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# Wind speaker



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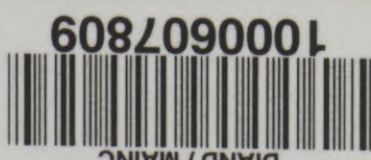


**Cyril Livingstone, Cowichan Lake First Nation chief blows away chips from the ceremonial first carve during the Spirit Pole 95-day journey. Livingstone was the first of many thousands of people who will have their moment with carver Carey Newman as he travels across British Columbia with the Spirit Pole.**

**See page 15 for complete story and more pictures.**

Photo credit: Debora Steel

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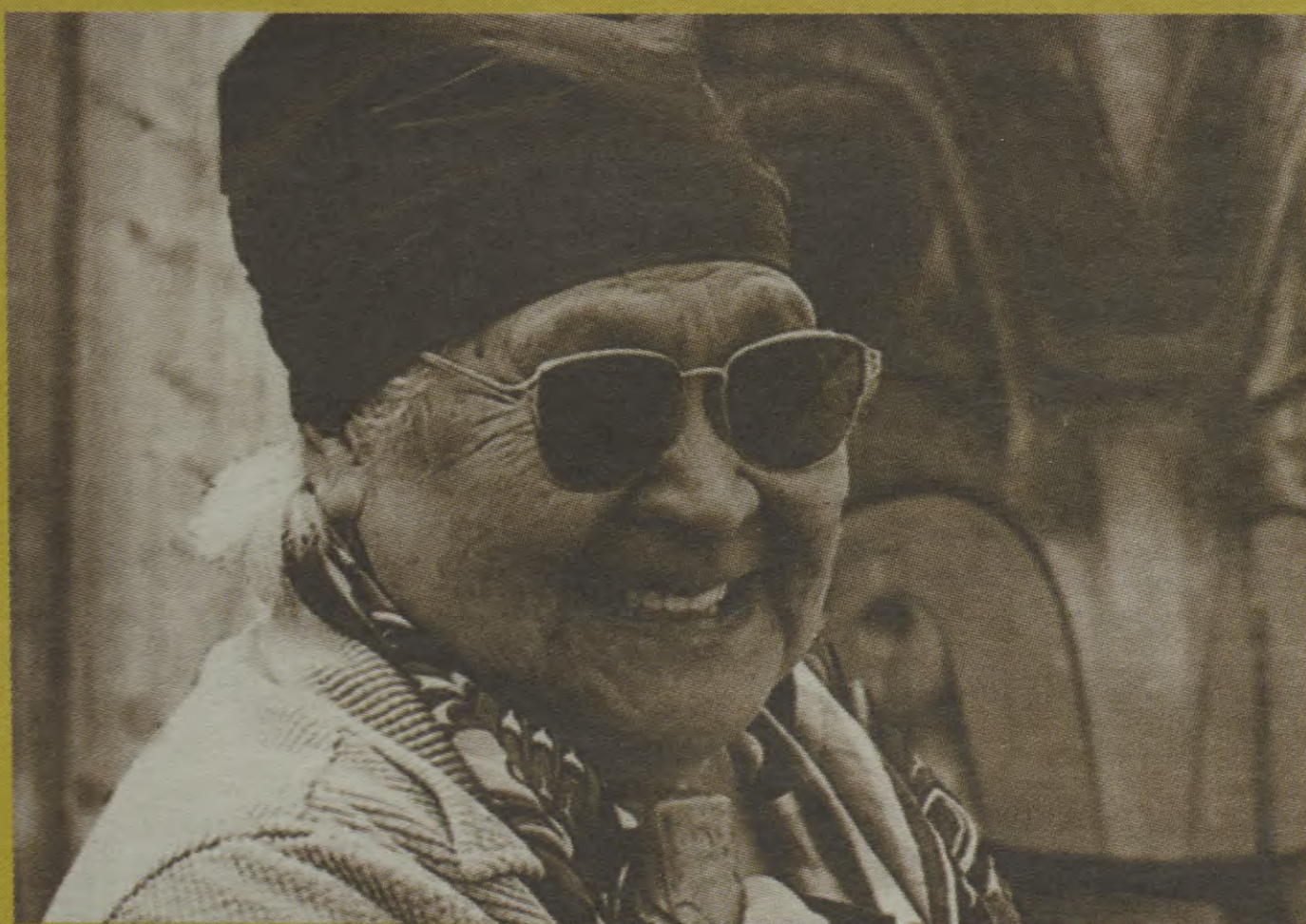
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Residential school survivors are expecting to finally hear a heartfelt apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the past abuses of residential schools and all the detriments the schools have caused in their lives and those of their children. Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl announced in May from Toronto that the apology is expected to be very meaningful and very respectful.

### Clashes between police and Mohawk protestors lead to several arrests 9

Mohawk protestors occupying a quarry in Deseronto, ON are not giving up, although in recent weeks, police have dismantled several road blockades and arrested approximately 14 individuals.

### VACFSS conference focused on future of Aboriginal youth 10

A three-day conference sponsored by the organization responsible for Aboriginal child and family services in the region sought to bring about dialogue, sharing, connecting and learning on how to best work with children and youth.

### Spirit Pole journey brings awareness to NAIG 15

"Exhilarating." That's how She'ee'lum, the chief of the Lake Cowichan First Nation, described the experience of sliding the big slick across the surface of the western red cedar, watching as a paper-thin slice of history curled at the end of the carver's tool and floated to the floor.

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No doubt you recognize the face of Chief Dan George and remember his acting coupe de grace as 'Old Lodge Skins' in one of the most entertaining and provocative movies of the 1970's 'Little Big Man'. In it, he plays the wise adoptive grandfather of Dustin Hoffman, a whiteman who switches legions between the European and Cheyenne cultures for survival. Hoffman narrates the memoir as the last living survivor of Custer's Last Stand at the famed Battle of the Little Big Horn, a 122-year-old man named Jack Crabb.

Windspeaker is published by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA) Canada's largest publisher of Aboriginal news and information.

AMMSA's other publications include:

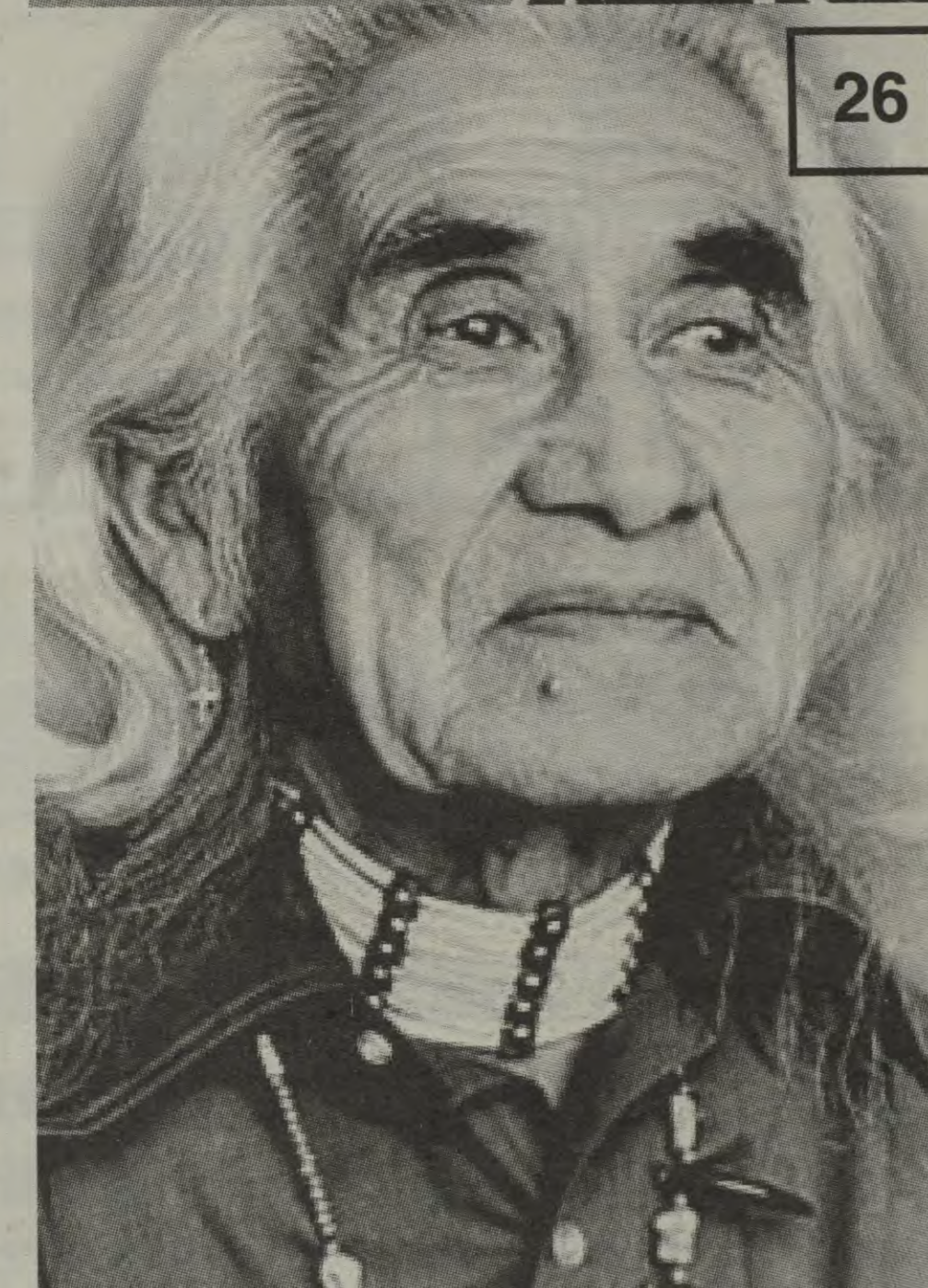
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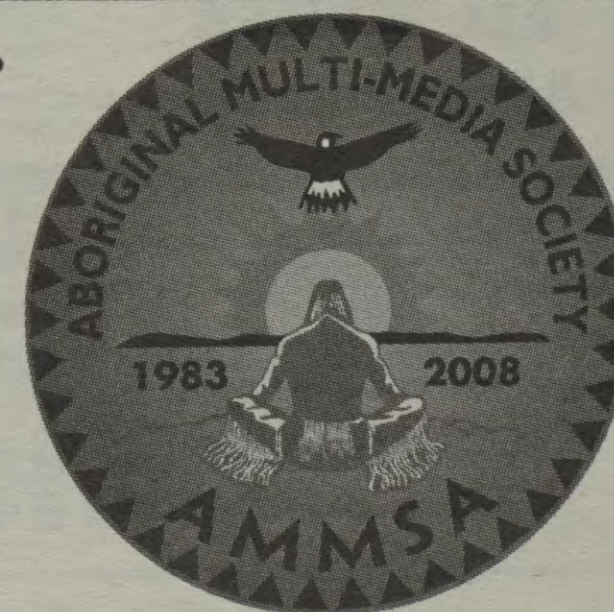
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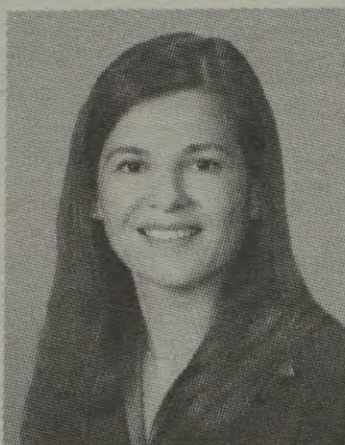


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## RBC



**Doris Bear**  
Vice President  
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Royal Bank of Canada is pleased to announce the appointment of Doris Bear to the position of Vice President Aboriginal Banking for Manitoba, Saskatchewan & NW Ontario in Commercial Financial Services. Doris will lead a team of Commercial Account Managers who are specialized in meeting commercial banking needs for our Aboriginal clients and markets.

Doris is a business professional with more than 15 years experience working with First Nation and Aboriginal communities. Prior to this appointment, she was a consultant who provided professional business advisory services to First Nations and Aboriginal clients in the area of financial and business management. Doris also enjoyed her work for the Assembly of First Nations as Executive Director of the Fiscal Relations Secretariat, the Treasury Board of Canada as an Estimates Analyst, Program Analyst and Sr. Contract Advisor. She began her business career in Winnipeg with the Toronto Dominion Bank where she worked for 8 years in a number of management positions, finishing as a Commercial Account Manager.

Doris is a member of the Peguis First Nation and holds a Masters of Business Administration degree from Queens University, a Business Administration diploma from Red River Community College and Certificates in Mediation and Negotiations from Harvard University. Doris joined RBC Royal Bank® in April 2008 and is looking forward to re-establishing relationships with First Nations and Aboriginal communities across this geography.

RBC® has a long history of partnership with First Nations and Aboriginal communities and is dedicated to supporting access to financial services, educational programs and community development through donations and sponsorship. The appointment of Doris to the role of Vice President Aboriginal Banking demonstrates a strong commitment to meeting client and community needs and opportunities. Doris and her family look forward to living in Winnipeg and enjoying all that the surrounding communities have to offer.

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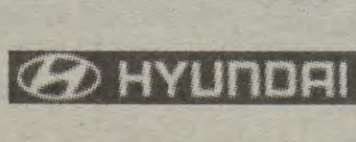
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## Windspeaker briefs

### Funding boost to help with youth employment

More youth living in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan can now gain the skills, knowledge, and experience to better equip them for the job market with a recent funding boost of \$96,017 from the Government of Canada to the local Métis Women's Association Skills Link program.

The May announcement was made by Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, Brian Fitzpatrick, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development.

"The Prince Albert Métis Women's Association is thankful for the financial contribution by the federal government," said President Darlene McKay. "We will be better equipped to support youth who want to learn new skills and gain the work experience needed to successfully transition to employment. We look forward to supporting these youth and working with local employers to make their experience in the program a success."

The organization can now help approximately 50 young people from the Prince Albert area to develop the life and job skills they need to enter the labour force and return to school. The program helps youth through work placements as well as workshops on problem solving, goal setting, conflict resolution, and the job market.

The employment program has the participation of employers, community organizations, and other levels of government, giving youth the opportunity to develop skills and contribute those skills to society. It focuses on youth who face barriers to employment such as high school drop-outs, single parents, Aboriginal youth, young people with disabilities, youth in rural areas, and recent immigrants.

The Skills Link initiative is one of three Government of Canada programs – the other two are Summer Work Experience and Career Focus – which give youth from the ages of 15 to 30 greater access to career information and a chance to develop skills, gain work experience, find satisfactory employment, and stay in the workforce.

According to a press release, this newest project reflects the Government of Canada's commitment to creating a strong economy for all Canadians.

### MNO election results announced

Final results for the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) three province-wide governing institutions are in.

MNO Chief Electoral Officer Lawrence Gladue announced the results for the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth (MNOY), and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veteran's Council (MNOVC).

The elections were held May 12 and revealed the following:

MNO executive is Sharon McBride as vice-chair. Provisional Councillors of the MNOY are: Region 1, Theresa Stenlund and Region 7, Pauline Saulnier as the incumbent.

Acclaimed were the following MNO executive candidates: Gary Lipinski, president, France Picotte, chair, and Tim Pile, secretary-treasurer.

The seven MNO provincial councillors are: Region 2, Cameron Burgess, Region 3, Marcel LaFrance, Region 4, Anne Trudel, Region 5, Maurice Sarrazin, Region 6, Jo-Anne Wass, Region 8, Charlie Fife, and Region 9, Peter Rivers.

Post-secondary representative of the PCMNO is Anita Tucker. MNOY representative is Joni Labbé, Region 4. MNOVC member is Elmer Ross, Senator.

Still vacant are the following offices: PCMNO youth representative; MNOY regional councillors for regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9; and MNOVC president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, women's representative, and youth representative.

The date and times for the election of vacant positions will be announced in the near future. For more information, see the MNO Web site at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

### MOU signed to help improve housing

A historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by government officials on May 21 to develop a comprehensive approach for improving housing for BC's First Nations communities, individuals and families both on and off reserve.

The three parties involved in the deal were the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council who all promise a joint effort to ensuring the approach is carried through effectively. Actual signatories to the MOU, however, were Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Province of BC, First Nations Summit, BC Assembly of First Nations, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

"Our Government's goal is to provide First Nations with the same housing opportunities as other Canadians," said the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status Indians.

"This MOU is the first step in establishing key partnerships and setting out the initial framework to explore innovative approaches to improve access to quality housing."

The agreement entails that a committee will be formed in the next three months to develop a plan for interlinked on and off reserve housing strategies in support of First Nations individuals and families.

The committee will have representatives from the federal, provincial, and First Nations governments who will then meet every year to discuss the progress made on improving housing.

While the Government of Canada delivers housing programs for on-reserve First Nations through Indian and Northern Affairs and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the province supports First Nation housing off-reserve.

"The Government of Canada recognizes the importance of housing in improving the lives of all individuals and families. This MOU demonstrates our commitment to develop effective housing solutions for First Nations in British Columbia," said the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

### Youth concerned with success of Aboriginal people

In today's society we as Aboriginal people are looked down upon as the cause for crime, violence, gangs and drug users. In the media when a crime is committed by an Aboriginal person the article is to be sure that the people know that an aboriginal person is the one who is the cause of the crime. If a Caucasian person has committed a crime that is worse than the crime committed by an Aboriginal it is looked at and forgotten.

There are many people who are into drugs and alcohol, especially the youth who see that as the way of life because they do not have anyone to learn from.

There are many people fighting the government to keep our rights as treaty Indians. The right for free health care, dental care, education and land rights. They fight because they believe that we as the aboriginal people are the rightful owners of Canada, but it was stolen from us.

With these issues among us, different cultures of non-Aboriginal people label us as "a problem". We feel that with this label we fight back because of racism, discrimination and bullying.

Email us at

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or write to the editor at

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### [ rants and raves ]

Many Aboriginal people can not get a good job because of their ethnic background. I see everyday aboriginal being put down.

They fight back and cause a scene because they were called a dirty Indian. They are the drug users, alcoholics, poverty stricken due to substance abuse in their lives.

The youth only know gangs, violence, drugs and alcohol as a way of life because that is what they seen while being raised. They know nothing else.

Many Aboriginal people who defend themselves are actually the drug users, alcoholics and street people. I ask myself when I see that happen, "should he/she even be saying something to their defense." I believe that they should not say something, because they are not taking care of themselves. They still have substance abuse, sexual, verbal, physical, and emotional abuse issues that have not been dealt with. They can not move forward because their past is not healed. It has to start with you. Only you can change your life and make the world better for yourself.

We envy every Indian that has done something with their life. Actors, musicians, social workers, lawyers, etc. But it is in our minds that we do not have the ability to accomplish anything except a reputation on the street.

The truth is that we do have the ability to accomplish these goals. The people who are fighting the government for our rights are succeeding, but there are only few and far in between taking advantage of these opportunities.

Education is FREE for us. Other people who are not treaty have to pay thousands of dollars to become successful. They do not waste their money that they put into their schooling. We have these opportunities and there are people who want to help us.

We can achieve success if we put our minds to it.

We can not let the past predict our future. Our past does affect who we are today as a person, but it does not mean that we have to continue living that way. We are the ones who have to stop these continuing cycles of sexual, physical and substance abuse.

I do encourage you to take these steps to better your life. There is help, but always help yourself. Only you have the power to control your life, do the right thing and make yourself better for you and your family. So once we accomplish these goals in life we can defend ourselves from racist comments and do it with truth. We are not dirty Indians.

— Jeffrey Wahobin, 18  
Saskatchewan

### Shocking issues in northern schools

This is the 21st century and hard to believe that atrocities hapening in our Northern schools. I thought we were past the residential school era only to find that the schools are nothing more than modern day residential schools. Shocking incidents such as the school in an isolated Northern Alberta community that opened the school for 23 school days out of a year.

There is talk in another school about how teachers have students on-line all day playing games on the computers. Other moccasin telegraph stories in our Northern communities include teachers leaving students unattended during classtime or at recess to run home to their teacherages and attend to their personal matters.

I had a confrontation with a teacher in another community who said, "why should I bust my ass teaching these kids when they are never going to leave the community anyway." How many other teachers have this mind-set? And yet these very teachers have the nerve to blam our kids saying they have learning problems.

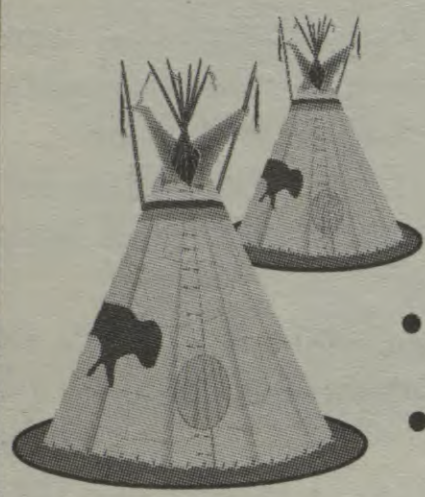
These non-Native teachers are relying on the ignorance and passivity of Native parents to stay quiet. Not that I blame Aboriginal parents considering our horrific history with the school system however every effort should be made by the school districts that have a high Aboriginal enrollment to hire Aboriginal teachers and administrators. One Aboriginal teacher claims to have been harassed, tormented, and run off the non-Native staff when she tried to bring similar issues to administration in one of the Northland schools in the northeast area.

Aboriginal educators have a direct investment in Aboriginal students. One Aboriginal teacher claims she applied to Northland School Division four times and has had four rejection letters. So who is rejecting Aboriginal teachers is it the Principal, Central office staff who screen out Aboriginal teacher applications or local school boards?

—Jonas Cat,  
Red Earth Creek



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For the **Counsellor, Youth/Family** position, address resumés to the attention of the Youth and Family Coordinator - email: ssinger@nass.ca

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We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those who are to be interviewed will be contacted.

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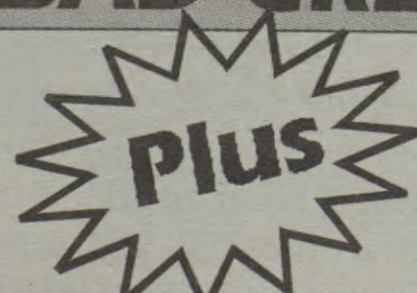


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# Stephen Harper will issue long-awaited apology to survivors

Residential school survivors are expecting to finally hear a heartfelt apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the past abuses of residential schools and all the detriments the schools have caused in their lives and those of their children.

Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl announced in May from Toronto that the apology is expected to be very meaningful and very respectful.

Also offering his comment on the matter was Ted Quewezance, executive director of the National Residential School Survivors' Society, who first attended the Gordon Residential School in Saskatchewan when he was five-years old.

"It's our responsibility as survivors to listen to the apology. Some survivors will accept it, some, will wait and see. Others will see what will happen," Quewezance said to the Canadian Press.

"It's going to be a very emotional time when he does stand up for all Canadians and finally take responsibility and say they're sorry for what they did," he expressed.

There are approximately 90,000 former students of residential schools still surviving. Many have continually stressed the importance of hearing the prime minister say he's sorry in Parliament.

The federal government admitted 10 years ago that rampant physical and sexual abuse in residential schools did in fact, occur, but have yet to issue an apology to residential school survivors and their descendants.

An online poll conducted by Angus Reid Strategies on April 30 and May 1 asked 1,001 Canadian adults whether the Canadian government should follow Australia's lead and apologize to the country's Aboriginal people.

Results indicated that in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, B.C. and Atlantic Canada, more than three-in-five respondents are in favour of Ottawa apologizing to Aboriginal people for past unjust treatment, while the number is much lower in Quebec and Alberta.

Overall, at 53 per cent, more than half of Canadians participating in the survey agreed, while 28 per cent disagreed.

Other than the apology, the government will also provide funds to form a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The \$60 million forum will hear from former students and is part of a massive compensation package that's expected to reach \$4 billion in settlements and healing programs.

The TRC is part of the negotiated Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and begins a five-year mandate to gather the experiences of those affected by the residential school legacy as a way to promote understanding and reconciliation.

The truth commission – set to begin its work on June 1 – will examine the different types of abuses many Aboriginal children faced in residential schools, with senior Aboriginal judge, Harry LaForme, as Head Commissioner. He has the help of two women – lawyer Jane Brewin Morley and Native health expert Claudette Dumont-Smith.

Morley is a lawyer, facilitator, mediator, arbitrator, and public policy advisor who has served in many professional and public positions and was appointed as Queen's Council in 1993. She holds a Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Law from Queen's University at Kingston.

Dumont-Smith has 34 years of experience in Aboriginal health as a registered nurse, a moderator at nation-wide health conferences, and collaborating on various papers, manuals, and articles on Aboriginal health care. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Queen's University in Kingston and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Quebec.

As the Commission team, they will produce an official history of the residential schools with a report, recommendations and a lasting memorial, modeled in part on the truth-and-reconciliation process that helped South Africans heal the wounds of apartheid.

# Feds enforce new tobacco strategy which targets Aboriginal communities

By Christine Fiddler  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

The federal government will enforce a new strategy to deal with contraband tobacco – the 2008 RCMP Contraband Tobacco Enforcement Strategy – with a focus on what government officials claim to be tobacco illegally manufactured and sold on First Nations land.

"There are three components to this strategy," said Stockwell Day, Minister of Public Safety, at a press conference in Ottawa. "Number 1, the dismantling of the manufacturing – the illegal manufacturing – that is going with these particular cigarettes, the disruption of the supply lines themselves and of course, the arrest and the seizure of the products (and) proceeds from the crime."

The strategy also includes assigning more RCMP officers to handle anti-contraband units, a public awareness campaign to plea with Canadians to stop buying illegal cigarettes, and ads warning smokers their money is being used to fund organized crime groups.

A report released with the strategy suggests First Nations in Ontario and Quebec near the US border handle the greatest amount of contraband tobacco – mainly because much of the tobacco is manufactured in the US.

The report points to three First Nations as having the largest number of smoke shacks in Canada: Kahnawake has 125, Six Nations has 100, and Tyendinaga has 40. These smoke shacks clearly provide a deal to their customers, they sell 200 cigarettes in clear, resealable bags for as little as \$6 in place of the \$75-\$90 for legal cartons.

"In the U.S., (there) may be some facilities which in fact have a license to manufacture," Day said. "It doesn't necessarily mean that they have a license to move that product across the line in a way that is legal. Any type, any activity that is illegal will be targeted."

Also at the press conference was RCMP assistant commissioner, Raf Stouccer, who claimed the trade is a threat to the public safety of Canada because proceeds are often used to support criminal organizations.

"I would like to make it clear that the operational priority of the strategy is not to target communities but rather to target organized crime," Stouccer stated. "Focusing on crime groups involved in the trade will provide us with the greatest chance of disrupting all levels of illicit operations, including manufacturing, smuggling, distribution and sales."

However, in the opinion of

*"I think that the enforcement factor is a bit much and ridiculous, considering that the problems we faced with RCMP and SQ (Surete du Quebec) from Kahnawake's perspective in the past is not good."*

*—Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, Mike Delisle Jr.*

Tynedinaga Chief R. Donald Maracle, the government's goal is really to cut off the supply of Native cigarettes to the retail outlets that are operating on First Nations communities.

"It's primarily tax lost to the government, and the convenience stores are saying it's unfair trading practices, the corporations that manufacture tobacco," he said. "Their view is that their sales are slumping as a result of the availability of the cheaper Native cigarettes. There's a number of parties who are losing revenue, losing the taxes, some of the other cigarette manufacturers are having declining sales."

According to the Winnipeg Free Press, illegal cigarettes cost the government approximately \$1.6 billion in lost taxes each year. These take the form of contraband tobacco, smuggled foreign cigarettes on which taxes have not been paid, and cigarettes sold tax-free on reserves that are in turn, sold cheaply to non-Aboriginal people, who sometimes sell the cigarettes themselves.

In Saskatchewan, the province's Finance Ministry figures indicate First Nations stores have gone from less than 30 to more than 100 in the past decade and that rebates have jumped from \$3 million in 2000 to around \$50 million last year. As a result, the province's Canadian Cancer Society points to this as a health concern and demands tougher quotas and closer monitoring on how many cigarettes can be bought by First Nations people at these stores.

As for the contraband cigarettes in the Ontario region, Chief Maracle said he realizes the concerns of health organizations that contraband tobacco does nothing to help their efforts of alleviating smoking and its effects.

"People in the health profession are saying that having the abundance of cheap cigarettes is not helping them realize their goal to lessen cigarette disease and deaths," he said. "But on the other hand, a lot of First Nations people see that there is an economic benefit. In the community, people have

successful stores and they employ other people, those people are no longer on welfare, they're now being self-supporting," Maracle said. "First Nation economic development in the reserves, our people need to have employment to get out of poverty, there's no future for anyone on a welfare cheque, it just perpetuates the subsistence and existence in poverty."

He said a better solution could be found with government and Aboriginal community leaders working together to come up with an adequate strategy, one that respects the issues of First Nations jurisdiction and their rights.

"I'm very much opposed to guns, or drug-running or any kind of trafficking of drugs, I'm very adamantly opposed to it," Maracle said. "But I think there needs to be some accommodation for Native people in the tobacco industry so that those who want to work in the industry can have the opportunity to create some economic activity because it isn't illegal to make cigarettes. It's only illegal to make them without paying the excise tax."

He also commented on the health concern of contraband cigarettes being sold to underage smokers both on and off reserve. "We don't support any stores selling to youth. That's not good and should not be occurring," he said. "There was a concern about that here some time ago and we did canvass the businesses and there were a few who were perhaps doing that, most of them were not."

Grand Chief of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawake, Mike Delisle Jr. sees the enforcement measures of the strategy as inappropriate to the First Nations it proposes to target.

"I think that the enforcement factor is a bit much and ridiculous, considering that the problems we faced with RCMP and SQ (Surete du Quebec) from Kahnawake's perspective in the past is not good," he said.

"Other than excise and taxation issues I don't think that this type of strategy will work, I think the answers are here within the First Nation communities," he said.

(See First on page 9.)



# Clashes between police and Mohawk protestors lead to several arrests

By Christine Fiddler  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## DESERONTO

Mohawk protestors occupying a quarry in Deseronto, ON are not giving up, although in recent weeks, police have dismantled several road blockades and arrested approximately 14 individuals.

"There were a number of community members who were charged with offences concerning the road blockade, but those matters are before the court so I can't comment on those charges," said Tyendinaga Chief R. Donald Maracle, who adds the Grand Council did not support the road blockade. "The road block was only up for a couple of days. So it's not any longer happening. It's over. Not all the people charged were members, some were not band members," he said.

Protestors remain at the quarry where they have set up camp for the past year.

According to a media statement released by the Napanee Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), "the Crime Unit laid numerous charges against several people in relation to events that happened in and around Deseronto between April 21 to 26."

During the road blocks, nine people were arrested on May 13 for charges ranging from mischief, failure to comply, obstructing lawful use, and wearing disguise with intent.

Three protestors were accused of assaulting officers on April 25 and those who appeared in court face various charges, including assaulting police, assault with a weapon and mischief.

Shawn Brant – who is said to have led the protest – faces charges of assault with a weapon, mischief

under \$5,000, breach of recognizance and possession of marijuana. He was arrested while doing an interview with APTN on April 25.

Although attempts to contact Tyendinaga protestors were unsuccessful, the group – who call themselves 'Rotiskenekete' – gave their version of recent events in an information update released on April 27. Protestors say their current unrest is due to the plans of Real Estate agents, Emile and Theodore Nibourg, to build condos on Mohawk land.

"An email came from the real estate agents, Emile and Theodore Nibourg, they wanted to make it look like they were building condos. They knew the Mohawks would object. They even told some of us they were hoping to get a pay out guaranteeing their profits from Canadian taxpayers when the deal fell through," the Rotiskenekete statement said.

Developer Emile Nibourg maintains that his father holds title to the land, and on April 21, he sent workers to the site to clear brush, but they left when "40 to 50 Native warriors arrived". Nibourg wrote to politicians to complain and promised his crew would return to the site.

In late April, police dismantled the road blockade erected by protestors on a back road north of Deseronto. Road crews had to fill and repair a large trench dug in the road and use backhoes to remove logs and tires. After the OPP dismantled the largest blockade, at least two smaller roadblocks remained on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

After the arrests of several

protestors – including Brant – supporters in Caledonia in southwestern Ontario blockaded a highway bypass by welding a hydro tower across the roadway and laying nails to prevent vehicles from passing. The blockade was called off when members of the Six Nations of the Grand River Men's Council decided "the threat of armed police against the Tyendinaga people had been removed."

The property being contested located in the Culbertson Tract, about 400 hectares of land on the Bay of Quinte that protestors said was never properly surrendered. It is part of an area currently under negotiation between the federal government and the Tyendinaga First Nation.

Events leading up to the current situation began last June on the National Day of Protest, when Mohawks forced the closure of several highways in eastern and western Quebec including Highway 401, connecting Montreal and Toronto, railway lines and a major Montreal bridge.

The Whitehorse Star reported last year, during a visit by Ontario's Conservative leader John Tory to Caledonia, he announced a commitment to increase fines to a maximum of \$2,000 for individuals and \$25,000 for organizations each day land is illegally occupied in protests.

Anyone directing, participating in or financially supporting an illegal land occupation in Ontario would face harsher penalties, he said, adding the proposed changes "would clarify the law for police and also ease the process of claiming compensation for those who suffer some kind of economic loss."

## Kahnawake grand chief won't stand by and allow enforcement agencies to dismantle tobacco industries

(Continued from page 8.)

He adds that RCMP raids on the contraband tobacco industry would probably be met with resistance.

"It is ridiculous for them to think we'll sit idly by and allow any enforcement agencies externally to come into the community and run roughshod to try and disassemble as they say, manufacturing and tobacco industries. It's possible that there are some of those elements, but I don't believe it's fair for RCMP or anyone else to paint all the First Nations communities with the same brush as illicit and

illegal."

When asked if the grand council supports the tobacco industry in First Nation communities, Delisle affirms that they do.

"It's been here for several years. And I mean, the tobacco industry itself – not only manufacturing – which is more of late. For twenty-five years or so it has been an accepted practice. Here in Kahnawake, it's led to a large piece of the economy internally and it has been supported by the Grand Council of Kahnawake."

He said he is trying to meet with the other leaders in the region such as Chief Maracle and Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Grand Chief Tim Thompson to approach the government and discuss what they believe are some of the solutions.

"We'd like to talk to both sides of the border since we're the four First Nations territories that are targeted within this as kind of the hot bed. To look at a coordinator approach, see if our plans are in line with each other, and take a step forward in solidarity to what our action plan would be."

## Windspeaker news briefs

### Whitefish Lake could sue Ontario for \$550-billion

In what band lawyer Aaron Detlor thinks is the largest Canadian claim ever, the Whitefish Lake First Nation is suing Ottawa and Ontario for \$550-billion.

Claiming the dozens of mines extracting resources from Sudbury land are in Aboriginal territory, the band's figure is based on years of mining revenue, as well as money from forestry.

The massive price tag is a conservative estimate, said Detlor, pointing out recent comments in a local newspaper from an area mining executive describing the "trillion dollar Sudbury basin" as the richest mining district in North America.

He said his client argues surveyors erred in 1885, drawing up the reserve's boundaries in a much more limited way that what was agreed to orally and in writing in the Robinson Huron Treaty 35 years prior.

The Whitefish Lake First Nation, also called Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, is willing to drop the suit if it can negotiate a financial arrangement with area companies and governments.

After years of slow times, Sudbury is responding to global demand for metals, and the band is only making its claim now because of new historical information that has come to light. With a population of just 335 members, according to the 2001 census, the amount translates into \$1.64 billion per person, though the community says it has 800 members, which would work out to \$687.5 million each.

### Drug abuse programs get big federal boost

Canada invested in Aboriginal well-being to the tune of \$30.5 million over five years aimed at bolstering services for First Nations people and Inuit who suffer from drug addictions.

It's estimated the money will provide treatment for an additional 3,000 people a year, while also enhancing addiction treatment services through the country's National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program and Youth Solvent Abuse Program.

But Nova Scotia's Millbrook First Nation Chief Lawrence Paul said the money will be spread to thin amongst Canada's 600 reserves. "By the time the money trickles down through administration costs it doesn't look as good as it does on paper," he said. He's particularly concerned about youth and drug abuse, pointing out young people aged 14 to 25 want to experiment and can be drawn down the wrong path. No amount of treatment or threats are going to help youth unless they make up their own minds to be helped, he added.

You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink, he said.

### Starblanket Nation approves land deal

The Starblanket Cree Nation in Saskatchewan will transform 32.5 acres of the First Nations University of Canada (FNU) campus into reserve status, after its chief won the support of band members to go ahead with a proposal to acquire the land, states a recent media release.

"We're pleased our band membership recognizes the value and importance of this proposal – their support represents a unified vision by our membership to providing a permanent on-reserve home for the First Nations University of Canada with the foresight that it will benefit First Nations people," said Chief Irvin Starblanket in a press release.

The fact that the decision will give the location – 1 First Nations Way – reserve status, is a huge milestone for both the First Nation and the university.

"This referendum represents one of the last major steps for our University to becoming Canada's first post-secondary institution situated on reserve land," said FNU's Vice President of Finance and Administration, Al Ducharme.

The property is part of Wascana Centre Authority and is currently owned by FNU, although it shares infrastructure with the University of Regina. The signing of the servicing agreement was formalized in December by Starblanket leadership, the City of Regina, and the Regina Police Service. However, once the formal agreements are officially signed, the proposal will be sent to Ottawa to receive designation under Indian Affairs and Northern Development.



# VACFSS conference focused on future of Aboriginal youth

BY JOE COUTURE  
Windspeaker Writer

## VANCOUVER

A three-day conference sponsored by the organization responsible for Aboriginal child and family services in the region sought to bring about dialogue, sharing, connecting and learning on how to best work with children and youth.

The Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) conference, entitled "Honouring Our Children and Youth" opened May 14 with song, prayer and ceremonies following the protocols of the people of the land, attended by dozens of First Nations and non-First Nations delegates.

VACFSS President Kathy Louis noted the conference was the second sponsored by the organization, the first having occurred two years previous. She added the event offers opportunities to create and nurture a community of like-minded care-givers, professionals and service providers.

"I believe we all recognize that there is no more important work that can be done than working with children and youth," she said. "They are our future and they are our hope. VACFSS knows this conference is not a solution to our problems, but we hope it is a part of it, as it is through dialogue, connections and relationship-building that we can not only heal but we can thrive."

Half of all children in-care are First Nations, and the number is rising. Cultural beliefs, values and traditional teachings need to be foundational in the delivery of programs and services to children, youth and families, and the community can move forward through sharing knowledge and experience to facilitate collective improvement, Louis said.

"By bringing the service providers together and people in the community that have a passion and interest in child welfare and Aboriginal child welfare, it's about building those networks, sharing innovations and best practices that are happening out there," added Beverly Dicks, regional executive director for the Vancouver coastal region with the Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD).

Kathy Bedard Sparrow, president of the Vancouver Coastal Aboriginal Planning Committee (VCAPC), added that a forum like the conference, which brings key players together in one room, is very important considering that historically those various players — government bodies and Aboriginal

organizations — haven't worked together as they are today.

"We all are here for the same reason, and so it only makes sense that we would work together in one direction for our children," she said. "We are taking back control. And it's about healing. It's about the future of our children, our families, our communities. And it's about hope."

The fact that numerous high-ranking government delegates made appearances at the conference is a historical one, according to Bedard Sparrow.

"We've never had that kind of support, ever, and it makes all the difference to us being able to work together, finally," she said.

Louis said she hopes the conference will allow for continued collaboration and networking and that it will provide an opportunity to share the things VACFSS — which recently was delegated child protection responsibilities for urban Aboriginal children and families (see page 11) — has been able to accomplish, especially in terms of incorporating traditional teachings and culture into service delivery.

"The mainstream system, MCFD, has an awful lot of resources that they're not utilizing as they could from the Aboriginal people, from the Aboriginal organizations," Louis said. "This is something that we would like to think we're trailblazing on, and we need to work much closer together and build trusting, respectful partnerships with government people."

The conference featured dozens of sessions on a variety of topics related to child and family services, including incorporating traditional Indigenous approaches and cultural identities; youth engagement and empowerment; the role of men in communities; language; artwork; and, psychology.

The keynote speaker was Calvin Helin, a member of the Tsimshian nation, a successful lawyer and business person and the author of "Dances with Dependency: Indigenous success through self-reliance."

Helin's speech delivered the same message his book presents, that is that Indigenous self-reliance is a way forward based on economic integration into the modern economy, and that Aboriginal people need to go to work to support themselves rather than be caught up in the "welfare trap."

Helin said Aboriginal people have been "socialized into a dependency mindset. Under this current welfare trap system we are killing our kids and I believe our women," he said.

(See Aboriginal on page 12.)



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

## REVISED PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) announces a new date for the Hearing on the application by Zircatec Precision Industries Inc.'s (Zircatec) application to produce two new types of nuclear fuel at its Fuel Fabrication Facility located in Port Hope. The public hearing, webcast live via the CNSC Web site, will be held in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario on **June 12, 2008 instead of June 11, 2008, as originally announced.**

The public is invited to comment on Zircatec's application by providing a written submission; there is no opportunity to make an oral presentation at the hearing. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by May 28, 2008 at the address below and include a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission; and name, address and telephone number of the requester.

Hearing documents (submissions) are not available on-line and must be requested through the Secretariat at the address below. For more information on the public hearing process or the complete text of the official Notice of Public Hearing, see [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2008-H-10, revision 1 or contact:

L. Levert, Secretariat  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Tel.: 613-996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284  
Fax: 613-995-5086  
E-mail: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)



Canadian Environmental  
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'évaluation environnementale

## Public Participation in the Environmental Assessment of the Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project

### Public Comment Period on a Joint Panel Agreement

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) invites public comments on a draft Agreement to establish a joint review panel (the Panel) with the Alberta Utilities Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Board. The Panel would conduct the environmental assessment of Glacier Power Ltd's proposed Dunvegan Hydroelectric Project, on the Peace River near Dunvegan, Alberta.

The Agreement includes procedures for appointing the Panel members, the proposed terms of reference (i.e. responsibilities), and process for conducting the review. Comments must be received in writing, in the official language of your choice, **no later than June 9, 2008.**

### \$100,000 in Participant Funding Available

\$100,000 in participant funding is available to assist individuals and groups to participate in the public hearings phase of the environmental assessment process.

An independent funding review committee will consider all applications and recommend allocation of funds to applicants according to the eligibility criteria. Applications filled in accordance with the Participant Funding Program Guide must be received **no later than June 9, 2008.**

### The project

Glacier Power Ltd. is proposing to construct and operate a 100 megawatt (MW) run-of-river hydroelectric project on the Peace River. The powerhouse will consist of 40 turbine units constructed side by side extending from the north bank of the main channel for a total powerhouse length of 288 meters. The power would be transmitted along a new 144 kilovolts (kV) transmission line for approximately 4.3 kilometers to the southeast of the Project to interconnect at an existing 144 kV line.

For more information on this project (visit the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry, reference number 04-01-2996), on the Participant Funding Program or for a copy of the draft Agreement, please visit the Agency's Web site at: [www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca).

To register as an interested party and be kept informed of activities relating to the joint panel review process, provide a full mailing address, an e-mail address or a fax number, or to submit comments on the Agreement and/or a funding application please contact:

Dunvegan Panel Secretariat  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Place Bell Canada, 160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3  
[Dunvegan.Review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:Dunvegan.Review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca)  
1-866-582-1884

[www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca](http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca)

Canada



The next issue of Business Quarterly  
will be distributed in the July issue of Windspeaker.  
**Don't miss it!**



**NOTICE FOR OBJECTION****APPLICATION NO. 1520897****FORT HILLS ENERGY CORPORATION****FORT HILLS OIL SANDS PROJECT – AMENDMENT TO APPROVALS**

Application No. 1520897 was submitted to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) prior to January 1, 2008. Effective January 1, 2008, the EUB was replaced by the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) and the Alberta Utilities Commission. In accordance with the transition provisions of the Alberta Utilities Commission Act, Application No. 1520897 will be processed by the ERCB.

TAKE NOTICE that Petro Canada Oilsands Inc. (PCOSI), on behalf of Fort Hills Energy Corporation (FHEC), (collectively referred to as Petro Canada) has made application to the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB/Board) and Alberta Environment (AENV) for amendments to existing approvals for the Fort Hills Oil Sands Project (FHOSP).

**Nature of the Application**

The proposed amendments include a consolidation of the overburden and tailings facilities and an amendment of the project approval boundary.

The extended project area is located on Oil Sands Leases 7598060T05 (Lease 5), 7400120008 (Lease 8), and 7281020T52 (Lease 52). These leases are located in Townships 96, 97, and 98, Ranges 9, 10, and 11, West of the 4th Meridian, approximately 90 kilometres (km) north of Fort McMurray and 20 km north of Fort McKay.

Construction of the FHOSP began in 2006 under existing approvals. Bitumen production has been rescheduled to begin in 2011 at a full capacity of 30 000 cubic metres (190 000 barrels) per calendar day.

This notice is intended to provide interested parties an opportunity to express concerns and to submit formal objections to the application. A Notice of application was issued on August 20, 2007, with statements of concern to be submitted to AENV by October 29, 2007.

Please note that if no objections to the application are received by **Wednesday, June 11, 2008**, the ERCB may continue to process the application without further notice.

**Additional Information**

To obtain a copy of the application (CD version also available), contact  
Sheila Chernys, Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Manager, Petro Canada Oilsands Inc.,  
P.O. Box 2844, Calgary, Alberta T2P 3E3; Telephone: 403-296-3193, Fax: 403-296-4767,  
E-mail: schernys@petro-canada.ca

For information regarding ERCB procedures, contact  
Amanda Black, Fort Hills Application Coordinator, ERCB Fort McMurray Branch;  
Telephone: 780-743-7473, Fax: 780-743-7141, E-mail: amanda.black@ercb.ca

Copies of the application are available for viewing at the following locations:  
Energy Resources Conservation Board, Fort McMurray Branch, 2nd Floor, Provincial Building,  
9915 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4

Alberta Environment, Northern Region, #111 Twin Atria Building, 4999 – 98 Avenue, Edmonton,  
Alberta T6B 2X3

Energy Resources Conservation Board, Information Services, Calgary Office, Main Floor,  
640 – 5 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4

**To File an Objection**

If you are objecting to the application and are requesting standing to have the ERCB consider your concerns, this notice applies to you and you must provide a response. Should you choose to make a submission, you must do so in writing no later than **Wednesday, June 11, 2008**. Your submissions must include written reasons for your objection(s) to the application.

If you fail to respond to this notice by **Wednesday, June 11, 2008**, the ERCB will continue to review and process the application. If you are not seeking standing to participate in the Board's decision-making process in connection with the application, you do not need to respond to this notice.

Please send one copy of your submission(s) to Petro Canada at the name and address above and another copy to  
Amanda Black, Fort Hills Application Coordinator, ERCB Fort McMurray Branch, 2nd Floor, 9915  
Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4; E-mail: amanda.black@ercb.ca

If you have an interest in this matter, you are required to make a submission with respect to the application even if you have previously filed a submission with the Board or the Applicant in respect of the application.

Submissions relating exclusively to compensation for land usage are not dealt with by the ERCB. However, they may be referred to the Alberta Surface Rights Board.

Under Section 13 of the *Energy Resources Conservation Board Rules of Practice*, all documents filed in respect of the application must be placed on the public record. However, any party may make an application to the Board to request confidentiality under Section 13(2) and serve a copy of such request on the other parties involved in the proceeding. The Board may grant a request for confidentiality on any terms it considers appropriate, subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Issued at Calgary, Alberta, on May 14, 2008.

Patricia M. Johnston, Q.C., General Counsel

# VACFSS now responsible for Aboriginal child protection

By Joe Couture  
Windspeaker Writer

**VANCOUVER**

Early this spring, Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society (VACFSS) became the first full-service urban Aboriginal child and family service agency in British Columbia and is believed to be the largest in Canada.

On April 1, the Aboriginal child protection function for Vancouver and Richmond was "transferred to VACFSS for the purpose of augmenting cultural support in child welfare service provision to urban Aboriginal children and families," according to an official statement.

Previously the responsibility for Aboriginal child protection belonged to the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), while VACFSS provided a number of other services.

Now, VACFSS will be responsible for reviewing, assessing and investigating reports of child abuse, neglect and the exploitation of children; providing service to the parents or others who are responsible for the care of such children; and, providing services that will help strengthen Aboriginal children and families.

VACFSS president Kathy Louis said the change is an exciting new venture.

"I believe that we can move forward when we can be believed by the mainstream system," she said. "But I also believe that we need to continue to build upon the strengths that we have within the organization in helping children who've been taken into care. And hopefully we can lessen the number of children and youth that come into care and that we can assist families who are struggling."

Beverly Dicks is the regional executive director for the Vancouver coastal region with



JOE COUTURE

This traditional dancer group opened up the three-day VACFSS conference in Vancouver on May 14.

MCFD. She explained that VACFSS is the largest urban Aboriginal agency to receive full child-protection delegation, provincially funded. Manitoba has some delegated agencies, she said, but a lot of the agencies that receive such delegation receive funding that comes from the federal government.

"A lot of our delegated agencies in the province are part of land-based reserves," Dicks explained. "But VACFSS is representing about 80 different nations in urban Vancouver from all over Canada."

VACFSS is responsible for more than 500 children in-care, having received partial delegation for years to provide care and control for children in-care.

"What we've moved to with this new delegation agreement is they will now take on responsibility for the full arena of child protective services across Vancouver and Richmond," Dicks said, noting the responsibilities and agenda are "huge".

Motivation for the change came from the Aboriginal community.

"There's a need to have an Aboriginal child welfare approach for Aboriginal children and families and that those services are provided by Aboriginal people,"

Dicks said. "Traditionally they've been provided by government. VACFSS will bring the traditions and the culture of their families and their communities to their practice, and government was really never able to do that. There are not a lot of Aboriginal people in government, and it's very hard for government to practice in a way that truly honours the culture and the traditions of Aboriginal people."

Dicks notes there has been "a lot of history around mistrust with our ministry." She believes that under the new arrangement, Aboriginal children, youth and families will now be able to reach out for help and will seek out the much needed services of VACFSS.

"Traditionally the system has not worked for Aboriginal people," added Kathy Bedard Sparrow, president of the Vancouver Coastal Aboriginal Planning Committee.

"And change has to happen now and that's what this is all about. There is a lot of change that is happening now because the government is acknowledging that they have not done a good job and it's up to us. We've been saying for years, we are the ones who are responsible for our children and we want to take on that responsibility."

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# Gov't needs to step it up and improve Aboriginal housing

By Joe Couture  
Windspeaker Writer

## SASKATCHEWAN

Housing for Aboriginal people in Canadian cities is in need of much improvement, and governments need to do more to address the crisis, according to a new study.

Ryan Walker, an assistant professor of planning and geography at the University of Saskatchewan, outlines the problem in his report, "Social Housing and the Role of Aboriginal Organizations in Canadian Cities," released in May as part of the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) Aboriginal Quality of Life series.

Walker began assembling the research for this report last summer, but his interest in the area has been ongoing for nearly a decade. He's done comparative work with Indigenous housing in New Zealand and Australia, and has been interested in urban planning with Aboriginal communities.

For this study, Walker looked at the quality of Aboriginal housing in various cities across the country, including Winnipeg, Vancouver and urban areas in Quebec and Saskatchewan.

Walker said that the conclusion

of the major statistical findings wasn't surprising, but the extent of it was. For example, in Regina and Prince Albert, the 14 per cent of all Aboriginal households lived in places in need of major repair (defective plumbing or electrical systems, structural problems, etc.), compared to seven per cent of households in the non-Aboriginal population. In Vancouver, the same numbers were 15 per cent to six per cent, and in Edmonton 14 per cent versus five per cent.

In regard to affordability, 50 per cent of Aboriginal households in Saskatoon paid greater than 30 per cent of their income toward housing compared to 38 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population.

Walker noted these figures were from 2001, and since then Saskatchewan has witnessed a housing boom and affordability crisis likely to exacerbate the situation.

The per cent of the Aboriginal population in overcrowded living spaces was nine per cent in Saskatoon and Regina and 11 per cent in Prince Albert, compared to one per cent of the non-Aboriginal population living in overcrowded homes in those same cities. Numbers were similar in most cities he looked at.

"It certainly wasn't surprising to

me that housing hardship, if you want to call it that, is felt often most acutely among Aboriginal people living in cities," he said. "Many are also doing quite well of course. But when we talk about social housing and those least able to cope with housing markets that tend to be accelerating and introducing new affordability challenges, no matter how you carve up the data, if you ever add a dimension to your analysis that looks at whether or not people have Aboriginal ancestry or not, what you'll consistently find is that in that hard-pressed area of the market you find a disproportionate number of Aboriginal households."

Walker also looked in detail at four Aboriginal housing organizations and the solutions they have developed to address the housing crisis.

His work shows that, generally, the need is greater when the demographic of Aboriginal ancestry is added to the equation — his logical conclusion is that the greater the need, the greater

the resources that should be allocated to addressing it.

He is convinced that such Aboriginal housing organizations as those he studied in various cities for his study have the decades of experience and know-how to manage housing for their people correctly. The housing provided by these organizations is also connected to positive outcomes in other sectors, Walker found.

"An investment in good, stable, culturally appropriate Aboriginal housing is also an investment in other sectors like health, employment, community stability, education and so forth," he said, noting that Aboriginal housing organizations know that and know how to provide that housing effectively, designing, building, acquiring and managing development in a culturally appropriate way along with a range of other services.

All that's missing is more money, which would ideally be guaranteed to come regularly (to facilitate sustainability) and

allocated in clearly articulated, goal-oriented ways. Ideally, annual targets for the number of units built (historically, one program in the 1980s committed 1,000 units to be built annually in urban areas across the country), renovated or otherwise made available would be set by upper levels of government and funded through government partnerships and administered by partnerships with the Aboriginal housing organizations.

"What seems to be lacking is a sustained financial commitment from the federal government, but the federal government often partners with provincial governments when it invests in housing, so you could say both levels of government," Walker said. "There's just a lack of any real concerted effort here to provide the things that these corporations can't provide for themselves, which is a redistribution through the income tax system to pay for social services."

(See More on page 23.)

## Aboriginal and gov't officials need to work closely together for care of children

(Continued from page 10.)

"We've got to take a different approach to how we're dealing with these issues and our problems. The first thing we've got to do as Aboriginal people is wake up and see what's going on. We all know in the back of our minds things aren't going well. When you start looking at those statistics — and they're horrendous — these poor kids are just innocent actors on a stage that's been set for them already and its incumbent upon us that are in positions of authority, or if you're just a well-educated Aboriginal person, or you're doing well, it's incumbent upon us to try to do something about it.

"We're filling up the foster homes of the nation because under this system we can't look after our own kids," he continued. "And what we've got to do is recognize how we got into this system and start shifting the responsibility back where it used to be and drop this fallacy that the government's going to take care of us and our families and start shifting it back to self-reliance, relying on your family and relying on your community. And once we start thinking that

way I think people will start thinking more carefully about what happens with their families, what happens with their communities."

When questioned on how his perspective considers various First Nations' land claims and battles across the country to hold government to account and insist it honour treaty agreements, Helin said he thinks there is a role for government to play.

"But the current fixation on government for everything is never going to lead anywhere," he said. "We also have to realize that we bear some responsibility in all this, we can solve this problem and there is hope."

"We don't need to be there," added Kahty Louis, commenting on the 'welfare trap.'

"We need to just as much as anything else make changes in our own attitudes and our own lives and bring a lot more healing and thrive as an Aboriginal society and an Aboriginal community," she said.

"Our mission statement is for a balanced, healthy community, so that's what we strive for. And certainly when a family is intact, the children and youth will also be intact."



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# Reece shares treasures of Tsimshian people

By Joe Couture  
Windspeaker Writer

## VANCOUVER

With a trove of traditional treasures of the Tsimshian people together in its entirety for the last time, members of various communities gathered to hear one artist's response to the deep-rooted issues surrounding the artifacts and to share their own opinions on the samematter.

Vancouver-based performing artist Skeena Reece debuted an original work entitled "We Are All One" on May 8 at the University of British Columbia Museum of Anthropology (MOA).

The work was created in response to the museum's exhibition "Treasures of the Tsimshian from the Dundas Collection." Much history surrounds this exhibit, with the saga of these particular artifacts beginning more than a century and a half ago. But the story really begins thousands of years ago, as information accompanying the museum's displays pays testament.

It notes, Laxyuubm Ts'myseen, the land of the Tsimshian, encompasses the Skeena River watershed of British Columbia from the Pacific Ocean east to the

Skeena Mountains, and the coastal lands and offshore islands from the Nass River south to Douglas Channel.

The people have lived in this area for thousands of years, with nine tribes today based at Lax Kw'alaams and Metlakatla. Lax Kw'alaams was always an important resource area for the Tsimshian while Metlakatla was originally the site of winter villages.

In 1834, many of the Tsimshian moved to Lax Kw'alaams from Metlakatla after the Hudson's Bay Company located its most northerly trading post there — a thriving community grew there, known as Fort Simpson.

In 1862, exactly 50 Tsimshian people who were, Christian followers of an Anglican lay missionary named William Duncan, moved back to Metlakatla. Duncan had arrived at Fort Simpson five years before and wished to isolate the Christians from traditional Tsimshian life by starting a new community.

"For Duncan, Christianity was an either-or proposition; one could not be Christian while participating in feasting and winter ceremonies that involved the ritual presentation of spiritual power," information at the

museum explains. "Those who moved to Metlakatla had to follow rules that included giving up traditional practices and regalia."

Of importance is the fact that every Tsimshian person is born into a lineage and a clan: Raven, Eagle, Wolf or Killerwhale. Each lineage owns territories, resources, names, ceremonial privileges and crests (dzapk) inherited through the female line.

Crests commemorate significant political and spiritual histories. Halaayt images represent spirit power and appear on the ceremonial regalia of many lineages. Because the Christians were made to give up traditional practices, Duncan acquired and sold some crest objects and regalia. One of Duncan's customers was Robert J. Dundas, a Scottish clergyman.

In 1863, Dundas toured the coast on a gunship commanded by a friend who was also intrigued by First Nations material culture. They had asked Duncan to gather a selection of objects for them, which included such beautiful and intricate things as a mask, chest, hat, head-dress section, combs, ladles, spoons, clappers, dishes, war clubs, figures and a shaman's rattle, among other things all currently on display at the MOA.

Dundas took the collection back to his home near Edinburgh where it hung on the wall in the billiard room. The collection remained in the family, largely intact, for 143 years before eventually being inherited by Dundas's great-grandson. He auctioned off the collection in its entirety in New York in October of 2006.

The approximately 80 artifacts sold for a combined total of \$7 million dollars (US), more than twice the estimated value.

Canadian museums could afford only a few pieces, but some Canadian private collectors purchased much of the collection and 48 pieces were made available for display across the country in an exhibition, which culminated in the showing at the MOA, the last display before the items are to be dispersed.

Reece, who is of Tsimshian and Cree ancestry, was billed to be addressing "questions of ownership, authority, and repatriation raised by the history, sale, and exhibition of the Dundas collection through live music, dance, and multimedia."

Musicians Jason Burnstick and Cris Derkson accompanied Reece on guitar and cello. The performance also featured choral work by award-winning singer-songwriters Tamara Nile and

Sandy Scofield, as well as a specially-commissioned dance by Melina Laboucan-Massimo with Andrea Bastien, visuals by Claudia Medina, and a contemporary Tsimshian mask by Simon Reece.

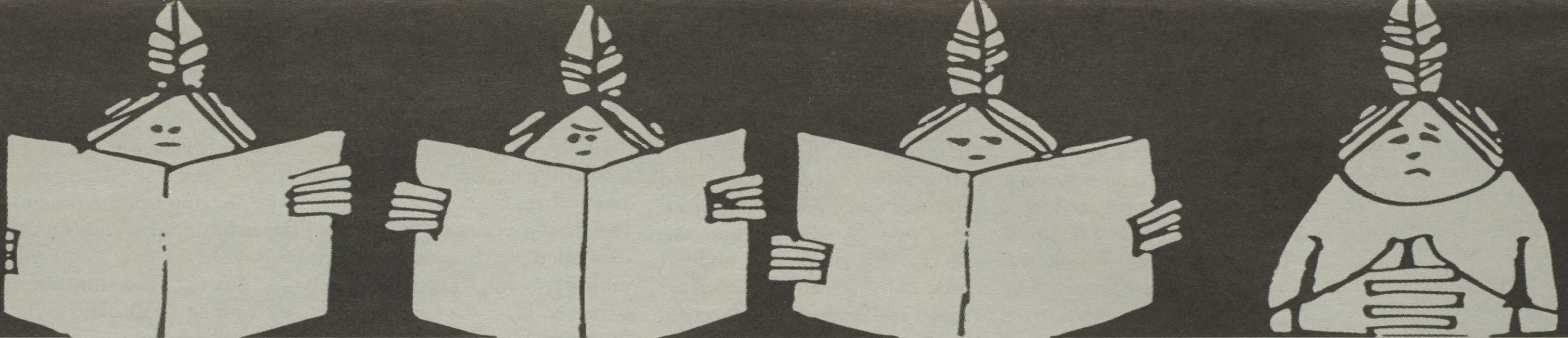
Reece's performance was abstract and very emotional, alluding to themes of both loss and healing. The sun set the stage as its slow descent to nightfall was clear through the large windows of the museum. The audience was led through a journey of song, dance and multimedia, featuring strong lyrics and imagery.

The performance drew to a close with the image of a hummingbird and immediately after finishing, through tears and laughter, Reece noted she chose that creature because of stories associated following it with healing. But she also commented, to great laughter, that the hummingbird is indigenous to North and South America and that its only predator is "an alien weed from Europe."

While the performance was certainly powerful and engaging, perhaps the most interesting part of the evening happened when, at the prodding of Reece, the audience opened up to discuss the issues surrounding the sale of artifacts.

(See Event on page 16.)

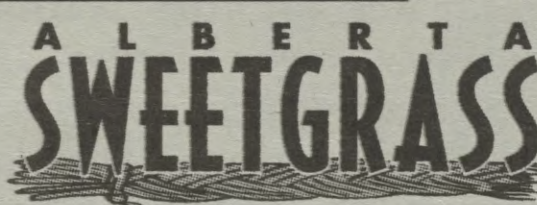
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## [ windspeaker looks back ]

# Perserverance and triumph was experienced by many

By Heather Andrews  
Miller  
Windspeaker Writer

The first Métis Cultural Centre in Canada opened in 1984. Its founder, Dr. Anne Anderson, taught Cree classes to the community from the new and improved location in west Edmonton, which also contained a library and other artifacts of the Métis history. She had already written about 40 books aimed at perpetuating the Cree language, and at the time of her death in 1997 when she was 90 years old, that number exceeded 100. This also included a history book about the Métis people and a Cree dictionary.

Ermineskin band member and prominent lawyer Willie Littlechild was named Indian Businessman of the Year by the National Indian Businessman's Association. Working from his Hobbema office an hour's drive south of Edmonton, Littlechild also owned a business management company in the community and a travel agency in Wetaskiwin, as well as serving as a director on the boards of Peace Hills Trust and Venture Capital Corporation.

Digging began that summer at Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump, located in southern Alberta near Fort Macleod. The site had been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site a few years earlier and was attracting tourists and scholars from around the world. The sophistication that the First Peoples needed, to organize the herding of the buffalo and the harvesting of their main source of food and clothing, has been well documented and much appreciated. A team from the Archaeological Society of Alberta had suggested the buffalo jump was used for at least 6,000 years and it was hoped that further digging would determine more about the life of prehistoric plains peoples. Today an amazing interpretive centre tells the story to hundreds of visitors each year.

The Alexander First Nation established control in 1981 of the

teaching in its schools, and by 1984 the success of the Anise method was so effective that a film was made showing the holistic program's success.

While the Alberta Education curriculum was still followed, the concern was for the individual child's personal development. Cree was included in the classroom, and teaching of legends by Elders was incorporated. This greatly increased the attendance and graduation rate in the Edmonton-area community. The film was viewed by other cultural groups as well, including a showing at a conference in New Delhi, India.

Dialogue was ongoing in 1984 concerning the federal government's anti-discrimination legislation that would recognize the lost rights of Aboriginal women who had married non-Aboriginal men. Band councils feared that the increase in women and their families who regained their status would flood the already-crowded communities, severely taxing the housing and social services, as the government had made no provision for this obvious result of the legislation if passed.

A true story of human courage was observed when Richard Paul, a member of the Alexis First Nation, who had been struck down by a blood clot to the brain, showed the world that he could rise above his disabilities. Doctors had worked frantically to save the 27-year-old, and when he pulled through, he was left with only partial use of his upper body and required the use of a wheelchair to get around. Unfazed, by 1984 he was enrolled in college courses and keeping up to an exhaustive exercise regime in order to continue his life as best he could.

Muriel Stanley Venne was honoured by Native Outreach for her commitment to improving employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in Alberta. The Métis woman had been appointed as one of the first seven commissioners of the Alberta Human Rights Commission in

1973. She went on to establish a solid reputation for dealing with human rights and social justice issues, founding the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women. The mother of four has been honoured by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, the Métis Women of Alberta, Alberta Human Rights, and Native Counselling Services of Alberta, to name just a few, and continues to be active in the province

today.

Calgary-born Douglas Cardinal was in the news, as the Aboriginal architect chosen from among 80 others to design the new national museum in Ottawa-Hull, known today as the Canadian Museum of Civilization. He practiced in Edmonton for 18 years, designing the Grande Prairie Regional College and St. Mary's Church in Red Deer, among other exciting ventures, before moving his practice to Ottawa in 1985, and has since been involved in projects worldwide.

In the sports world, John Chabot got his first taste of NHL action in 1983-84, playing 56 games with the Montreal Canadiens before going on to impressive stints with the Pittsburgh Penguins and Detroit Red Wings, European teams, and a successful coaching career. Chabot's parents were from the Riviere Desert First Nation in Ontario and lived in various locations throughout Canada, following his father's years in the Air Force. But no matter where they were located, a skating rink was always found in the back yard where the young centre learned his skills.

At the University of Alberta campus, Aboriginal high school students from around the province travelled to celebrate Native Awareness Days and to become familiar with the sprawling campus. Current students met with the prospective scholars to encourage them to consider the university for post-secondary training. Jo Ann Daniels, vice president of the Métis Association of Alberta, inspired the students in an afternoon address, and approximately 400 people joined in a pow wow later that day. Services for Aboriginal students were not as plentiful as they are today, and many of the successful graduates of First Nations ancestry were present and recognized for their perseverance. Earlier in the year, the U of A had approved the establishment of a School of Native Studies.

Blue Quills College announced a new Trades School and Health Sciences Centre, with construction starting in the summer. Located near Athabasca in east-central Alberta, the school's announcement coincided with the 14th anniversary of the takeover of the institution by the Aboriginal people of the area. Students who attended and went on to further post-secondary programs or found employment following their courses were in attendance to share their success stories.

The Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta held inaugural meetings throughout the year, with President Vic L'Hirondelle stating that membership in the non-political society was open to all Aboriginal people who served in world wars, as well as in the



Richard Paul

militia or peace time duties. The Society started off with 38 members, and its goals were to remember and recognize the sacrifices of Métis, First Nations and Inuit soldiers, and to get federal government support for its activities. Along with other groups, the Society lobbied for financial recognition of their services and for a monument dedicated to the memory of Aboriginal soldiers, which was unveiled in September of 2003 on the Alberta Legislature grounds.

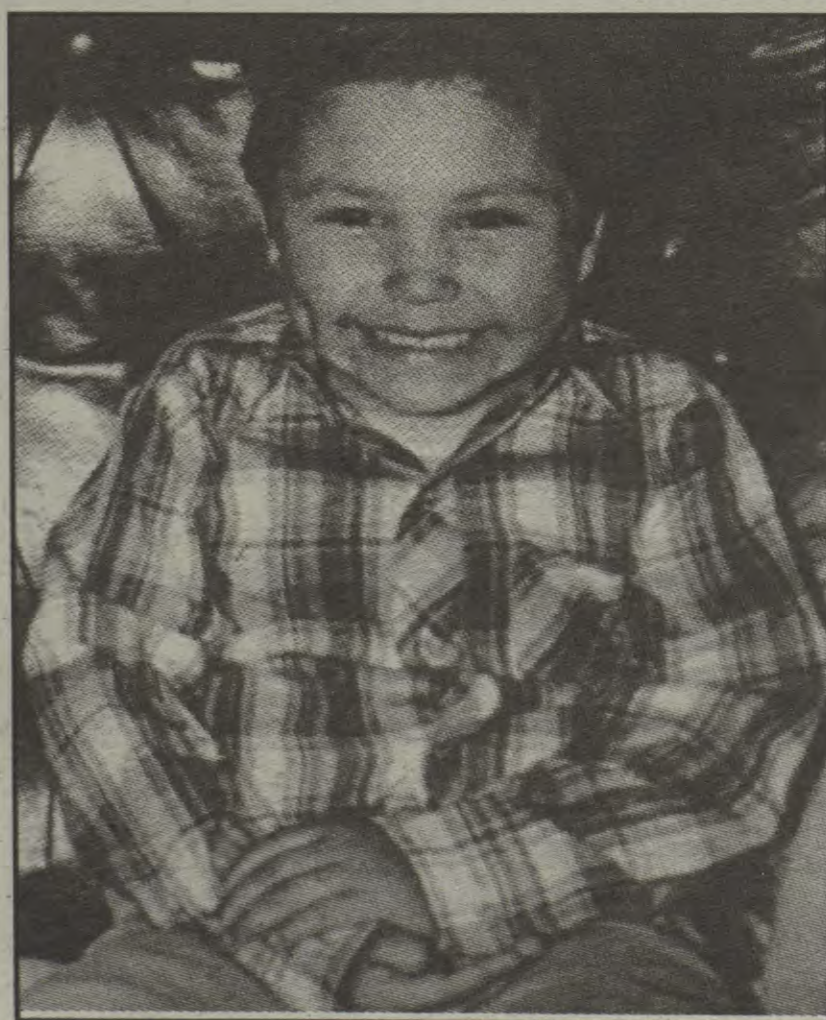
At Edmonton's Friendship Centre, staffers Georgina Donald and Gordon Russell were busy ensuring the building was accessible to members with disabilities. Operating out of the former Wesley United Church at 117th Street and 102nd Avenue, the design was not physically convenient for those with limited mobility who wished to take advantage of its many services and programs.

In government matters, Premier Lougheed was criticized by NDP leader Grant Notley for stalling on the settlement with the Lubicon Lake band over oil and gas royalties. The First Nations community, located near Peace River, was in land claim negotiations at the time. Lougheed stated that

his government was working to ensure non-status and Métis people in the area were not forgotten in any upcoming settlement.

Manitoba's Métis were on the move too, as residents of the community of Camperville bravely set up their own government. Assisted by the Manitoba Métis Federation, the representatives had received positive feedback from provincial deputy minister of northern affairs whose department is responsible for about 50 Métis communities.

And in an inspiring reminiscence of the past, trapper and Elder Felix Laboucan related how satisfying life was at Little Buffalo near Peace River, while he was growing up. He stated that his family needed to buy only tea, sugar and tobacco, as everything else was obtained from the land by hunting, fishing and trapping. But with oil and gas industry development reshaping the area, he and many others were being forced to be content with their memories and to share with the young people so they were not forgotten. Together they were looking ahead to a new year and to another way of life as 1984 drew to a close.



Andrew Ladouceur, age four, sits in his father's chair while his dad is away setting up a fishing camp.



Treaty Indian women from Alberta marched in protest of the federal governments proposal to drop Section 12(1)(b) from the Indian Act.



# Guide to Powwow Country

Windspeaker's Exclusive Guide for the 2008 Powwow Trail

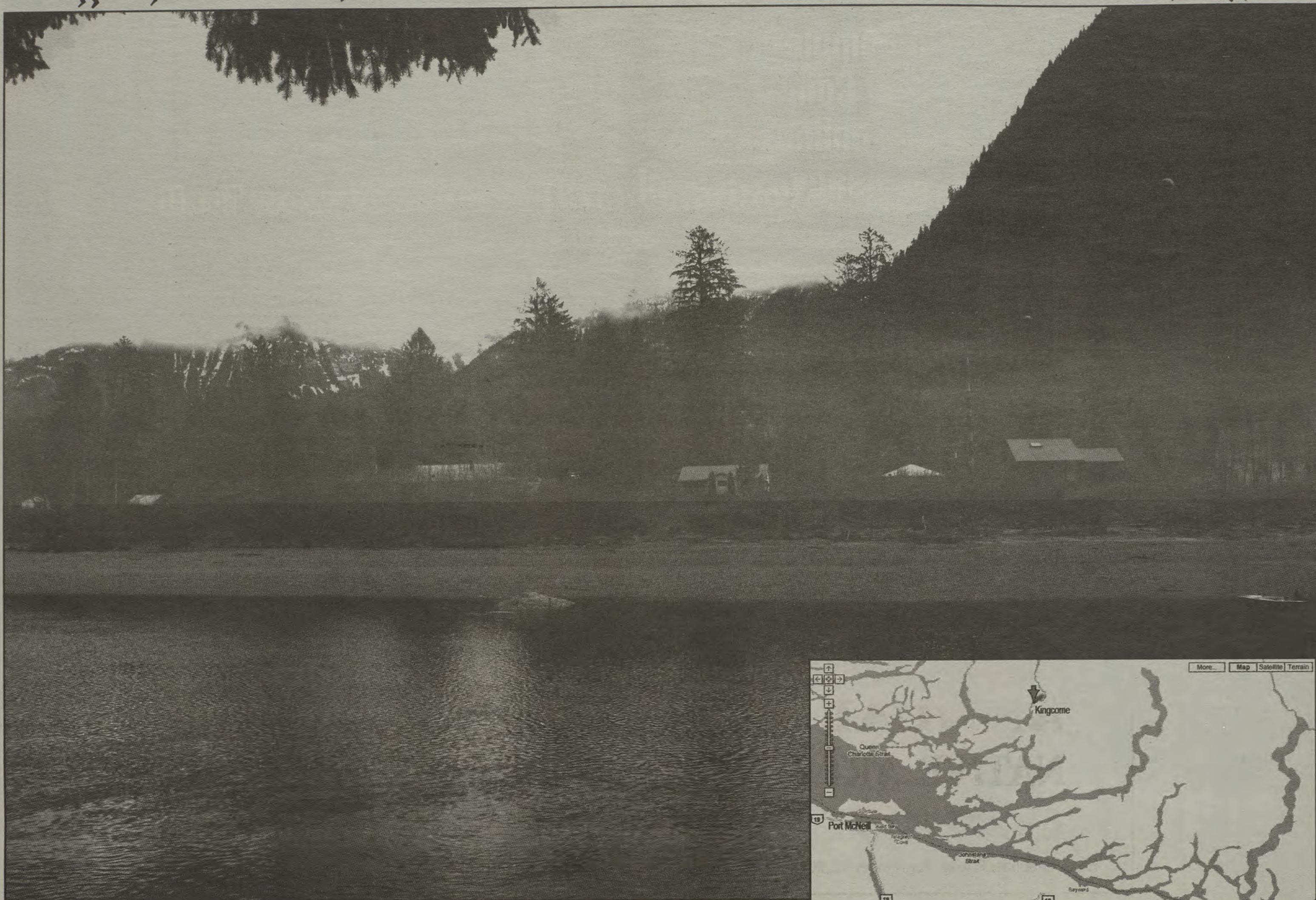


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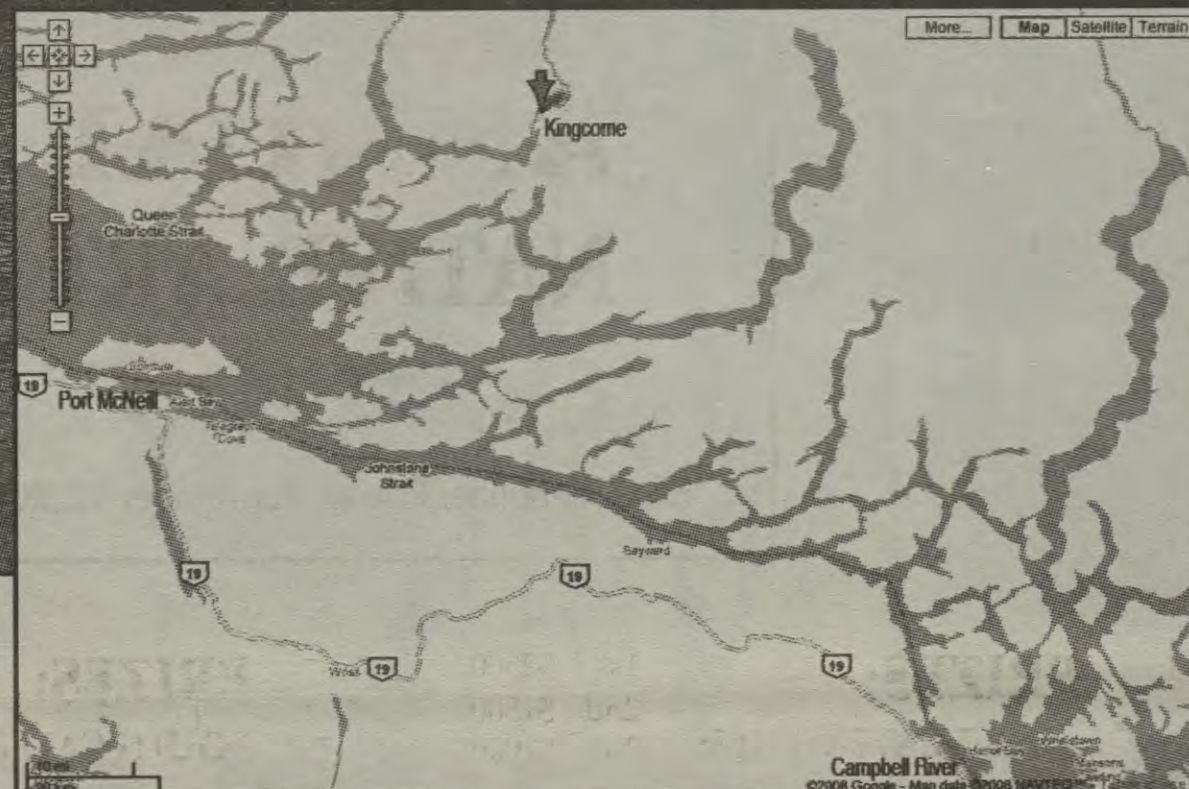


# All My Relations



BERT CROWFOOT

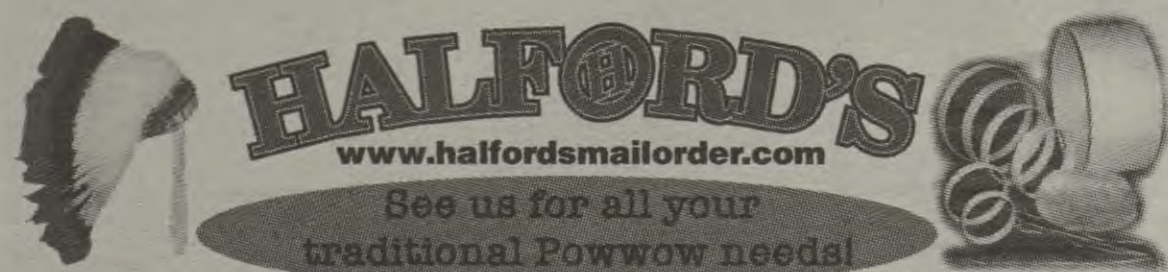
The village of Kingcome, British Columbia is off the beaten path – requiring a ride on a water taxi from Port McNeill on the north tip of Vancouver Island. The beautiful scenery and the hospitality of the people, make the journey a worthwhile one.



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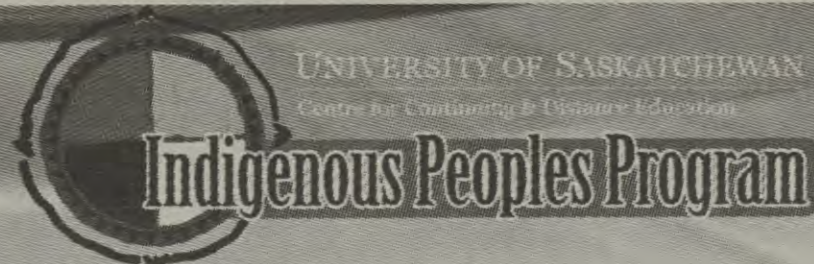
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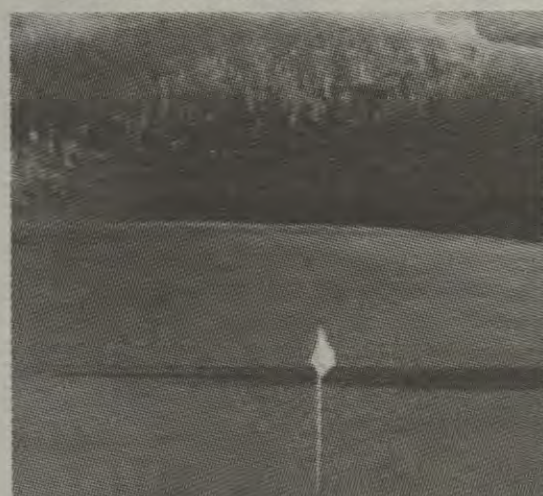
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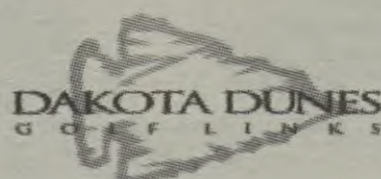
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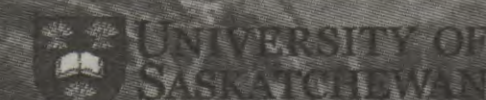
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MEDIUM(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ YES, you may release my phone number to an interested purchaser. Selling Price \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the information contained in this Entry Form is true and accurate. I hereby further certify that I have read and understood the Entry Procedures and Regulations of Peace Hills Trust "Native Art Contest", as stipulated on the reverse and I agree to be bound by the same.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF ENTRANT (must be the original artist and owner of the copyright) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING**

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- Peace Hills Trust "Native Art Contest" (PHT Contest) is open to Aboriginal Residents of Canada, except employees of Peace Hills Trust who are not eligible.
- Entries shall consist of a complete and signed Entry Form and an "UNFRAMED" two dimensional work of art in any graphic medium (not larger than 4 feet x 6 feet), must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 12, 2008. Entries will be judged by a panel of adjudicators arranged through Peace Hills Trust whose decision will be final and binding on the entrants.
- By signing the Entry Form, the entrant represents that the entry is wholly original, that the work was composed by the entrant, and that the entrant is owner of the copyright in the entry, warrants that the entry shall not infringe on any copyrights or other intellectual property rights of third parties. Each entrant shall, by signing the Entry Form, indemnify and save harmless Peace Hills Trust and its management and staff and employees from and against any claims consistent with the foregoing representation and warranty, waives his Exhibition Rights in the entry for the term of the PHT Contest, and in the event that the entry is chosen as a winning entry, agrees to waive and assign the entrant's Exhibition Right in the winning entry, together with all rights of copyright and reproduction, in favour of Peace Hills Trust, agrees to be bound by the PHT Contest Entry Procedures and Rules and Regulations. All entries complying with the Rules and Regulations will be registered in the PHT Contest by the Official Registrar, Ms. Suzanne Lyrantzis. Late entries, incomplete entries, or entries which do not comply with the PHT Contest Entry Procedures and Rules and Regulations will be disqualified.
- All adult winning entries will become the property of Peace Hills Trust and part of its "Native Art Collection." Unless prior arrangements are made, non-winning entries will be returned as follows: entries hand delivered by the entrant should be picked up by the entrant, all other entries will be returned by ordinary mail. Peace Hills Trust assumes no responsibility for entries which are misdirected, lost, damaged or destroyed when being returned to the entrant.
- Youth entries **will not** be returned.

#### Entry Procedures

- Ensure that all spaces on the Entry Form are filled in correctly, and that the form is dated and signed, otherwise Peace Hills Trust reserves the right to disqualify the entry.
- Adults may submit as many entries as they wish however, a SEPARATE entry form must accompany each entry. In the Youth categories only ONE entry per youth is permitted.
- All entries must be "UNFRAMED" paintings or drawings and may be done in oil, watercolor, pastel, ink, charcoal or any two dimensional graphic medium. All entries will be judged on the basis of appeal of the subject, originality and the choice and treatment of the subject, and the creative and technical merit of the artist. (Entries which were entered in previous PHT Contest competitions are not eligible.)
- Peace Hills Trust will not acknowledge the receipt of any entry. If the entrant requires notification, the entry should be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped postcard which will be mailed to the entrant when the entry is received.
- Should you wish to sell your work while on display at the PHT Contest, please authorize us to release your telephone number to any interested purchasers. Should you not complete that portion of the Entry Form, your telephone number will not be released.
- Peace Hills Trust at its sole discretion reserves the right to display any or all entries during the PHT Contest.
- Adult category Prizes: 1st - \$2,500.00, 2nd - \$1,500.00, 3rd - \$1,000.00. Youth Prizes: 1st - \$150.00, 2nd - \$100.00, 3rd - \$75.00 in each category.

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL ART IS PROPERLY PACKAGED TO AVOID DAMAGE.**

#### REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY

Number \_\_\_\_\_

IN ☐ Mail ☐ Del. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

OUT ☐ Mail ☐ Del. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- All entries are restricted to "2 dimensional art", that is work done on a flat surface suitable for framing
- Works are restricted in size - no larger than 4 feet by 6 feet
- The contest is divided into the following categories:
  - Adult (18 and over)
  - Youth (14 to 17)
  - Youth (10 to 13)
  - Youth (9 and under)

#### Mail to:

Peace Hills Trust NATIVE ART CONTEST  
Peace Hills Trust Tower  
10th Floor, 10011 - 109 Street  
Edmonton AB T5J 3S8  
Attention: Suzanne Lyrantzis

#### For more information:

(780) 421-1606 or 1-800-661-6549 Fax: (780) 426-6568

For more information call: 780.421.1606 or 1.800.661.6549  
• [www.peacehills.com](http://www.peacehills.com)



BERT CROWFOOT

Totem pole in the village of Kingcome, British Columbia.





## Events to consider

### British Columbia

#### August 17: Vancouver 3rd Annual Tsleil-Waututh Nation Cultural Arts Festival

This one-day festival held in Vancouver will celebrate Aboriginal culture through the arts, with a focus mainly on the people and ways of the Tsleil-Waututh. Activities are geared towards all ages and charge no admission. The various groups that are scheduled to perform in the annual event can be watched on the Chief Dan George Main Stage. There will also be a cultural village area with artists and traditional skills workers, a family stage with storytellers, musicians, and authors. A children's tent is also set up for a variety of arts and crafts. As well, food and art vendors will also have items to sell to those who attend and Takaya Tours will have kayak rentals and canoe tours available. The event takes place at Cates Park/Whey-ah-Wichen, the park located in North Vancouver on the Burrard Inlet (take Dollarton Highway east toward Deep Cove).

#### July 7-11: Near Malahat Mountain, Vancouver Island 8th Annual Red River West Rendezvous

The Red River West Rendezvous works towards promoting Métis cultural awareness. By making this type of venue more readily accessible to the public, events organizers strive not only to promote the culture and heritage of the Métis people but also to educate the general population on the history of the Métis. The event is held at the Victoria Fish and Game Club property in the city of Victoria with fun activities planned everyday for the duration of the event such as the Black Powder Shooting Demonstrations, knife throws, frying pan throwing, sack races, and voyageur games. The address is 700 Holker Road, which is just off the Trans Canada Highway near the summit of the Malahat Mountain on Vancouver Island. The dates and the location of the rendezvous attract both the locals and tourists. Admission to the festival is by donation, thereby making it affordable for all.

### North West Territories

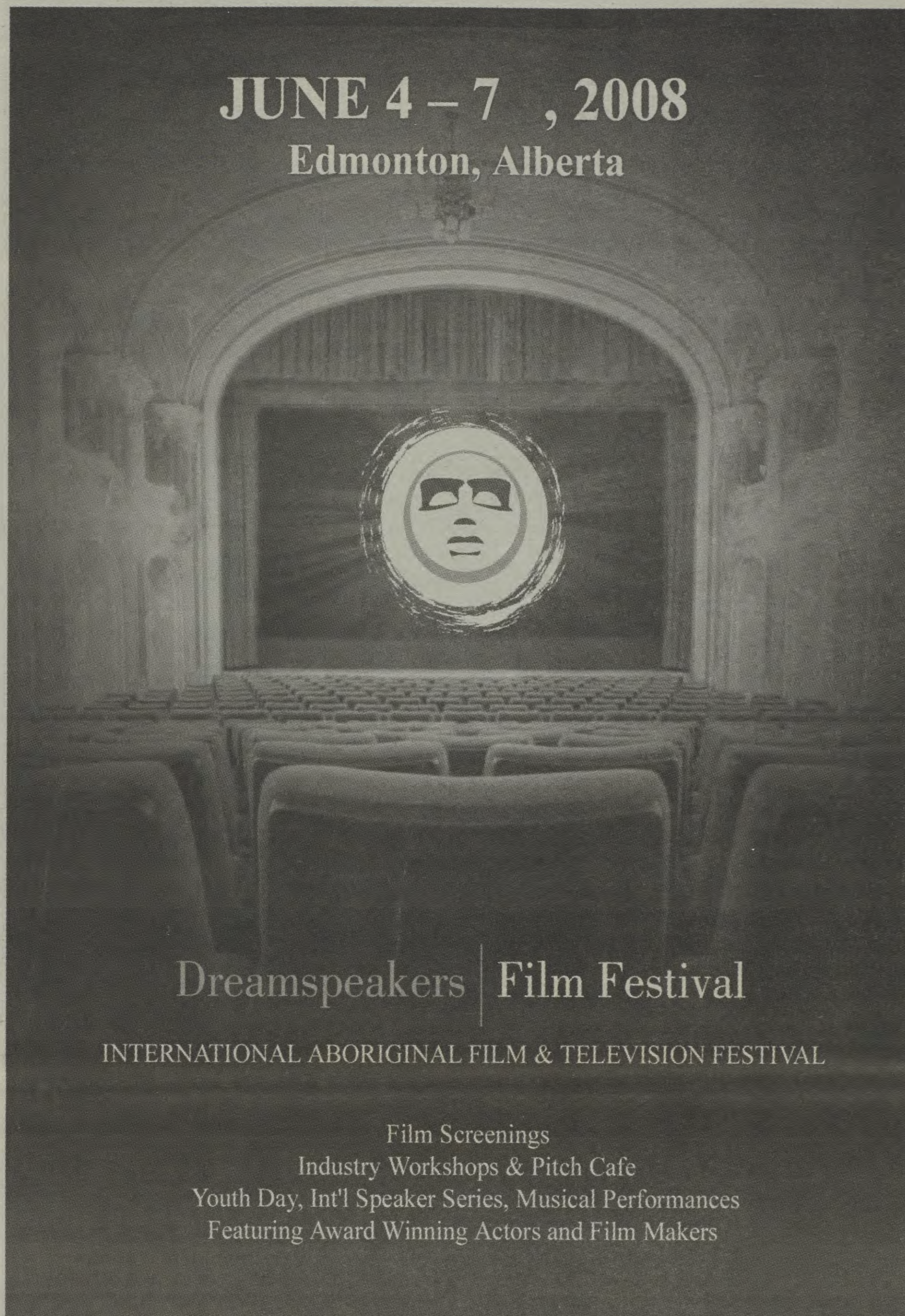
#### June 20-21: Yellowknife Solstice Festival

This three-day cultural festival is attended by various community groups and nationalities who showcase their cultures in a series of performances, with the centre piece of the event being National Aboriginal Day. The annual event has all activities taking place in Somba K'e Park by Frame Lake in Yellowknife. Activities featured each year include a popular fish fry as well as

*Continued on page 5*

## JUNE 4 – 7 , 2008

### Edmonton, Alberta



## Dreamspeakers | Film Festival

INTERNATIONAL ABORIGINAL FILM & TELEVISION FESTIVAL

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[www.dreamspeakers.org](http://www.dreamspeakers.org)

Phone: (780) 378-9609 Fax: (780) 378-9611

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**REDWOOD  
MEADOWS**  
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Tournament KP'S  
\$300 per day  
Men's and Ladies

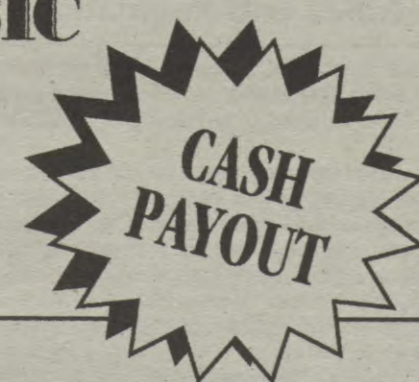
Jackpot  
KP'S and Long drive

Holes in One  
Vehicles & \$5,000

To register call:  
Paula: 403-831-4779  
Paddy: 403-949-3733

## TSUU T'INA NATION 30th ANNUAL ALL NATIVE GOLF CLASSIC JULY 25-27, 2008

*Redwood Meadows Golf & Country Club &  
Buffalo Run Golf Course*



#### ENTRY FEE:

Men's, Senior Men's, Super Seniors, Senior Ladies and Ladies Category (includes three rounds of golf, giveaway item and a meal each day).

#### REGISTRATION 2008:

\$300.00 entry fee + \$30.00 per day for cart

#### PEEWEE AND JUNIOR CATEGORY:

\$80.00 (includes two days of golf at the Buffalo Run Golf Course, giveaway item and a meal each day.)

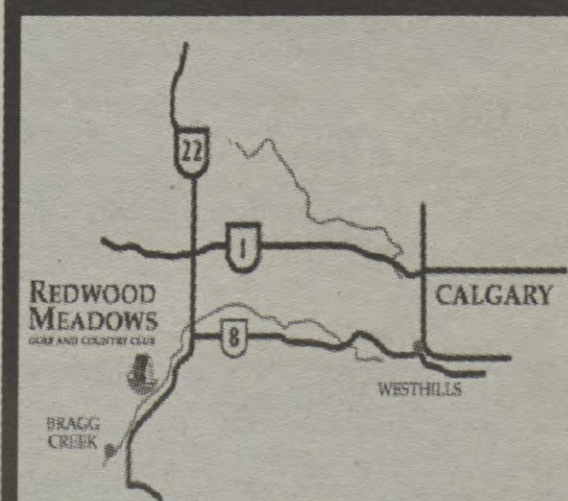
— LIMITED TO THE FIRST 225 PAID GOLFERS —

Tsuu T'ina Nation 2008 Golf Classic Committee will not be responsible for any losses, thefts or injuries as a result of the tournament.

Tsuu T'ina Nation  
Annual Celebrations  
Pow Wow, Rodeo and  
Baseball Tournament

July 25-27, 2008

For more information  
call: 403-281-4455







## All My Relations



LAURA SUTHERS

Megan Young – Miss Indian World 2007 from Poarch Band of Creek Indians (left) and Connie Starblanket – Miss FSIN Princess from tarblanket Cree Nation, Balcarres, Saskatchewan participating at the Canadian National Powwow at the Rogers Centre in Toronto.

Continued from page 4

demonstrations by well-known arctic carvers, last year it was Kiawak Ashoona, Sorrosseeleetu Ashoona, Goota Ashoon, and Bob Kussey. The Inuit Association hosts the traditional lifestyle demonstrations, foods, clothing, and traditional crafts while the Native Women's Association hosts the Kid's Corner activities such as the three-legged race, balloon toss, egg race, and hoola hooping. There are also performances by powwow dancers as well as traditional card readings. Artisans sell and demonstrate traditional crafts from Wha-Ti, Gametis, and Wekweti. Other activities include puppet plays, canoe rides, a birch basket workshop, balloon sculptures, face painting, caricature artists, traditional storytelling, interactive drumming, food vendors, and a traditional crafts area.

July 11-20: Inuvik

The Great Northern Arts Festival

Each summer, up to 80 visual artists and 40 performers from across the North gather in Inuvik to celebrate the diversity of Canada's North: these include the Inuit, Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Dene, Métis and many of Canada's additional First Nations. Non-Aboriginal artists and artisans are also invited, all come from as far away as Pangnirtung on Baffin Island, Gjoa Haven in the Arctic Archipelago, Fort Smith on the NWT/Alberta border, and from the Yukon Territory. Artists attend the event to show their work, meet other artists, see different styles of work and learn new techniques. This 10-day annual event is usually held in mid-July and hosts many people from across the Canadian North, as well as musicians and performers from as far away as Alaska, the Orkney Islands of Scotland, and the Yucatan in Mexico. Organizers are planning steadily, fielding calls and receiving applications on a daily basis to help make the event a success in the Celebration of Northern Arts and Culture. Join over 120 visual and performing artists under the midnight sun at the Great Northern Arts Festival

Continued on page 8

## Call for Exhibitors



Share your heritage with over 750,000 people at one of Canada's largest exhibitions in one of the hottest economies in the country! Kiyanaw is a First People's exhibit at Edmonton's Capital EX. This one-of-a-kind show lets you share your culture through arts, crafts and other traditional products. People of all creeds have the opportunity to discover the amazing teachings and history of Canada's First Peoples.

Features & Opportunities: artisans, tipis, museum-style displays, interpretive dancing, new age and traditional entertainment stage, story-telling, and more.

Come celebrate with us at Kiyanaw! For show information visit the "Exhibitor Info" section of our website or contact Lyle Donald at ldonald@northlands.com or 780.471.7179 (toll free 1.888.800.7275 ext. 7179).

capitalex.ca



The next issue of Business Quarterly will be distributed in the July issue of Windspeaker.

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# CALENDAR OF POWWOW EVENTS

## MAY

**May 24 - 26, 2008**  
**Third Annual Hilo Inter-Tribal Powwow Memorial Day Weekend**  
 Waioala River Park in Hilo, Hawaii.  
 Everyone is invited to experience the sights, sounds, flavors and spirit of Native America through music, dance, storytelling, food and crafts.  
 More info.: [www.hilopowwow.com](http://www.hilopowwow.com)  
 or E-mail to [info@hilopowwow.com](mailto:info@hilopowwow.com)

**May 24 - 26, 2008**  
**Selma Walker Memorial Powwow**  
 Franklin County Fairgrounds  
 Hilliard, Ohio  
 Grand Entry at 1pm.  
 Sponsored by the Native American Indian Center Of Central Ohio  
 Phone: (614) 443-6120  
 E-mail: [naicco@aol.com](mailto:naicco@aol.com)

**May 26, 2008**  
**A Day of Inspiration**  
 (for Aboriginal Youth)  
 Western Manitoba Centennial Auditorium  
 Brandon, Manitoba  
 A Day of Inspiration is a series of one-day events designed to uplift the spirit of humanity in the movement toward healthy lifestyles, labour force participation, education, economic development, entrepreneurship and healthy communities for Aboriginal People.  
 Contact: Terri Roulette McCartney  
 Phone: (204) 842-3931  
 E-mail: [terrimc@mts.net](mailto:terrimc@mts.net)

**May 26, 2008**  
**5th Annual CCAB Ontario Golf Tournament**  
 Oakville, Ontario  
 (416) 961-8663

**May 29, 2008**  
**O'Chiese Treaty Day**  
**O'Chiese First Nation**  
 Rocky Mountain House, Alberta  
 Info : 1(888) 256 - 3884  
 (403) 989 - 3943

**May 30, 2008**  
**Miss Algonquin Nation 2008**  
 Maniwaki, Quebec  
 Pauline: (819) 449-5449

**June 7 - 8, 2008**  
**Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Annual Golf Tournament**  
 York Lake Golf Course  
 Yorkton, Sask  
 Todd Bitternose: (306) 835-2937  
 Sheila Kay - Machiskinic: (306) 835-2937

**June 7 - 8, 2008**  
**14th Annual Henry Shingoose Traditional Pow Wow**  
 Selkirk, Manitoba  
 June 7 grand entry @ 1:00pm & 7:00pm  
 June 8 grand entry @ 1:00pm  
 camping available - wood provided  
 Info: Rob Sinclair at [robs@bhf.ca](mailto:robs@bhf.ca)

**June 7 - 8, 2008**  
**Aundeck Omni Kanning Traditional Pow Wow**  
 (Formerly Ojibways of Sucker Creek)  
 5 Min West of Little Current, Ontario  
 Healing The Spirit  
 At The First Nations Park, Ont.  
 Contact: Cultural Committee (705) 368-2228

**June 7 - 8, 2008**  
**Fort Ancient's Celebration**  
 Fort Ancient, 7 miles SE of Lebanon, Ohio  
 Jack Blosser (513) 932-4421  
 or 1-800-283-8904  
 E-mail: [jblosser@ohiohistory.org](mailto:jblosser@ohiohistory.org)

**June 7 - 8, 2008**  
**Aundeck Omni Kanning Traditional Pow Wow**  
 (Formerly Ojibways of Sucker Creek)  
 5 Min West of Little Current, Ontario  
 Healing The Spirit  
 At The First Nations Park, Ontario  
 Contact: Cultural Committee (705) 368-2228

**June 10 - 15, 2008**  
**History in the Hills**  
 Location: Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park  
 Alberta Time: Venues open 10-5 Cost: Free  
 For More Information: [Miywasin Society of](http://MiywasinSociety.org)  
 Aboriginal Services  
 Information: Phone: (403) 526-0756  
 Fax: (403) 504-4064  
 Website: [www.miywasin.ab.ca](http://www.miywasin.ab.ca)  
 Or Email [jeannette.hansen@miywasin.ab.ca](mailto:jeannette.hansen@miywasin.ab.ca)

**June 20 - 21, 2008**  
**Honoring The 7 Directions**  
 Traditional Pow Wow  
 North Timiskaming, Quebec  
 Notre-Dame Du Nord  
 Dawn Wabie: (819) 723 - 5206

**June 20 - 22, 2008**  
**Rainy River First Nations Traditional Pow-wow**  
 (Ambe Niimidaa)  
 Friday night - Warm-up  
 Sat, Sun - 1 p.m. & 7 p.m. Grand Entry  
 Sat & Sun - Feast - Sun - Giveaway  
 Grass Dance Special - Ronald McGinnis Memorial  
 Mr. Elvis DeBungee  
 Phone: (807) 482-2479 ext 233  
 E-mail: [edebungee@hotmail.com](mailto:edebungee@hotmail.com)

**June 20 - 22, 2008**  
**17th Annual Traditional Competition Pow Wow**  
 Grand Celebration  
 Hinckley, Minnesota  
 1-800-472-6321 press 0

**June 20 - 22, 2008**  
**Noongam Traditional Powwow**  
 Queen Julianna Park,  
 Carling Ave. & Prince of Wales Drive  
 Ottawa, Ontario  
 Free Admission & Free Parking  
 June 20 Gates open 3:00pm til 11:00 pm  
 June 21 Sunrise Ceremony, Gates open 9:00am, Grand Entry Noon, 5:00 pm  
 Community Feast, 6:00pm Grand Entry.  
 Sunday June 22 Sunrise Ceremony.  
 Gates open 9:00am, Grand Entry Noon,  
 Community Giveaway 5:00 pm  
 Native Crafts and Food Concessions on site  
 Info: E-mail: [noongampowwow@yahoo.com](mailto:noongampowwow@yahoo.com)  
 web site: [www.noongam.50megs.com](http://www.noongam.50megs.com)

**June 21, 2008**  
**National Aboriginal Day Activities**  
 Gates open @ 11:00 am.  
 Opening ceremonies @ 1:00, with the days activities ending at 8:00pm  
 Some of the activities include: Live Band, Métis Dancers, Métis demonstrations, tours, Concession and Trade show  
 Métis Crossing - near Smoky Lake, Alberta  
 Corrine Card, Executive Director  
 Phone: (780) 656-2229

**June 27 - 29, 2008**  
**Saddle Lake Cree Nation Annual Competition Pow Wow**  
 Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Alberta  
 Info : 1(800) 396-2167

**June 27-29, 2008**  
**17th Honoring Our Veterans Contest Pow Wow**  
 The Bays Mill Softball Field,  
 Brimley, Michigan  
 Info: (906) 248-3241 ext 1106

**June 28 & 29, 2008**  
**7th Annual Mending the Sacred Hoop Traditional Pow Wow**  
 Russell Rd. Tecumseh, Michigan  
 Vendor Info: Ron Reed: (517) 436-3589  
 Powwow Info: Abel Cooper: (517) 263-3233

**July 2 - 6, 2008**  
**69th Annual Tekakwitha Conference**  
 Mayfield Inn, Edmonton, Alberta  
 Marleen (780) 454-3307  
 Eileen (780) 423-5180  
 Email: [kateri2008@hotmail.com](mailto:kateri2008@hotmail.com)  
[www.tekconf.org](http://www.tekconf.org)

**July 4 - 13, 2008**  
**Calgary Stampede Rodeo and World Famous Chuckwagon Races**  
 Calgary, Alberta  
 1-800-661-1767  
[www.calgarystampede.com](http://www.calgarystampede.com)

**July 4 - 6, 2008**  
**Alexander Annual Traditional Pow Wow**  
 Alexander Arbor Grounds, Alexander First Nation, Alberta  
 Info : (780) 939-5887

**July 5 - 6, 2008**  
**Sheguiandah First Nation 19th Annual Traditional Pow-Wow**  
 Manitoulin Island, Ontario  
 (705) 368-2781 or (705) 368-2726  
 (705) 368-1658

**July 11-13, 2008 & September 19-21, 2008**  
**24rd Annual Great Mohican Indian Pow Wow**  
 Mohican Reservation Camp

**July 30, 31 & August 1, 2008**  
**First Nations Cup**  
 Indigenous Team Golf Supremacy  
 Waterton Lakes Golf Course, Alberta  
[www.firstnationscup.ca](http://www.firstnationscup.ca)

**July 31, 2008**  
**Craig C. Lafond Memorial Golf Tournament**  
 Sunrivers Golf Course Kamloops, B.C.  
 Contact: Leona at 780-642-9180

**AUGUST**  
**August 1 - 3, 2008**  
**Opaskwayak Cree Nation International Competition Pow Wow "Honor & Memories"**  
 Opaskwayak Cree Nation, (The Pas), Manitoba  
 Contact: Mike or Jon (204) 623-0857 or  
 Email: [ocnpowwow2007@hotmail.com](mailto:ocnpowwow2007@hotmail.com)

**August 1 - 3, 2008**  
**Kamloops Pow Wow**  
 Kamloops British Columbia  
 Info: (250) 828-9700

**August 3 - 10, 2008**  
**2008 North American Indigenous Games**  
 Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island  
 Duncan B.C.  
 Info : (250) 746-2008

**August 14 - 16, 2008**  
**The Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada 32nd Annual Conference and General Meeting**  
 Halifax Nova Scotia  
 Toll Free: 1-877-814-7706

**August 23 - 24, 2008**  
**8th Annual Neskonlith Traditional Pow Wow**  
 Neskonlith, British Columbia  
 Info: (250) 835-8492

**August 23 & 24, 2008**  
**Métis Crossing Voyage**  
 Gates open @ 11:00 am.  
 Opening ceremonies @ 1:00, with the days activities ending at 8:00pm  
 Some of the activities include: Live Band, Métis Dancers, Métis demonstrations, tours, Concession and Trade show  
 Métis Crossing-near Smoky Lake, Alberta  
 Corrine Card, Executive Director  
 Phone: (780) 656-2229



- May 26, 2008**  
5th Annual CCAB Ontario Golf Tournament  
Oakville, Ontario  
(416) 961-8663
- May 29, 2008**  
O'Chiese Treaty Day  
O'Chiese First Nation  
Rocky Mountain House, Alberta  
Info: 1(888) 256-3884  
(403) 989-3943
- May 30, 2008**  
Miss Algonquin Nation 2008  
Maniwaki, Quebec  
Pauline: (819) 449-5449  
Shirley: (819) 449-1275
- May 30 - 31, 2008**  
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabe Kijigon Traditional Pow Wow  
Maniwaki Quebec  
(819) 449-5449
- JUNE**  
June 3 - 7, 2008  
Dreamspeakers Film Festival  
Edmonton, Alberta  
780-378-9609  
www.dreamspeakers.org
- June 6 - 8, 2008**  
19th Annual Barrie Traditional Pow Wow  
Park Place Grounds  
Barrie, Ontario  
Info: (705) 721-7689
- June 6 - 8, 2008**  
12th Annual Standing Bear Pow Wow  
Bakersfield College,  
Bakersfield, California  
Info: (661) 589-3181
- June 6 - 8, 2008**  
22st Annual Red Earth Festival  
COX Convention Centre  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Phone: (405) 427-5228  
E-mail: info@redearth.org
- June 7, 2008**  
First Annual A Gathering:  
Peel's Aboriginal Celebration.  
This is a free, family-oriented event, hosted  
by Region of Peel, Children's Services  
10 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Sheridan College, Davis Campus,  
Brampton, Ontario  
Info: (905) 791-1585  
or visit www.peelregion.ca/childcar/
- June 10 - 15, 2008**  
History in the Hills  
Location: Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park  
Alberta Time: Venues open 10-5 Cost: Free  
For More Information: Miywasin Society of  
Aboriginal Services  
Information: Phone: (403) 526-0756  
Fax: (403) 504-4064  
Website: www.miywasin.ab.ca  
Or Email Jeannette Hansen:  
jhansen@miywasin.ab.ca
- June 13, 2008**  
Sakimay First Nations Treaty Day  
Sakimay Pow Wow Grounds  
& Community Complex  
Sakimay First Nation, Saskatchewan  
Niel Acocoe: (306) 697-2831 ext: 111  
Carol Sangwa: (306) 697-2831 ext: 145
- June 16 - 17, 2008**  
6th Annual Insight Aboriginal  
Business & Economic Development Forum  
Toronto, Ontario  
1-888-777-1707
- June 17, 2008**  
Pancake Breakfast  
9:00am-12:00pm  
Canadian Native Friendship Centre  
11205-101 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Dean (780) 479-1999  
E-mail: deanbrown@shawbiz.ca
- June 18, 2008**  
Smudging the Streets  
Bissel Centre  
10527 - 96 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
7:00 a.m. start  
Contact: Dean Brown  
E-mail: deanbrown@gmail.com
- June 19 - 20, 2008**  
Treaty Days in Saskatoon  
10am-4pm  
June 21 11am - 4:30pm  
National Aboriginal Day  
Friendship Park  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Mae Henderson: (306) 244-0174
- June 20, 2008**  
Royal Eagles Annual BBQ  
Park at 102 and Jasper Ave 11am - 2pm  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Brian Hjeltesvold (780) 409-7678
- June 21 - 22, 2008**  
Métis Music Festival  
Legislative South Band Shell  
Sunday - 12:00 to 5:00  
107 Street & 95 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Contact: Métis Child & Family  
780-452-6100
- June 21-22, 2008**  
Edmonton National Aboriginal Day  
Weekend Festival  
Day 1: 11am-6pm  
Day 2: 1-5pm  
Provincial Legislature Grounds  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Dean: (780) 479-1999
- June 21 & 22, 2008**  
13th Annual Aboriginal Gathering  
& 5th Annual Pow wow  
At Misery Mountain Ski Hill  
Peace River, Alberta  
Free admission, no registration fee - everyone  
is welcome.  
This is a National Aboriginal Day  
two day hosted by the Peace River Aboriginal  
Interagency Committee.  
Grand Entry is at 1:00 pm Saturday June 21.  
Margaret Ann Martineau  
Phone: (780) 624-6461  
E-mail: margaret.martineau@gov.ab.ca
- June 21, 2008**  
National Aboriginal Day Activities  
Gates open @ 11:00 am.  
Opening ceremonies @ 1:00, with the days  
activities ending at 8:00pm  
Some of the activities include: Live Band,  
Métis Dancers, Métis demonstrations, tours.  
Concession and Trade show  
Métis Crossing - near Smoky Lake, Alberta  
Corrine Card, Executive Director  
Phone: (780) 656-2229
- June 21-22, 2008**  
24th Annual Great Mohican Indian Pow Wow  
Mohican Reservation Camp  
& Festival Grounds  
Loudonville, Ohio  
Info: Chris Snively (800) 766-2267
- July 5 - 6, 2008**  
Sheguandah First Nation  
19th Annual Traditional Pow-Wow  
Manitoulin Island, Ontario  
(705) 368-2781 or (705) 368-2726  
(705) 368-1658
- July 11-13, 2008 & September 19-21, 2008**  
24th Annual Great Mohican Indian Pow Wow  
Mohican Reservation Camp  
& Festival Grounds  
Loudonville, Ohio  
Info: Chris Snively (800) 766-2267
- July 11-13, 2008**  
Alexis Fastpitch Challenge  
(Senior Men's & Women's Division)  
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation Reserve, Alberta  
Glenevis, Alberta  
Ph: 780-967-2225 Ext. 241  
Fax: 780-967-5484  
E-mail: recreation@alexisnakotasious.com  
web: www.alexisnakotasious.com
- July 17 - 26, 2008**  
Capital X  
Includes Kiyanaw (all Of Us)  
A First People's Showcase  
Edmonton, Alberta  
1-888-800-7275
- July 18 - 20, 2008**  
Kainai Indian Days  
Blood Tribe Competition Pow Wow  
Info: (403) 737-3774
- July 25, 2008**  
Annual Golf Tournament  
Zone II Metis Nation of Alberta  
Bonnyville, Alberta  
Registration will start at 9:00 am and  
shotgun will start at 10:00.  
All proceeds will go towards the Andy Collins  
student bursary  
Contact: Melody Gosselin  
Phone: (780) 826-7483
- July 30, 2008**  
Maurice Law Charity Golf Tournament  
Wintergreen Golf Country Club  
Bragg Creek, AB  
Contact: Maurice Law  
Phone: 403-266-1201
- August 23 - 24, 2008**  
8th Annual Neskonlith Traditional Pow Wow  
Neskonlith, British Columbia  
Info: (250) 835-8492
- August 23 & 24, 2008**  
Métis Crossing Voyage  
Gates open @ 11:00 am.  
Opening ceremonies @ 1:00, with the days  
activities ending at 8:00pm  
Some of the activities include: Live Band,  
Métis Dancers, Métis demonstrations,  
tours. Concession and Trade show  
Métis Crossing-near Smoky Lake, Alberta  
Corrine Card, Executive Director  
Phone: (780) 656-2229
- August 29, 2008**  
First Annual Celebrity Golf Tournament  
Links of Glen Eagles  
Cochrane, AB  
Contact: Betty  
Phone: 403-266-1201 ext. 786
- August 30 & 31, 2008**  
Delaware Nation  
Moraviantown Pow Wow  
Labour Day Weekend  
Moraviantown, Ontario  
www.delawarenation.on.ca
- SEPTEMBER**  
September 29 - October 1, 2008  
8th Annual World Indigenous Women &  
Wellness Conference  
Calgary Westin Hotel,  
320 - 4th Ave S.W. Calgary, Alberta  
E-mail: awotaan@awotaan.org
- October 4 & 5, 2008**  
34rd Annual Intertribal Pow Wow  
"Honoring Our Native Veterans"  
Thomas Square Honolulu, Hawaii  
Everyone is invited to attend this free event,  
which will feature dancing, drumming,  
singing, arts and crafts, and food.  
Information (808) 953-0422  
or (808) 734-8018  
E-mail: Nativewinds1152@aol.com
- October 6th, 2008**  
9th Annual Native American Flute and  
Storytelling Concert Center for Hawaiian  
Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii  
This free concert is jointly sponsored by AIPA,  
the Center for Hawaiian Studies and Native  
Winds Gift Gallery & Craft Supply.  
Information (808) 734-8018 or  
E-mail: beadmagic@AOL.com

**There are even more events listed online: [www.ammssa.com/ammsaevents.html](http://www.ammssa.com/ammsaevents.html)**





LAURA SUTHERS

Melissa Jo Moses (center) an Aboriginal interpreter at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton interacts with a group of grade one students. She shares with them some of the history of the First People's and their stories spanning 11,000 years and 500 generations. The program will continue throughout the summer.

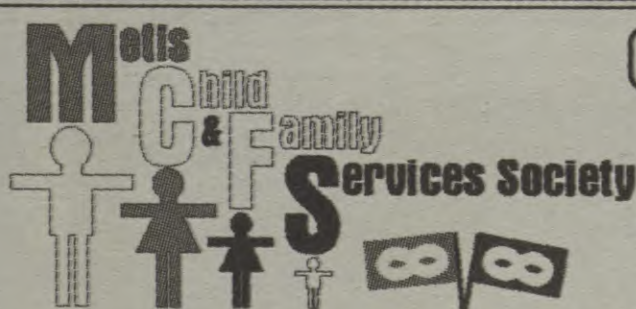
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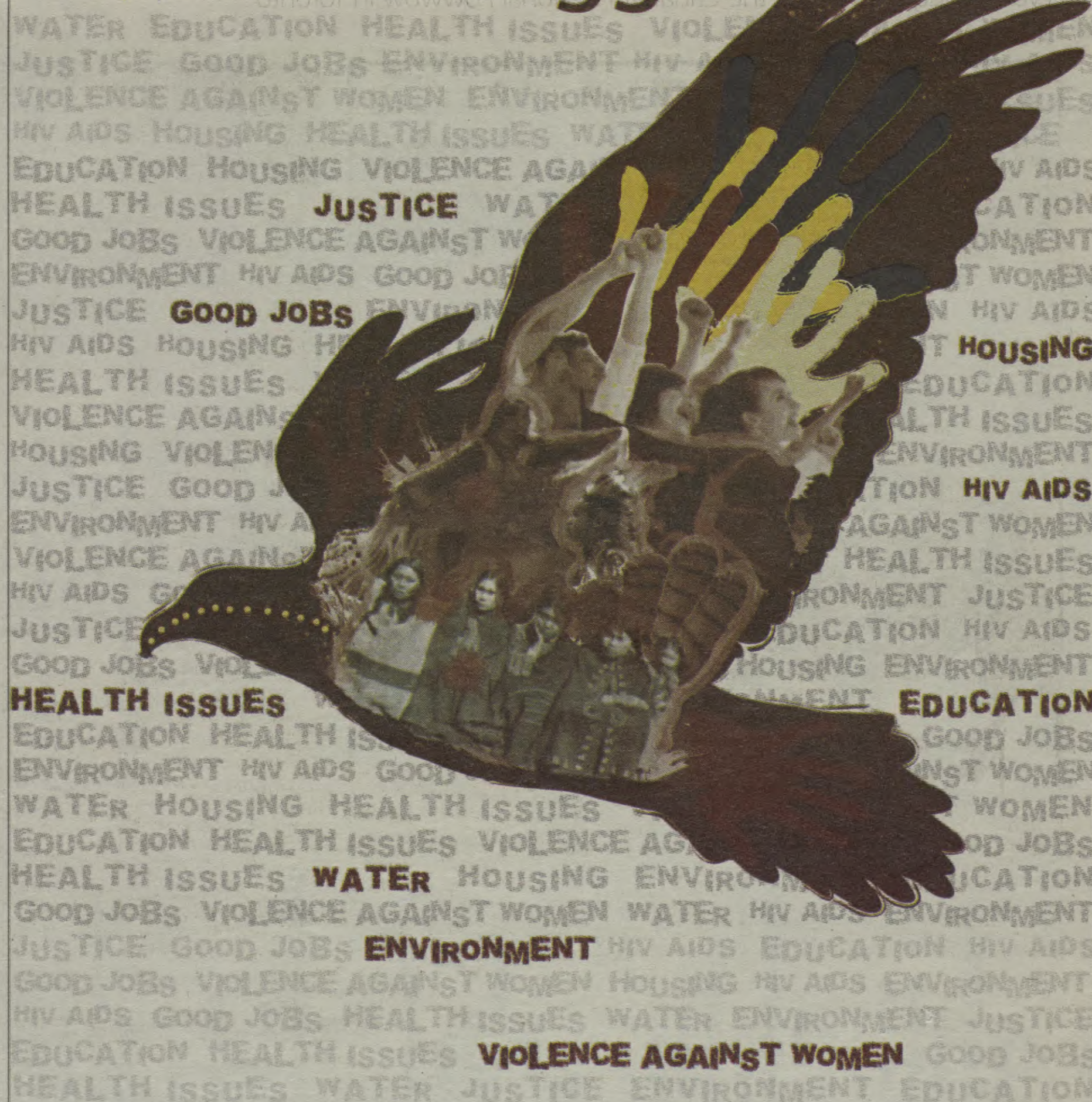
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## All My Relations



LAURA SUTHERS

A young jingle dancer at the Canadian National Powwow in Toronto.

### Manitoba

#### Mid-August (TBA): Opaskwayak Cree Nation Opaskwayak Indian Days

Each year, the Opaskwayak Cree Nation hosts northern Manitoba's biggest Indian Days festival. It is an elaborate celebration of Cree traditions and cultures that is fast becoming one of the region's more popular summer tourist attractions. Attendees can take in an exciting 60-mile canoe race, a wide selection of traditional food, the sounds of fiddling and the fast steps of jigging. The Opaskwayak Indian Days also features great events such as the Canoe Classic, the Indian Princess Pageant, square dancing, Call of the Wild Night, senior activities, teen dances, a scavenger hunt, the Walking Poker Derby, dry socials, a family fun night, tootsies contest, and the tightest jeans contest. Furthermore, it has competitions in flour packing, fish netting and filleting, a fishing derby, and a variety of music. The event also holds the Western Canadian Square Dance Championships and an variety of live entertainment. To find out more go to [www.opaskwayak.mb.ca](http://www.opaskwayak.mb.ca) or phone (204) 623-7431.

#### August 29-31: Reedy Creek, Manitoba Asham Stompers 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Music and Dance Festival

The Asham Stompers Festival of Métis Music and Dance is an annual event held over the September long weekend in the beautiful Reedy Creek Manitoba. It features a host of local, national and even international entertainers. It is a fun-filled Labour Day Weekend with amazing musical talent that includes live bands, the World Jigging Championships, and the Reedy Creek Idol Competition. The headliners this year are The Capital City Cloggers from South Carolina, who have performed throughout the United States. They have won over 100 awards and a place in the American Clogging Hall of Fame. The organizers are the well-known Asham Stompers, whose mission in holding the event is to help preserve Métis history through the Red River Jig. Festival tickets are currently available with early bird deals of \$90 before July 31 by phoning (800) 267-5730.

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## Boozhoo!

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and AFN Regional Chiefs, I extend our best wishes as you celebrate National Indian Solidarity Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

I have always said that the future of this country is directly tied to the future of First Nations people. Simply put, our future is Canada's future.

The AFN has called on the Government of Canada to work with First Nations to protect our children, invest in our future and respect our responsibility to one another.

Working together, we can achieve our vision of a better, brighter and just future for our children today and our future generations.

Enjoy the celebrations!

**Phil Fontaine**  
National Chief  
Assembly of First Nations

**The Assembly of First Nations**  
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\*Log on to [aptn.ca](http://aptn.ca) for local show times.





## All My Relations



### Saskatchewan

**June 6-8:**

#### Aboriginal Summer Program for Youth in Recreation (ASPYP) Program

This program is designed to prepare Aboriginal youth with leadership skills that will enable them to provide recreation programming in their own communities. Selected youth from across northern Saskatchewan will have the opportunity to participate in a camp style setting where they will sleep under the stars.

For more information about the program call:

(306) 425-3127 ext. 4 or toll free at 1-800-563-2555

or to download an application go to [www.nscrd.com](http://www.nscrd.com).

### Alberta

**All Summer**

#### Métis Crossing

Métis Crossing Opened its gates on May 17 and will be open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until September long weekend. Located near Smoky Lake the site was built and is operated by Métis people. Visitors will enjoy and learn a jig, make bannock, learn to bead and can taken in the beautiful trails.

Contact Corrine Card at (780) 656-2229 or visit

[www.metiscrossing.com](http://www.metiscrossing.com) for more information.

**All Summer**

#### Elk Island Retreat Ltd.

Set up a tipi and learn about its significance as Aboriginal people share traditional stories, culture, heritage and spirituality. Visitors also have an opportunity to make Aboriginal crafts, play and Aboriginal hand drum and learn about the importance of a smudging ceremony and the Medicine Wheel.

For more information go to: [www.elkislandretreat.com](http://www.elkislandretreat.com).

**All Summer**

#### Fort Edmonton Park

Watch how Edmonton's history has transformed as you explore the park. The park offers Aboriginal interpreters to explain what their role was with the Hudson's Bay Company fur traders. Visit the large tipi and sit with the women as they bead and make bannock. They will share some of the traditions that were practiced a long time ago and that are still practiced today.

For details go to: [www.edmonton.ca/fort](http://www.edmonton.ca/fort).

### Ontario

**From June 11 to 15:**

#### Westboro Village's Festival of Music, Art and Life

Stroll around Richmond road between McRae and Golden avenues in Ottawa and take in a line up of talented musicians, dancers and performance art at this year's 5<sup>th</sup> celebration. The focus of this year's event is "A Celebration of Canadian Aboriginal Women in Music." Performances from some of the most celebrated women who are trailblazing the music scene include, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Holly McNarland, Kinnie Starr, Tamara Podemski, Lucie Idlout, Nemisak Women's Drummers and the Nukarlik Inuit Throat Singers.

There will be something for everybody at the festival. Children will also enjoy performances by the Salamander Theatre-Young Children's Theatre and a show from the Company of Fools-"Tempest in a Teapot."

For details go to: [www.westfest.ca](http://www.westfest.ca)

or call: (613) 729-3565.

**June 20:**

#### Toronto

Take in an interactive presentation of drumming and dancing by Lost Dancers from Six Nations at the Toronto Zoo's Savanna Picnic Site.

For more information about this and other Turtle Island Conservation events, contact the program coordinator at: [turtleisland@torontozoo.ca](mailto:turtleisland@torontozoo.ca) or call: (416) 392-5999.

**August 2-4:**

#### Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, Manitoulin Island

Make plans to attend Wikwemikong's Cultural Festival, where you'll attend teaching workshops and cultural demonstrations.

For more information go to:

[www.wikwemikongheritage.org](http://www.wikwemikongheritage.org).



CHRISTINE FIDDLER

Creating Hope Society's First Annual "Blanket of Remembrance" Round dance was held May 16th at Edmonton City Hall. The event was organized to create awareness of Aboriginal children who have died while under the care of Child Welfare.



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LAURA SUTHERS

This young powwow dancer is finding the powwow a bit noisy. He was participating in Canada's largest indoor powwow a key part of the Canadian Aboriginal Festival held in Toronto's Roger's Centre (formerly the Skydome) every November.

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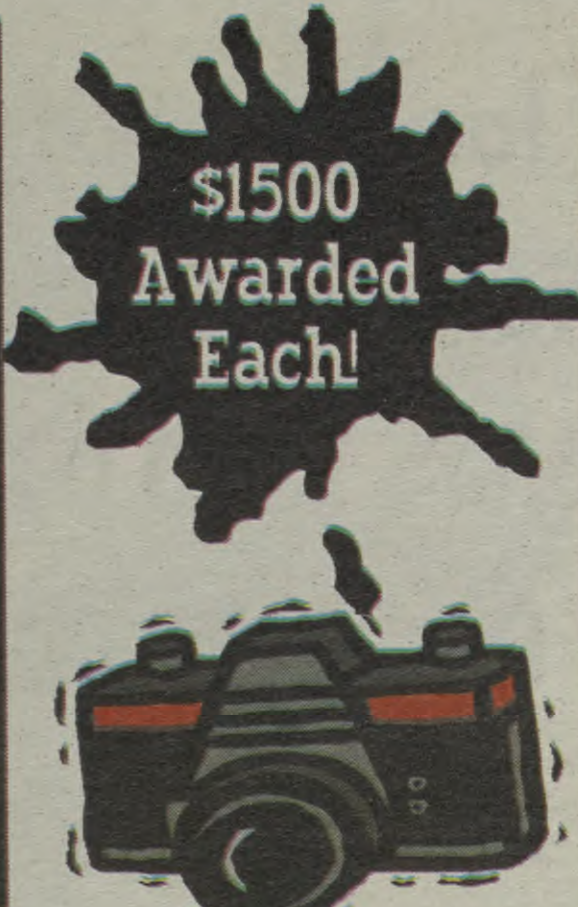
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13245 - 146 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4S8

### ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

Entries may be colour slides or prints (no Polaroids, please), not larger than 8" x 10". Subject of photos must be Aboriginal. A maximum of four (4) photo entries per person. Photographs that have been previously published or won a photographic award are NOT eligible. By submitting the photo(s) you confirm that you are the exclusive rights holder of the photo(s). Each entry must be labeled with the entrant's name. This information should be printed on the back of the photograph or on the slide frame (a grease pencil works best), or on an attached label. Hint: To prevent damage, do not stamp or write heavily on the back of your prints. Package your entries carefully in a protective cardboard sleeve. Entries must be accompanied by a list of the pictures enclosed. The list should include your full name, address and daytime phone number. Entrants under 18 must enclose permission of a parent/guardian. Sorry, submitted entries and photos cannot be returned. Windspeaker and Scotiabank are not responsible for lost or delayed entries. The selected winning photos shall become the property of Windspeaker. Professionals and amateurs may enter. Photographs will be judged on creativity and technical excellence and how they best capture the contest theme. A panel of judges will select the prize winners. Their decisions are final. Winner will be notified by phone. Photo contest rules are also available online at <http://www.ammsa.com/snap>



**Your picture should show a portrayal of Aboriginal culture and people.**

Internet website address for more details - <http://www.ammsa.com/snap>

**Submissions deadline: October 2nd, 2008**

Pick out your best photos and send them to Windspeaker. Two photos will be selected and awarded \$1500 each. In addition, the two selected photos will grace the 2009 Aboriginal History Wall Poster sponsored by Scotiabank and to be distributed in Windspeaker's December 2008 issue all across Canada!



# [ spirit pole ] Spirit Pole journey brings awareness to NAIG

By Debora Steel  
Windspeaker Writer

## COWICHAN LAKE, B.C.

"Exhilarating."

That's how She'ee'lum, the chief of the Lake Cowichan First Nation, described the experience of sliding the big slick across the surface of the western red cedar, watching as a paper-thin slice of history curled at the end of the carver's tool and floated to the floor.

"I just can't explain it," said the chief, known by the English name Cyril Livingstone. "When you have that tool in your hand and you blow the chips away, it blew me away; to have that moment with the carver, I just can't explain it. It was so exciting."

On May 1, Livingstone was the first of many thousands of people who will have their moment with carver Carey Newman (Coast Salish, Kwakiutl) as he travels across British Columbia with the Spirit Pole.

The 20-foot ancient cedar,

chosen by the artist from among the many trees blown down in Stanley Park during the windstorm of November 2006, will be raised at the opening ceremony of the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) hosted in August by the Cowichan Tribes on Vancouver Island.

During the pole's 95-day journey, 10,000 pairs of hands will help shape the symbols that represent the theme of Newman's design. As a memento of their experience, each person will keep the sliver of fragrant cedar they shave away from the tree.

The Spirit Pole is an initiative of the games' organizing committee, meant to bring awareness to the event this summer, but also designed to celebrate the province's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

To tell both stories in the wood, Newman said he had to find common ground.

"What I landed on is Victory of Spirit. For the games, this means perseverance. It means that

victory is not only measured by wins. Like a salmon that swims against the current, sometimes it's the journey that really counts," he said.

"From a historical and cultural perspective, victory of spirit means emerging from the difficulties of our past and moving forward with pride. It means remembering who we are and where we come from while embracing the world as it is today."

At the base of the pole is the frog symbol, which represents the collective experience. The frog is taking a step forward into the future.

A salmon swimming upstream represents the future, but it also acknowledges the cycle of life, the "return to where we have come from, to pass on what we have learned."

The wolf figure represents the past. "It recalls our history and signifies the importance and strength of family," Newman said.

At the top of the pole, the eagle,

strong and self-assured.

"Here he is seen looking toward the future; a future where he sees hope for our youth, for our environment and for our collective spirit."

Before the Spirit Pole journey ends, it will have traveled to 47 communities, as far south as Osoyoos and as far north as Fort Nelson. It made its western-most stop in Port Alberni on May 4 and will go as far east as Golden.

The pole will return to Vancouver Island from Prince Rupert to Port Hardy on B.C. Ferries. It will then follow Tribal Journeys down the inside passage, returning to Cowichan territory by canoe.

"We're going to set it into its own canoe and it's going to be towed in by other canoes, said Ron Rice, manager, cultural events and ceremonies for Cowichan 2008.

There will be as many as 100 ocean-going canoes from 65 points of origin who will arrive in Cowichan Bay on July 28 to welcome the pole home.

Newman will then go into seclusion and put the finishing touches on the pole before it is presented to Team BC, who will bring it to the games as a gift from British Columbia.

"I am very excited to kick this off today," said Rice at the launch ceremony at Cowichan Lake.



Coast Salish, Kwakiutl carver, Carey Newman.

"This has been a long time in the making. You know, we came up with this idea in January of 2007, and pitched the idea to BC150, who was looking for some province-wide events, and they were very supportive from the beginning, and have been as the project evolved and grew."

BC150 events are taking place all around the province this year, said Charles Parkinson, CEO of the BC150 program, "and the whole program has been built on five pillars—heritage, communities, arts and culture, cultural diversity and Aboriginal people.

Today's event embraces all five of those pillars.

"Although we are celebrating 150 years of shared history and cultural diversity, British Columbia's Aboriginal communities have made contributions to the fabric of this great province for thousands of years," he said.

(See Tour on page 16.)

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Ernie Rice of the Tzinquaw dance group performed during the Spirit Pole journey.

PHOTOS BY DEBORA STEEL





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

### Tour represents the journey of communities and province

(Continued from page 15.)

Athletes, performers, parents and spectators in the thousands will "come and see the NAIG happening right here in this valley," said Parkinson, adding that the Cowichan territory is known as the warm land.

Indeed, the pole, in part, represents the story of Quw'utsun, said Newman in describing his design.

"When the people first saw the place that would become their home, the mountains appeared to be frogs warming their backs in the sun. The Hul'q'uminum word for this is scowutsun, known today as Cowichan. Quw'utsun is a place to warm your back in the sun."

The NAIG is an international event that will showcase some of the best Aboriginal athletes from

across Canada and the United States. The Games run from Aug. 3 to Aug. 10.

"But it's so much more than sports," said Cal Swustus, board chair of Cowichan 2008.

"It's a celebration of our rich cultural diversity and the remarkable achievements of our youth. This pole, and the figures being carved into it, represents the journey, the journey of our communities, and our province, our nations, as we prepare to deliver the best games ever."

Carey is the fifth generation of carvers and is traveling with his father Victor Newman, who Carey said taught him everything he knows about the art form.

Victor, however, is humble about his influence over his son. Victor first put a carving tool into Carey's hands when the boy was

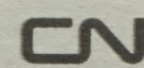
only five, and the talent blossomed from there.

"It's amazing what he does. He's into everything, you know. Masks, jewelry, and he's also an opera singer too," Victor said, proud of his son's accomplishments.

Victor and his wife Edith, and Carey's wife Lorraine, will help the artist with the crowds of people that will take part in the carving over the next three months.

"This is an exciting time for us," Carey said. She'ee'lum agreed. "The excitement of where this pole will travel. It's a feeling that is going to be in your heart forever, it will be in your mind forever and it's going to be remembered for a long time. That's my feeling."

For more information about the Spirit Pole, visit [www.cowichan2008.com](http://www.cowichan2008.com).



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### Event goers debate issues surrounding artifacts

(Continued from page 13.)

Audience members shared a wide variety of passionate perspectives and ideas regarding the roles played in the past by individuals, governments and organizations — and what measures those same entities, and the Tsimshian people, should take in the future.

One of the issues most strongly debated was the role of museums, perhaps seemingly more controversial as the event was taking place at a museum under the direction of the museum. Some expressed they believed museums, in displaying artifacts like the Dundas collection, were making the best of a bad situation and at least strived to be respectful of all involved. Reece (and others) shot down opinions in this

perspective, as she seemed to tend to do (not always nicely) with most opinions she didn't agree with. Reflecting afterwards, Reece, who is known for her provocative work, explained why.

"There were a lot of moments where I felt like we were listening to a tape player of what's always been played in terms of the colonial perspective, but I think that it's good that there are actually people here who can speak back to it," she said.

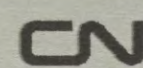
"I wanted to show that these so called objects that we own have meaning," she added. There is no 'it's over' or 'we're over it' or 'get over it' — we're in it.

Going forward, Reece said there is a lot of work to do. "The first thing we need to do is open up for dialogue and provide space

that's safe and I think it's OK to have differing views," she said, perhaps not entirely in keeping with the seemingly abrupt tone with which she occasionally moderated the discussions.

"Some views are colonial, but they really need to hear other people's point of view," she added. "I know what's inherently true and I know what's right, and the fact that these objects got bought and sold the way that they did (is not). I (also) have a problem with museum practices — thank you for keeping our stuff while we're dying. That's a pretty backhanded thank-you, but that's the situation that we're in with these things."

"The spirit of the Tsimshian is not in these so-called artifacts; it's in us as human beings," she noted as a final message for her people.



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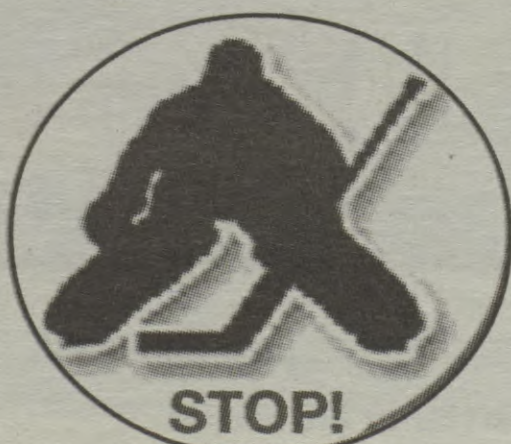
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## Alberta Sweetgrass: Special Section providing news from Alberta

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## One of the largest Aboriginal film events hits Edmonton in June

The annual Dreamspeakers International Aboriginal Film and Television Festival is set to take place from June 4 to 7 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Edmonton.

A broad range of screenings by filmmakers from across Canada, the USA, and other parts of the world are scheduled for this year. Canadian screenings include the Opening Night World Premiere of Alberta's Gerald Auger's 'Honour Thy Father' and the Canadian Premiere of Georgina Lightening's 'Older Than America'.

Other events are the International Speaker Series, industry workshops, pitch café, a fundraiser luncheon for the 'Walk of Honour', 'Fashion Rocks' featuring performances by Aboriginal musicians, and the ever popular 'Youth Day' at the Stanley Milner Library.

The Walk of Honour was created to recognize the efforts and hard work of Aboriginal artists who bring a better understanding to cultures, traditions, languages and artistic expressions.

Leaders and innovators in the film and television industry will be part of the event to share their expertise with those attending. Well-known Aboriginal

performers are also scheduled to make special appearances.

The festival – which has grown into one of the largest and more prestigious Aboriginal film events in the world – is dedicated to promoting Aboriginal culture, art and heritage.

"It is a resource for Aboriginal filmmakers, for directors, scriptwriters, cameramen, technicians, actors, musicians, storytellers, artists and craftspeople," states the Web site. "The Society is also a resource bank – a way to get in touch with Aboriginal filmmakers, performers and artists." Furthermore, it allows Aboriginal people to get trained in the arts, culture and festival operations.

An agenda and registration form for this year's festival can be found at [www.dreamspeakers.org](http://www.dreamspeakers.org).

Dreamspeakers is also looking for more volunteers to help out at the festival. Visit their Web site to download and submit the volunteer form.

Registration Fees are \$100 per person and includes full day sessions, breakfast, lunch and the film awards reception. Tickets and passes can also be purchased at the venue before each screening.

emerging artists

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Who are our rising stars?

The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards Foundation is expanding its biennial awards program, to support emerging artists with up to ten awards every second year.

Applications for the \$10,000 awards can be filed by July 15th, 2008.

Application Guidelines and Forms are available from the Foundation website: [www.albertaartsawards.shawbiz.ca](http://www.albertaartsawards.shawbiz.ca) or by calling the Foundation office at (780) 434-2635.



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## Saskatchewan Sage: Special Section providing news from Saskatchewan

# Eashappie honoured for work in race relations

By Christine Fiddler  
Sage Staff Writer

### REGINA

Building bridges of understanding between Aboriginal people and mainstream society through media is one task Elmer Eashappie does not take lightly. It is an effort that has earned him a national award at the 'Enriching My Canada and Yours' Awards (EMCY) held at the Conexus Arts Centre Regina in April.

"The reason why I did all this is because it helps mainstream have a better understanding of Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan," he said about his role as the Aboriginal Cultural Advisor and New Business Development Project Director for the LeaderPost, Regina's city newspaper.

"It's been very successful, historically Aboriginal people didn't like the media because of all the negative stories they've done in the past. But I think it was just a lack of understanding of mainstream, how they view First Nation and Aboriginal people," he said.

Eashappie runs an initiative of the newspaper to improve relations and develop new readership through a section focused on Aboriginal people. He runs the special quarterly section of the Regina LeaderPost and the Saskatoon StarPhoenix with topics such as residential schools, the Summer and Winter First Nations Games, and First Nations culture and history. Four times a year, the sectionals are circulated to all subscribers along with their paper and delivered to around 10,000 homes in First Nations across the province.

"Once the paper got delivered to every house on each reserve, that was a historic moment in itself because traditionally and

historically that's never been done," he said. "You only pick up the paper at the band office or at the band store. But we delivered it to every house, hired someone from every reserve to deliver the paper."

Eashappie recently did a feature called the '2008 Seven Saskatchewan First Nations Profiles'. This focused on a First Nation band and told of its history, contact information, departments, chief and council, band membership, and election act. "It's more of an information (source) and education about the Saskatchewan First Nations," he said.

He finds that having this kind of information about Aboriginal people in the paper achieves several purposes: it gets people talking, provides different perspectives of an issue, and brings about a greater understanding of Aboriginal people.

"I believe that people are now beginning to understand the historical events of what happened to First Nation Aboriginal people in the past," he said. "And people are starting to understand Aboriginal issues more at a grassroots level as opposed to just hearsay."

Eashappie recalls that prior to his position at the city newspaper, he wanted to find a solution to the racism he faced throughout his life and saw media as a great outlet.

"I come from a broken family, the streets, so to speak," he stated. "You know, went through that drug and alcohol stage. It's only been in the last twelve years that I've made a change for myself regarding making a change and helping non-Aboriginals better understand First Nations."

Although Eashappie is a member of Carry the Kettle First Nation, he was born in Broadview and raised off-reserve.

His mother moved him out of the reserve at two years old because his father was an alcoholic and she didn't want him to grow up in a dysfunctional environment. However, it was inevitable, as he went through a rough life regardless of that move from the reserve.

"I grew up in an era where I didn't have the nurturing of a loving family because of residential school, because my mother went through that. And I learned life the hard way, very, very hard way and I just hit rock bottom too many times. Then I wanted to change my life so I went to the elders and participated in ceremonies, went to the Sun dance and that's where I began my new life journey, my new other level of learning and I just embraced it and it's history now," he said, adding the teachings continue to help him.

Although Eashappie's work on intercultural relations is profound, he admits more does need to be done, especially to educate society about solutions to Aboriginal issues.

"That would be our continuous cycle and I think people are on the right track right now and government organizations are starting to understand based on the information that they hear," he said. "It kind of backs up what the chiefs are saying."

The award he got was part of a national effort to recognize those who fight racism, strive for inclusive workplaces, and engage in dialogue and action to make Canada a nation open to the diversity of the human condition. Eashappie said it was good enough for him to be nominated for the award in the category of media, but to be announced a winner was unexpected.

"That was something that I can't explain because the other person who was up for the same award category, they had very



Elmer Eashappie (middle) is pictured with Bill Hitchinson, MLA for Regina South and an RCMP member.

extensive experience, I was really surprised," he said. Eashappie was nominated in the same category as 'Little Mosque on the Prairie' creator Zarqu Nawaz.

"To me, it came knowing that stuff I developed was very impacting throughout the community," he expressed. "I was very humbled by the experience."

Dr. Shawneen Pete, vice-president for academics at the First Nations University of Canada, nominated Eashappie because she considers his work phenomenal. She said she has seen Eashappie regularly interacting with the university by featuring its innovative programming, students, and educational opportunities in the section.

"From our perspective, it's really opened the doors for us, to feature not only our students but our programs. So from our side of things, he was well-deserving of a nomination," she said. She has known Elmer for over a year now and says his real strength is his visionary outlook. She said he does not lose sight of how media can serve a number of purposes.

"He really would like media to do two things at once, educate non-Aboriginal people about the history and contemporary issues

and the contributions about First Nations people as a way to enhance their learning. And then at the same time he wants media to also serve First Nations people so that we can tell our stories in an authoritative way," she noted.

Eashappie was initially hesitant to accept the nomination when she first mentioned it to him, but as they talked about it he eventually agreed his cause was worth the attention.

"It got him really thinking about his own contributions, the work that he does and what legacy he wants to leave behind," she recalled. She said that she realizes the profound contributions of individuals in Saskatchewan often go untold, and there is a need to recognize those people such as Eashappie. "We really need to be proactive in tooting other peoples' horns for them. This award is at the national level and it's a first in Saskatchewan, it's the first nationally and I think he was an extremely well qualified candidate."

The EMCY awards recognize individuals and organizations in nine categories: lifetime achievement, city/community, media, sports/fitness, business, humanitarian, youth, arts and education, and universities.



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## Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

# Ojibway comedian to break world record

By Christine Fiddler  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

### WINNIPEG

Elvis has left the building. Or in this case, Elvis has left Canada for a few days, in the form of Gerry Barrett – an Elvis impersonator, popular stand-up comedian, actor, and radio show host from Winnipeg – who heads to Las Vegas to help break a world record.

"I'm always telling the youth to follow (their) dreams," he said about his decision to be part of the Elvis tribute on May 25. "And so I thought I would take my own advice, I'm a big Elvis fan and I thought it would be fun to take part in this record-breaking event."

Gerry "The Big Bear" Barrett travels to the Guinness World Record Elvis tribute, where Elvis tribute artists from across North America gather to sing one Elvis Presley song in unison. It is an American attempt to break Australia's world record of having 147 Elvis's singing 'Love Me Tender'.

"I work in radio as you know, and it was announced in the country music news. There was a story that came across the wire that piqued my interest. I told my listeners and I thought I would take part in it myself," Barrett explained. He is a morning host on NCI-FM, Manitoba's Aboriginal Radio Network.

The Elvis event is part of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Reel Awards in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Impersonators Convention, a gathering of hundreds of top celebrity impersonators, look-a-likes, sound-a-likes, and tribute artists from around the world.

"There will be talent agents and booking agents there from Hollywood and all parts (of the country) and so I'm going to showcase my standup comedy at the same time, so I'm hoping to get some work out of this and have some fun," he said.

Barrett has taken his comedy show almost everywhere across Canada and has been featured on Just For Laughs, the comedy network, APTN, CBC and he is a regular contributor to CBC Radio. Most recently he did a show for the Assembly of First Nation's Christmas gala in Ottawa.

"I was on the Rez Bluez II, the tv show, hosting it and performing stand-up comedy as well," he said. "I've been to Los Angeles to showcase and I'm booked right across the country, I'm going to perform in Chicago, and this will be my first time to Las Vegas."

He is a huge Elvis fan and closes each of his comedy shows with a tribute to the King of Rock and Roll in a funny bit called, "If Elvis Were Chief." The whole piece describes his experience of being teased as a kid by non-Aboriginal people because he looked like a miniature Elvis.

"With black hair and my cheekbones, they would put on Elvis records and make me dance," he said. "When I was a kid I didn't like it very much. When I grew up I started to appreciate Elvis and I realize that our people respect his music and his background. So I became an Elvis fan very early. And then now I'm doing Elvis, an impression of him on my own terms and not being forced to imitate him like I was when I was a kid."

"My comedy act is what it would be like 'If Elvis Were

Chief", band meetings would be different, in my act I sing a tribute to Elija Harper, if Elvis were singing that song. So I have a guitar, I have an Elvis suit that I wear and it goes over very well."

He sings most of his own material in the show, all of it is live singing, he adds. "I pick up my guitar and do a lot of music and tell jokes and stuff."

The reason why Barrett chose to do stand-up comedy was to share his story as an Aboriginal person and to reverse the negative stereotypes many people have about Native people.

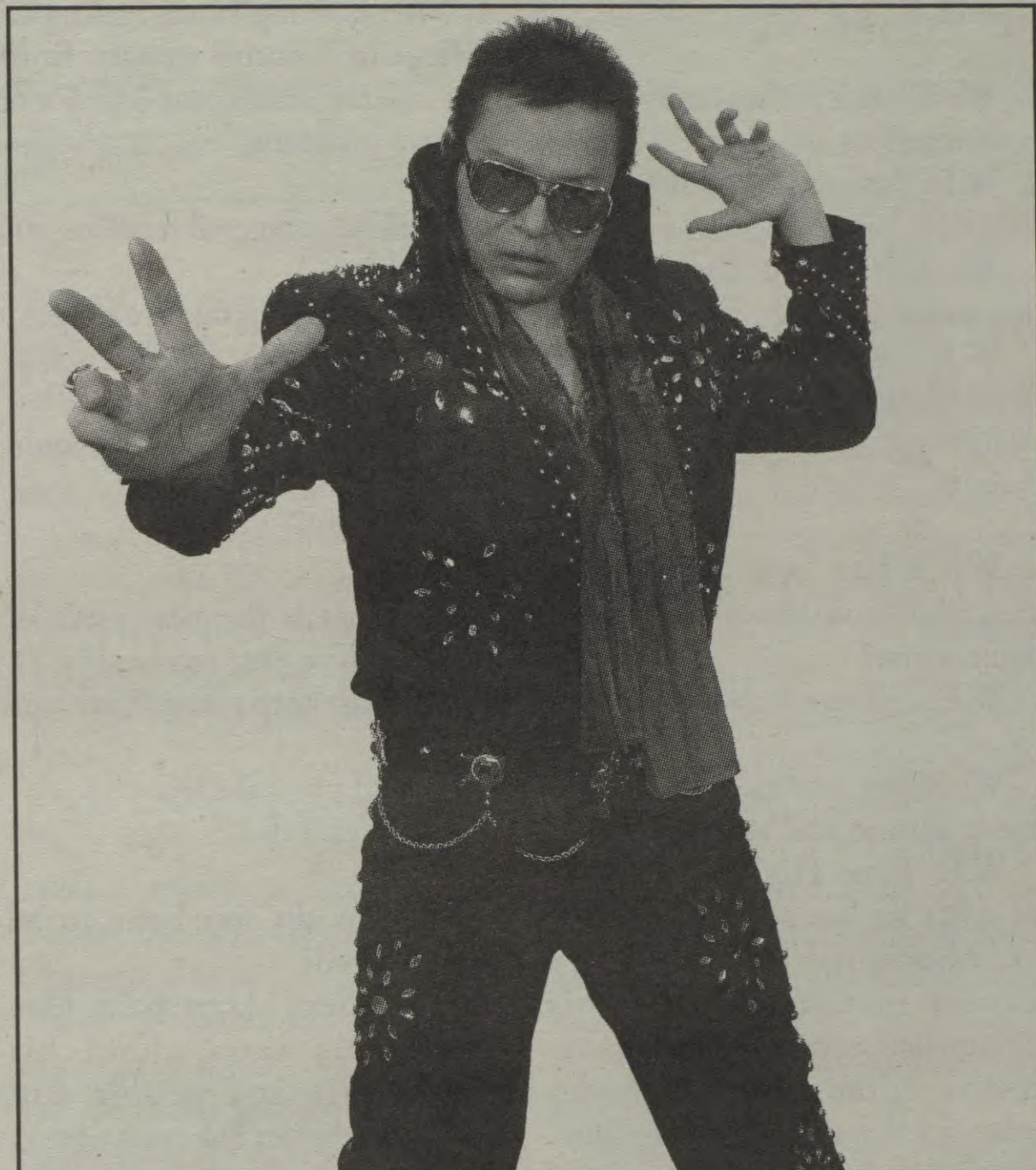
"I share my journey right from my adoption and time in foster homes right up until present day and people see a well-spoken educated man on stage, on a journey," he explained.

Barrett is a status Ojibwe from the Saugeen First Nation in southern Ontario.

As a young child he was adopted by non-Aboriginal parents during the "sixties scoop" and when he was older he researched his heritage and found that sense of Aboriginal identity.

"I share my appreciation for Elders and communities I've been to and people can see that I'm trying to learn more about my culture and storytelling. Then I share my journey with youth through my workshops or through my comedy performance," he stated.

"I started probably over ten years now for sure, probably twelve years. And I've played every redneck honky-tonk (towns) in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and now I'm doing corporate events and television shows and working with the CBC as well. So it's grown considerably and now it's to the point where I'm confident



Gerry Barrett and Elvis impersonator.

enough that I could go to Las Vegas and get away with this," he said.

He is a presenter at many conferences and special events across North America on the topics of "Career Opportunities in Broadcasting" and "Aboriginal Humour".

His 45 to 60 minute comedy routine covers Aboriginal issues such as the 60's scoop, adoption, and the importance of education.

However, his main purpose is to just get the message out to Aboriginal youth to follow through with their dreams.

He advises them to see where their dreams take them, but if they don't follow through he would like to see youth hold on

to that hope and try again at another time.

"I don't want to say there's no such thing as failure but if you don't follow through in your dreams, I don't want you sitting at home, looking out the window, saying 'gosh, I'm sad because I didn't try it.' So try things and you'll feel good about yourself," he advises.

His movie credentials include appearances in 'Cowboys and Indians', 'The Killing of J.J. Harper', and on the children's tv program 'Tipi Tales' where he plays the voice of Sabe (Bigfoot.) For more information about Barrett or to book him for an event go to his Web site at [www.thebigbear.org](http://www.thebigbear.org).

## New funds to enhance land and resources

Ontario provincial government has announced the release of funds to enhance Aboriginal communities' capacity to negotiate with government and the private sector regarding their land and resources.

The initial investment of \$25 million over two years, a response to the Final Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry released in May 2007, is being called a "new relationship fund". Ontario

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Michael Bryant said it is an initial investment to support "First Nations and Métis communities to enhance their consultation capacity to participate in meaningful consultations with stakeholders interested in development initiatives. It will also support increased skills development and the building of business partnerships for Aboriginal individuals,

organizations and First Nations and Métis communities.

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse said the \$25 million falls far short of capacity needs, and should be viewed as an initial investment only, adding there is a general lack of understanding of what the true capacity needs of First Nations are within the government and the general public.

He explained the term

"Aboriginal" is misleading – a term used to encompass the three constitutionally recognized Indigenous groups in Canada: First Nations, Métis and the Inuit.

"We are very diverse peoples. There are critical distinctions between us, including the fact that First Nations people occupy their traditional territories, and we have signed treaties with the Crown. This makes us very

unique and we expect to be dealt with on a distinct basis," Regional Chief Toulouse said.

He added the stated purposes of the new fund were not derived from consultation between First Nations and Ontario. Only one meeting was held between political leadership and Minister Bryant, and the decision to push ahead with the funding program goes against "the process we agreed to follow," he said.

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# [ windspeaker confidential ] — Waawaate Fobister

**Windspeaker:** What one quality do you most value in a friend?

**Waawaate Fobister:** To be a best friend, there are plenty of qualities that are important to me. But if I had to pick one, I value honesty the most in a friend.

**W:** What is it that really makes you mad?

**W.F:** Racism and homophobia.

**W:** When are you at your happiest?

**W.F:** When I am in a room with all my family and we are just laughing our hardcore belly laughs.

**W:** What one word best describes you when you are at your worst?

**W.F:** Scared, haha

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

**W.F:** Rene Highway, because of what he has accomplished as an Aboriginal contemporary dancer in Canada with his circumstances coming from a tiny reserve in the north (and) who was a speaker of his native tongue.

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

**W.F:** Overcoming my fear of who I actually was, but I am still figuring that out.

**W:** What is your greatest accomplishment?

**W.F:** Leaving home, going to college in Toronto straight from my reserve and completing the theatre program.

**W:** What one goal remains out of reach?

**W.F:** Reviving our languages.

**W:** If you couldn't do what you're doing today, what would you be doing?

**W.F:** I don't know.

**W:** What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?

**W.F:** Just keep going Waawaate

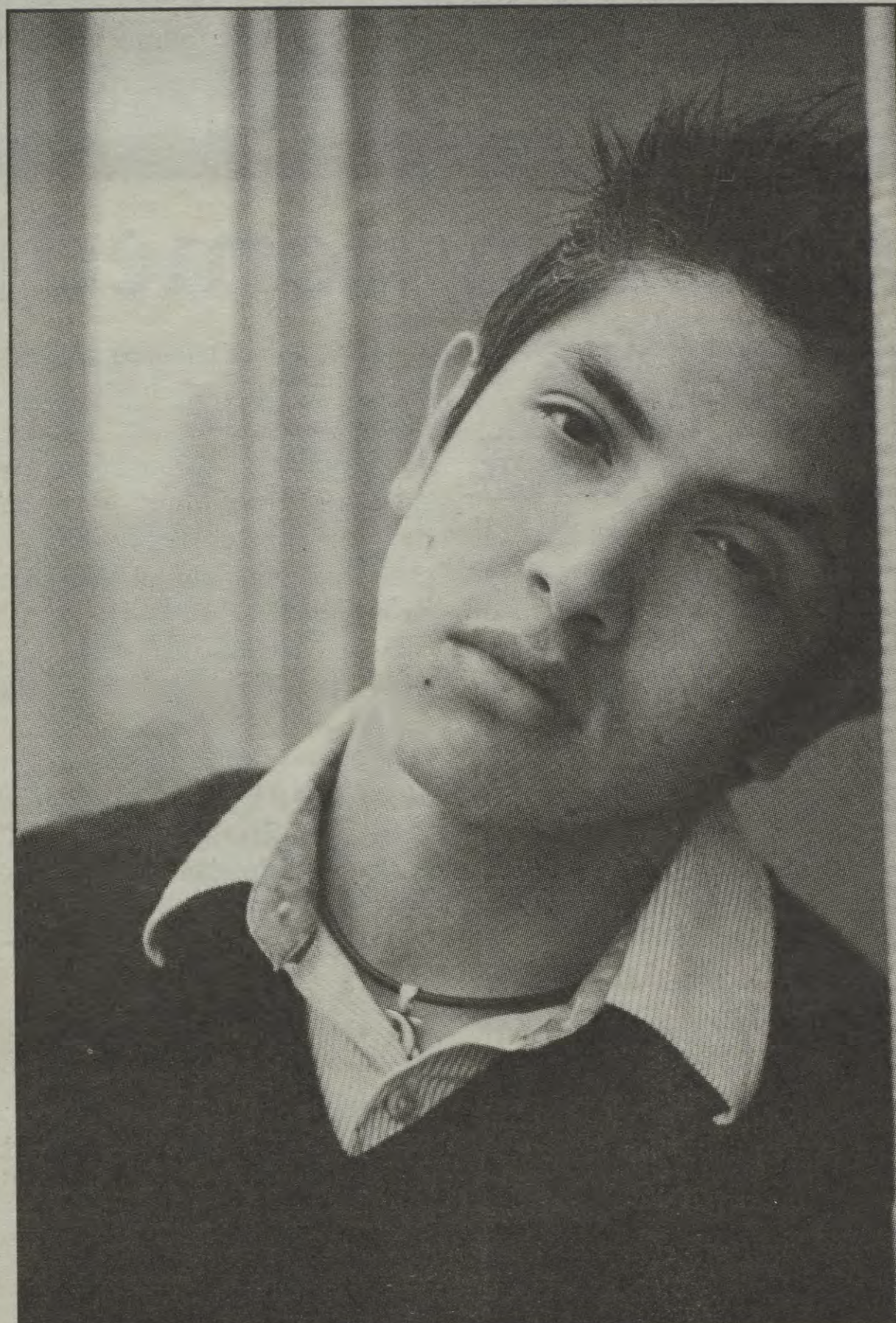
**W:** Did you take it?

**W.F:** Yes, I did.

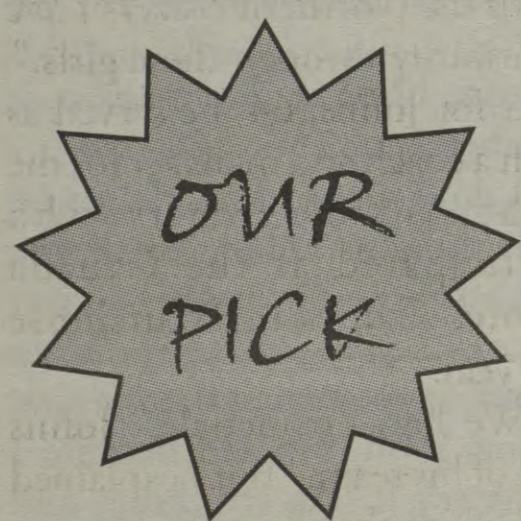
**W:** How do you hope to be remembered?

**W.F:** A Sexy Mama, haha. One who really cares about his community and people and strived for better for everyone.

Waawaate Fobister is a proud Ojibwe from Grassy Narrows First Nation in Ontario. He is a graduate and winner of the "Distinguished Performance - Male" award from Humber College's Theatre Performance Program. He has received grants from the Canada Council for the Arts, National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, and several from the Ontario Arts Council. Waawaate has had works presented at Native Earth Performing Arts Theatre and Buddies in Bad Times Theatre as both a choreographer and a writer. Credits include: The Rez Sister (Theatre North West); Schoolhouse (Blyth Festival); The Passage (Pu-Kawiss Productions); PrideCAB; (Buddies in Bad Times Theatre); Voices (Mixed Company Theatre); National Artist Program (Canada Winter Games 2007 - Whitehorse). Watch for his upcoming one man show 'Agokwe', opening the 2008/2009 season for Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto. He will also be in Native Earth Performing Arts Theatre's production of 'A Very Polite Genocide' written by Melanie Brouzes.



Can the Six Nations Arrows  
[radio's most active]



**Artist—**Steve Rain  
**Album—**Let It Rain  
**Song—**Make Me Right  
**Label—**Rain Records  
**Producer—**Steve Rain & Rob Hewes

## Steve Rain pours out Gospel messages

When a country artist is asked how they started out singing, one answer that comes to their mind is singing in church—or Gospel Music—and Steve Rain is no different.

What makes Rain different is that seven out of the 10 songs on his new CD are original compositions. The new project is called "Let it Rain," Steve Rain and Friends.

Adding the steel to "Make me right" is like adding milk to your cereal the two just go together no questions asked.

There are always a lot of songs out there that sends the message of hope or guidance and most will be able to capture those messages in "Make me Right".

Your whole perspective will change and so will your taste for gospel music after you listen to Rain's CD.

Steve Rain and Friends also offers a who's who in the Aboriginal and Canadian Country music scene. Mike Gouchie, Buddy Gouchie, Melanie Switzer and Duane Steele all offer their vocal talents on various songs on the CD. There is also a special featured guest on the cd that Rain is no doubt very proud of, Steve Rain Jr.

Not only did Rain write seven of the songs, he also managed to co-produce the cd with Rob Hewes. When listening to this CD, it is clear that this project was near and dear to Rain and is especially evident through his delivery of emotions.

Steve Rain and Friends will be one CD that you'll want to listen to with your friend's, or better yet with your family. Steve Rain will be out performing this summer with Mike Gouchie. For more information go to on Rain's Web site at [www.steverain.com](http://www.steverain.com).

## ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Rick Dixon	Cowboy Up	Ten Candles
Fred Moose	Come On In	Once & For All
Julie Marinelli	Perfect Place	Water Off A Duck's Back
Hector Menow	Die For Me	Rain Dancing
Tracy Bone	Soldier Of Love	No Lies
Ry Moran	Dreams of Grey	Groundwater
New Horizon	Woman In The Picture	Single Release
Mitch Daigneault	Driving All Night	Single Release
Donny Parenteau	Old Man Thibodeaux	What It Takes
Shane Yellowbird	Drive Me Home	Life Is Calling My Name
Gerald Folster	Now I Understand	Magical Places Of The Heart
Derek Miller	Devil Came Down Sunday	The Dirty Looks
Desiree Dorion	I'm Gonna Love You	Single Release
Darrel De La Ronde & Saskia	Road Less Travelled	Laura's Kitchen
Crystal Shawanda	You Can Let Go	Single Release
Mykal Gambull	I'm Your Man	Volume 1
Holly McNarland	Mermaid	Chin Up Buttercup
Mark Jacob	A Little Piece Of My Heart	Single Release
Farrah Meade	I'll Be Gone	Single Release
Brenton Linklater	Mystery Woman	NCN's Sound Of A New Beginning

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# Windspeaker sports briefs

By SAM LASKARIS

## The bid deadline for NAHC 2009 has been extended to May 30

It will now be mid-June before the host site for the 2009 National Aboriginal Hockey Championships is announced.

The location for the national tournament was originally expected to be revealed in mid-April. But those taking part at this year's event were not entirely certain where the tournament would be heading the following season.

This year's Canadian tournament, which was hosted by the Garden River First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., concluded on May 3.

It is believed that only a group from Manitoba had submitted a bid to play host to the '09 tournament.

In late April, however, the Aboriginal Sport Circle, which organizes the annual NAHC, issued a release stating the bid deadline to play host to next year's tournament had been extended.

Those interested in staging the '09 event had until May 9 to submit their letters of intent and bid fees. The next deadline is May 30, when the submission of bids are due.

Bid evaluation and site tours, if they are required, are then scheduled for June 2-13.

The ASC is then expected to announce the 2009 host site on June 18.

The '09 tournament will mark the eighth year the tournament has been staged.

## Can the Six Nations Arrows keep the momentum going?

Early indications are the Six Nations Arrows Express will once again be a dominant lacrosse team.

The squad captured the Minto Cup, the Canadian Junior A championship, last season.

As for this year, the Six Nations side kicked off its Ontario Lacrosse Association regular season with a pair of convincing victories.

The Arrows Express defeated the visiting Orillia Rama-Hammond Kings 15-7 in their season opener on May 9. Six Nations then soundly beat the perennially tough Whitby Warriors 17-6 on May 11.

Six Nations is competing in the OLA's 12-team Junior A circuit. The league also includes the Akwesasne Indians, who split their first two games this season.

The Arrows Express are seeking their fifth consecutive OLA championship this season.

The club is led by captain Cody Jamieson, who won the Tom Longboat Award as Canada's top Aboriginal male athlete for 2007.

Jamieson, who was selected as the most valuable player at last year's Minto Cup tournament, appears poised to put up some massive numbers in his final season of junior eligibility.

He racked up nine points (six goals, three assists) in the win over Orillia. And he followed that up with an eight-point performance, including three goals, against Whitby.

The OLA also has five other Aboriginal teams taking part in its junior and senior leagues.

The Six Nations Rebels and Akwesasne Lightning compete in the OLA's Junior B loop.

The Six Nations Chiefs and St. Regis Indians are members of the OLA's Major (Senior) league. And the Mohawk Stars participate in the OLA's Senior B league.

## Kamloops to host Fastball championships in July

The North American Indigenous Games will not be the only major sporting event for Aboriginal athletes in British Columbia this summer.

The 2008 Canadian Native Fastball Championships will be staged in Kamloops. The tournament begins on July 31 and continues until Aug. 4.

The host for the national championship will be the Hank's Royals Native Fastball Society of the Secwepemc Nation.

The tournament will feature men's A and B divisions as well as a women's category.

Matches will be staged at Charles Anderson Stadium and McArthur Island Park.

Those interested in taking part have until July 25 to register their teams.

Alberta's Horse Lake Thunder, featuring legendary Canadian pitcher Darren Zack, won the highest calibre men's A division at the 2007 tournament, which was held in Winnipeg.

[ sports ]

## Two individuals selected as top coaches for 2007

By SAM LASKARIS  
Windspeaker Writer

### WHITEHORSE

A pair of individuals from the Yukon capital of Whitehorse have been selected as Canada's top Aboriginal coaches of the year for their efforts in 2007.

Danielle Lang, who coached the Northern Blazers girls' under-16 soccer squad, won her Tom Longboat coaching award as she was chosen as the best female coach.

And Leslie Johns, an archery coach who was in charge of the Yukon entry at the Canada Winter Games, was picked as the top male coach.

The awards, in honour of legendary runner Tom Longboat, are annually presented by the Aboriginal Sport Circle.

Lang and Johns were honoured during a ceremony held in early May in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.

Canada's top Aboriginal athletes were also honoured that evening. Stacie Anaka, a wrestler from Victoria, B.C., was named the best female athlete. And Cody Jamieson, a lacrosse player from Ohsweken, Ont., was dubbed the top male athlete.

"I wasn't expecting anything of the sort," Lang said of her award.

But she's obviously thrilled at winning it.

"It's just satisfying," she said. "I feel honoured to be recognized for all the hard work I've put into the sport. I've been coaching half my life."

Lang, 32, began her coaching career when she was 16. In order to pick up a high school physical education credit, she coached a team in the Whitehorse Minor Soccer League.

She enjoyed the experience so much she continued to work with numerous squads over the years.

As for this past year, Lang coached the Northern Blazers at various tournaments. She helped the club qualify for the national under-16 tournament, which was staged this past October in Sherwood Park, Alta.

While the Yukon entry did not have as much talent as the majority of the squads in the 12-team tournament, it did register a victory over the North West Territories reps.

"We were really excited about that," Lang said.

The Northern Blazers also represented the Yukon in the six-

team Western Canada Summer Games, also held in Sherwood Park, last August.

This tournament also included clubs from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the N.W.T.

The Northern Blazers also competed in three other tournaments in 2007, including an indoor event in Juneau, Alaska. The two outdoor events were both in B.C., in Kelowna and Richmond.

Instead of coaching, Lang said she would prefer to still be playing soccer herself. But she hasn't played for a competitive team in eight years.

"The older that I'm getting it's just harder on my body," she said.

But she still is keen to remain in the sport.

"I would love to play," she said. "I just love the sport. I love everything there is about soccer. With the Northern Blazers I live vicariously through these girls."

As for Johns, 64, he served as both a coach and manager for the eight Yukon archers who participated at the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse last year.

"We had no medals," Johns said of his team. "But I explained to the kids they'll probably never have another chance like this so they'd better be good ambassadors for the Yukon."

Though he dabbled in archery as a youngster when he made his own bow and arrows, it wasn't until earlier this decade that Johns' interest in the sport was revived. That's because his grandson participated in the sport at the 2002 North American Indigenous Games.

A few years later Johns decided to obtain coaching certificates in archery with the assistance of the Yukon Aboriginal Sport Circle.

Since 2004, Johns also served as the vice-president of the Whitehorse Archery Club. Then in April of this year he was named the president of the club, which has about 50 members.

Though he was honoured to win a national coaching award, Johns opted not to make the trip to the ceremony in northern Ontario. That's even though the Aboriginal Sports Circle would have paid for his flight and expenses to the ceremony.

"I thought it was too big of an expense," he said. "So I thought they should put the money to some other use."

For winning their national awards, Lang and Johns both received cheques worth \$500 as well as a glass trophy.



# A gold medal win for Ontario South girls squad

By **SAM LASKARIS**  
Windspeaker Writer

## GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION

A pair of teams that have become accustomed to celebrating were doing so again at this year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.

The Ontario South girls' squad once again won the gold medal in its category, at the Canadian tournament, which concluded on May 3.

This marked the sixth time in the tournament's seven-year history that the Ontario South side has won the girls' division.

Meanwhile, Saskatchewan won the boys' grouping. This marked the third time the western province has emerged victorious in this division.

This year's NAHC, which attracted 10 boys' and seven girls' teams, was hosted by the Garden River First Nation, near Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Ontario South registered a convincing 6-1 win over their Ontario North counterparts in the girls' gold-medal game.

But Ontario South coach Dwight Bero said his side, which won all six of its matches at the tournament, did not necessarily have an easy time of it.

"Every team has improved immensely," he said. "There's no way you can go into a tournament like this and be overconfident in

any game. I know some teams did go into it overconfident and they paid the price."

Bero had served as an assistant coach for the Ontario South squad in the last two years. Winning the nationals as a head coach had added significance for him.

"Sure, it does mean more," he said. "I had my girls with me and it might be their last year in it."

Alley and Katie Bero, 17-year-old twins, were members of the Ontario South team. But only Alley played in the tournament. Katie attended the nationals but did not play due to an unspecified disciplinary reason.

Another individual who was not able to take part was Ontario South assistant coach Greg Clause. He was too ill to attend the tournament as he was at his Oshweken home battling pancreatic cancer. Clause died the day after the tournament ended.

Dwight Bero said some of the Ontario South players were not told how gravely sick Clause was until right before their championship final.

"We dedicated the final game to him," Bero said. "He was there for some inspiration for us."

At one point it appeared the Ontario South club might not even advance to the gold-medal game. That's because it was trailing 3-2 heading into the final period of its semi-final game versus British Columbia.

Ontario South did manage to

*"Every team has improved immensely. There's no way you can go into a tournament like this and be overconfident in any game. I know some teams did go into it overconfident and they paid the price."*

—**Dwight Bero**

tie the score with a powerplay marker.

But it wasn't until the final minute of the period that Ontario South scored the winning goal. It then added an empty-net insurance goal in its 5-3 victory.

"To me, that had to be the hardest game," Bero said.

Ontario South then benefited in the final as its players had plenty of experience in a championship game. The club's 20-player roster included 15 returnees from the 2007 champion squad.

As for the Saskatchewan boys' team, it eked out a 4-3 victory over a Quebec-based club named Eastern Door and the North (EDN) in its gold-medal contest.

EDN had won the boys' crown at last year's tournament in Prince Albert, Sask.

As for Saskatchewan, it had captured the bronze medal on home ice last year. But it had previously won the gold medal at the 2003 and '06 tournaments.

Courage Bear, who served as the manager, felt this was not the

most talented boys' team that has represented Saskatchewan at the nationals.

"But they were a special group of guys willing to work hard," he said. "And I think we went in there thinking we had confidently selected the best group of the players available."

The Saskatchewan boys' squad played seven games at the nationals. Its only setback occurred in round-robin action when it was defeated 3-1 by EDN.

Bear was obviously happy to get another shot at EDN in the final, and that time emerge victorious.

"For sure, when you beat the champs from the year before it's special," he said. "I'm sure (EDN) felt like we felt last year when we came in as the defending champs. Everybody seemed to have a target on us."

In this year's gold-medal game, Bear said it was rather key that his squad got off to a good start.

Saskatchewan led 3-1 after the opening period.

"We capitalized on our chances

early which helped us," Bear said.

And Bear's team was still ahead 4-3 after 40 minutes of play. Neither squad was able to score in the third period.

Bear had an inkling early on that his club was capable of winning the tournament.

"I thought that after the opening game of the tournament," he said. "Our guys played well. And they kept getting better as the tournament was progressing."

Saskatchewan opened up with a 6-4 victory over a tough Alberta squad. Alberta went on to win the bronze medal, downing Ontario South 9-7 in the third-place contest.

Saskatchewan also had a pair of lopsided victories in round-robin action. It blanked the North West Territories 12-0 and thumped the Newfoundland and Labrador squad 16-1. Saskatchewan also had a convincing 10-3 victory over Ontario North in its quarter-final match. And it advanced to the gold-medal game with a 7-4 win over Alberta in its semi-final outing.

Bear believes for the most part the majority of the clubs that participated at the nationals were evenly matched.

"It was really tight," he said. "I think any of the teams that made it to the quarter-finals, in both the girls' and boys' divisions, had a chance to get a medal or even win the gold. That's how close it was."

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## Missinipi to launch Aboriginal language news program in June

Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) – an Aboriginal radio station based in La Ronge – will incorporate an Aboriginal Language news program as part of their television news broadcast this year, with plans to launch it on June 21.

The program will air in several Saskatchewan communities through the regional broadcaster, Saskatchewan Communications Network, and can also be seen on the MBC Web site.

“Our radio programs are extremely popular and now MBC-TV News will share stories in our languages, in our dialects, in our views, in our perspective by, for, about and with Aboriginal People that matter in the province,” stated Deborah Charles, MBC Radio’s CEO and MBC TV’s executive producer.

She said plans to launch the program are set to occur when the Honorable Christine Tell – the Minister of Sports, Culture, Recreation – signs a Strategic Alliance Agreement on National Aboriginal Day June 21.

“(The program is) a partnership between Saskatchewan Communications Network, Access Communications & Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation,” Charles explained. MBC will produce the news program from their television studio in La Ronge, and SCN will broadcast the program across the province and throughout Canada through satellite.

“The MBC-TV News will air current affairs news in the three languages spoken in northern Saskatchewan (for half hour

segments) in Cree, Dene, Michif with English sub titles. It

will air on our regional network SCN,” she added.

Access Communications will offer the technical capabilities and will broadcast the weekly program on their community access channel, Access 7. Meanwhile, MBC will offer the human resources in language skills.

Although there are currently no language staff on site for the news language broadcast, they plan to hire broadcasters who demonstrate fluency in a specific dialect. MBC-TV News will employ five dedicated employees to start the program, with the hopes of growing in the future.

Charles stated the program is the first of its kind in Saskatchewan. She hopes the station can continue the pilot project after one year, which is possible if extended funding can be secured.

If the project continues after the one-year pilot, they aim to have reports from all four regions of the province.

“I’ve been working on this project for a couple of years and couldn’t do it without the partners of SCN who has the broadcast license where we will be airing the product,” she said.

“The news broadcast will shine a light on stories that were not heard before, helping to bridge the diverse cultures of Saskatchewan people: Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, urban and rural, northern and southern.”

The news language program will feature stories on current affairs, sports, local gatherings, special events, and local and regional news.

## JIBC set to deliver career program to Aboriginal students in September

The Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) will unveil a new Justice and Public Safety Career Preparatory Program for Aboriginal learners this September at its Chilliwack campus.

Designed to help students be more competitive in securing policing, correctional service, paramedic, fire fighting, sheriff,

fish and wildlife, border service and other such careers, the program focuses on teaching useful skills in classes taught by Aboriginal instructors.

Included in the one-year certificate course, which goes from Sept. to May, are such courses as the history and impact of colonization; physical education; wellness and self care;

effective presentations, writing and listening skills; restorative justice; and ethics, values and professional behaviour.

The Sto:lo Nation is partnering with JIBC to deliver the program and welcomes it into their traditional territory, giving it the name “Iwestux Temxshxweli” which means “teachers’ sacred place.”

## Funding will support next generation of Aboriginal artists

When art is taught in class, that’s the day kids will come to school, according to Ontario Arts Council executive director John Brotman, who praises the provincial government for injecting a \$60 million annual investment by 2010 to his organization.

What really excites Brotman is that the funds will allow for increased ability for arts education and creating partnerships to foster creative expression in youth, Aboriginal and culturally diverse communities and emerging artists – whether they are in school or in working in the community.

“The next generation of artists must be supported and we will do a fair bit of outreach to

Simcoe County and Barrie to make sure young people consider a career in the arts,” Brotman said in a press release.

“There’s been a fair amount of research over the past 10 years throughout the world that shows that kids’ performance in some subjects will improve. What we have found out from our pilot program in three Ontario school boards this year) the days when artists are in the school, truancy rates go down.”

The key to the program is partnerships with school boards, which can provide the oversight – that is school principals – and art teachers, who can evaluate student progress and work collaboratively with the artists, he explained.

The pilot program enables

school boards to work with artists to create a cohesive arts program that inspires kids, he said.

“Rather than the usual scenario in which boards “cobble together” a program. It’s a win-win, he pointed out, with provincial grants supporting truly creative, lasting relationships.

The funds will allow for expansion of community arts programs for young Aboriginal people, and to continue programs offered through arts organizations and galleries.

Ontario culture minister Aileen Carroll said her government considers the investment in the OAC an investment in Ontario, its people and its economic prosperity.

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## More resources needed to improve Aboriginal housing

(Continued from page 12.)

Part of the problem is that governments today tend to prefer short-term commitments and avoid locking themselves into long-term commitments, Walker said. Governments also like to have initiatives to announce once every year or two, rather than putting in place a long-term strategy, he added.

The funding needs to come every year so organizations can plan for that – the capacity is there, but some organizations currently spend years raising enough money to build a handful of units, Walker said.

“In one year you’re not going to solve all the housing problems, but what you could do is create that reliable space in the budget to keep taking chunks out of it annually,” he said. “And people can plan for that.”

Another part of the problem is that the government jurisdiction in this area isn’t clear – the debate over it is also not new. Walker noted that his research led him to transcripts of cabinet briefings and reports from the late 1960s and early 1970s when the federal government was involved in large-scale housing programs.

“The sense back then was a bit of a grey area,” Walker said. “If anything, the case could be made either way, and it was really a question of who was going to step up and demonstrate leadership in the sector.”

At that time, the lead was taken by the federal government, and the provinces followed close behind in partnership. The federal government significantly reduced funding for social housing in the 1990s. Walker calls the government’s “recent re-

entry into low-cost housing unsatisfactory and lacking necessary funding, clearly articulated goals and a long-term commitment.”

Walker believes the federal government needs to step up to the plate again today, as it has history in the housing sector the best capacity to mobilize policy interest in a field, and bring partners aboard. He notes the provinces still by and large won’t take leadership roles in Aboriginal-specific programming, though the federal government tends to find the line of its responsibility toward Aboriginal people blurring off-reserve.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Canada’s national housing agency, did not return calls for comment.

Walker said he remains optimistic, noting that he has

seen success on similar issues in other countries.

Walker’s work was produced under the direction of F. Leslie Seidle, a senior research associate IRPP responsible for the Aboriginal Quality of Life series.

“The gaps in life conditions on virtually every measure are huge between most Aboriginal people and the Canadian average,” Seidle said of the series. “And personally I find that totally unacceptable. Change starts somewhere and change often starts small. I firmly believe that in the case of the quality of life of Aboriginal people, it also has to be change that they have a major role in initiating themselves and it has to be culturally sensitive and it has to take account of our history and our constitutional arrangements and so on.”

With regards to the issues

raised by Walker’s study, and the broader issues, Seidle agreed that governments need to take initiative.

“What it takes is political will,” he said. “The processes and the means can be found. We need to think of these things more holistically. Housing has an impact on so many other things.”

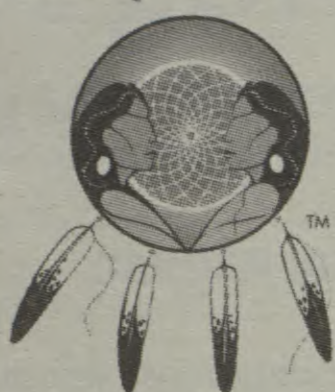
The IRPP is an independent, national, non-profit organization, seeking to improve public policy by generating research, providing insight and sparking debate.

The organization is funded almost entirely by the investment on an endowment provided in the early 1970s by the federal government, all provincial governments but one and a number of businesses, allowing it to remain independent, Seidle explained.



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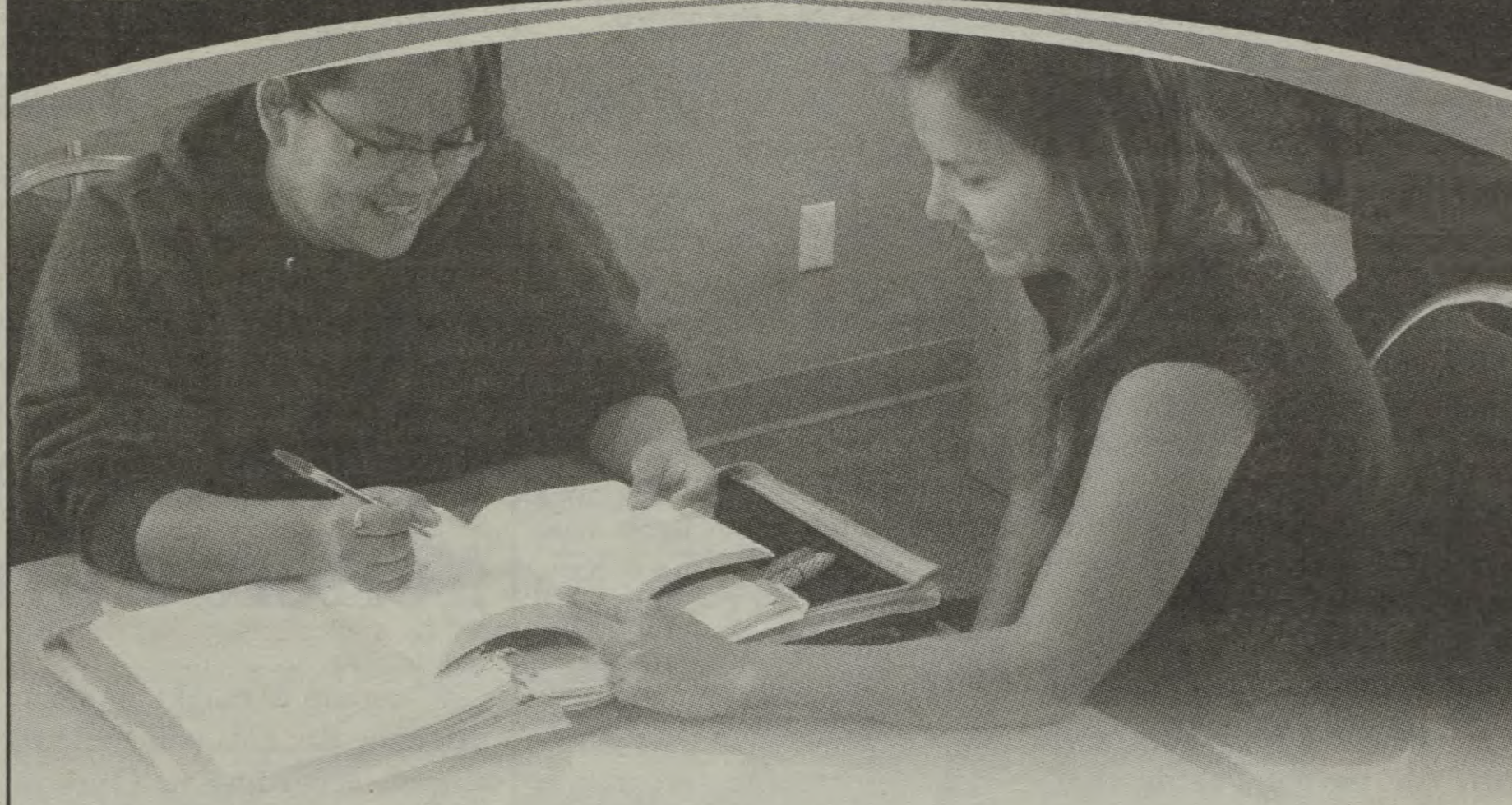
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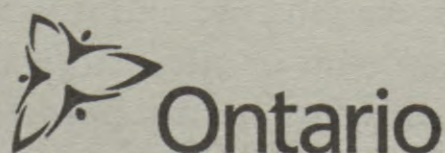
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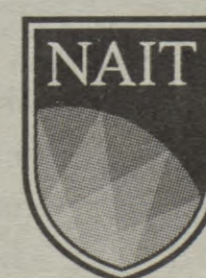
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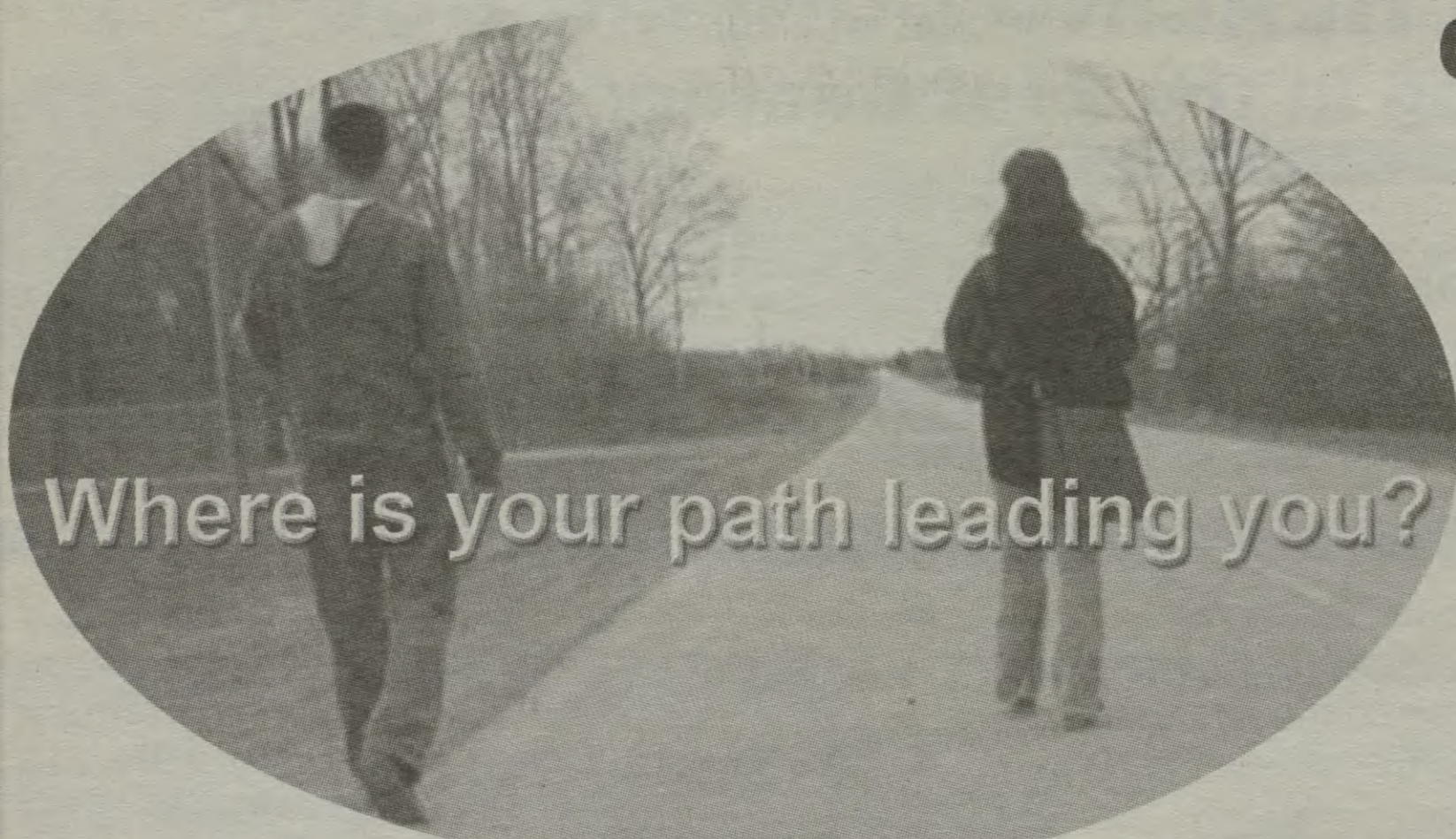
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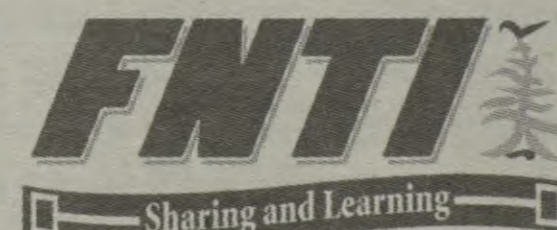
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# [ footprints ] Chief Dan George

## Popular actor and chief accomplished much before his death

By Dianne Meili

No doubt you recognize the face of Chief Dan George and remember his acting coupe de grace as 'Old Lodge Skins' in one of the most entertaining and provocative movies of the 1970's 'Little Big Man'.

In it, he plays the wise adoptive grandfather of Dustin Hoffman, a whiteman who switches legions between the European and Cheyenne cultures for survival. Hoffman narrates the memoir as the last living survivor of Custer's Last Stand at the famed Battle of the Little Big Horn, a 122-year-old man named Jack Crabb.

Anyone who's seen the film will remember George's great comic timing and sincere, down to earth manner and attitude as befits a fully actualized 'human being.' Named one of moviedom's most memorable scenes is the part in Little Big Man where Old Lodge Skins goes off to expire because "it is a good day to die." As he lies on the ground, a drop of rain hits him in the eye and he decides "sometimes the magic works, and sometimes it does not" and promptly gives up his spirit quest.

Hailed by critics as perhaps "the first time in a major role in a big budget film a real Indian gets to play one, George is said to have stolen the film with his nonchalant demeanor, spouting wisdom and mixing in a stand-up comic routine while dishing out ladles of humanity.

Amazingly, George came to the movies late in life, at the ripe old age of 60. Before his acting career, he had worked as a longshoreman for 27 years, but had to give that up after he was hit by a load of lumber. When he recovered from his injuries, he did some construction work and then some boom work, and was working as a school bus driver when he got his first acting job, playing Old Antoine in Caribou Country, a series on the CBC. George received acclaim for his portrayal,

and when one of the episodes of the show was to be transformed into a Hollywood movie called 'Smith', George reprised the role, starring along side Keenan Wynn and fellow Canadians Glen Ford and Jay Silverheels, who played Tonto in the Lone Ranger series.

George was born in Geswanouth Slahoot on July 24, 1899 on the Tsleil-Waututh Nation in North Vancouver, also known as the Burrard Inlet Reserve.

He went by the name Dan Slahoot, the English version of his childhood nickname, Teswahno, until he went to St. Paul's boarding school at the age of five. There, where the students weren't allowed to speak their Native languages, they changed his name to Dan George, taking his new surname from his father's English name, George.

He became Chief Dan George in 1951 when he took over as chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation of British Columbia, legally known as the Burrard Inlet Reserve. He continued in that role until 1963, when his acting career began. He was also made honorary chief of two other bands, the Squamish and Shuswap.

George won the New York Film Critics Award and the National Society of Film Critics Award for his work in Little Big Man. It also earned him an Academy Award nomination in the best supporting actor category, and marked the first time a Native person had been nominated for an Academy Award.

While a great time for George professionally, the recognition from the Motion Picture Academy coincided with a time of great sorrow and personal loss. When his nomination was announced, his wife Amy of 52 years lay in a hospital bed, admitted after treatment for a chronic ulcer condition.

A few weeks later, and less than a month before George was to walk down the red carpet at the Academy Award ceremony, Amy died.

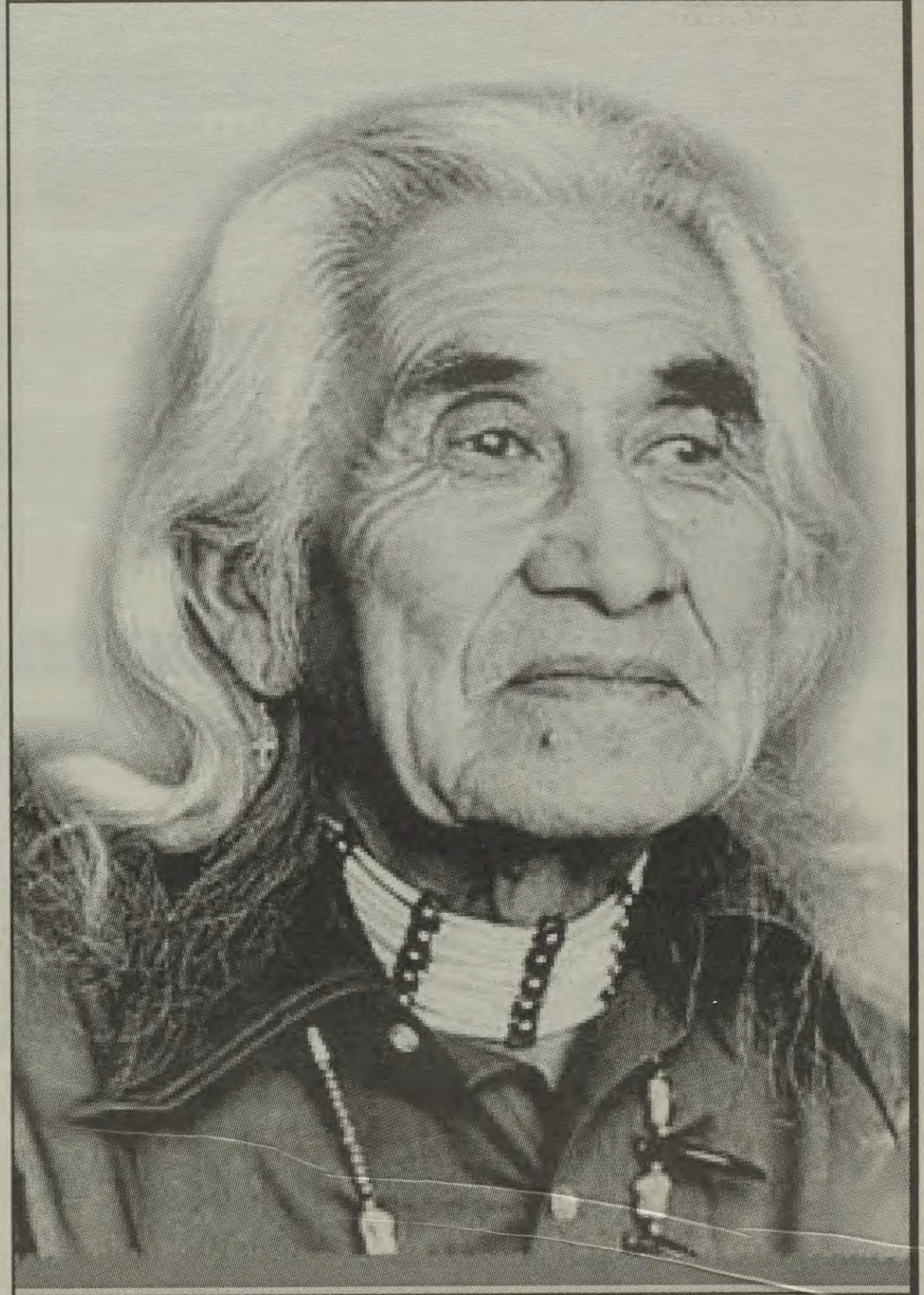
George received acclaim for his work on stage as well. In 1967, he appeared in The Ecstasy of Rita Joe, playing the role of Rita Joe's father. Originally a minor character, playwright George Ryga expanded the part specifically for George. The play, which tells the story of a young Native girl who moves to the city only to meet a tragic, violent death, first opened at the Vancouver Playhouse and was later performed at the official opening of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. The play was also staged in Washington D.C., and received critical acclaim wherever it was performed.

His success, and the celebrity status that came with it, made George's life busier, but there were few outward signs that he had become a Hollywood star. He continued to live on the reserve in the same little house he had built for his wife and six children.

George traveled around lower British Columbia with his family and two nephews playing as the 'Chief Dan George Entertainers'. He played stand-up bass, his son Bobby George played the accordion, and nephews Paul George and Arthur George played the mandolin/guitar and bass guitar respectively.

Dan's daughter's Anne, Irene and Marie sang with the group, which played mostly western songs.

George could express himself with the written word, as well, penning a 'Native Anthem' which was given to the 54 bands of the Salish Nation as a national anthem; the north shore Indians would use it before their playoff games, and the ocean-going canoe groups would sing it before their journeys.



Chief Dan George

Throughout the 1970's and '80's George teamed up with illustrator Helmut Hirnschall and released a number of books, including the beloved 'My Heart Soars' and 'My Spirit Soars'. Excerpted from his 'Words to a Grandchild' is the following poem:

You come from a shy race  
Ours are the silent ways  
We have always done all things  
in a gentle manner,  
So much as the brook avoids  
the solid rock  
On its search for the sea

And meets the deer in passing  
You, too, must follow the path  
Of your own race  
It is steady and deep,  
Reliable and lasting  
It is you - if you let it happen.

Before his death on Sept. 23 1981 at the age of 82, George received a doctor of laws degree from Simon Fraser University, a doctor of letters from the University of Brandon, and was also awarded the Order of Canada for his service as both an actor and as an extraordinary interpreter of his people.

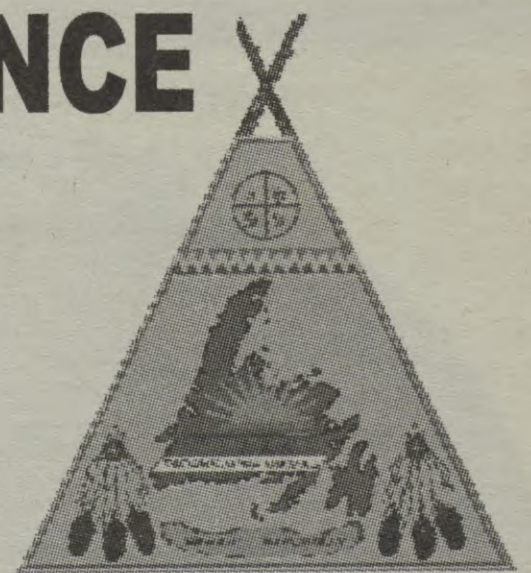
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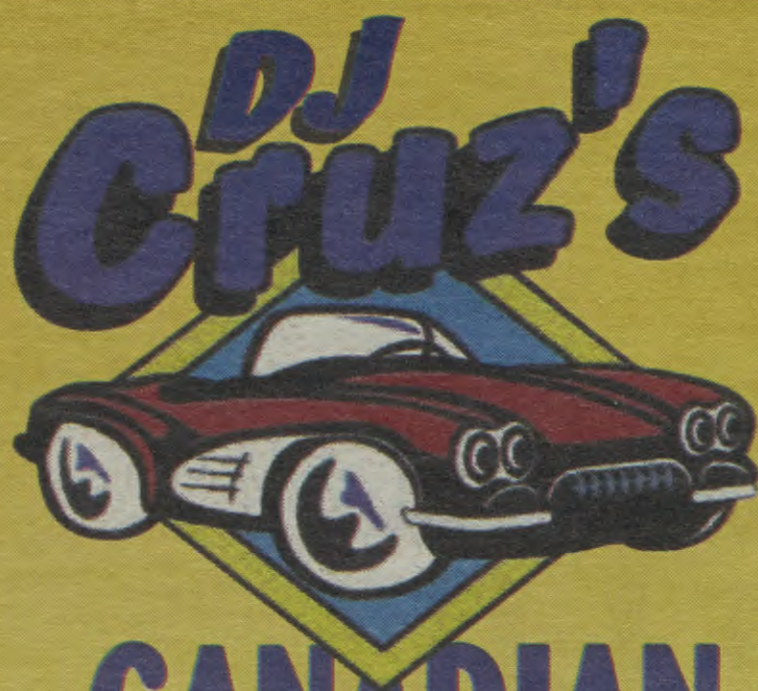
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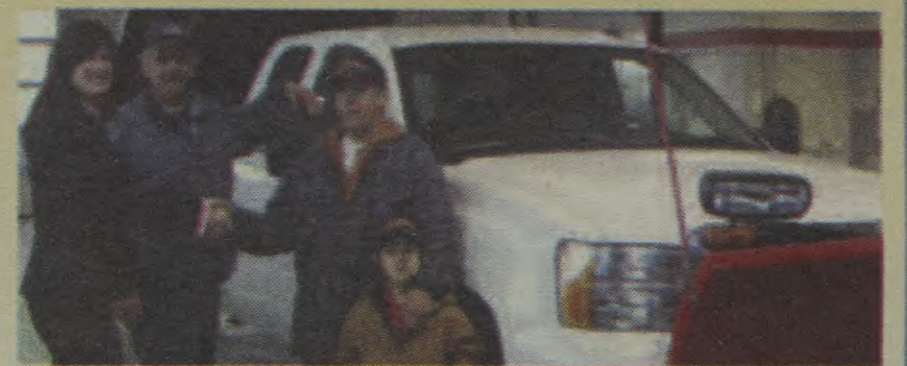


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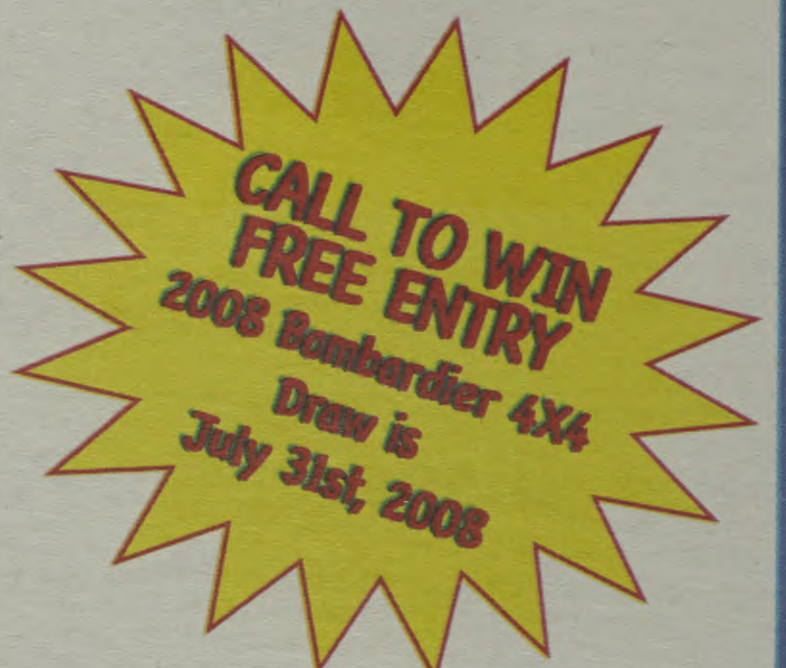
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