt has been very defensive in any negative comments on his proposed Bill C-33. When the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians came out against the proposed Act, on May 1, he made this statement to FSIN.

"...my suggestion to the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian is that they follow their own advice and analyze the First

Nation Control (of First Nation Education Act instead of letting politics get in the way of what is best for First Nations students."

FSIN had analyzed the act and had come to its own conclusions. Questioning the chiefs of Saskatchewan's ability to interpret the proposed Act based on their own needs is very patronizing and demeaning. Just because they don't have the same views as the Minister does not mean they are playing politics.

The biggest political interference by Valcourt occurred on April 29 in the House of Commons when he told opposition MPs to follow the "lead" of AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo, who supported Bill C-33. He basically told MPs to ignore the Chiefs/First Nations who are the rights holders and whom the government must consult with. That Valcourt would overstep the chiefs and listen only to the National Chief was the last straw for many chiefs, and shortly after National Chief A-in-chut, Shawn Atleo resigned. To have the Minister say that they should only look to Atleo for his leadership on the bill was a definitive blow to Atleo's credibility. AFN can only advocate and never usurp the authority of the chiefs and First Nations. If Valcourt finds the next national chief unwilling to be as cooperative with him, he can blame himself for his statements that contributed to the resignation of Shawn Atleo.

One can only conclude that the Prime Minister must agree with this kind of approach with First Nations as he chose Valcourt for this role knowing how he operates. Furthermore, he has not rebuked Valcourt

publicly, reined him in, or indicated his displeasure in any way with this unacceptable behavior. This is a sad reflection on First Nations-Federal Government relations.

The Code of Conduct for Ministers states as follows:

IV.1. Ministerial Conduct: Ministers, Ministers of State and Parliamentary Secretaries† must act with honesty and must uphold the highest ethical standards so that public confidence and trust in the integrity and impartiality of government are maintained and enhanced.

Looking at the statements made by Minister Valcourt, can his conduct be considered ethical or done with integrity? How many people in Canada have confidence that Valcourt can carry out the key and critical issues with First Nations that are being faced in this country? Can Valcourt be considered impartial when he has judged the chiefs the way he has and accused them of security threats and playing politics with their children's right to an education? I think not.

With the mega projects that are being contemplated across Canada like the projects in the Ring of Fire, Enbridge and Kinder Morgan, Site C, and many mines, the Minister has alienated chiefs instead of looking to reconciliation and building relationships. He has put economic projects at greater risk with his stirring the pot and being combative. His theatrics have impressed no one. It is time to put his colonial behaviours behind and let go of his paternalistic leanings and those of the Prime Minister and the conservative party.

(See *Minister* on page 14.)

Tsleil-Waututh file lawsuit against feds over Kinder Morgan

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

Tsleil-Waututh Nation has launched the first Indigenous legal challenge to oil sands pipelines crossing B.C. with a federal appeals court lawsuit filed on May 2.

The First Nation's battle against Kinder Morgan's proposed expansion of its Trans Mountain pipeline from Alberta is heating up with the legal challenge against the National Energy Board's review process.

"I feel the government has let us down again," Chief Maureen Thomas told reporters May 2, announcing the suit. "They have not learned from past lessons. They are once again trying to ignore us, leave us behind, to walk over us, to treat us like we don't exist here."

"When they continue to do things that are wrong, it's not only important to us First Nations people, it's also going to impact the rest of Canada. We cannot stand back and let this continually happen. We have to take a stand, to stand up for what we believe is right."

The Texas company is boasting its \$5.4 billion pipeline, which would nearly triple the diluted bitumen flow from 300,000 to 890,000 barrels, will boost economic growth and offer long-term jobs, including to First Nations. The project would see a seven-fold increase in oil tanker traffic from a Burnaby terminal through the Salish Sea.

Criticism of Kinder Morgan's proposal intensified in the past month with the cities of Vancouver and Burnaby ratcheting up their vocal opposition with a number of council resolutions. The firm also faced ridicule after claiming in NEB filings that "pipeline spills



PHOTO: DAVID P. BALL

Carleen Thomas, project manager with Tsleil-Waututh Sacred Trust, at an anti-pipeline rally in Vancouver on May 13.

can have both positive and negative effects on local and regional economies," a claim immediately rejected by the NEB itself. The company insisted the statement was a required section of the application form.

The pipeline route travels through dense urban areas and populated coastline of the Burrard Inlet. Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan told Vancouver's council, a 2007 rupture in the Texas firm's existing pipeline, bursting 250,000 litres of crude into the streets, left a bad taste in his mouth towards the company.

"They consistently trivialize risks," he said. "Kinder Morgan

has a history of pipeline accidents all over North America. Why would we be different?"

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation's lawyer in the case, Merle Alexander, said the aim is to force Canada to comply with its own Constitution and environmental regulations, particularly its duty to consult Aboriginal peoples. He said the current review process is "running roughshod" over Indigenous rights.

Alexander added that Tsleil-Waututh had two legal options going forward against the proposal: a judicial review, more common in environmental cases, or a direct challenge at the Federal Court of Appeal.

"Going to the Federal Court of

Appeal would be a much more direct route, in part because the decisions made are final decisions already, and if they're not corrected now, they'll prejudice the entire environmental assessment process," he told reporters. "Tsleil-Waututh's legal position is that the Crown has failed to consult them, and therefore failed their constitutional obligations to them, and failed to comply with environmental statutes."

For the Tsleil-Waututh chief, one byproduct of the court challenge will be to grant First Nations, environmental advocates and municipal leaders a chance to increase their support base — and continue calling into

question the entire project application process, now streamlined under federal legislation.

"The main purpose right now is to delay the process, and they'll have to restart (it) again, probably, down the road," Thomas said. "That delay may bring on support from other First Nations and from other people here in Canada in general. With that delay will come the knowledge and impacts of what's happening here."

For Tsleil-Waututh Sacred Trust's intergovernmental relations project manager, the "People of the Inlet" are not simply waiting for the courts to decide on the matter, and the lawsuit is just one step in a long-term strategy that's unfolding.

"When I first started out with Sacred Trust it was all about protecting the air, lands and waters," Carleen Thomas told Windspeaker. "But as I got more involved and gained more awareness, it became about the fallacy of the economics for Canada as a nation, and communities along the pipeline route."

"They keep saying this is the best thing for the economy, Canada depends on it, the world depends on our fossil fuels — when really it's not."

But as Kinder Morgan heads into its National Energy Board review process this fall, the questions around who is allowed to participate and what participants are permitted to discuss — on top of a raft of federal legislation that has vexed First Nations over the past two years, such as environmental assessment and water protection reforms — has raised deeper societal questions.

"Now, looking at the whole big picture," Thomas mused, "our real challenge is the degradation of our democratic rights."

Anaya's UN report highlights Canada's many failures

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

NEW YORK

The United Nations Special Rapporteur has told the Canadian government that it is not doing enough to improve the economic, living, and social conditions of its Indigenous peoples despite having mechanisms in place to do so.

"Canada's relationship with the Indigenous peoples within its borders is governed by a well-developed legal framework (and) a number of policy initiatives that in many respects are protective of Indigenous peoples' rights. But despite positive steps, daunting challenges remain," wrote UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya in a 26-page, 99-point report released May 12, seven months after his visit to Canada.

"Canada faces a continuing crisis when it comes to the situation of Indigenous peoples of the country."

Anaya pointed out that the Indian Act continues to cripple self-government; that funding for and delivery of education, health programs, social programs and housing on-reserve was inadequate; that the federal government was adversarial in the way it addressed treaty and Aboriginal claims; that meaningful consultation was necessary when it came to development on First Nations land, as well as the development of new policies and programs for Indigenous peoples; and that a national inquiry into the numbers of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls was required.

(See Anaya's on page 25.)



FILE PHOTO

UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya (left) with International Chief Wilton Littlechild when Anaya stopped in Maskwacis in Alberta last October.

Bill C-10 continues government attack on sovereignty

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

According to Chief Shining Turtle, Franklin Paibomsai, Bill C-10, the Tobacco Bill, is yet another government attack on First Nations.

The chief of Whitefish River First Nation in Ontario said the government has told Canadian taxpayers the Bill is aimed at getting contraband tobacco off the streets, but "it's really aimed at prevention of First Nations trade and economy. It's about jailing more Aboriginal people and keeping our economy suppressed. It doesn't pay attention to Indigenous rights, the inherent rights of First Nations to exercise their economy as we have been doing for a very, very long time."

Bill C-10, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code, according to the November 2013 backgrounder published by the federal Department of Justice, creates a new Criminal Code offence to combat the trafficking and cross-border smuggling of contraband tobacco.

Trafficking would involve the sale, offer for sale, possession for the purpose of sale, transportation, distribution or delivery of contraband tobacco. Under the Bill, the maximum penalty for a first offence would be six months to five years imprisonment.

The Bill also proposes mandatory minimum penalties for repeat offenders where a high volume of tobacco products is involved. High volume is



Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee of the Anishinabek Nation.



Chief Shining Turtle of Whitefish River First Nation in Ontario at a meeting in Toronto.

PHOTOS: BARB NAHWEGAHBOW

considered to be 10,000 cigarettes or 10 kilograms of other tobacco products.

The Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation, Patrick Madahbee, communicated his concerns about the Bill in a letter to the Prime Minister dated March 27, 2014. Madahbee said, "It appears that Canada is currently on a fixed agenda to criminalize, disenfranchise and demean First Nation communities and citizens in an effort to eliminate First Nation treaty and inherent rights through unilateral legislative powers."

Madahbee reminded the Prime Minister that, "Canada enjoys its wealth from the backs of First Nations citizens who have never relinquished their rights to the land that they belong to," and

First Nations people have never benefitted from the resources extracted from their lands. There is a prevalence of social assistance on reserves, said Madahbee in his letter, because of a lack of economic opportunities. Tobacco provides a major source of employment in First Nations communities, he said.

The Bill is directed at the Mohawks, said Shining Turtle, but it impacts First Nations across the country. One of his major concerns is the requirement of First Nations to collect tax on tobacco products sold to non-First Nations customers. This will drive customers away, he said, but of greater concern is, "the introduction of the concept of collecting tax on reserve. It's very dangerous," he said, "because it's

opening a door that you will not be able to seal again. You start a whole series of these things without going back and saying, 'our people have existing Aboriginal and treaty rights and they are affirmed, and is this really the path forward?' I say no, it isn't."

Madahbee voiced the same concern in his letter. "Enforcing taxation on tobacco within First Nation Territories, and criminalizing First Nation entrepreneurs (who generally run family-owned businesses) is an aggressive act of government to further oppress First Nation citizens. As First Nation leaders, we have protocols and procedures that we follow. However, when it comes to taxation within First Nation territories, no First Nation leader requires a written protocol

to understand his or her responsibility to protect and defend First Nation sovereignty," Madahbee wrote.

The federal government has failed miserably in its duty to consult, said Chief Shining Turtle, and not just with Bill C-10.

"They have shown no regard for consultation and accommodation, absolutely no regard for Section 35 of the Constitution and less regard for Supreme Court of Canada rulings," he said. "There's the Financial Transparency Act, the First Nations Drinking Water Act, the Indian Act amendments, First Nations Control of Indian Education Act, the Omnibus Bill C-38, the First Nations Land Management Act, First Nations Real Matrimonial Property Act, the Election Act. None of those have had any meaningful consultation with First Nations."

Rallies are not going to change the government's mind about Bill C-10, said Shining Turtle. First Nations need to develop a new strategy to educate the Canadian taxpayer to counteract the government's "slick marketing campaign" designed to turn them against Aboriginal people. That includes finding non-Aboriginal allies, champions and experts. It also includes getting the message to people in major cities like Toronto, the same places where the government focuses its efforts.

"If we keep doing what we're doing and we keep thinking we're going to get a different result," said Chief Shining Turtle, "we're in some form of insanity. We have to change. We have to modernize ourselves."

With RCMP report Canadians may now begin to listen

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

WINNIPEG

Now that the RCMP has offered its own startling figures on the number of murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls, those calling for a public national inquiry on the subject feel that Canadians will be willing to listen.

"A lot of the public and government agencies probably had the opinion that the numbers NWAC had come out with between 2005 and 2010 were inflated," said Claudette Dumont-Smith, executive director of the Native Women's Association of Canada. "Now that we're seeing more than double (those figures) by an agency like the RCMP... I think it's going to lend a lot of credence to the issue. That it really is an issue that is of great concern, and should be of great concern to all Canadians."

On May 16, the RCMP released its report entitled Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview, indicating that 1,017

Indigenous women had been murdered and another 164 had gone missing between 1980 and 2012. That number is more than double the 582 cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls that NWAC and Sisters in Spirit had counted.

"If we were talking about white women of that number who were missing - of either number... - there would be complete outrage across the country," said Leigh Naturkach, manager of violence prevention programs with the Canadian Women's Foundation. "When you look at what's going on in Canada, racism and discrimination, this speaks to how we view Aboriginal women in this country."

"There's always (been a) disconnect or divide between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal," said Dumont-Smith.

NWAC was made aware last fall by the RCMP that the force was collecting figures for murdered and missing Aboriginal women. Dumont-Smith says she believes the RCMP caved to public pressure in finally taking action as murders of Aboriginal women continued.

"This report is the most



Jennifer Lord, strategic policy liaison with the Native Women's Association of Canada, stands in front of the faceless dolls made by family and friends to honour missing and murdered women and girls.

FILE PHOTO

comprehensive data set that has ever been compiled by the Canadian police community on missing and murdered Aboriginal women. It comes as a result of extensive research and collaboration and it is our hope that it will contribute to the Canadian conversation on this

very, very important subject," said Janice Armstrong, Deputy Commissioner Contract and Aboriginal Policing, RCMP.

"I'm not at all surprised with the figures the RCMP came up with," said Dumont-Smith.

The numbers established by NWAC were through secondary

research sources, mostly newspaper reports that identified the missing or murdered women as Indigenous. In making its presentation to the special Commons committee report on violence against Aboriginal women, NWAC made it clear that it felt its numbers were low. While that sentiment was included in the confidential draft version obtained by CBC News, it was not part of the final report.

The draft report also called for a national commission of public inquiry into missing or murdered Aboriginal women; that recommendations was also not in the final report.

"We heard from our sources that the first draft was more factual, that the final report had been watered-down and we were not happy with what came out as a final report," said Dumont-Smith.

The special all-party but Conservative-dominated committee was formed in February 2013 and almost from the beginning there was dissension. NWAC pulled out claiming it wasn't given the voice it wanted.

(See RCMP on page 25.)

Bellegarde shrugs off betrayal accusation



FILE PHOTO

In 2009, it took a record-setting eight ballots until Perry Bellegarde (right) conceded the position of National Chief to Shawn Atleo. In May 2014, Atleo set another record by being the first National Chief to resign the position.

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde is adamant that a news release he issued May 1 recommending that the FSIN not support federal First Nations education legislation is not the betrayal Grand Chief Doug Kelly of the Sto:lo Tribal Council says it was.

The day after FSIN's news release, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo stunned everyone by stepping down from his position. It is the first time in AFN history that a national chief has resigned.

Kelly told the Canadian Press that he spoke to Atleo the night before Atleo's announcement. CP journalist Steve Rennie wrote, "The last straw came when Chief Perry Bellegarde... an erstwhile leadership rival to Atleo, announced his opposition to the federal legislation. Atleo felt betrayed."

"I don't believe it was in that regard in itself at all," said Bellegarde of the news release. "I don't believe there's a connection. In my mind, (it was issued) in good conscience."

Bellegarde said that although he serves as AFN Regional Chief for Saskatchewan, he also represents Saskatchewan Chiefs, and they were not pleased with the legislation.

On May 2, Atleo delivered a prepared statement clearly tying his resignation to the federal education bill, which was to receive second reading in the House of Commons. He said, "The current proposal on education is the latest attempt and a sincere, constructive effort on the part of Prime Minister Stephen Harper to take a step forward... I have fought for this work and to achieve this mandate. This work is too important and I am not prepared to be an obstacle to it or a lightning rod distracting from the kids and their potential. I am therefore, today resigning as National Chief."

Since Atleo's resignation, the federal government has put the

legislation on hold.

"I'm surprised (Atleo) didn't stay on at least until the bill passed, but I guess there's more going on than meets the eye," said Wab Kinew, director of Indigenous Inclusion at the University of Winnipeg. "He's obviously facing a lot of pressure, including the threat of a non-confidence motion in the future and there's probably personal considerations..."

Both Kinew, who at press time had indicated he was considering a run for AFN top job, and Mark Selman of Simon Fraser University's Beedie School of Business, director, EMBA for Aboriginal Business and Leadership, believe that any leader for the AFN would have struggled.

"I think (Atleo) came into a very difficult circumstance where the Conservative government had basically torn up the Kelowna Accord and a lot of people had a lot of hopes for the Kelowna Accord, so almost anything that was done that was a matter of working with the government was going to be doomed," said Selman, "and failure to work with the government meant little was going to happen because, like it or not, the reality is that the government controls many aspects of First Nations as long as the Indian Act is enforced and as long as the purse strings are held by the government, so it was a very difficult circumstance."

First Nations' frustrations with the government solidified in the Idle No More movement and came down hard on Atleo when he met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper in January 2013 during Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike, said Kinew.

"I think people at Idle No More really took that personally and began to oppose him, rightly or wrongly. So basically that created animosity and led eventually to some of the bad feelings that led to his eventual resignation," said Kinew.

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, voiced strong opposition of Atleo's support for the proposed education legislation. In an interview with CBC News following Atleo's resignation, Nepinak conceded that Atleo was

in a difficult position and made the only decision he could.

Nepinak has also been a vocal opponent of the AFN, having taken his own action last summer to create an alternative organization.

Both Kinew and Selman believe that this is the time for the AFN to revisit its role and determine what direction the organization needs to head in.

"I actually think the AFN needs to do what it's been talking about doing for a long time, which is to sit back and say, 'Okay, what are we doing here? What would an effective organization be?'" said Selman.

"If the AFN is the organization that the rest of Canada turns to to try and figure out what First Nations people want, then the AFN should be listening to First Nations' people themselves," said Kinew. "We've got to find a way to bring the average First Nations citizen into the discussion as well as doing what the chiefs might want to."

"I think the AFN is very relevant. You need a strong, national collective voice," said Bellegarde. "But no organization is fine the way it sits. Everything constantly evolves and you have to deal with changes and adapt to changes. It's how you adapt to changes... The AFN has to become more relevant, responsive and respectful because people are questioning it."

Following Atleo's resignation, AFN regional chiefs met and decided against appointing an interim leader. Further direction will be forthcoming on May 27 when the national Special Chiefs Assembly meets (after press deadline).

Bellegarde said an election for a new national chief should be held soon and he doesn't rule out the possibility of running again.

"Once (the date is) determined, we go back to our Elders, our families, our communities to make that determination," said Bellegarde. "All my life I've been... a helper or servant... as a leader, I've viewed my position and what I've done throughout my life as being just that, a servant and a helper of our people. And you take that going forward."

Windspeaker News Briefs



A new film called MAÏNA,

starring Roseanne Supernault, Graham Greene, Ipellie Ootoova, Natar Ungalaaq and Tantoo Cardinal, will be screened across the country in June for National Aboriginal History Month. The movie takes place in the time before contact with Europeans and "introduces us to two fascinating civilizations that founded America," reads a press statement.

"In the aftermath of a bloody confrontation between her band, the Innu tribe, and the Inuits, the Men from the Land of Ice, MAÏNA, daughter of Grand Chief Mishte-Napeu, finds herself on a mission that will change the course of her life." MAÏNA had made a promise to her friend Matsii as she lay on her deathbed. MAÏNA has to follow the trail of her enemies to retrieve Nipki, Matsii's 11-year-old son who has been captured by the Inuits. She is taken captive herself by Natak, the Inuit clan's leader, and is forced to travel with them to the Land of Ice.

There are some dates booked, with more to come. So check out the website mainathemovie.com. See the movie on May 28 in Edmonton, the opening night film at the DreamSpeakers Film Festival, in Calgary June 7 to 13 at The Globe Cinema, in Regina June 13 to 19 at Regina Rainbow Art Cinema, and in Saskatoon from June 13 to 19 at The Roxy.

Celebrated Samoan dance artist Lemi Ponifasio

from New Zealand is bringing *Stones In Her Mouth* with 10 Maori women to the Luminato Festival, June 12 to June 14 at the MacMillan Theatre in Toronto.

Stones In Her Mouth tells, in dance and song, stories of oppression, abuse of power and of a changing world. Through oratory, choral-work and dance, *Stones In Her Mouth* gives voice to intense personal emotions and holds a mirror to contemporary life.

Taking its title from a book of poems by Roma Potiki, *Stones In Her Mouth* turns a mirror to the social and political turmoil of our times.

To the Maori, the first human was a woman, Hineahuone. Women are the foundation of humanity and respected as givers of life. *Stones In Her Mouth* draws upon the powerful moteatea tradition of female-written expressions of protest, prophesy, warning and desire.

"Lemi takes traditional dance from the Southern Pacific and reinvents it with the tools of the avant-garde. Like Schubert did with folk songs, Lemi takes Indigenous culture and turns it into high art, reviving its traditions while at the same time distilling its essence," said Luminato Festival Artistic Director Jorn Weisbrodt.

The Luminato Festival will also feature NORTHERN LIGHTS AND MUSIC with Buffy Sainte-Marie, and Tanya Tagaq, who presents *Nanook of the North*, on Tuesday, June 10 at 8 p.m. in David Pecault Square in Toronto.

From June 19 to June 21, Victoria, B.C.

will host the 2014 Aboriginal Cultural Festival, highlighting and celebrating the region's rich Indigenous culture through storytelling, artisans, dance, song and food. The three-day festival will take place on both the outdoor grounds and the second floor mezzanine of the Royal BC Museum and around Victoria's Inner Harbour.

The festival will feature main stage performances, including three-time world champion hoop dancer Alex Wells; an artisan area where people may watch demonstrations, meet the artists and also learn about the new Authentic Aboriginal program that helps consumers identify products designed, created and sold by local Aboriginal artists; a children's storytelling area; food vendors.

"For thousands of years, Victoria's Inner Harbour has been the gathering place of our people and we invite the community to join us in celebrating our traditional and modern culture," said Chief Andy Thomas of Esquimalt Nation.

"While our nations are small in numbers, we are rich in song, language, stories, food and dance," said Chief Ron Sam of Songhees Nation.

The writing was simply on the wall for years

Six theories on what led to Atleo's fall

By David P. Ball

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo's sudden resignation as Assembly of First Nations national chief on May 2 caught much of the country off-guard. He is the first national chief ever to throw in the towel.

For close observers of Native politics in Canada, however, long-simmering tensions in the organization muted the surprise. For such analysts, the writing was simply on the wall all along.

Atleo's name A-in-chut means "everyone depends on you." Over the past year, however, his public appearances had taken an increasingly weary tone. The national chief seemed visibly deflated and spent, finding difficulty mustering the optimistic energy that previously had once earned him admiration and respect. ("We will stand together and put the final stake in colonialism," he vowed in 2012).

In his resignation speech, the 47-year-old Ahousahlt hereditary chief announced he was stepping aside after five years because, "This work is too important, and I'm not prepared to be an obstacle to it, or a lightning rod distracting from the kids and their potential."

Here are just a few of the top theories circulating about Atleo's fall from the top First Nations' office.

1. The First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act

When Atleo stepped down, pledging he didn't want to be a "distraction" or "lightning rod," he was specifically referring to federal Bill C-33, the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act.

The last few months of Atleo's tenure were spent trumpeting, then defending, the virtues of the bill. Both Atleo and Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the legislation's purpose was to fix the grossly underfunded on-reserve schools crisis. To the critics, regardless of its billion-dollar funding boost and some limited First Nations' autonomy over curriculum, the proposed Act was simply a deal with the devil.

Atleo faced open resistance early on from the AFN-Quebec representative, who criticized the deal as not respecting self-determination. Likewise, the head of the Chiefs of Ontario complained his organization hadn't been adequately consulted.

Soon, organizers with Idle No More were rallying people in the streets, and Atleo's closest challenger in his re-election race was among the first to openly call for his ouster by the AFN's more than 630 chiefs.

In an April 28 blog post titled #IMPEACH ATLEO, Ryerson Indigenous Governance Chair Pamela Palmater described the supposedly "historic" education bill as "the deal that no First Nation asked for and its one that Atleo had no power to make.



PHOTO: DAVID P. BALL

Shawn Atleo resigned as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations on May 2, 2014.



Shawn Atleo (centre) with Governor General David Johnson (left) and Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the Crown First Nations meeting in January 2012.



Shawn Atleo honoured with the Cree name Great Water Eagle in a ceremony at Maswacis, Alberta in August 2010.

"It's historic because not only will Atleo go down in history as the worst National Chief," the Mi'kmaq scholar wrote, "but he has taken the AFN down with him."

Now, in the wake of Atleo's resignation, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt has put the controversial bill on ice, but many fear it will resurface and have vowed to fight it — and press for both equal funding with non-Aboriginal school systems, as well as what they see as authentic Indigenous control over their own communities' education.

2. Mandate overreach and Conservative coziness

While the education bill was the immediate fire that drove Atleo from Ottawa, it was really only the last of a series of hotter and hotter sparks that saw the embattled leader increasingly challenged, both publicly by his detractors and behind closed doors by his own chiefs who elected him.

It was only months after he was re-elected to his second term that Atleo faced a revolt over his decision to meet with Valcourt's predecessor and Prime Minister Harper at the height of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence's hunger strike.

Spence's key demand was to meet face-to-face with the Governor General and Prime

Minister. Against the wishes of many chiefs, Atleo wagered that a meeting with only Harper was a historic opportunity that could gain some headway. That decision saw a walk-out of the other invited chiefs, some of the same outspoken figures who shortly before had got in a dust-up with Parliament Hill security over trying to access the chambers.

Atleo's willingness to sit down with the current Conservative administration, considered regressive by most in Indian Country, confirmed for many of his critics that Atleo's pragmatism had crossed a moral line.

Atleo's ill-fated federal meetings saw him accused of speaking for —

or worse, negotiating on behalf of — the more than 630 First Nations. That, in the AFN, is a serious no-no, given that the organization was founded (originally as the National Indian Brotherhood) as an advocacy and lobbying group, initially to fight the assimilationist White Paper of 1968.

Atleo has no power to negotiate treaties, hammer out deals, or act on behalf of the larger assembly unless ordered to do so by the larger assembly. So his endorsement of a series of government initiatives, the latest being the federal education bill, was for many what sealed Atleo's fate.

That path also began long before his Crown meeting during Idle No More, and even before his high-level Crown-First Nations Gathering a year earlier.

3. Pragmatism was simply his style

In 2009, while he was still B.C. AFN regional chief, Atleo found himself in hot water over his endorsement of the BC Liberals' Recognition and Reconciliation Act, a bill that would have made it easier for the province to engage with larger numbers of band councils at once.

"The legislation represents an achievement for all British Columbians," he wrote in the Georgia Straight at the time. "While First Nations peoples know that our rights, inherited from our ancestors, are indisputable, we also know that we are all here to stay."

"We have to create a new path to move forward together. We must act on the opportunities this legislation will provide. As First Nations, we seek support and are prepared to work and cooperate with all parties to bring about the Recognition and Reconciliation Act."

The endorsement attracted controversy from many high-level commenters, who argued that the bill's push for economic certainty would only benefit non-Indigenous business interests and resource developers, but put at risk the inherent Aboriginal rights foundation which had gained B.C. nations so much success in Canada's courts.

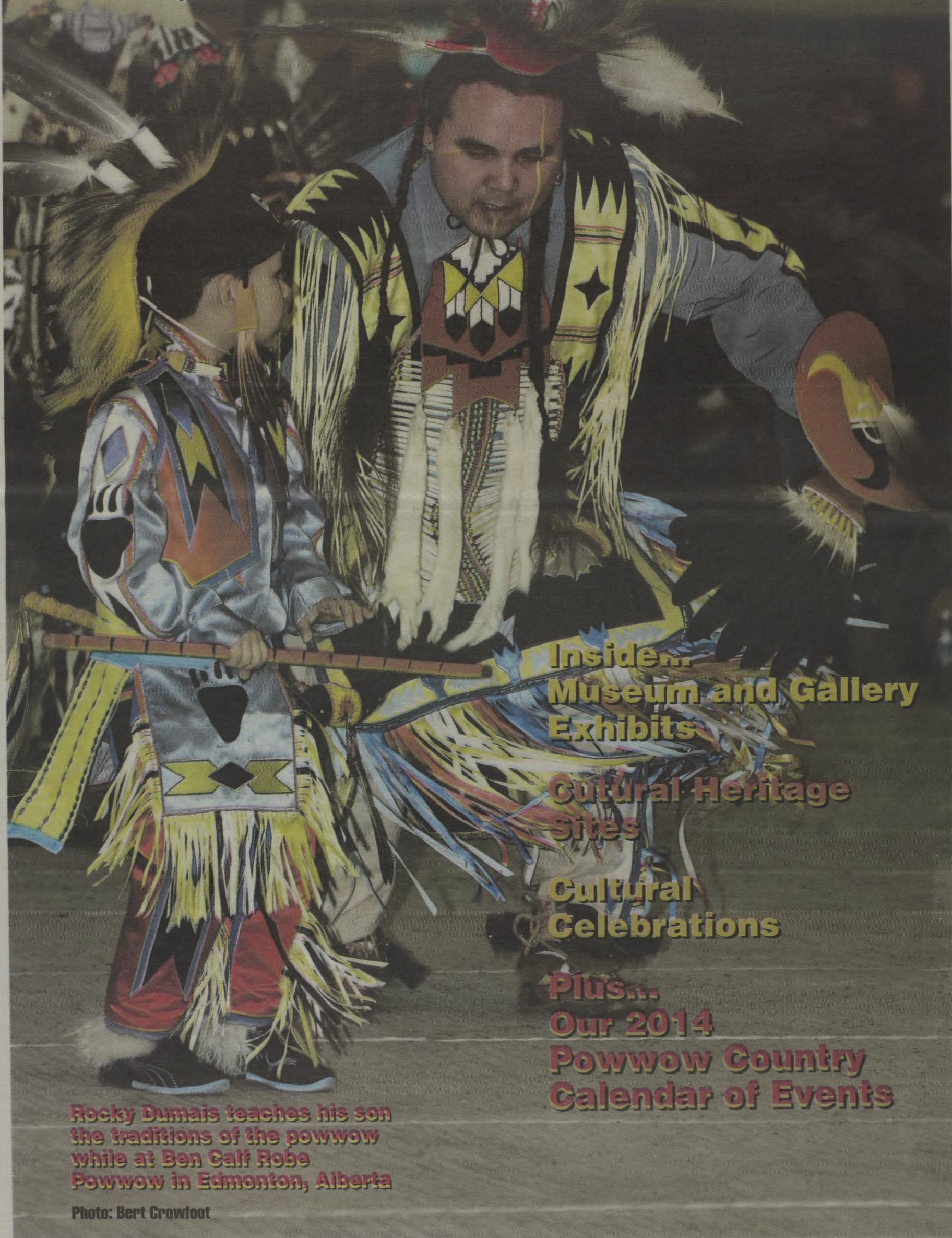
"There has been a groundswell of opposition by Indigenous peoples to the Recognition and Reconciliation Act," wrote former Neskonlith chief Arthur Manuel in a Georgia Straight rebuttal to Atleo. "This will undermine Aboriginal title and Indigenous efforts to protect the environment from increased resource exploitation. This has created a backlash against the First Nations Leadership Council."

It was an early taste of how Atleo's pragmatic approach to government would clash in his future role at the AFN with those who saw the path to victory in a fiercer assertion of inherent Aboriginal rights.

(See Six on page 16.)

Guide to Powwow Country

Windspeaker's Exclusive Guide for the 2014 Powwow Trail



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Cultural
Celebrations

Plus...
Our 2014
Powwow Country
Calendar of Events

Rocky Dumais teaches his son
the traditions of the powwow
while at Ben Calf Robe
Powwow in Edmonton, Alberta

Photo: Bert Crowfoot



Over 400 people attended the raising of the Legacy Pole on Lyell Island: the first pole to be raised in 130 years in the remote area.

PHOTO: PARKS CANADA



**Legacy Pole
Lyell Island**

A 13-metre legacy pole carved by Jaalen Edenshaw was erected last summer in the Gwaii Haanas area, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of an agreement between the Haida Nation and the federal government. It took 100 people to raise the pole, which was towed to the remote site of Hlk'yah G aaw G a, on Lyell Island, on a barge. Edenshaw's design and story was chosen by a committee. Edenshaw, with the help of brother Gwaai Edenshaw and nephew Tyler York and a handful of others, took close to one year to carve into the 42-foot 500-year-old red cedar pole 17 figures representing the story of his people. That story includes a sculpin at the bottom of the pole and a free-standing eagle, fastened to the top of the pole. This scene signifies the original agreement, which offered protection of the area from the ocean-floor to the mountaintop. Another figure, a grizzly bear, is a reminder of tales told of a life that no longer prowls the island. There is also a carving of the Sacred-One-Standing-and-Moving, added after Edenshaw had started working on the pole. "That story caused me a little more work because I had just started carving," said Edenshaw. "The earthquake (in 2012) shut down the hot springs down in Gwaii Hanaas and I thought that was a story worth telling."

Vancouver: Art marks Year of Reconciliation

As the City of Vancouver marks the Year of Reconciliation, work by Aboriginal artists can be seen throughout. Up until October, Platform artworks can be viewed in bus shelters around the city, on three video screens located in the downtown core, in the atrium of the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, and at the entrance to Vancouver City Centre Station on the Canada Line at Granville/Georgia St. The 10 new artist projects are part of an eight-month public exhibition of changing works honouring and celebrating the City's Year of Reconciliation. Artists participating in this multi-media display include Jeannette Sirois, Bracken Hanuse Corlett, Brian Liu, Krista Belle Stewart, Jeremy Borsos, Emilie Crewe, Dionne Paul, Sonny Assu, Alexa Hatanaka, Tania Willard, Gabrielle Hill, and Peter Morin. Vancouver City Council proclaimed June 21, 2013, to June 20, 2014, as a Year of Reconciliation in Vancouver in response to Reconciliation Canada's national call to action to help build more inclusive communities.



**Grandin LRT Station
Edmonton**

Aaron Paquette has been painting for over 20 years and is a celebrated artist with paintings in galleries across Canada. Born Cree Metis, he connects with his Scandinavian heritage and his Aboriginal roots to create breathtakingly beautiful, powerful paintings. He paints to help change perceptions about Aboriginal people and convey messages of hope and empowerment. Some of his most recent creations can be found in the Grandin LRT station near the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton. Paquette was commissioned to do a new mural to balance an existing mural painted in 1989 that depicted Bishop Vital Grandin and residential schools. Sylvie Nadeau, a Francophone artist, added to her existing mural as well. Paquette's imagery includes a Cree Thunderbird sprouting humans, the last creatures to come to the land, according to tradition. The 6.7-metre piece is bookended by circular drum images on both sides — new to the existing mural — bringing the two dramatically divergent artistic styles together. Paquette apprenticed and has become both a Cathedral Stained Glass artist and a Goldsmith, influences of which can be seen in the line and structure of his paintings — displayed in various galleries throughout the country. He has worked with the Edmonton Catholic and public school boards on many projects ranging from elementary school visits that tie art into curricular learning to mural painting. His first young adult novel, *Lightfinder*, was released in May through Kegeedonce Press.



PHOTO: BRAD CROWFOOT

Top and above, Aaron Paquette with his work at the Grandin underground LRT station in Edmonton.



"Suckerville" by Alex Janvier

**Janvier Gallery
Cold Lake First Nation**

In 2012, artist Alex Janvier, of Dene Suline and Saulteaux descent, opened the Janvier Gallery on Cold Lake First Nation, north of the city of Cold Lake. As a member of the "Indian Group of Seven," Janvier is one of the significant pioneering Aboriginal artists in Canada, and as such has influenced many generations of Aboriginal artists. Earlier this spring, Janvier's work was included in an exhibit at Enterprise Square Galleries in downtown Edmonton. Entitled *kiyas aspin*, the display included paintings of about a dozen Alberta Aboriginal artists, whose work was purchased by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada when funding for the Indian Arts and Crafts Society of Alberta was discontinued. AANDC owns the entire collection from the society, approximately 200 pieces of art. *Kiyas aspin* was the first time in over a decade that the society's work had been displayed in Edmonton as a single dedicated exhibit. It was featured in conjunction with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final national stop in Edmonton. Janvier attended Blue Quills Indian Residential School near St. Paul, Alberta. Along with his work being displayed in his gallery, Janvier's work can be seen across the country, including the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec; Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon; the Winnipeg Art Gallery; and the Cinader Collection in Toronto.



PHOTO: BERT CROWFOOT

Rocky Dumais teaches his son to dance at Ben Calf Robe Powwow in Edmonton, Alta.

CALENDAR OF POWWOW COUNTRIES

MAY

May 30, 2014
4th Annual Mother Earth's Children's Charter School Powwow
11:00am - 8:00pm
51165 - Range Road 30 (near Genesee Bridge on Hwy 770)
near Stony Plain, Alberta
780-702-7531
www.meccs.org

May 30 - June 1, 2014
Tulalip Veterans Powwow
Tulalip Resort
Tulalip, Washington
Contact: Frida Williams 360-716-4220
Email: fwilliams@tulalip-nsn.gov

May 31 - June 1, 2014
Worcester Indian Center Intertribal Powwow
Treasure Valley Boy Scouts Campground
Rutland, Massachusetts
Phone: 774-578-5385
www.wicenter.com

May 31 - June 1, 2014
24th Annual
Native American Culture Festival
Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area
1651 W. Elk Ave,
Elizabethton, Tennessee
Phone: 423-543-5808
www.sycamoreshoalsn.org

May 31 - June 1, 2014
Kitigan Zibi Traditional Powwow
41 Kikinnamagan Mikan
Maniwaki, Quebec
Contact: Karen Buckshot 819-449-1275

JUNE

June 5 - 7, 2014
Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival
Remington Park
(in NE Oklahoma City at I-35 and I-44)
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Contact: Eric Oesch 405-427-5228
Email: eric@redearth.org

June 6 - 7, 2014
46th Annual Alabama-Coushatta Powwow
Indian Reservation Ballpark
US Highway 190 (16 miles east of Livingston)
Livingston, Texas
Contact: Tobine Alec 936-563-1116
Email: alec.tobine@actribe.org

June 6 - 8, 2014
Gateway to Nations
Floyd Bennet Field,
Winnipeg, MB

(Contact: Joyce Mick 308-632-1311)

June 13 - 15, 2014
14th Annual Table Mountain
Rancheria Powwow
23736 Sky Harbor Road
Frisant, California
559-822-2890

June 13 - 15, 2014
Prairie Band Potawatomi Powwow
Prairie Peoples Park
Mayetta, Kansas
1-888-727-4946 ex. 7701
www.pbindiantribe.com

June 14 - 15, 2014
19th Annual Aboriginal Gathering and 11th
Annual Powwow
Peace River Ag Grounds (East of Peace River)
Peace River, Alberta
Contact: Dennis Whitford 780-624-8367
Email: dennis.whitford@gov.ab.ca
www.peacivera.ca
Free on site camping available.

June 14 - 15, 2014
Henvey Inlet First Nation 12th Annual Inter-
Tribal Powwow
French River I.R.#13, Ontario
Contact: Kimberly McQuabbie 705-857-0957

June 14 - 15, 2014
Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape
Native American Powwow
Salem County Fairgrounds
735 Harding Highway, Route 40
Woodstown, New Jersey
856-455-6910

June 14 - 15, 2014
Wikwemikong Traditional Powwow
Wikwemikong, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
705-859-2385 or toll-free 1-877-859-2385
www.wikwemikongheritage.org

June 14 - 16, 2014
Twin Buttes Powwow
Twin Buttes, North Dakota
Contact: Clarisse 701-938-4739

June 18, 2014
Igniting the Spirit Gala 2014
A Celebration of Our Songs to the Universe
Time: 5:00pm to 9:30pm Place: Hampton Inn
Ottawa, 200 Coventry Road,
Ottawa, Ontario
To be a corporate sponsor or to purchase
tickets, visit: www.wabano.com
Contact: Shelagh Mills 613-612-5482
Email: smills@wabano.com

Miami, Oklahoma
918-540-2535

June 20 - 22, 2014
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi
Annual Powwow
Pine Creek Reservation
1485 Mno-Bmadzewen Way
Fulton, Michigan
Contact: Robyn Burlingham 269-704-8373

June 21, 2014
19th Annual Mattaponi Powwow
Mattaponi Indian Reservation.
1314 Mattaponi Reservation Circle
King William, Virginia
Contact: Mark Custalow 804-769-8783
Email: mcustalow@gcservices.com

June 21, 2014
Celebrating Aboriginal Day
Along the Humber River
4 km run/walk along the banks
of the Humber River
Starts at 10:00 am
Beginning and finishing at
St. Philip's Parish Hall
60 Dixon Road
Toronto, Ontario
Contact: Stan Trudeau
parkin.trudeau@gmail.com

June 21 - 22, 2014
33rd Annual Plains Indian Museum Powwow
Robbie Powwow Garden
720 Sheridan Avenue
Cody, Wyoming
Contact: Nancy McClure 307-578-4102
Email: nancym@centerofthewest.org
www.centerofthewest.org

June 21 - 22, 2014
Aamiwnaang First Nation 53rd Annual
Competition Powwow
Bear Park, 1972 Virgil Avenue
Sarnia, Ontario
Contact: Tracy Williams 519-336-8410

June 22, 2014
St. Albert Aboriginal Day Festival
12:00 p.m. Grand Entry, Lion's Park, (Sir
Winston Churchill Ave & Tache St)
St. Albert, Alberta
Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the culture of First
Nations, Métis & Inuit
people in your community.
Contact: Gwen Crouse 780-717-6783

June 26, 2014
5th Annual National Aboriginal History Month
Celebration

100 Capilano Road
West Vancouver, British Columbia
Contact: Gloria Nahanee 778-228-6501

July 11 - 20, 2014
Great Northern Arts Festival
Canada's oldest & largest northern arts event.
Midnight Sun Recreation Complex
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
Info: 867-777-8638
Email: gnof@town.inuvik.nt.ca

July 12 - 13, 2014
Sussex Powwow
Sussex County Fairground
Augusta, New Jersey
718-686-9297
www.redhawkcouncil.org
Email: native@redhawkcouncil.org

July 12 - 13, 2014
The Echoes of a Proud Nation
24th Annual Powwow
Kahnawake Ceremonial Grounds
(10 miles south of Montreal)
Kahnawake, QC
450-632-8667
Email: info@kahnawakepowwow.com

July 17 - 20, 2014
Back to Batoche Festival
At the Back to Batoche Site
Batoche, Saskatchewan
306-343-8285
www.backtobatoche.org

July 18 - 20, 2014
Carry The Kettle First Nation Powwow
(near Sintaluta)
306-727-2135

July 19, 2014
Annual Colorado Springs Native American
InterTribal Powwow
Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Freedom Financial Services Expo Center
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Come Celebrate Native American
History & Culture.
Phone: 719-559-0525 or 719-329-0251
(please leave a message if no answer)
www.OneNationWI.org

July 24 - 27, 2014
148th Annual Winnebago Homecoming
Celebration
Winnebago Veterans Memorial Park
Winnebago, Nebraska
Contact: Jerome Lapeint 712-635-7396
Email: jerome.lapeint@winnebagotribe.com

AUGUST

August 1 - 3, 2014
Lac La Biche 52nd Annual Powwow Days
Lac La Biche Recreation Grounds
Lac La Biche, Alberta
1-877-623-9696

August 1 - 3, 2014
Kamloopa Powwow
Secwepemc Powwow Grounds,
Kamloops, British Columbia
Info: 250-828-9782
www.tkemlups.ca

August 2 - 3, 2014
Bear Mountain Powwow
Anthony Wayne Recreation Area
Harriman State Park
Palisades Interstate Parkway
Stony Point, New York
718-686-9297
www.redhawkcouncil.org
Email: native@redhawkcouncil.org

August 2 - 3, 2014
Prophetstown Annual Powwow
InterTribal - Traditional
Prophetstown State Recreation Area
Prophetstown, Illinois
815-441-0148
Email: riverat2@yahoo.com
www.prophetstownpowwow.com

August 2 - 4, 2014
54th Annual Wikwemikong Cultural Festival
Wikwemikong, Manitoulin Island, Ontario
705-859-2385 or toll-free 1-877-859-2385
www.wikwemikongheritage.org

August 7 - 10, 2014
17th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest
Windy Acres on Pike Lake Hwy #60
7 kms SW of Saskatoon, SK
306-382-0111
Email: windy.acres@sasktel.net
www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com

August 9 - 10, 2014
58th Annual O-Sa-Wan Powwow
Hosted by the Mascoutin Society of
Chicagoland
Francis Field Fairgrounds,
801 E Francis Road
New Lenox, IL
847-882-1644
www.mascoutin.com
Contact: Linda Hayford 847-721-5890 or

August 20 - 24, 2014
Aboriginal Music Week
Winnipeg, MB

August 9 - 10, 2014
58th Annual O-Sa-Wan Powwow
Hosted by the Mascoulin Society of
Chicago and
Francis Field Fairgrounds,
801 E Francis Road
New Lenox, IL
Contact: Linda Hayford 847-721-5890 or
847-882-1644
www.mascofain.com

August 20 - 24, 2014
Aboriginal Music Week
Winnipeg, MB
www.aboriginalmusicweek.ca

August 21, 22 - 24, 2014
Camping Day (August 21)
Northern Canadian Powwow Classic 2014
(August 22-24)
Behind the Frog Lake Band Office
Frog Lake First Nation, Alberta
Contact: Harvey Dufresne Jr. 780-943-2822
Email: harveydufresne@froglake.ca

August 23 - 24, 2014
Tinniskaming First Nation's 12th Annual
Powwow and Traditional Gathering
Algonquin Avenue Arbor, Algonquin Avenue
Notre Dame du Nord, Quebec
Contact: Belinda Larabie 819-723-2255
Email: culture.coordinator@ainf.ca

August 23-24, 2014
4th Annual Turtle Island Go-Lo-Ni Powwow
Ditro Landing, Ditro Landing Road SE
Huntsville, Alabama
Info: Hal Colston 901-876-5344

August 23 - 24, 2014
Three Fires Homecoming Powwow &
Traditional Gathering
Blue #2789 1st Line Road (Mississauga Rd)
Hagersville, Ontario
Contact: Faith Rivers 519-445-2283
or 905-768-5686
Email: info@newcreditpowwow.com
www.newcreditpowwow.com

August 29 - September 1, 2014
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Traditional
Powwow
Wabigoon Lake,
Dryden, Ontario
Contact: Anita 807-938-8022
www.wabigoonlakeon.ca

August 29 - Sept. 1, 2014
Ashland Labor Day Powwow
Approximately 1/2 mile off Highway 212.
Cross a bridge and to the right (between
Ashland and St. Labre Mission)
Ashland, Montana
406-784-2883 or 406-784-6149

SEPTEMBER
September 5 - 7, 2014
Healing Mother Earth Intertribal Powwow
Fishers Pine Lake, 3924 Maple Rd.
Jefferson (Ashtabula), Ohio
Contact: Sandi Red Wolf 440-319-4483 or
440-997-5026

0niorado Springs, Colorado
Come Celebrate Native American
History & Culture.
Phone: 719-559-0525 or 719-329-0251
(please leave a message if no answer)
www.OneNationWT.org

July 24 - 27, 2014
148th Annual Winnebago Homecoming
Celebration
Winnebago Veterans Memorial Park
Winnebago, Nebraska
Contact: Jerome Lapointe 712-635-7396
Email: jerome.lapointe@winnebagotribe.com
www.winnebagotribe.com

July 25 - 27, 2014
36th Annual Thunderbird American Indian
Mid-Summer Powwow
Queens County Farm Museum
73-50 Little Neck Parkway
Floral Park, New York
Ph. 718-347-3276
Email: info@queensfarm.org
www.queensfarm.org

July 25 - 27, 2014
36th Annual Keeweenaw Bay
Maawanjiding Powwow
Ojibwa Campground (off US 41)
Baraga, Michigan
Contact: Gary Loonfoot 906-353-4178

July 25 - 27, 2014
45th Annual Kihkehah Steh Powwow
193rd Street North & Javine Hill Road
Skiatook, Oklahoma
Contact: Donna 918-381-7996

July 26 - 27, 2014
35th Annual Grand River 'Champion of
Champions' Competition Powwow
Chiefswood Tent & Trailer Park
Six Nations of the Grand River
Highway 54
Ohsweken, Ontario
Phone: 1-866-393-3001/519-445-4061
Email: info@grpowwow.com
www.grpowwow.com

July 29 - August 5, 2014
24th Annual Montreal First Peoples Festival
Film & Video Showcase
Multiple venues throughout Montreal
Montreal, Quebec
INFO-FESTIVAL line: 514 814-8144
(valid from July 10th to August)
or 514-278-4040
Email: rev@nativelynx.qc.ca
Full programming available at
www.presenceautochtone.ca/en/home

July 31 - August 3, 2014
Festival Innu Nikamu
Mani-Utenam, Québec (near Sept-Îles),
Aboriginal music, mostly Québec musicians,
mostly singing in Innu-aimun
1-877-927-2909 or 418-927-2576
www.innunikamu.ca

June 22, 2014
St. Albert Aboriginal Day Festival
12:00 p.m. Grand Entry, Lion's Park, (Sir
Winston Churchill Ave & Tache St)
St. Albert, Alberta
Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the culture of First
Nations, Métis & Inuit
people in your community.
Contact: Gwen Grouse 780-717-6783

June 26, 2014
5th Annual National Aboriginal History Month
Celebration
Yonge & Dundas Square at 12pm-8pm
Toronto, Ontario
Come and join the Native Canadian Centre of
Toronto as we celebrate National Aboriginal
History Month.
416-964-9087

June 27 - 29, 2014
Badlands Celebration Powwow
Fort Peck Reservation
Brockton, Montana
Contact: Gina Spotted Bird 406-786-7684

JULY
July 2 - 6, 2014
116th Annual Arlee Celebration
Arlee, Montana
406-726-3762
www.arleepowwow.com

July 3-6, 2014
142nd Annual Quapaw Powwow
Beaver Springs Park
5681 South 630 Road,
Quapaw, Oklahoma
Contact: Anna McKibben 918-542-1853
Email: amckibben@quapawtribe.com
www.quapawtribe.com

July 4 - 6, 2014
20th Annual Wildhorse Resort & Casino
Powwow
1-84, exit 216
800-654-9453 ext. 1567
Email: events@wildhorseresort.com

July 11 - 13, 2014
4th Annual Calling All Drums Rocky Mountain
House Powwow
Historic Site
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
Email: rmhpowc2014@gmail.com
Contact: Travis Weber 403-845-2412

July 11 - 13, 2014
(& September 19 - 21, 2014)
30th Annual Great Mohican Powwow
Mohican Reservation Campgrounds
23270 Wally Road South (County Road 3175)
Loudonville, Ohio
1-800-766-2267
www.mohicanpowwow.com

July 11 - 13, 2014
27th Annual Squamish Nation Youth Powwow
Capilano Reserve Park Grounds

June 18, 2014
Igniting the Spirit Gala 2014
A Celebration of Our Songs to the Universe
Time: 5:00pm to 9:30pm Place: Hampton Inn
Ottawa, 200 Coventry Road,
Ottawa, Ontario
To be a corporate sponsor or to purchase
tickets, visit: www.wabano.com
Contact: Shelagh Mills 613-612-5482
Email: smills@wabano.com

June 19, 2014
16th Annual Anishinabek Veterans Memorial
Golf Tournament
The Mark O'Meara Course
at Grandview Golf Club
245 Grandview Drive North
Huntsville, Ontario
Contact: Jason Restoule 1-877-702-5200
or 705-497-9127

June 19 - 21, 2014
Treaty Days
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew
Cree First Nation, and Métis Local 125
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta
Contact: 1-800-668-1635
Email: info@mikisewgroup.com

June 20, 2014
Aboriginal Day Celebration
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Heritage Park Pavilion
5100-41 Avenue
Stony Plain, Alberta
Contact: Sean Grant 780-968-3443

June 20 - 21, 2014
Kaw Intertribal Powwow
Kaw Mission State Historic Site
500 N. Mission
Council Grove, Kansas
Mary Honeyman: 620-767-5410

June 20 - 22, 2014
Rainy River First Nations Traditional Powwow
Manitou Rapids, Ontario
Contact: Nicole or Kiley 807-482-2479
http://www.rainyriverfirstnations.com

June 20 - 22, 2014
10th Annual Honouring Our Ancestors
Inter-Tribal Powwow
Ashtabula Antique Engine Club Grounds (4026
Route 322 (Williamsfield, Ohio (Contact: Sandi
Red Wolf 440-319-4483 or 440-997-5026

June 20 - 22, 2014
Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival ...
Competition Powwow/Vincent Massey
Park/Ottawa, Ontario
Contact: Dale Matasawagon 613-261-3637
Email: powwow@ottawasummersolstice.ca

June 20 - 22, 2014
17th Annual Peoria Powwow
Peoria Powwow Grounds
60610 E 90 Road
(at County Rd 137 & E-90 Rd)

June 6 - 7, 2014
46th Annual Alabama-Coushatta Powwow
Indian Reservation Ballpark
US Highway 190 (16 miles east of Livingston)
Livingston, Texas
Contact: Tobine Alec 936-563-1116
Email: alec.tobine@actribe.org

June 6 - 8, 2014
Gateway to Nations
Floyd Bennet Field,
3159 Flatbush Ave.
Brooklyn, New York
Contact: Cliff 718-686-9297
www.rehawkcouncil.org
Email: native@redhawkcouncil.org

June 6 - 8, 2014
Taylorville Blackhorse Intertribal Powwow
Christian County Fairgrounds
Taylorville, Illinois
217-824-7393

June 6 - 8, 2014
9th Annual Spirit of the Peace Traditional
Competition Powwow
District Ice Centre
9880 Cherry Ave W
Taylor, British Columbia
(14 km south of Fort St. John)
Contact: Connie, Susan or Marlene
250-785-0612

June 7, 2014
Tule River Youth Powwow
308 North Reservation Road
Porterville, California
Contact: Cricket McDarment: 559-782-5554
ext. 2105

June 7 - 8, 2014
Powwow/Beckwourth River Front Park
Feather River Pavilion
Marysville, California
Contact: Pat Bennett 530-749-6196
Email: pbennett@mjud.k12.ca.us

June 7 - 8, 2014
Métis of Maine 11th Annual
Gathering & Powwow
105 Gould Road (Off Rte 5)
Dayton, Maine
Contact: Bob 207-793-4801
www.mefisofmaine.org

June 7 - 8, 2014
11th Annual NCGINAC
Gathering of Great Lakes Nations
Tri-State Antique
Gas Engine & Tractor Grounds
1010 Morton Street
Portland, Indiana
Contact: Kay Neumayr 765-426-3022
Email: kay.neumayr@ncginac.com

June 13 - 15, 2014
15th Annual Intertribal Gathering (Fort
Rabinson State Park
3200 Highway 20 (Crawford, Nebraska

There are many more events listed online: www.ammmsa.com



Saskatchewan / Manitoba



Beat Nation: Art, Hip Hop and Aboriginal Culture MacKenzie Art Gallery Regina July 5-Sept. 7, 2014

The MacKenzie Art Gallery will be hosting *Beat Nation: Art, Hip Hop and Aboriginal Culture*, which describes a generation of artists who juxtapose urban culture with Aboriginal identity to create innovative and unexpected new works that reflect the realities of Aboriginal peoples today. The national touring exhibit was organized and circulated by the Vancouver Art Gallery and features artists Jackson 2bears, KC Adams, Sonny Assu, Bear Witness, Jordan Bennett, Raymond Boisjoly, Kevin Lee Burton, Nicholas Galanin, Maria Hupfield, Mark Igloliorte, Duane Linklater, madeskimo, Dylan Miner, Kent Monkman, Marianne Nicolson, Skeena Reece and Hoka Skenandore. Since the early 1990s, hip hop has been a driving force of activism for urban Aboriginal youth. The roots of this music have been influential across disciplines and have been transformed to create dynamic forums for storytelling and Indigenous languages, as well as new modes of political expression. In the visual arts, artists remix, mash up and weave together the old with the new, the rural with the urban, traditional and contemporary as a means to rediscover and reinterpret Aboriginal culture within the shifting terrain of the mainstream. While this exhibition takes its starting point from hip hop, it branches out to include pop culture, graffiti, fashion and other elements of urban life. As Aboriginal identity and culture continue to change, and as artists reinvent older traditions into new forms of expression, their commitment to politics, to storytelling, to Aboriginal languages, to the land and rights remains constant, whether stated with drum skins or turntables, natural pigments or spray paint, ceremonial dancing or break dancing.

Interdisciplinary Artist: Leah Dorian

Leah Marie Dorian considers herself a Métis educator and artist and her varied work is a strong indication of that path. Her most recent works include illustrating the children's book, *My First Lobstick*; working on an ArtsSmarts mural project at James L. Alexander school in Saskatoon; art commission for the Canadian Human rights Museum in Winnipeg; and an art commission for the gala fundraiser for the Wabano Health Centre for Aboriginal Health in Ottawa. And if that weren't enough, Dorian's art will be put to practical use as she completed mosaics for the surfaces of two picnic tables to be used in the North American Indigenous Games to be held in Regina, July 20-27. Dorian was commissioned by the games committee to create the works. One table features the bear clan and the other the eagle clan. Dorian is a local Métis from Prince Albert. She is a self-taught visual artist, and her work combines contemporary styles with traditional art forms, adding beadwork to reproductions of her paintings that explore light, movement, and texture. Dorian's themes include Métis culture and history, spirituality, and the roles of Aboriginal women. Dorian teaches at the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Riel House National Historic Site Winnipeg

In July and August, the Louis Riel Institute will offer guided tours at Riel House National Historic Site, joining Parks Canada in helping visitors to learn about the stories of Canada's past and what it means today. Riel House National Historic Site, the St. Vital home of Louis Riel's mother, is of national historic significance as a place to commemorate Louis Riel, a founder of Manitoba, and to provide an example of Métis river lots, a unique form of prairie settlement. Riel lay in state in the living room of the house for two days in December 1885 after he was hanged for high treason. In 1886, the Riel family farm stretched from the Red River to the Seine River according to the traditional Métis river lot system. The Louis Riel Institute is a charitable non-profit organization that promotes the educational and cultural advancement of Métis people and awareness of the values, culture, heritage and history of the Métis people in Manitoba. In Manitoba, Parks Canada manages and operates Riel House, Lower Fort Garry, St. Andrew's Rectory, The Forks, Prince of Wales Fort and York Factory national historic sites, as well as Wapusk and Riding Mountain national parks.

Turtle Awards

June 24th, 2014

Golden Circle 4620-47th Ave in Red Deer!

Our goal is to celebrate Aboriginal achievement in Central Alberta. decadent desert buffet, entertainment and a silent auction. Tickets are \$25.

Contact: Red Deer Native Friendship Society

P: 403-340-0020 F: 403-342-1610

Email: programdirector@rdnfs.com

Web: www.reddeernativefriendship.com

Don't be bored!

Become a fan of Guide to Powwow Country on facebook!

www.facebook.com/PowwowCountry



Saskatchewan Archaeological Society

Public Dig

South Branch House
Fur Trading Post
July 2-4, 7-11, 14-18

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Embargo Collective II at imagineNATIVE

**Toronto
Oct. 22-26, 2014**

The work of Canadian Aboriginal women filmmakers will highlight the 15th annual imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival, which returns with the most compelling and distinctive Indigenous works from around the globe. *Embargo Collective II* is a series of five new short films by established and up-and-coming Canadian Aboriginal women filmmakers. Based on the success of the first *Embargo Collective*, imagineNATIVE invited Danis Goulet back to select a dynamic group of five filmmakers for the *Embargo Collective II*. Two members from the original *Embargo Collective* Lisa Jackson (Anishnaabe), and Zoe Leigh Hopkins (Heiltsuk/Mohawk) are returning, along with three new members, Caroline Monnet (Algonquin), Elle-Mij-Tailfeathers (Blackfoot/Sami), and Alethea Amaquq-Baril (Inuk). The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival is the world's largest Indigenous media arts festival that celebrates the latest works by Indigenous peoples at the forefront of innovation in film, video, radio and new media. Each fall, the festival presents a selection of the most compelling and distinctive Indigenous works from Canada and around the globe. The works accepted reflect the diversity of the world's Indigenous nations and illustrate the vitality and excellence of Native art and culture in contemporary media. In 2013, imagineNATIVE presented 127 works, with more than 70 artists in attendance, for a combined audience of 15,558 people throughout the five-day festival.

Contemporary Artist and Curator: Jason Baerg

Jason Baerg is a Cree Métis contemporary artist and curator. As an artist he is pushing digital interventions in drawing, painting and new media. He has presented at such international art institutions as the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia; the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in Colorado. Baerg has given formal artist talks at New York City's Parsons School of Design, the Whitecliffe College of Arts & Design in Auckland, New Zealand, and at the University of Toronto. Most recently, Baerg presented "Relations" at the Urban Shaman Contemporary Aboriginal Art Gallery in Winnipeg. His works in the exhibition included a series of circular paintings from the Relations series, which draw on Baerg's early training in abstraction combined with computer-generated elements as well as a new installation of figurative-abstract paintings, entitled *Nomadic Bounce*. Both works were presented alongside videos comprised of photo- and computer-based imagery, continuing Baerg's commitment to new and traditional modes of art production and engagement. In 2008, Baerg won the Emerging Artist Award for the Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, granted on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Culture. He has sat on numerous art juries and won awards through such facilitators as the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and The Toronto Arts Council. Dedicated to community development, Baerg currently is completing an Aboriginal outreach curatorial project at the new Judith and Norman Alix Art Gallery in his birthplace of Sarnia, Ontario.

Visual Artist: Natalie Sappier

Natalie Sappier, artistically known as *The Water Spirit*, is a visual artist from Tobique First Nation, New Brunswick. She is known for her storytelling through symbolic stylized painting of her Wolastoq heritage. She has public displays of work in her community, which include at the Neqotuk Health Centre. Recently, Sappier had a series of paintings depicting First Nations experiences with cancer treatment which were displayed at the Saint John Regional Hospital and the Dr. Georges-L-Dumont University Hospital Centre, in Moncton. This project was part of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer's initiative *A New Path-Improving the Journey for New Brunswick's First Nations Patients Along the Cancer Care Continuum/Ajiglu'g Nutawti'nen/Pilawtihkasik: A New Path*. The goal was to advance improvements in the continuity of care in a culturally responsive way for First Nations. The pieces were based on interviews conducted with First Nation cancer survivors and their families as well as the overall vision shared by First Nation communities and health care partners. Sappier also has work displayed at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. She has taken part in a group exhibition *Ekpahak: Where the tides end* at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery where she was also involved in *ActionArt* youth workshops. The First Nations youth project, entitled *Wolastoqiyik Young Ancestors—Sharing Spirit Through Art*, consisted of a series of art and culture workshops facilitated by First Nations Elders, teachers and artists.

PEI 2014 Celebration Zone Concert Series

Charlottetown

Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie will be performing Aug. 13 as part of the PEI 2014 Celebration Zone Concert Series. By age 24, Sainte-Marie had appeared all over Canada, Europe, Australia and Asia, receiving honours, medals and awards, which continue to this day. Her song 'Until It's Time for You to Go' was recorded by Elvis and Barbra and Cher, and her 'Universal Soldier' became the anthem of the peace movement. For her very first album she was voted Billboard's Best New Artist. The PEI 2014 Celebration Zone will play host to some of the biggest names in Canadian music during the summer of 2014. A top-notch lineup of artists is set to take the Atlantic Lottery/Red Shores Main Stage at Confederation Landing in Charlottetown for the free PEI 2014 Celebration Zone Concert Series. "Although we are Canada's smallest province, to celebrate 150 years of the Charlottetown Conference, the PEI 2014 Celebration Zone will host the country's biggest and best outdoor kitchen party!" said Gail Shea, Egmont MP and Regional Minister for PEI.

Master Carver: Keith Wolf Smarch

Keith Wolf Smarch is a Tlingit artist living in the Tagish First Nation in the Yukon Territory. He is well known as a carver and has studied wood carving in Alaska, BC, and Japan. As well as being a carver, he is also accomplished in many creative disciplines. He is among the most respected, contemporary First Nation artists, but many other aspects of Wolf Smarch's life contribute to his identity. Wolfe Smarch has a carving shed at Carcross Commons where he leads carving projects for the Nation. The Tlingit dancers wear his masks, hats and frontlets as they perform the stories legends and songs of their culture. Wolf Smarch's work can be found in Canada's National collection of Indian Art, public collections, corporate and private collection throughout North America, Europe, and Japan. Wolf Smarch is also a teacher, hunter and trapper.

Nunavut Arts Festival

Cambridge Bay

Aug. 20-26, 2014

The Nunavut Arts Festival is an annual event that celebrates the art created in Nunavut. The top artists from all over the territory come together and artists have the chance to attend workshops, share their skills, network with artists and organizations, and sell their work to an enthusiastic audience. The 15th annual Nunavut Arts Festival will allow artists to stay informed on art activities and opportunities that exist in Nunavut, across Canada and throughout the rest of the world. This year, special attention will be spent on the future generations of artists by developing a mentor-mentee system within the festival participants. Last year, saw representatives from galleries in Paris, France (*Art Inuit Paris*), Toronto (*Museum of Inuit Art*) and Vancouver (*Spirit Wrestler Gallery*) attend. Each year the festival has grown in both artist participation and attendance.



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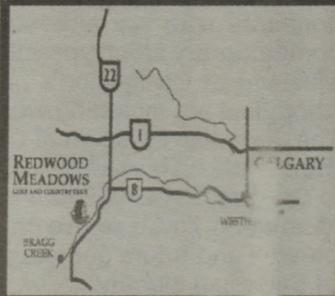
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PHOTOS: BERT CROWFOOT

Photos from the 2014 First Nations University of Canada Annual Spring Powwow held in Regina, Sask.



PHOTO: TONY DUNCAN

Five time world champion hoop dancer Tony Duncan will headline the Eiteljorg Indian Market.

**Eiteljorg Indian Market
Indianapolis, Indiana
June 22 and 23, 2014**

World champion hoop dancer Tony Duncan headlines Eiteljorg Indian Market, which is one of the Midwest's largest Indian markets, featuring more than 130 Native artists, food, and performances. The event, which is the largest produced by the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art, will attract about 8,000 art and culture lovers from across the nation. Five-time world champion hoop dancer Duncan will wow audiences with two captivating performances. Duncan's act became world-renowned after recording artist Nelly Furtado chose him to star in her video, "Big Hoops (Bigger the Better)." He not only uses colourful hoops and his body to tell stories, but Duncan lives and breathes his art. He recently told *Indian Country*, "... all of life dances in a circle and we're all connected. It's a very exciting yet spiritual dance, there's nothing else like it." Duncan was voted Artist of the Year by the Native American Music Awards. Other highlights of the market include jewelry, pottery and Navajo rugs; hands-on activities at Eiteljorg Museum; Native foods; and musicians Adrian Wall (Jemez Pueblo/Ojibwe) and Ed Kaboutie (Hopi/Santa Clara Pueblo) from the group Twin Rivers, and Shelley Morningsong (Northern Cheyenne) and her husband, Fabian Fontenelle (Zuni/Omaha), a world-renowned Northern traditional Native dancer, will perform rock, blues and Native music with a five-piece band.

**Edward Curtis Indian Photos
Buffalo Bill Center of the West's McCracken
Research Library
Cody, Wyoming**

One of the many treasures in the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's McCracken Research Library is an edition of E.S. Curtis's *The North American Indian*. Images from this rare volume are now on display in the library alcove. Edward Sheriff Curtis (1868 - 1952) began taking photographs as a teen and started traveling the West in 1898. Curtis devoted 30 years to photographing and documenting more than 80 tribes west of the Mississippi. When he was done, he had taken more than 40,000 photos—all in natural light. Upon its completion in 1930, the work, titled *The North American Indian*, consisted of 20 volumes, each containing 75 hand-pressed photogravures (intaglio printing with copper plates) and 300 pages of text. A corresponding portfolio containing at least 36 photogravures accompanied each volume. It was Curtis' intent to record traditional Indian cultures. However, public reception to the project was mixed and less than half of the 500 projected sets were printed. *The North American Indian*—with its images of Native life, culture, housing, families, travel, art, and portraits of chiefs, braves, men, and women—continues to be one of the most influential volumes ever produced about the Native American way of life. The Buffalo Bill Center of the West is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.



**Museum of Civilization
Gatineau, Quebec**

One of the latest additions to the Canadian Museum of Civilization is a sculpture of a life-size bronze wolf in a copper canoe. The work was commissioned from internationally acclaimed Kwakwaka'wakw artist Mary Anne Barkhouse. Titled *'namaxsala*, which means "to travel in a boat together" in the Kwakwaka'wakw language, the permanent sculpture is located outside in the lower pond beside the Museum's Grand Hall. The piece is inspired by a story that the artist learned from her grandfather, Fred Cook, who helped a wolf cross a treacherous stretch of water in a boat. *'Namaxsala* speaks to Barkhouse's deep environmental concerns and the need for mankind's respectful cooperation with the natural world. Barkhouse is a descendant of a long line of internationally recognized Kwakwaka'wakw artists, including Ellen Neel, Mungo Martin and Charlie James. Barkhouse's choice of copper, a material long used by Kwakwaka'wakw artists, also connects with her ancestral traditions, while the bronze of the wolf speaks to her contemporary artistic practice. The commissioning of this new work is in keeping with the Museum of Civilization's past practices for developing its collection of contemporary Aboriginal art, including works by Bill Reid, Alex Janvier, Daphne Odjig and Shelley Niro. The Canadian Museum of Civilization is the centre for research and public information on the social and human history of the country. It is located on the shores of the Ottawa River in Gatineau. The museum is Canada's largest and most popular cultural institution. The Museum of Civilization's main role is to preserve and promote the heritage of Canada for present and future generations, thereby contributing to the promotion and enhancement of Canadian identity.

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



PHOTOS: DAVID P. BALL



Federal Conservatives prepare to announce their final decision on Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway project in June, thousands rallied on May 10 in Vancouver against the controversial bitumen pipeline from Alberta to the B.C. coast. Dozens of Indigenous leaders, land defenders and supporters took to the stage, pledging to ratchet up their fight against the project — and revealing that a court action is set to be launched by several First Nations.



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Alberta Sweetgrass: Special Section providing news from Alberta



PHOTO: PROVIDED

Health minister sees latest technology in First Nation health facility

Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose toured the Siksika Health Centre on April 4 and received a demonstration of the state-of-the-art X-ray technology from Margaret Kargard, clinical services team leader, as Councillor Barry Yellow Fly looked on. The centre, which opened in 2007 and is a partnership between the federal and provincial governments and Siksika band, is one of the most technologically advanced health facilities on a First Nation.

CNRL given go-ahead despite continued leaks

Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. has resumed pumping high-pressure steam into wells on its Cold Lake lease near four sites where bitumen continues to leak to the surface uncontrolled. The Alberta Energy Regulator has yet to determine the cause of the leaks, which totalled almost 12,000 barrels in the past year. However, last month, AER approved the company's application to resume steam injection, with lower steam pressures, to keep its Primrose wells producing. AER spokesperson Tracey Moore said the risk of more leaks is reduced by using lower steam pressure and requiring the company to check well bores for potential leaks. Jesse Cardinal, with Keepers of the Athabasca, took exception to the ruling, stating in an email, "Instead of AER pulling the company's operating licence, they have instead, allowed them to continue to steam, in the same formation, near the spill that is still happening and can be stopped."

Recommendations of new joint review panel need to be adhered to

Concerns are being voiced about the environmental process for the proposed Frontier Oilsands Mine project, as the federal government solicits input from the public on a draft agreement to establish a joint review panel. "While the scope of the panel's mandate is sufficient to capture some of

the key impacts of the Frontier Mine on Aboriginal communities, we believe the real issue is how Alberta and Canada address the recommendations and findings of the panel," said Daniel Stuckless, manager, environment and regulatory with Fort McKay First Nation. "However, in our experience neither Alberta nor Canada follows up on recommendations made by joint review panels." Teck Resources Limited is proposing to develop and operate a new oilsands mine and processing plant about 100 kilometres north of Fort McMurray and 110 kilometres south of Fort Chipewyan, in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Jail on Blood reserve closes

After 25 years of operation, the Kainai Corrections Society minimum-security facility in Standoff has been closed. It was the only jail on a First Nation. It shut down its 24 beds for inmates at the end of March when Alberta Justice cut off funding, saying the facility was under-utilized. The facility received \$1.1 million in provincial funding last year and housed an average seven inmates. Probation, court worker and crime prevention services, and an Elders program will continue. "The community really supported the facility so ... there's going to be a huge impact there as well," Rick Soup, director of the corrections centre, told the *Canadian Press*. Twelve people are out of jobs. "Of all the offenders in Alberta, 37 per cent

are Aboriginal ... and we were the only First Nations corrections facility on-reserve to help them," said Soup. Alberta Justice says minimum security Aboriginal offenders will now go to the Lethbridge Correctional Centre, which has Native programming.

MLA wants provincial support for inquiry into missing, murdered Aboriginal women

Independent Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo MLA Mike Allen is asking the province to demand a public inquiry into the

murder and disappearances of Aboriginal women. The request came in the Legislature April 7, following the seventh and final national event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, held in Edmonton. "It is important to acknowledge the horrors faced by the victims of residential schools, but we must not turn a blind eye to other victimized groups within this unique population," said Allen. "I find it disconcerting that the federal government continues to reject the calls by Aboriginal and Métis groups across the country for an independent public inquiry into the murder and disappearances of Aboriginal women." Allen's voice is added to those of the Native Women's Association of Canada as well as the Assembly of First Nations. The federal government has refused to hold a national inquiry.

Mason to step down as NDP leader

NDP Leader Brian Mason announced that he will be stepping down from his position effective Oct. 19. "I am proud of the work that we have done together, but I believe that it is time for a new leader to tackle the changing political landscape and lead us in to the next election," he said in a written statement. "I feel confident that I'm leaving the party in a strong position and that we are ready to tackle the challenges that lie ahead." Mason said a leadership race would help attract "progressively-minded Albertans" to the NDP. Premier David Hancock, who thanked Mason for his service, called the NDP leader "a skilled debater and a tenacious parliamentarian, who was utterly unafraid to stand up for what he believed in and hold the government accountable."

Steps taken to reduce FASD

To help raise awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, liquor stores, restaurants and bars now have to display FASD prevention signage. The requirement is at the direction of the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Association as a reminder about the risks of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. "The effects of FASD on children are devastating, but through common sense initiatives like this, we will bring instances of FASD down by raising needed awareness and encouraging people to step up and say 'no' when they see someone drink alcohol while pregnant," said Manmeet S. Bhullar, Minister of Human Services, in a news release. FASD includes a broad range of disabilities related to permanent brain damage caused by exposure to alcohol.

Air quality video translated

The Wood Buffalo Environmental Association has translated an informational video into both Cree and Dene Native languages. The video provides stakeholders and community members with an insider's look at WBEA's extensive air monitoring network, and explains exactly how WBEA goes about the job of continuously monitoring and reporting air quality for the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo. "We thought it was important to have this resource translated to Cree and Dene in order to better reach out to our Aboriginal partners and stakeholders," said WBEA Executive Director Dr. Kevin Percy. The WBEA worked with local Cree and Dene speaking community members for the voice-over translations.



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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario



PHOTO: PROVIDED BY MNO

(From left) Minister of Aboriginal Affairs David Zimmer, MNO Chair France Picotte and MNO President Gary Lipinski at the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement signing event on April 17.

Framework agreement between province, MNO strengthened

The framework agreement renewed by the province and Métis Nation Ontario builds on a 2008 agreement and includes an increased focus on Métis rights through "advancing reconciliation between the Crown and the Métis people" and providing "a framework for meeting Ontario's constitutional obligations towards the Métis people consistent with the honour of the Crown and decisions of the courts." It also makes a new commitment on the part of the MNO and Ontario to "advance initiatives that support Métis children and youth to be the best that they can be." This enhanced youth-oriented commitment reflects the MNO's ongoing commitment to building a stronger Métis Nation and Ontario. "The message is clear from the courts: the federal government cannot continue its complete exclusion of Métis from specific and comprehensive claims processes that are open to the two other constitutionally

recognized Aboriginal peoples. The jurisdictional football the Métis are subjected to with respect to their rights, claims and needs must end," said MNO President Gary Lipinski, in a news release.

Kashechewan evacuated due to spring flooding

Kashechewan First Nation's 2,000 residents were evacuated May 12 following an initial evacuation two days earlier of 685 as the Albany River overflowed. Evacuees were flown to Thunder Bay, Greenstone, Kapuskasing and the NAV Centre in Cornwall. Trained disaster management volunteers are registering evacuees and providing for personal needs, such as baby supplies and hygiene items. "The Canadian Red Cross has been working closely with officials to provide support as the flooding situation along the James Bay coast evolves," said Louise Geoffrion, provincial director of disaster management with the Canadian Red Cross. Last year, spring flooding forced about 150 evacuees to take

refuge in Thunder Bay. Also last year, 40 homes were damaged by sewage back-up. Those same homes have been hit this year.

Ring of Fire framework agreement reached

The nine Matawa member First Nations and the Ontario government have developed a regional framework agreement on the Ring of Fire. The RFA sets out a community-based regional approach ensuring that Matawa member First Nations and Ontario work together to advance opportunities in the Ring of Fire—focusing on the issues of regional long-term environmental monitoring, enhanced participation in environmental assessment processes, resource revenue sharing, economic supports, as well as regional and community infrastructure. It was developed with the assistance of negotiators Bob Rae and Frank Iacobucci to enhance community-based MOUs that were signed in September 2012. "The RFA is a step in the right direction and the concept has the potential to be a model

to provide better economic certainty for resource extraction, economic development projects, as well as guarantee meaningful participation of First Nations in the global economy," said Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy, in a news release.

MAEI comes to Ontario

The province is partnering with the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative to support the Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.

Through hands-on activities, Aboriginal students will learn how to develop a business plan and create a product- or service-based business. Students will be mentored by established Aboriginal business owners, and eligible students will get funding to start their own businesses. Pilot programs will begin in September 2014 for students in grades 11 and 12 in Fort Frances, Kenora, London, Sioux Lookout, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Toronto and Wallaceburg. The provincial government is investing \$1.35 million over three years in the pilot program, where students can earn two credits towards high school graduation. Students who participated in the program in other provinces had improved attendance, increased self-confidence, motivation to pursue post-secondary options, and enhanced skill development in entrepreneurship.

Beach, Kunuk to receive honorary degrees

Saulteaux actor Adam Beach and world-renowned Inuit filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk will be among those to receive honorary degrees at Wilfrid Laurier University's spring convocation in June. Kunuk, born in Kapuvik in the eastern Arctic, joined the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation in

1982 and directed several short films based on Inuit history. In 1990, he co-founded Isuma Productions, Canada's first Indigenous film studio. Among Kunuk's accomplishments is the 2001 film *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, which he directed. It was the first feature film ever to be written, directed and acted in the Inuktitut language. It won more than a dozen major awards, including the Golden Camera Award at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Beach spent his early years on the Dog Creek First Nation Reserve. He has appeared in more than 60 films and television programs. Beach founded the non-profit Adam Beach Foundation with a focus on Native youth suicide prevention and awareness. Also receiving honorary degrees are hockey great Wayne Gretzky and scientist, peace activist and outspoken social critic Ursula Franklin.

Inaugural recipient of Patina Prize announced

Leslie Spence, 21, of Webequie First Nation, is the inaugural recipient of the Patina Prize, named for Richard Patina, long-term chairman of the DAREarts Board of Directors. DAREarts is a national charity, which reaches more than 13,000 children annually with the power of the arts to transform lives. On an annual basis, \$4,000 of the prize will be divided equally to empower children directly through DAREarts programs in Nova Scotia, Rexdale, Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski First Nations in remote northern Ontario, and British Columbia. The final \$1,000 of the Patina Prize will be awarded annually to one DAREarts graduate youth who has demonstrated particular need of these funds to further their post-secondary education. The family will work with the DAREarts president to make this choice.

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[health] Study hopes to break down barriers and increase access to cancer care

By Darlene Chrapko
Windspeaker Writer

CALGARY

A project aimed at helping First Nations people navigate the health care system in order to receive appropriate and timely treatment for cancer has received funding.

The collaborative venture with three leads is seeking to determine what the needs are in First Nations communities on reserve and in rural and remote locations in Alberta. Dr. Angeline Letendre, Alberta Health Services, Cancer Care and M&E PhD prepared nurse; Dr. Cora Voyageur, a First Nations sociologist at the University of Calgary; and Bonnie Healy, who runs the Alberta section of the First Nations Information Gathering Centre, also a nurse and member of the Blood Tribe, responded to a call for expressions of interest by Canadian Partners Against Cancer, a Canada-wide initiative encompassing nine provinces and territories.

The trio's successful letter of interest earned them a \$100,000 grant to prepare the proposal. Subsequently, they were awarded \$800,000 for a two-and-a-half year project with multiple community partners from across the province, including Treaty 6, 7 and 8, Alberta Health Services, Aboriginal Health programs, the Aboriginal Nurses Association and the Aboriginal Physicians Association.

A December 2010 study showed that First Nations in Alberta experience cancer incidents at about 200 per year, although a prevalence report raises the number to 1,140.

"The story is similar across the

nation for all First Nations, generally less participate in screening and usually in later stages of diagnosis," said Amelia Crowshoe, communications assistant for the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre.

At the crux of the problem is that First Nations fall under three jurisdictions: federal, provincial and on-reserve.

"So it's difficult to navigate through different systems of care and provide a continuance of care from diagnosis to recovery," said Crowshoe.

The decreased access to health services results in increased death for First Nations people.

Adding to this complexity is that First Nations communities across Alberta have diversified systems. Crowshoe identified two critical aspects to tackle: the jurisdictional barriers and partnerships and awareness.

The project will also investigate cultural barriers that make it difficult to seek care.

"There is also a cultural factor," said Crowshoe. "For people in our communities, cancer is a very private thing."

The focus of the project is to identify barriers and determine how they can be mitigated, says Voyageur.

"We want to ensure that First Nations cancer patients have a smoother, more effective and efficient journey through the cancer pathways," she said.

The project will look at having cancer navigators to help cancer patients navigate their way through the process, adds Voyageur. The information and findings will ultimately be given to political leadership to request changes to policy.

"We want to make sure no one is left behind," said



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Dr. Cora Voyageur, a First Nations sociologist at the University of Calgary, is one of three people working on a project that will improve access to cancer care treatment for First Nations people.

Crowshoe whose organization manages information.

AFNIGC's role is to ensure First Nations have ownership, control, access and possession of their personal information. The Chief-mandated organization protects the collective and personal privacy of First Nations people, ensuring that First Nations are in full control of their information collected through the Indian Registry System.

"Information collected through the Indian Registry System can be used to tell our data stories to change access to health care," Crowshoe said.

Minister Valcourt must resign

(Continued from page 6.)

The United Nations Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples reported

"Overall there appear to be high levels of distrust among indigenous peoples toward government at both the federal and provincial levels.

Indigenous peoples' concerns merit higher priority at all levels and within all branches of Government, and across all departments. Concerted measures, based on mutual understanding and real partnership with aboriginal peoples, through their own representative institutions, are vital to establishing long-term solutions. To that end, it is necessary for Canada to arrive at a common understanding with indigenous peoples of objectives

and goals that are based on full respect for their constitutional, treaty, and internationally-recognized rights." (May 12, 2014)

With this UN report, the fact that many chiefs do not hold any trust in Minister Valcourt, and his conduct, means the direction of the Rapporteur will not happen as Valcourt is unable to come to mutual understanding, develop real partnerships and recognize constitutional and international rights.

As advised by the United Nations Special Rapporteur, Canada must arrive at a common understanding with Indigenous peoples of objectives and goals that are based on full respect for their constitutional, treaty and internationally recognized rights in education

and all other issues. The international community is watching closely now and Canada must respond as needed.

Education and training is the key to the future of Indigenous children. Good dialogue, strategies, collaboration and innovation are needed to move forward on improving the education of our youth in schools on and off reserve. That kind of action cannot take place with a Minister that uses name-calling, scare tactics, and disrespect as his tools for relationship building. Valcourt must resign or Harper must replace him. Starting a clean slate with a new Minister and new national chief with inclusivity and self determination for all First Nations is the key to success in educational reform.

Health Watch

Compiled by Shari Narine

Indigenous people in Toronto may face premature death

Researchers at Anishnawbe Health Toronto found the city's Aboriginal population that visited Indigenous health centres in Toronto between 2008 and 2010 died much younger than other city residents. According to the study, the average age of death for those residents was 37 years old. Toronto Public Health says the average age of death for other city residents is 75 years old. To collect the data for the report, premature death records at Anishnawbe Health and three other health and social service centres in Toronto were reviewed and family members of some of the deceased interviewed. In total, 109 medical charts were reviewed and 20 interviews conducted. Dr. Chandrakant Shah, one of the authors of the report, says in the cases he examined, the cause of death was commonly tied to issues arising from homelessness, physical abuse, and/or substance abuse. A typical medical chart showed factors such as diabetes, obesity, anxiety, depression and chronic stress also played a role. Shah found that many of the Indigenous people who had died prematurely in Toronto had attended a residential school and others had been part of the Sixties Scoop.

Improvement in Inuit oral health noticeable

According to Health Canada's Inuit Oral Health Survey, more than 85 per cent of Inuit preschoolers have on average roughly eight teeth that are decayed, missing, or filled. This prevalence increases with age. The Inuit Oral Health Action Plan engages multiple stakeholders to address the high rates of oral disease among Inuit and to identify a collaborative approach to addressing the underlying determinants of poor oral health with a focus on prevention, mobilization of families, and better access to treatment. During the summer of 2013, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami sent out Inuit-specific oral health promotion kits to all Inuit communities in partnership with the four Inuit Land Claim Organizations, which incorporated messaging from the Canadian Dental Association adapted for Inuit and printed in four languages. The kits, contained in water bottles, included oral health sundries along with prevention messaging delivered in the Inuit languages. Positive results have begun to be seen and the work continues. "Efforts such as these, focused on oral health promotion and community-based primary preventive measures, will have a long-term positive impact on the health of the Inuit," said Dr. Peter Cooney, Chief Dental Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada, in a news release.

Tackling Hepatitis C focus of three health organizations

The Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) in partnership with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and the Attendance Project at BC Centre of Disease Control have signed a memorandum of understanding to create an annual event in May and work together to raise awareness of hepatitis C in the Aboriginal community. The estimated infection rates for hepatitis C are higher among Inuit and First Nations (one to 18 per cent) compared to other the Canadians (0.5 to two per cent). Individuals living with hepatitis C may become isolated due to the stigma associated with the illness. Social and community support plays an important role in helping individuals to accept their diagnosis and learn to live with hepatitis C. The partners have developed culturally relevant resources for front-line health and social service providers and support creating change in urban, rural, isolated, and on-reserve communities. "Practicing our Aboriginal values of respect, honour, and non-judgment toward others is key to our response – and this year we asked all communities to become informed and lead the change," said Ken Clement, CEO of CAAN, in a news release.

CEIH to boost research projects

Indigenous health practitioners have a new home at the University of British Columbia. The UBC Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health, which opened at the start of this year, will serve as a single point of contact within the university for support, training and resources for Indigenous health. It will also be the primary conduit for Indigenous communities that want to connect with UBC, its programs and health researchers. "We want to increase the research capacity in Indigenous health and to empower community members to do their own research, setting their own priorities," said CEIH co-director Nadine Caron, in a news release. The centre aims to boost research projects addressing Aboriginal health at the university as well as increasing collaborative projects with Indigenous communities across the province, and developing partnerships with the BC First Nations Health Authority and other Indigenous organizations. The Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health is housed in the multi-disciplinary UBC School of Population and Public Health, in the Faculty of Medicine.

Sports Briefs

By Sam Laskaris

Begay Suffers Heart Attack

Notah Begay III, a former PGA Tour player who now works as a TV golf analyst, is expected to make a full recovery following a late April heart attack. Begay, 41, is a full blooded Native American who was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has Navajo, San Felipe and Isleta ancestry.

Begay, who won six pro events, including four on the PGA Tour, has a history for heart disease in his family. He suffered his heart attack in Dallas. He is expected to recover after having a stent inserted to unblock his right coronary artery.

Begay had the majority of his success early on in his pro career. He won his four PGA Tour events in 1999 and 2000. His career, however, has been plagued in part by back problems for a number of years. Begay has not played in a PGA Tour event since 2012.

Prince Albert Hosts Nationals

Saskatchewan's James Smith First Nation will host this year's Canadian Native Fastball Championships. Organizers are hoping as many as 80 teams compete in the tournament, scheduled for Aug. 3 to Aug. 6. Matches will be held in Prince Albert, located about a 60-minute drive northwest of the James Smith First Nation.

Organizers are hoping to attract 32 teams in the men's division and another 32 clubs in the women's category. Male and female masters categories will also be staged.

The national tournament has been held annually since 1974. Traditionally, the majority of the entrants are from western provinces as the event is usually held in a western Canadian location.

Chipchura Spends Season With Coyotes

He might not be a household name but Kyle Chipchura is no doubt thrilled he spent a full season in the National Hockey League this year.

Chipchura, a 28-year-old Metis, has bounced back and forth between the minors and the NHL since turning pro back in 2005. Chipchura, who was born in Westlock, Alta., had been the Montreal Canadiens' first-round pick, 18th over-all, at the 2004 NHL Entry Draft.

But he only played 68 matches with the Canadiens before being traded to the Anaheim Ducks during the 2009-10 season.

Chipchura had his best NHL campaign, in terms of points, during the 2013-14 season, as a member of the Phoenix Coyotes. He had 20 points (five goals, 15 assists) while playing in 80 games.

Chipchura has now appeared in a total of 357 NHL contests. During his pro career Chipchura has also had stints with a pair of American Hockey League franchises, the Hamilton Bulldogs and Portland Pirates, as well as suiting up for the Central Hockey League's Arizona Sundogs. Before turning pro Chipchura had spent four seasons in the Western Hockey League with the Saskatchewan-based Prince Albert Raiders.

Chipchura, a centre, has never been one to put up huge numbers. But the year after he was drafted by the Canadiens he averaged close to a point per game (55 points in 59 games) in his fourth and final season in Prince Albert.

Back on Canadian Tour

The Dakota Dunes Open will once again be on the PGA Tour Canada schedule in 2014.

The pro men's event, which is scheduled for July 3 to July 6, will be played at the Dakota Dunes Golf Links in Saskatchewan, located on the Whitecap Dakota First Nation. The 18-hole course, which opened in 2004, has received numerous accolades from Canadian and American magazines and groups.

Participants in this year's tournament will be vying for a share of the \$150,000 up for grabs. The winner alone will take home a \$27,000 cheque.

The Dakota Dunes Open will be the fourth of 12 events on the PGA Tour Canada schedule in 2014. The circuit runs from May through September. Besides Saskatchewan, four stops are held in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia. All of the tour stops feature an equal \$150,000 purse. The tour traditionally attracts players from around the world.

New Junior Team

An Ojibwe man from Ontario's Alderville First Nation has been granted an expansion junior franchise by the Ontario Hockey Association. Gord McKenzie-Crowe will serve as the president of the North Kawartha Knights, who will compete in the Central Ontario Junior C Hockey League. The Knights will play their home contests in Apsley, located northeast of Peterborough.

Since 2006 McKenzie-Crowe has also organized a number of boys' and girls' spring and summer hockey teams, primarily consisting of Aboriginal players that compete in tournaments throughout Canada and the United States. Those spring/summer teams are all called the Team Ontario Stingrays.

[sports]

Saskatchewan digs deep to take NAHC gold



Saskatchewan Boys and Girls were winners at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships. PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

By Sam Laskaris

Windspeaker Contributor

KAHNAWAKE

It is unlikely that anybody could have predicted the ending to the girls' gold-medal contest at this year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.

Saskatchewan and Ontario were deadlocked at 3-3 in the late stages of the match, which was held on May 3 in Kahnawake, Que.

Saskatchewan's chances did not look good when the team was assessed a penalty with just 98 seconds left in the game.

But instead of Ontario scoring a powerplay goal to win the contest, it was the Saskatchewan squad that netted not only one but two shorthanded goals to register a 5-3 triumph.

The Saskatchewan boys' squad also captured the gold medal in its division. Saskatchewan doubled British Columbia 4-2 in its championship game.

Delaney Ross, a 16-year-old Metis forward from Meadow Lake, scored both of the shorthanded goals for Saskatchewan in the girls' final. Ross was not only named to the first-team all-star squad but she was also chosen as the tournament's most valuable player.

"There must be hockey gods because they were smiling on us," said Saskatchewan coach Lynn Regnier.

With the dramatic ending in its final match, Regnier's squad was able to keep its unblemished record at the NAHC intact. His team won all six of its tournament games.

Regnier, who coaches a female Midget team in Prince Albert, had also served as the bench boss of the Saskatchewan entry at last year's NAHC. That team won a silver medal at the tournament, which was also held in

Kahnawake.

Regnier's 18-year-old daughter Kelly, a previous NAHC participant, served as an assistant coach with the club this time around.

The younger Regnier was not allowed to compete in this year's event as she also plays at the university level. She's gearing up for the second season at the University of Regina.

Besides the finish in the championship match, Regnier was also surprised with another tournament happening. He thought his charges would face a stiff challenge from the host Quebec-based team called Eastern Door and the North. EDN had won last year's title.

"We thought EDN would be a bit stronger," said Regnier, whose team did not end up facing the defending tournament champs. "But they were a little bit younger than they were last year."

The host EDN squad, however, still managed to win the bronze medal this time around.

Ross was not the only Saskatchewan player to be honoured afterwards. Goalie Summer Roberts and Whitney Thorp, who played defence, were also named to the tournament's first-team all-star squad.

As for the Saskatchewan boys' side, it had a slow start at the NAHC. The club lost its first game 3-0 versus B.C. and then settled for a 5-5 tie against Manitoba.

"I think in our first game we weren't sharp as a team," said Saskatchewan coach Shawn Phaneuf. "B.C. capitalized on two early turnovers and had an early 2-0 lead. We were like skating in sand the rest of the game."

Phaneuf added he was not concerned with the team's slow start.

"We knew we'd get out of pool play either way," he said. "But the road might be tougher."

After round-robin action all

eight participants in the division advanced to the quarter-final stage. By finishing third in its grouping, Saskatchewan had to face the Number 2 seed from the other division, Ontario, in its quarter-final match.

Saskatchewan downed Ontario 4-2 in that game. And Phaneuf's side then earned a berth into the gold-medal match by defeating Alberta 6-4 in its semi-final outing.

"We kind of got better every game," Phaneuf said.

Goalie Rylan Parenteau, who spent this past season at the Junior A level with the Weyburn Red Wings, members of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, shone at the NAHC.

"He was a big reason for our success," Phaneuf said of the puckstopper, who was named to the tournament's first-team all-star club.

Two other Saskatchewan players were also singled out for their performances. Team captain Cody Young was selected as the tournament's MVP. And left winger Lantz Hiebert was named to the tournament's first-team all-star squad.

Phaneuf said many others contributed to the team's success.

"Those three guys stood out but we had so many good performances from a lot of guys," he said.

Like Regnier, Phaneuf also had a family member that was part of the team. His 18-year-old son Taryn, who had won a gold medal with Saskatchewan at the 2012 NAHC, served as the team trainer this year.

A total of 16 clubs (eight female, eight male) took part at this year's NAHC.

The tournament primarily features Bantam (13-14) and Midget (15-17) players. Teams in the girls' division though are allowed to carry a maximum of four overage players, who are either 18 or 19.

[education] Act was as far as Conservatives would go, says educator

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

The federal government has temporarily shelved First Nations education legislation following the sudden resignation of Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo on May 2.

A prepared statement from the office of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Bernard Valcourt issued three days later said, "given the recent resignation of the National Chief, following today's second reading vote (in the House of Commons), any further consideration of this legislation will be put on hold until the AFN clarifies its position."

Atleo directly linked his resignation to the ongoing battle waged by First Nations leaders and vocal community members in opposition to Bill C-33, the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, which was announced in February.

"The only credibility with First

Nations the bill had was with Shawn and so I think they recognized they can't ram this bill through without prominent support from Aboriginal leaders. If Aboriginal leaders are divided that's one thing, but if there aren't prominent Aboriginal leaders who are in favour of this, then implementation is a problem, whether it's a good bill or not," said Mark Selman, of Simon Fraser University Beedie School of Business, director, EMBA for Aboriginal Business and Leadership.

Many First Nations leaders are pleased with the government's decision to put the education bill on hold, although many believe the bill never should have been introduced as no consultation took place. And many believe it should not have been supported by Atleo as it did not meet the five criteria adopted by consensus at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in December 2013, which stated the need for guaranteed funding, First Nations control of education, meaningful consultation, protection of Indigenous

languages, and joint oversight of the program. Atleo insisted that his support of the bill remained true to the resolution.

How to move forward now in light of Atleo's resignation and Valcourt's indefinite delay of First Nation education legislation will be discussed at a May 27 national Special Chiefs Assembly (after Windspeaker deadline).

"There's different positions across Canada. Some people want to kill the bill. There's that group mounting. There's other chiefs and leaders that want to modify the bill. And then there's other chiefs who support the bill the way it is. It's a matter of bringing together people to collectively plan and strategize the best position going forward," said AFN Saskatchewan Regional Chief Perry Bellegarde, who himself is opposed to the bill.

On the table is \$1.9 billion, which Valcourt said would kick in in 2015 and successive years and the lifting of the two per cent funding cap. It is money that is desperately needed now, said Cindy Blackstock, executive

director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada and associate professor at the University of Alberta.

"This whole mess leaves me with one key question – if children really are a top priority for the federal government then why are they holding back the money?" wrote Blackstock in an opinion piece to CBC News.

Bellegarde contends that national education legislation for First Nations isn't required for the federal government to ante up the money. In fact, concerns voiced by First Nations leaders are that education on reserves does not fall into a one-size-fits-all solution box.

"We all want to make sure jurisdiction is not compromised through this legislation and so the position is we've got to take the time to do it properly and do it right," said Bellegarde.

Selman does not have much confidence in what lies ahead for First Nations federal education legislation.

"What (Atleo has) done is stepped aside and cleared the

decks for people to come forward and say what would satisfy the requirements and it remains to be seen whether some version of the education act as it was proposed or some quite different proposal comes forward out of it," said Selman. "But we know that as long as the Conservatives are in power, nothing that's too much more progressive than the education act as formulated is likely to come forward because this is about as far as you can imagine the Conservatives going."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Atleo joined forces in February to announce the framework that would become the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. The new act replaced the federal government's first attempt in October 2013 to federally legislate education on reserves through its failed First Nations Education Act, which was slammed by Atleo, First Nations chiefs and education advocates. It didn't take long for criticism and then dissension to form around the new legislation.

Six theories on what led to Atleo's fall

(Continued from page 10.)

But according to Concordia University's School of Community and Public Affairs professor Karl Hele, Atleo's education bill endorsement undermined the advocacy mandate of AFN's founding Charter, as well as the National Chief's subservience to its members.

"Mr. Atleo, and the AFN for that matter, has been acting more like a government for First Nations, rather than as their voice in Ottawa," the Garden River First Nation member wrote in the *Globe & Mail* on May 20. "The failure to undertake a consultative process will result in the aboriginal political elite being easily undermined and growing more dependent upon Ottawa for legitimacy in the eyes of Canadians."

4. Partisan politics

For outspoken Sto:lo Nation senior policy advisor Ernie Crey, all of these theories miss a key factor. For the former head of the United Native Nations Society of B.C., the real issue is politics, pure and simple.

"Many of these key spokespeople within AFN's upper echelons and at the lower levels are mainstream partisans," he told Windspeaker. "Most of them are obviously not Conservatives."

"The quarrels, arguments and

fight between mainline political parties are mirrored in this dispute over the education bill... It was going to be a centrepiece for Shawn Atleo, it was going to be his legacy. The partisans within the AFN got busy to do everything within their power to deny him and the Conservatives this legacy."

5. AFN election legacy

While Crey remains convinced that battles between the Liberals and New Democrats have cast their hidden shadows deep inside the AFN, the organization is certainly large enough in size and bureaucracy to carry its own political machineries. And carry them it has.

Many of the factions vying to oust Atleo, those pushing militancy, and some hinting at a run to replace him, are the very factions Atleo faced during his re-election bid. Chief among them are Palmater and the grand chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Derek Nepinak, one of Palmater's chief campaign backers who led the charge in the Parliament Hill fracas and the January 2013 Crown meeting boycott.

Recall that even though an outsider to band council leadership, Palmater's bid garnered a significant dissenting chunk out of Atleo's two-thirds victory. With few of his

supporters openly supporting Atleo since, his critics have stepped into that void.

"They've never gotten over it," Crey told Windspeaker. "They've put a lot of time and energy in efforts to oust Atleo."

"There's been an effort to run Atleo out of office for over a year now within the AFN... I think he took a look at it and said, 'I've done my level best — if I stick around I'm going to be the lightning rod for it and there won't be a resolution to it. My best approach is to resign.'"

6. Divide and conquer

For some observers, Atleo was dealt a losing hand from the start, and doubling down on the results-based approach that elected him was the only route open to him to save face, short of

admitting defeat altogether.

As a result of deep federal cuts to the AFN's budget over recent decades, the organization has struggled to keep afloat and stay relevant, oscillating between leaders dubbed "moderate" or "militant" by the federal government and business community.

Moves towards a more militant approach — in particular, talk of direct action targeting Canada's economic infrastructure — have been met with a loss of core funding that has severely hampered the organization's advocacy and weakened its impact.

In that context, some see the ouster of Atleo and the current jockeying to replace him, as symptoms of a much deeper problem that some say has

entered at the heart of the AFN itself: the classic colonial game of divide and conquer.

For some analysts, those deep differences reflect the differing interests and tactics of bands in Ontario and the Prairies fighting to uphold their historic treaties, and the larger number in mostly unceded regions such as B.C. advocating for the broader set of inherent Aboriginal rights and title to the land.

Whether the tensions inside AFN continue to play out the historic game of divide and conquer, carrot and stick, remains to be seen. But as Indian Country looks to the future of its largest and most prominent advocacy body, many questions continue to swirl about where it is headed — and whether it can regain its once-powerful voice.

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Anaya's UN report highlights Canada's many failures

(Continued from page 7.)

International Chief Wilton Littlechild, who was at a UN meeting in New York when Anaya's report was released, is impressed not only with the way Anaya captured the concerns of the Indigenous people in his short eight-day visit, but the way in which Anaya was able to put the struggles into context.

"He was very historically well-grounded in terms of the political and legal situation in Canada and ... I think he caught the very challenging issues for all three of us, meaning the First Nations, Metis and the Inuit," said Littlechild, who accompanied Anaya on his October visit. "It's interesting that ... he did his mission and then he made his recommendations and now look at what's happening."

Littlechild points to Anaya's call for shelving a First Nations Education Act until full consultation was conducted. Although morphing into a different act since Anaya's visit, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada Minister Bernard Valcourt has put the First Nations Control of First Nations Education bill on hold following the resignation of National Chief Shawn Atleo as head of the Assembly of First Nations.

As well, Anaya echoed the calls of Indigenous groups for a national inquiry into the numbers of murdered and

missing Aboriginal women and girls. And now the RCMP has come up with figures that more than double the claims made by the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Anaya also recommended that the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Indian residential schools be extended "for as long as it may be necessary for it to complete its work." Shortly after Anaya's visit, the federal government announced a year's extension to the TRC.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde said Anaya makes it clear that the relationship between Canada and its Indigenous people is strained.

But both Bellegarde and Littlechild admit that none of what Anaya had to say, which led to 16 recommendations, is news to the federal or provincial and territorial governments.

"While we have been saying this as Indigenous people many times over and over again, they have not been listening. So from an independent expert of the United Nations' perspective that should alone cause Canada and the provincial governments to take his recommendations very seriously and especially towards implementation of his recommendations," said Littlechild.

He also believes that Indigenous people have a

continued role to play in working collaboratively with the governments to ensure that the challenges are met and that recommendations are implemented.

Bellegarde said the UN report is damning to the Canadian government. He points out that Canada ranks sixth on the UN quality of life index, but First Nations people within the country rank 63 and fall into the Third World category.

"The eyes of the world are watching. This is one of Canada's biggest, darkest secrets and they don't like being exposed, but that's the only way you're going to deal with the issues, when it's exposed to not only the national public, but the international community as well. These issues need to be addressed and they need to be addressed now," said Bellegarde.

Littlechild said he is "always optimistic that things will change. I work in the international arena and I have seen change, sometimes very slowly and I have seen no change, but where there's no change, there sometimes consequences."

Other Indigenous organizations, such as the Assembly of First Nations, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, commended Anaya's report and his strong recommendations.

RCMP report

(Continued from page 8.)

Naturkach says statistics show that Aboriginal women are 3.5 times more likely to be victims of violence.

While Naturkach is frustrated that years of work by her organization and others, such as NWAC, on behalf of Aboriginal women have resulted in limited action, she is grateful that the RCMP's findings will have an impact.

"Groups who have known these pieces and who have been talking to these issues for years... if it's coming from a different body, a different message, as problematic as it is that it's taken this long, the more voices who are talking about it, from whatever sector, is important," she said.

"The purpose of this review was to validate and corroborate the research that had previously been conducted on this topic and to

bolster it with police data," said Tyler Bates, Director of National Aboriginal Policing, RCMP.

Naturkach says the Canadian Women's Foundation will continue to push for a national public inquiry while continuing its programming focus of improving the lives of Aboriginal women.

"We absolutely applaud the Native Women's Association and other groups who have been lobbying the federal government for years. We will continue to support them and be a voice for what they are trying to accomplish," she said.

In United Nations Special Rapporteur James Anaya's report released mid-May, Anaya referred to missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls as a "disturbing phenomena" and backed the call for a comprehensive, nation-wide inquiry.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

My name is Beth Sterba-Ansari, and for the last 7 years I have been researching and talking to some of the survivors of Indian Boarding schools, Missionary schools, and Residential schools in both the United States and Canada. At this time I am still looking to speak to anyone that has attended, knows of someone who has attended, or has knowledge regarding these schools, that would be willing to speak to me about their experiences. All names will be held in strict confidence.

If you would like to share your experience or have further questions please contact me via email at sterbabeth@gmail.com. Or send me a letter to my address P.O. Box 1489 Albrightsville, PA 18210-1489, USA. All responses will be answered.

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Trailblazing musician needed a Spanish pseudonym

By Dianne Meili

As a touring Métis musician in the 1960s, Manitoba's Charles Nabess had to assume the pseudonym "Carlos" to perform on some stages, and was introduced to audiences as a Spanish guitar player.

"Promoters couldn't deal with a Native leader of a band touring and emulating stars like the Rolling Stones and the Beatles – the bands that greatly influenced Charles," said David McLeod, of Manitoba's Native Communications Incorporated. He sat down with Nabess to talk about his trailblazing career some months before his death on May 6.

"Charles told me people in the music industry would say things like 'we don't want to have braids there' on stage. Charles didn't have braids, of course, but management frowned upon having a visibly Native person in the band, and yet he was the leader of the band. Here's a great guitarist who had to hide behind a veil of who he really is."

Nabess commented that even though his band Three Penny Opera was playing great music and he was literally blowing the stereotypes away about how Aboriginal people couldn't reach that level, the band encountered racism and cancelled some bookings.

Early on the priests and nuns in his childhood community warned Nabess that his music would never amount to anything.

"It's a good thing he didn't listen to them, because he went on to travel the world with his music and he allowed many of us to dream and to think about having careers in music," said McLeod.

Nabess taught himself to play the guitar at 10 years of age while growing up in Thicket Portage in northern Manitoba. He was the second youngest of a family of 12 children born to Marie and Patrice Nabess. When he was 16, he and his 13-year-old brother Donny, a singer, moved to The Pas where they began performing. They formed The

Midnight Angels after moving to Winnipeg in 1963, and performed exuberant covers of current rock bands that inspired them.

"They wrote original music, too," said McLeod. "Charles' guitar playing was central, with his impassioned style and impeccable timing." The band signed to Apex Records in 1967, recorded in Toronto and released the radio single "I'm Sufferin'" and then began touring. When the record deal ended in 1968, members Donny and Charles renamed the band Three Penny Opera (named after the Berthold Brecht play) and continued touring on their reputation as a tight, live band.

The group played throughout North America and Europe – performing often on cruise ships – until 1992, assuming many incarnations along the way.

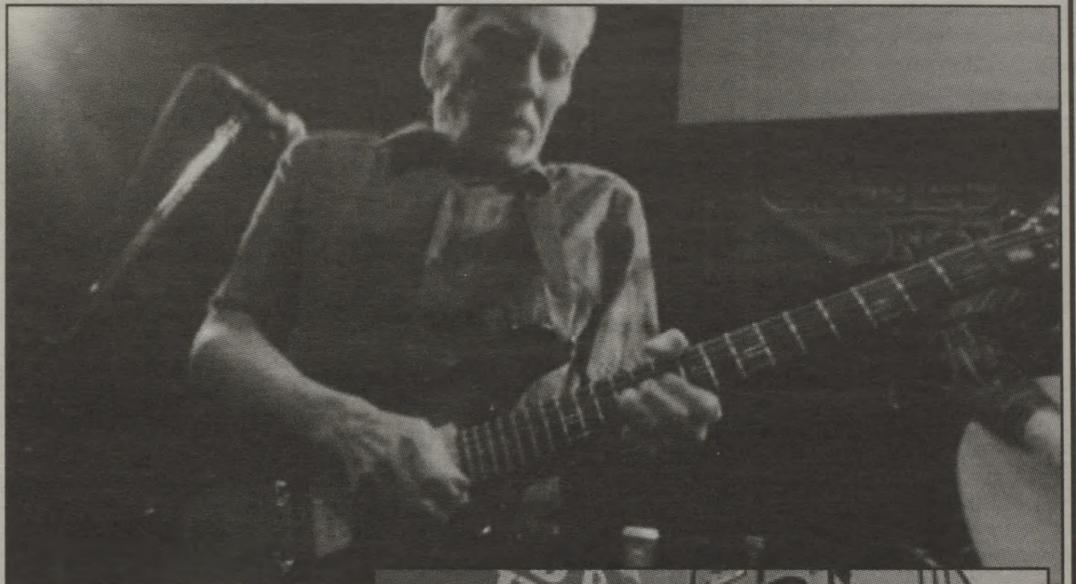
"I recall working as a busboy in a club in my high school years and seeing Three Penny Opera live," McLeod said, noting he was greatly impressed by the band's expert musicianship and their running patter as they joked around onstage.

"The audience really loved their humour with each other."

In 2011, Nabess appeared on the Native Communications Incorporated Jam Stage at the Pantages Theatre for a segment entitled The NCI Guitar Heroes, along with Billy Joe Green, Jimmy Flett, and Gerry McIvor. The performance received a rousing standing ovation.

"It was so outstanding and so loving because these guys have been there since the 60s and they made music their lives. Nobody's gotten rich in their music career from doing it, but they've committed their lives to it. They're the ground breakers, the trailblazers," McLeod explained.

Before returning to Winnipeg in 2005, Nabess spent six years as the leader of a house band in Yellowknife N.W.T. Throughout his career he wrote songs, taught music, was a mentor to many in the industry, and was admired



Charles Nabess

for his gentlemanly, kind disposition.

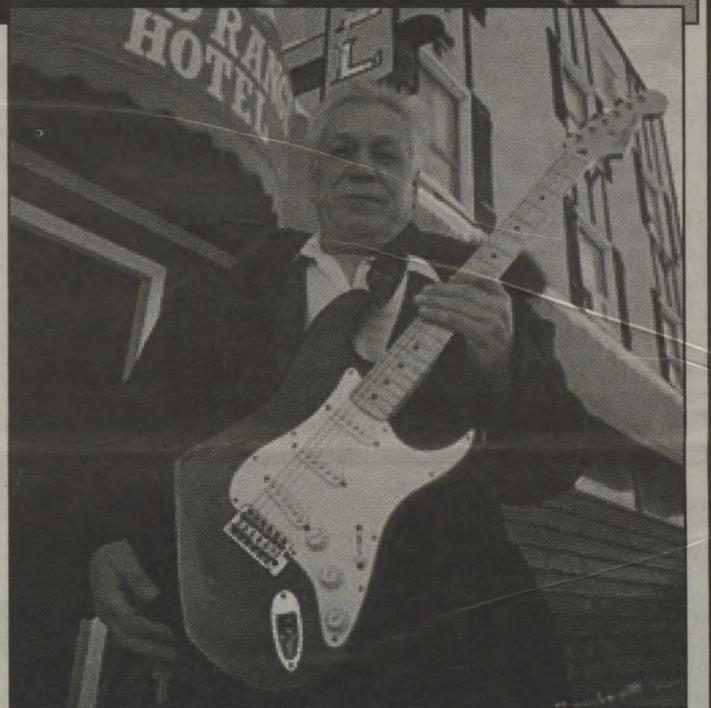
When he became ill and began aggressive chemotherapy, the treatment was not covered by medical services.

"Like many musicians, you only have money coming in to pay for the rent and groceries when you play," said McLeod. Fellow musicians came to the rescue, with friend Oliver Boulette pulling in many for a fundraiser last January at the Essence Club. The evening included Billy Joe Green, and Percy "The Reverend" Tuesday among others.

"I've been playing with Charlie now for five or six years and we've been doing a lot of fundraisers. We've been out helping people and all of a sudden Charlie comes down with cancer. You have to help your own when something like this happens," said Boulette in a video filmed at the Fundraiser for Charles Nabess on Youtube.

"You know musicians don't have pension plans and insurance and so on, so this helps immensely. Charlie brought so much joy into people's lives and this is our way of giving back and saying thanks for all that you've done for us."

After delighting crowds with his signature version of "Sultans of Swing" during the fundraiser



performances, Nabess was also interviewed on the Youtube clip.

"I didn't expect this and as the day got closer, I was overwhelmed by the caring of my friends and family. And the way it feels right now, my family and friends are here to save my life. Isn't that amazing?"

"My time in music has made me realize that my work is about the people and the music and not only about the money. We all have a heart, so the music should come from there," he said.

According to McLeod, "The fact \$10,000 was raised that

night attests to how much Charles Nabess was appreciated. Even Adam Beach, the actor, showed up. He happened to be in town."

Surrounded by his musical friends, and many family members who are also talented performers in their own right, Nabess looked visibly moved, though weak, by the outpouring of support.

He was 68 years old when he passed away some months later, and is survived by his second wife, Kris, whom he married in 1984, five children and seven grandchildren.

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