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Chief Adam Dick takes a break to show onlookers some string games while visiting the community school at Kingcome, BC.

Chief Dick was invited to show the community the traditional way to build an oolichan net. Oolichan, also called eulachon or smelt are small, silver fish the size of herring. For many people in the Pacific Northwest, annual oolichan dipping was a social and recreational activity, and they came from miles around to net the oolichan for frying and smoking.

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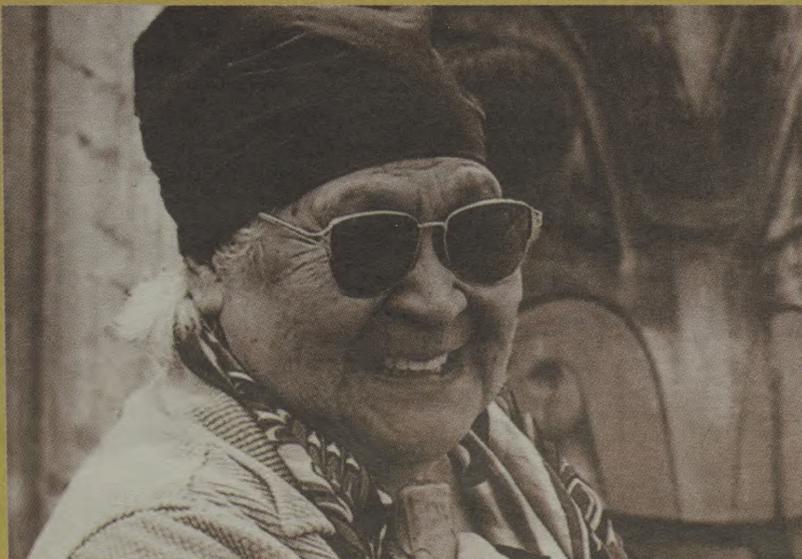
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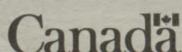
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The waves of support for the KI 6 were lapping at the shores of Vancouver Island April 14 when Malaspina University-College students gathered at a cedar welcome figure on campus to protest, pray and fast.

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There's an increasing burden of poverty that First Nations people struggle with every day because of the two per cent cap on growth the department of Indian Affairs has imposed on expenditures for education, housing and infrastructure, social and economic development, National Chief Phil Fontaine told a parliamentary committee.

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In front of the St. Francis Cathedral just east of the historic plaza in the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, stands a beguiling statue. It's of a beautiful, full-figured Aboriginal woman, wearing white Navajo boots, turquoise jewellery, and a pleated, broomstick skirt. Clutched to her bosom are four black and white eagle feathers.



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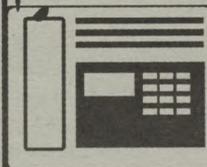
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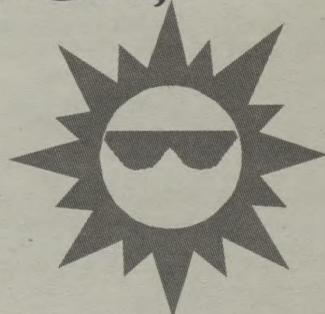
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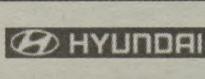
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Deaths of children puts child welfare system in hot seat

By **Debora Steel**
Windspeaker Writer

VICTORIA

They are the heart of an investigation, but their voices will never again be heard. That is how Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond framed the introduction of the report into the deaths of four northern British Columbia children, all with a history of involvement with the child welfare system in the province.

The question at the centre of the report done by British Columbia's office of the independent Representative for Children and Youth is: Was there anything that could have been done to prevent the deaths of Amanda, Savannah, Rowen and Serena. They were tragically lost to us between 1999 and 2005. Of the four children, three were Aboriginal.

"Their unique circumstances and the vulnerability of Aboriginal children, particularly in northern British Columbia, will be a necessary focus in improving the system," the report reads.

The report focuses on an overall analysis of a system of supports available at the time of their deaths, whether significant improvements have been made in the years following, and what remains to be improved.

What Turpel-Lafond's investigation reveals is that the system failed each of these children "on numerous levels." Of the issues identified, the report concluded there was a lack of cultural planning for Aboriginal children in care, and cultural context in assessing safety; there was insufficient communications between the ministry and professionals in the community; and there were human resource challenges impacting the ability to provide safe and effective child welfare services.

The children whose deaths motivated the report lived in the Ministry of Child and Family Development's North region, an area that encompasses 925,000 sq km. As stated in the 2006 census, there are 289,000-plus people in the area, accounting for 6.7 per cent of the province's total population.

There are challenges associated with delivering services in a number of small isolated towns, villages and First Nations communities, over a wide expanse of land, acknowledges the report, including staffing issues, and the time eaten up by travel getting from one population centre to another.

"In the case of First Nations communities, there can also be jurisdictional issues between the federal and provincial governments."

There are 51 First Nations in the region, and 16.6 per cent of the total population is Aboriginal in the North region, as compared with 4.5 per cent of the provincial total population.

Amanda Simpson was Métis and died of head and internal injuries. She was four years old.

Savannah Hall was a First Nations child in the ministry's care from the age of eight months. She died as a result of brain damage cause by lack of oxygen to her brain. She was three years old.

Rowen Von Niederhausern died as a result of swelling to the brain at the age of 14 months.

Serena Wiebe (John) was First Nations and died in her sleep at the age of seven months old. A coroner's inquest classified her death as undetermined.

The stories of the short lives of the four children at the centre of the report are heart-breaking, though told without sensation by the representative. Each paragraph of the tale demonstrates the breakdown of family and parental responsibility and of the systemic failure of the safety net designed to protect the vulnerable.

The themes that emerge from the investigation run like threads through the stories, weaving a ragged tapestry: assessments of the children's safety were non-existent or incomplete, medical assessments were neither timely nor thorough, supervision was not effective and staffing levels inadequate.

It was also important, the independent representative concluded, that measures be taken to preserve Aboriginal identity. For instance, the Aboriginal identity in the case of Amanda was not known until after her death, and that information played no part in informing her care.

Amanda's family had come to the attention of the ministry on a number of occasions over many years and during two distinct periods of time. The first between 1991 and 1994.

When Amanda was two years old in 1997, the ministry again began to look at the family when it was reported that a six year old sister was often the only one to care for her younger siblings, ages one, two and four years old. She fed them freezies and ice cream to keep them quiet. One time the children started a fire to stay warm. The fire department attended the scene.

It was the six-year-old child that requested help for her family.

Over the years, ministry staff had many opportunities to assess the safety of the children and family interaction. The family faced domestic violence, poverty, and drug and alcohol abuse. Between September 1997 and February 1998, the family had four different child protection workers.

The first began an investigation, but passed it on to the second for completion but the intake was not registered in the new electronic case management system. After a home visit that did not address "the significant child protection issues disclosed by the child, the second worker was unable to follow up with the family because of workload issues," the report states.

The worker left the employ of the ministry and the investigation was not completed. One year later, a third worker was assigned to the family when a caller reported Amanda's mother smoking "a lot of pot," and yelling at the children. There were allegations of not enough food in the house and that the RCMP was involved after the mother assaulted a neighbor.

Just 18 months after the first worker handed off Amanda's family file to the second, a fourth worker was handed the file about the investigation the third worker had opened.

Amanda's drama, described with compassion and sensitivity in the representative's report, continued to unfold until Nov. 2, 1999 when she succumbed to "massive head and abdominal injuries" suffered on Oct. 29, 1999.

"The autopsy concluded that Amanda's injuries were not accidental, but consistent with inflicted trauma."

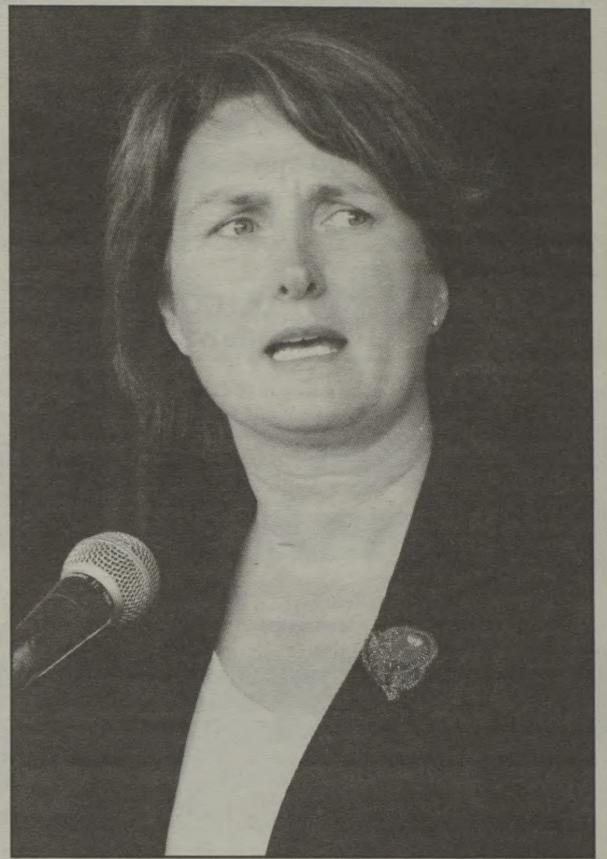
The report outlines the children's stories in detail, and evaluates the steps, or mis-steps, the ministry made in attempts to protect them.

With the advantage of hindsight, the report speaks to inadequacies in that protection, including "failing to gather and assess all of the family history, incomplete interviews with the children and the parents, and incomplete information from key members of the community. These inadequacies resulted in a failure to assess the children's safety and intervene in a timely manner."

But perhaps the worst condemnation was Turpel-Lafond's assessment that the standard of practice of those years had not "appreciably improved during the entire time, until today."

As a result of her investigation, Turpel-Lafond made 11 recommendations to improve service for today's vulnerable children. Some deal with improved training of front-line workers, others with the recruitment and retention of workers, and others on risk assessment and reporting, including key measures for Aboriginal children in care or receiving services by the North region. The full report and recommendations can be reviewed on the Web site of the Office of the Representative For Children and Youth at www.rcybc.ca.

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs was quick to call on the Ministry of Children and Family Development to fully implement the recommendations.



DEBORA STEEL

Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond

"We cannot afford to continue to look the other way as our communities are in crisis," said UBCIC President, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip. "With the barrage of youth suicide rates, combined with drug-and gang-related violence, it is more important than ever that we continue our focus on our children. We cannot afford to stand by silently as the child apprehensions occurring in our communities reach epidemic proportions."

Provincial NDP Leader Carole James called the report a "stinging indictment of seven years of failure, neglect and inaction by the [Gordon] Campbell government in the field of child protection."

She went on to note that there had not been an improvement in child protection services since 2001 when the government promised "transformative change." The Campbell Liberals, therefore, had not made the improvements necessary to meet the needs of children at risk in B.C., James said.

In releasing the report, Turpel-Lafond said the child-serving system must now act on "lessons waiting to be learned from the deaths years ago of four children."

"A major finding from our investigation is that the Ministry of Children and Family Development and others in child protections must do better at learning from the tragedies of child deaths. And a better job also has to be done in getting lessons quickly and effectively back to front-line workers. These people protecting our children must be supported in improving the social work practice that can so often change lives."

Problems she identified that still exist today include: the need for more complete assessments of child safety, in order to determine if a child needs protections; necessary improvements in recognizing and responding to complex child abuse and neglect situations; a continued lack of information-sharing and coordination between the ministry and professionals in the community, including medical practitioners, police, and school officials etc.

"The investigation into the deaths of Amanda, Savannah, Rowen and Serena identifies potentially life-saving lessons for the child-serving system," said Turpel-Lafond. "The legacy of these children must be that we learn from those lessons and move forward. The legacy of their short lives and silenced voices must be a better system."

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PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, that it will hold a two-day public hearing on the application by Cameco Corporation (Cameco) to renew its operating licence for the McArthur River uranium mine located in northern Saskatchewan.

Hearing Day One will be held on June 10, 2008 in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario. Hearing Day Two will be held on September 17, 2008 at the Delta Bessborough, 601 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **The public hearing will be webcast live on the Internet via the CNSC Web site.**

The public is invited to comment on the application on Hearing Day Two. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by August 18, 2008 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the 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, instructions on how to participate in this public hearing process or the complete text of the official Notice of Public Hearing, see www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2008-H-06, 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



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire



PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, that it will hold a two-day public hearing on the application by Cameco Corporation (Cameco) to renew its operating licence for the Key Lake uranium mill located in northern Saskatchewan.

Hearing Day One will be held on June 10, 2008 in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario. Hearing Day Two will be held on September 17, 2008 at the Delta Bessborough, 601 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **The public hearing will be webcast live on the Internet via the CNSC Web site.**

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Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

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PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

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Hearing Day One will be held on June 10, 2008 in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario. Hearing Day Two will be held on September 18, 2008 at the Delta Bessborough, 601 Spadina Crescent East, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. **The public hearing will be webcast live on the Internet via the CNSC Web site.**

The public is invited to comment on the application on Hearing Day Two. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by August 18, 2008 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the 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, instructions on how to participate in this public hearing process or the complete text of the official Notice of Public Hearing, see www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2008-H-08, or contact:

L. Levert, Secretariat
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Windspeaker news briefs

Mohawk protestors blockade main street

A group of Aboriginal demonstrators and a Kingston, Ontario-based realtor are going head-to-head in a land dispute.

In the Town of Deseronto, about 75 Mohawks have blockaded a main street and have camped out on property Nibourg Developments said it would begin clearing.

Developer Emile Nibourg, who said his father holds title to the land, sent workers to the site on April 21 to clear brush, but they left when "40 to 50 Native warriors" arrived.

Nibourg has written politicians to complain and promise his crew would soon return to the site.

"The problem is we have legal ownership to it, but the government doesn't seem to want to do anything," Nibourg told a Belleville newspaper, adding "no one even wants to talk to us."

The seven-plus hectares of land in question, partly in Deseronto and partly in the Town of Greater Napanee, is known as the Culbertson Land Tract. Tyendinaga Mohawk Shawn Brant, who leads the protest, maintains no part of the tract was ever given up and it was illegally taken in 1832 and it is the subject of a land claim accepted by the federal government for negotiation in 2003.

Deseronto Deputy Mayor Clarence Zieman is hoping Ottawa speeds up ongoing land claim negotiations and helps resolve the issue as soon as possible. Police are standing by if needed.

Fontaine offers up solutions to improve Aboriginal life

In inviting all Canadians to push for far-reaching improvements to the lives of First Nations people in Canada – and to get involved in this year's National Day of Action – Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine said he will be "issuing a set of concrete proposals" to make this happen.

"Last year we hosted a successful National Day of Action on May 29 that succeeded in raising awareness about issues facing First Nations citizens in Canada," he said, but the Canadian government failed to respond.

In the next few weeks leading up to May 29, the chief said he will offer straight-forward solutions that need immediate action and will "truly help to provide a real and lasting improvement in the lives of (Aboriginal people) and the Canadian government, and in the economic outlook of Canada more broadly.

"I challenge the Government of Canada to respond with equal clarity," he said. Fontaine stated he hopes his plans will be seriously considered to provide answers to address the poverty and harsh conditions that continue to grow and which claim the lives of youth.

No progress made on Caledonia front

While Brantford municipal politicians consider requesting the provincial government to provide financial compensation to the city for major developments shut down by Aboriginal protestors, residents feel nothing is actually being done to resolve the now two-year-old occupation in Caledonia.

Recently, a provincial representative suggested the province should create a new set of negotiations, separate from land claims, that would deal with current development issues. The politician suggested current proposed development should proceed, and a two-year moratorium on future development would be implemented; this would remove the need for further land claims protests by First Nations for that period.

The proposal went nowhere.

The Eagle Place site, at the end of Erie Avenue in Brantford, has gained the ire of some residents because it sits next to one of the oldest communities in the city, not on an obscure strip mall or superhighway far from where people live.

Ironically, while some support the protestors' cause, informing them of the progress of work on this site because they are against development of a new subdivision, others want them to leave because they judge that the occupation lessens property values and quality of life.

Government refuse support of UN Declaration on Indigenous rights

By Christine Fiddler
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Many Aboriginal leaders are disappointed in the Conservative government's adamant refusal to support the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, despite a motion by opposition members of Parliament on April 8 calling for its endorsement in Canada.

The declaration was easily passed at a UN assembly last September with 143 member states voting in its favour, 11 states abstaining, and four states—Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States - voting against it.

The declaration maintains the individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples to keep and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions. Furthermore, it prohibits discrimination against Indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them.

In a media statement released on April 9, Aboriginal leaders and representatives from Canadian human rights organizations commended the motion in favour of the declaration and many predicted a renewed relationship between Aboriginal people and the government.

However, six days later, from her attendance at the Organization of American States forum in Washington, Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) President Beverley Jacobs confirmed Parliament's incessant refusal to support the declaration, as well as other Indigenous Rights documents such as the Declaration of the Americas brought forward at the forum.

"Even though this motion was brought to Parliament, the Conservative government are still not willing to budge on its position," stated Jacobs in a phone interview from Washington. "Canada is at the table here, and because of them not supporting the Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, they've just announced they're not willing to negotiate on this draft, Declaration of the Americas."

This decision means Parliament does not recognize the rights of Indigenous people and brings to question their human rights agenda overall for Aboriginal people, especially since a few weeks later, the Conservatives brought forward Bill C-21, legislation to extend the Human Rights Act to reserve this bill.

If brought into law, could challenge band decisions over housing, education, and membership. It is a move that attempts to impose individual rights in favour of collective rights, which Liberal MP Anita Neville pointed out as what she believes

is "a larger agenda directed at assimilation."

As for the UN Declaration, it is based on a minimal standard to start with and Canada is not willing to negotiate if that's the standard, said Jacobs, adding that it doesn't make any sense at all.

The Canadian government has never identified what their real reasons were for declining support for the declaration.

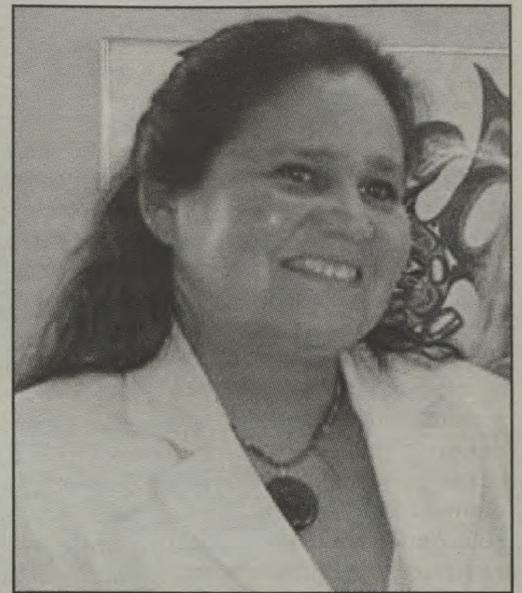
"Other than saying that it goes against the Constitution of Canada but they never did provide any details and nobody ever really understands the position that they've taken," she stated.

In a letter to the *Toronto Star*, Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chief Phil Fontaine pointed out the two concerns critics have about the declaration. First, it could be used to affect land claims in Canada and second, it does not respect individual rights and could therefore undermine the charter.

He said both reasons are untrue, as "the only way international provisions can have binding legal effect in Canada is if they are expressly incorporated into domestic law," and furthermore, Canada has always recognized both individual and collective rights. He stated that Canada's rejection has to do with "pandering to those who think First Nations people have too many rights." Jacobs agrees with Fontaine, and said Aboriginal people in Canada are not getting their rights fully recognized as it is.

"If we had rights recognized in the way they're supposed to be, we wouldn't be in the poverty-stricken positions that our people are in," she expressed. "In recognizing treaty rights and recognizing our inherent rights, we wouldn't be fighting for our land, we wouldn't be fighting for our resources, we wouldn't be fighting for our rights and ensuring that they're maintained."

As a NWAC representative, Jacobs has been stringent in trying to get the government to accept the Declaration. Before it was brought forth she met with both the Minister of Foreign Affairs



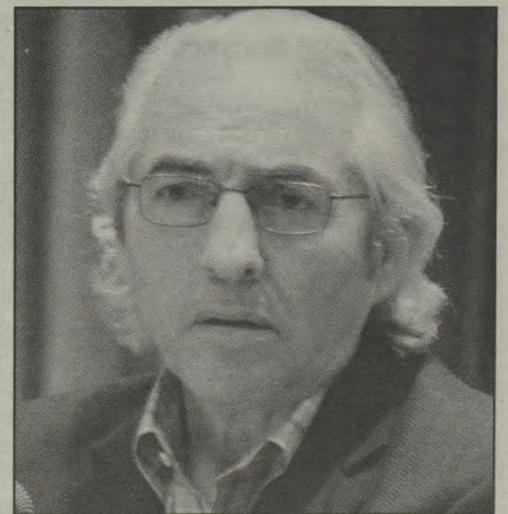
NWAC President Beverley Jacobs

and the Minister of Indian Affairs Chuck Strahl and tried to find out the reasons why they are opposing the Declaration. She has also stated to them that it was in Canada's best interests to support the declaration and they needed to stop lobbying other countries against it. This was the case in their attempt to use aid as a tool to convince undeveloped African countries to withdraw their support, a tactic that was unsuccessful.

"We also requested that they consult with Aboriginal people directly, not as leaders within the grassroots community; they need to consult with our people. And that wasn't done and so they went ahead in their decision anyway and believing again, unilaterally, that they know what's best for our people," she said.

Although the government's stand is difficult to understand, Jacobs said she believes Aboriginal people need to remain strong.

"We have to maintain our resilience and our strength and ensure that our culture, and identity, and our languages and ceremonies are strong. Our people have been fighting for our rights since colonization and maintaining who we are as a people. It just means we still have



AFN Chief Phil Fontaine

to be strong in ensuring that our rights as a people are maintained and implemented in this country."

Improvements to water systems are long overdue

By Joe Couture
Windspeaker Writer

OTTAWA

The lack of safe water systems on reserves across Canada has long been a problem, and the federal government is hoping new measures and funding will help improve the delivery of clean drinking water in First Nations communities.

On April 15, the government announced \$330 million will be devoted to a two-year investment into the First Nations Water and Wastewater Action Plan (FNWWAP). Making the announcement in Ottawa were Chuck Strahl, minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, and Steven Fletcher, Parliamentary Secretary, on behalf of Health Minister Tony Clement.

"We want First Nations to have increased confidence in the quality of their drinking water, and we are committed to working in partnership with First Nations day-by-day to complete the work required on this important priority," Strahl said.

Strahl announced that a national engineering assessment will be undertaken by INAC, working jointly with First Nations, noting there currently isn't a good overall picture of what is needed. The point of the assessment is to evaluate water and wastewater services in all First Nations communities and to recommend the best options for services for each community in the future. INAC expects to complete the national assessment in 2009, at which point it will make the results public. The assessment will propose solutions for every First Nations community in Canada, the government said.

In addition, the new plan is supposed to see nearly doubled the number of trainers in the program that trains First Nations water operators. It is also intended to set clear standards for water and wastewater systems. Through contribution agreements with First Nation communities, INAC will fund the construction and upgrading of high-risk and medium-risk water and wastewater infrastructure systems. In addition, INAC will consult with First Nations and others regarding the creation of a federal legislative framework for drinking water and wastewater on reserve.

In terms of monitoring and public awareness, the extension of funding to Health Canada will help the department to continue to assist communities with monitoring all distribution systems with five or more connections, cisterns and community wells, it claims. Health Canada is also planning to enhance monitoring activities, including a National Wastewater Program and public awareness and risk communication activities.

In 2005, Canada's environment and sustainable development commissioner completed a report that examined the efforts to improve drinking water on reserves. Among other things, the report noted that 40 per cent of water operators on reserves lack proper training; there aren't any regulatory standards for drinking water on reserves as there are for other communities; and, parliament isn't kept properly informed about the issues.

Also in 2005, the Kashechewan water crisis in Northern Ontario called attention to the problem. The evacuation of residents from the community after high E. coli and attempts to treat it in drinking water systems caused problems and had a cost estimated at \$16 million.

In 2006, a report on water quality in First Nations communities found that hundreds of drinking water systems were at risk although nearly \$2 billion had already been spent on trying to improve the situation.

At that time, Jim Prentice — then federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs — vowed to ensure safe water on reserves. Since March of 2006, when an action plan on this issue was first launched, the government claims "significant progress" has been made.

In January, Strahl released a progress report outlining the results of the government's 2006 efforts. The number of systems considered "high-risk" had been reduced from 193 to 108; meaning 85 systems still fell under this classification.

In addition, 43 per cent of the more than 1,000 workers who operate water systems on reserves had received a Level 1 certification or greater in terms of their training — Level 4 is the highest — an increase from the eight per cent certified in March 2003.

In 2006, 21 communities were identified as "high-priority" and all but six of those have been removed from that status, the government said. In its progress report released January, the government explained that those that have been removed from the priority community category still have problems requiring attention, but some have witnessed the removal of drinking water advisories and others the proper certification and oversight, leading to reduction in priority status for each.

The six remaining communities are:

— Pabineau, NB, where the government says a project to install individual treatment systems in all homes on reserve not meeting standards, as well as to make other upgrades, has been completed and Health Canada is currently reviewing whether or not the drinking water advisory should be lifted.

— Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, QC, where over the next five years, the distribution system will be expanded to connect as many people as possible to the recently upgraded municipal system, but in the meantime, an advisory will remain in place.

— Shoal Lake No. 40, ON, where the government has scheduled plans, but notes the First Nation hasn't responded to its offers of certified oversight. Construction on a new treatment plant is scheduled to begin this spring.

— Muskrat Dam Lake, ON, where the government is also negotiating certified oversight with the First Nation and where INAC has "worked closely" with the First Nation to complete construction of water and sewer systems.

— Northwest Angle No. 37, ON, where a drinking water advisory is still in place and a service provider has been selected to provide certified oversight for the water treatment plant operation. A contract is currently being finalized and, when in place, should result in a lower risk ranking for the community, the government says.

— Kingfisher, ON, where work has been started to upgrade the water treatment plant — construction is slated to begin this spring or summer. A lower risk ranking and removal of drinking water advisory are expected with certified oversight here, as well.

Windspeaker news briefs

Nak'azdli Chief sets record straight on land use concerns

Claiming mining and exploration company officials are attempting to fuel internal strife between his people and a neighbouring band in central B.C., in order to further their own interests, Nak'azdli Chief Fred Sam refuted any such dispute exists.

"We don't want to have a public debate with our neighbouring First Nation McLeod Lake," he said. "Nak'azdli has Aboriginal title to the area where their proposed mine is located and Terrane Metals Corporation's attempts to create (conflict) between our neighbours is a new low for the mining industry in Canada."

Nak'azdli administration is providing correspondence to investors, the B.C. Securities Commission, the provincial and federal government to demonstrate the band's rights and title to Shus Nadloh, where the mine would operate.

Elders, hereditary chiefs and key stakeholders continue talks to resolve the issue internally and "private companies do not have any place interfering in internal matters between neighbouring First Nations, no do they possess the required expertise to assess the existence or nature of Aboriginal title," Chief Sam said.

He is encouraged that McLeod Lake is making progress with Terrane Metals to resolve treaty interests and urges McLeod Lake members to welcome talks and traditional dispute resolution processes with openness and respect.

One resident observes, if the protest continues, public opinion could harden against the protestors and it will become impossible for any democratically elected government to sign a fair deal with them.

Mishkeegogamang and Richview sign agreement

The Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation and Richview Resources have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that forges an ongoing partnership with the company's exploration activities and the Thierry Mine Project.

"We are very pleased with this agreement," expressed Chief Gray-McKay in an April media statement released jointly by the company and the First Nation.

"For too long the riches from our traditional lands have been taken without benefit to our community. Richview Resources' commitment in this MOU to share benefits with Mishkeegogamang is the principled approach we have been seeking and will now expect from all resource companies working in our traditional lands."

The MOU expects to set the foundation for a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the First Nation and the company. It includes training and employment opportunities, ongoing communication, financial contribution to the community and other benefits.

Both parties have also agreed to negotiate an Impact Benefit Agreement if the project proceeds from exploration to production. Furthermore, they have also agreed to a Traditional Ecological Knowledge study that will assess the archaeologically and culturally significant sites and areas of traditional use within the project area.

As head negotiation for the First Nation in the signing of the MOU, David Masakeyash states the negotiations were successful because both parties listened to each other and addressed the concerns and objectives brought to the table.

The media release identifies Richview as a Canadian company committed to responsible development of natural resources and respectful of local environmental, community and social interests. It is the sole owner of the past-producing Thierry Mine property in northwestern Ontario.

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Malaspina students show support for KI 6

By Debora Steel
Windspeaker Writer

NANAIMO

The waves of support for the KI 6 were lapping at the shores of Vancouver Island April 14 when Malaspina University-College students gathered at a cedar welcome figure on campus to protest, pray and fast.

The students are part of the Bachelor of First Nations Studies program at Malaspina. At their year-end feast, they heard an impassioned plea from classmate Rachel Wuttunee, a member of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) in northern Ontario, who told them of the plight of the six leaders of the community, jailed for defending their lands against mining exploration.

"My name is Cedar Tree Woman. I'm from Big Trout Lake," Wuttunee said. After thanking the Snuneymuxw people on whose land she had been able to live, learn and network, she said there was something that needed her fellow students' attention. "Then I told them about what was happening."

What's happening is that Chief Donny Morris, and his five councillors, including grandmother Cecilia Begg, have been put behind bars for contempt of a court order that allowed mining company Platinex to search for platinum where the remote community hunts, traps and harvests fish.

It's the most recent chapter in the text book on how not to conduct business with First Nations people.

Right from the beginning, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug objected to Platinex's activities. After happening upon barrels of chemicals the mining company had flown in to conduct its

exploration, said Wuttunee, community members went to officials telling Platinex it was not welcome in the territory. Events were staged by Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug that stymied exploration, and in April 2006 the company sued the community for \$10 billion.

In May of that year, the community launched its own legal action challenging the constitutionality of Ontario's Mining Act that allowed the exploration to occur.

The small community went bankrupt, racking up \$500,000 in legal fees, but an Ontario court ruled in favour of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug ordering a moratorium on mining activity until the provincial government and the company could consult with the community.

The victory, however, was short-lived. The court ordered that a consultation protocol was to be established, and then it lifted the moratorium to allow the company to drill.

Consultation can mean a variety of things depending on perspective, First Nations have come to understand.

"They just came to the land and said, 'This is where we are going to mine. This is where we are going to start looking,'" said Wuttunee. "And [KI's] like, 'That's not good neighborly consultation.'" She said "notify" is what the company did, in her opinion, not consult.

On Sept. 28, 2007, the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug leadership escorted company officials back to their plane and sent them on their way with a warning: Trespassing charges may be filed against them if Platinex chose to return. Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug set up a protest camp at the



DEBORA STEEL

An overnight protest and fast was conducted by some members of the Bachelor of First Nations Studies program at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo to show support for the leadership of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug in Ontario who have been incarcerated over a land dispute with a mining company. Ahousaht's Q'uaama, Thomas Paul (third from right), took part after hearing about the struggle of the KI 6 from Rachel Wuttunee (fourth from left), who is from the community where chief and council were incarcerated for blocking platinum exploration on their traditional lands and standing up for their right to be consulted over land use.

exploration site, but by October, the company was back in court asking that contempt charges be laid against the leadership.

On March 17, the KI 6, as the leadership has come to be known, were found in contempt and settled into a six-month sentence.

"The same thing is happening all over the place where they just go and take what they want without consultation or without respecting us in any way," said Malaspina student Rochelle Starr of Little Pine, Sask. "And I just really felt that it crossed the line putting the chief and council in jail, that's when they've gone too far. That's when we have to stand up and say no."

Starr, and student Thomas Paul of Ahousaht, a remote Nuu-chah-nulth community located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, got their heads together. They invited others to fast for a 24-hour period to demonstrate unity on the land use issue. It was just one

protest in a wave occurring across the nation to show support for the KI 6.

"I think taking First Nations studies has really opened my eyes to the way First Nations have been treated in Canada," said Paul, adding it was important to him to show his support of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, "whether you are for extraction of the resources within your territory or not." (Paul and the other protesters were particularly offended by the lack of consultation done with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug before exploration was begun.

"It's different in the Clayoquot," said Paul. "We just signed an MOU [with Selkirk Metals to explore copper, silver and gold prospects on the territory] and you know that's what the people want. There has to be consultation, and I've got to show my support for the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug band, because there

was no consultation."

Paul's community has struggled coming to its decision to allow exploration of Catface Mountain in Ahousaht. The community was split for many years leading up to a vote on the issue at its last annual general meeting. Ahousaht is located in the Pacific Ocean across from Tofino in the pristine Clayoquot Sound, the site of high profile anti-logging protests in the 1990s.

The community's decision has disappointed environmentalists, long-time allies of First Nations communities in the area, but the crushing weight of poverty in Ahousaht was becoming increasingly intolerable to bear.

Student Fallon Crosby's father is Haida and her mother is Kwakiutl. She grew up in Haida Gwaii, the territory of the famed Haida decision where the government's duty to consult was chiseled into Canadian law.

(See Lack Of on page 12.)

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Canada

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, that it will hold a one-day public hearing to consider the results of an Environmental Assessment Screening (EA Screening) regarding Cameco Corporation and Areva Resources Canada Inc.'s proposed Rabbit Lake Solution Processing Project. The public hearing will be held on June 11, 2008 in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario and will be webcast live on the Internet via the CNSC Web site.

The public is invited to comment on the results of the EA Screening. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by May 12, 2008 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the name, address and telephone number of the requester.

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Senate Committee hears from Native leaders

By Kate Harries
Windspeaker Writer

OTTAWA

There's an increasing burden of poverty that First Nations people struggle with every day because of the two per cent cap on growth the department of Indian Affairs has imposed on expenditures for education, housing and infrastructure, social and economic development, National Chief Phil Fontaine told a parliamentary committee last month.

"Services for other Canadians, true health and social transfers, run at three times that rate," he said, speaking in favour of a private member's bill that mandates implementation of the Kelowna Accord. "This is not a theoretical math problem. It means that while inflation matches that two per cent cap, and our population grows at the fastest rate in the country, 3.5 times the national average, our communities fall further and

further behind."

The cap means that 27,000 Aboriginal children end up in state care, stripped of their families and the love that every child has a right to expect, Fontaine added. "This is three times the number of children that were in residential schools during the height of the residential school experience. It means that development is stymied and despair continues while people struggle to lift themselves from the grinding poverty that robs them of hope."

In the 12 years since the two per cent cap was introduced, First Nation governments have lost over 25 per cent in real purchasing power, he said, adding that it also means that in 39 communities across this country, children have no school to go to, and in the rest there are insufficient tools for modern education and insufficient funds to pay teachers.

"At a time when everyone recognizes that education is the single most important element in

"At a time when everyone recognizes that education is the single most important element in building a positive and hopeful future, First Nations children are denied by their government, funded at more than \$2,000 less per child than other Canadian students."

—Phil Fontaine

building a positive and hopeful future, First Nations children are denied by their government, funded at more than \$2,000 less per child than other Canadian students," Fontaine said.

From the Aboriginal perspective, the Kelowna accord — agreed to by Canada, all provinces and territories and the leadership of the First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples in November, 2005 — committed Canada to a 5-year, \$5.1 billion initiative to eliminate disparities

in health care, housing, education, water treatment, and economic opportunity. But the new Conservative government of Stephen Harper dismissed the deal as a partisan ploy by Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin, defeated in the January, 2006 general election, and said they would take a different approach and target specific problems like contaminated water and specific claims. But the Conservatives formed a minority in Parliament and in March, 2007, the other

political parties united to vote 176-126 in favour of Bill C-292, a private members bill put forward by backbencher Paul Martin to implement the Kelowna accord. That's the bill being studied by the standing senate committee on Aboriginal peoples, headed by Senator Gerry St. Germain.

Clement Chartier, president of the Métis National Council also appeared before the committee on April 16. The failure to implement the accord has been a bitter disappointment, he said.

Despite constitutional recognition of the Métis as one of Canada's three Aboriginal peoples and a 2003 Supreme Court decision that reaffirmed the Métis as a full rights-bearing people, the Métis remain excluded from federal jurisdictional responsibility and from all processes to resolve the rights of Aboriginal peoples, including specific and comprehensive land claims processes.

(See Bill on page 22.)

BC STUDIES

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[strictly speaking]

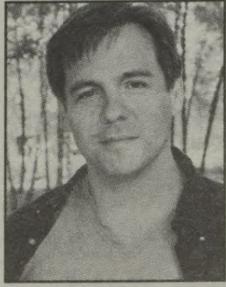
Multi-media Taylor a kid a heart

Somebody once asked me, after I told them many Native reserves look like a lot of small non-Native towns except people were a lot darker, how they could then tell if they were in a First Nations community?

All the standard jokes went through my head; when you hit your first three legged dogs, notice all the vast dreamcatcher factories, when you spot more cigarette shops than convenience stores, and there are the much older versions; abandoned cars on lawns or passed out Indians used as speed bumps. I thought for a moment before answering; when you see a lot of kids, that's usually when you're on Native territory.

First Nations people love kids, and love having kids, which can be a good combination. It's no secret that the birth rate amongst Canada's Indigenous people is practically the highest in the land, and it's been that way for a while. I know, my mother is the oldest of fourteen, so as a result, I have about 25 first cousins, at least.

It's part of that old ancient



THE URBANE INDIAN

Drew Hayden
Taylor

Aboriginal custom that says when you know how to do something well, keep doing it. I guess building canoes and skinning muskrats gets boring after a while.

From down in the States, we've all met those people that were "part Cherokee", or had a great-great-great grandmother that was a Cherokee princess. I've always wondered if it was just this one lone and tired Cherokee woman that just kept pumping out these kids, and all the other Cherokee women pretty much kept to themselves.

My point here being that with all these Native kids running around the country, and kids

from all the other cultures that currently inhabit these four directions, I have found myself through no fault of my own – becoming one of the leading writers of Native theatre for young audiences.

This year alone, I will be having three plays written specifically for kids, touring various parts of the country. They might now or will be at a school near you. My very first play, *Toronto At Dreamer's Rock*, written in the late 80's, started me driving that metaphorical school bus. And last year, a novel I wrote was published, *The Night Wanderer*, and it was written specifically for teenagers. Vampires and Indians.

I've been told teenagers can't get enough of either.

Be assured, I am not complaining. It has been a good and rewarding living. In addition to what I've written, during the last two years I have lectured frequently for several Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth, education and librarian organizations across the country, and have several coming up in the coming year, talking specifically about Native youth and literature.

Next month, I am off to Adelaide, Australia to lecture at a huge TYA (theatre for young audiences and not to be confused with T & A) conference being held there, on Native theatre TYA in Canada, and if all works out, hopefully spending time and working with an Aborigine company that does similar work in Perth.

The trouble is, I'm getting kind of old to be working in this field. There are people older than me who write in this field, but they are usually parents of some sort. My worry is that some people may come to believe I could possibly be leaving the territory of being an imaginative writer of youth literature for something slightly more creepy. For you see, I have no kids of my own, (that I know of, though 1993 is kind of murky), yet I seem to have their imagination, which may or may not be a good thing. Hopefully people won't think I'm entering

Michael Jackson territory. I say this now because I have a new book coming out this month, and it explores and deconstructs the world of Native sexuality. It's called *Me Sexy*. Sex and kids, not something you as a parent might be comfortable with.

Now at one time, both *ME SEXY*, and my vampire novel, *The Night Wanderer* were supposed to be released in the same month (because they had two different publishers), but as my agent pointed out, that might not be a good idea. What if I was being interviewed for both books at various times and for some reason, forgot which interview I was doing. That could be disastrous.

I keep telling myself I shouldn't be so paranoid, after all, one does lead to the other. In theory, there would be no kids without sex, unless you were a lab technician with a turkey baster.

I remember that Ian Flemming wrote the James Bond novels, and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, and Roahl Dahl wrote all those cool horror stories, and also James and the Big Peach. But the one thing that makes me believe that maybe I am over-compensating is something my girlfriend told me when I brought this subject up.

She said "Drew, I wouldn't worry about it. Speaking as a woman, most men are big kids anyway. You've just found a way to make it pay." I was relieved for about 10 seconds, then I felt insulted.

Lack of consultation offend protestors

(Continued from page 10.)

Crosby took part in the Malaspina protest to raise awareness across the country. "If they can do it to them, then they can do it to any of us, even though it's way over there."

She said some people in her classes were confused. "They are like, 'the government says that they have this responsibility to us' but they aren't living up to it."

She said it was important to her that First Nations unite when faced with a situation like what is playing out in Ontario, "because we can't fight the system when we are fighting each other."

She noted there were a lot of different nations represented at the Malaspina protest.

Wuttunee is pleased that her fellow students were focusing on the consultation issue, rather than on the fact that the leadership of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug was in jail. That fact may have been the trigger of the protest, but it was not the central question.

It's the land that's important, said Wuttunee.

At first there was grave concern for Begg, the lone woman jailed, she told *Windspeaker*.

Begg met with Assembly of

First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine.

"They were trying to say 'Maybe you shouldn't be in prison by yourself. At least the men have each other within this prison. You're going to be by yourself.' [Begg] said 'No. When I first took the job as a council member it's a decision that I made. If I have to go to jail for my people and my land, then I will.'"

Wuttunee said Begg didn't want their imprisonment to be the main issue.

"When a whole chief and council decides 'You know what? Put us in jail. If you are going to take away our land, you might as well take away our people right now,' and makes a stand. I think that this is what this is about."

Wuttunee said the treaties weren't signed "thinking that you were just going to come into our land and tell us how to live, after you've already taken most everything else away," she said.

"We just want to raise awareness, and say this isn't right. Something has to be done. The government too long has used their laws and their policies against us to further disconnect us from the land."

Director, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services

Alberta Education, Edmonton - An opportunity exists for you to demonstrate your strong leadership skills. We are seeking a highly motivated senior manager with education administration experience, ideally at the central office level in either a public or separate school system, who has first-hand knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture and proficiency in communicating with members of these communities. Reporting to the Assistant Deputy Minister of Learning Supports Division, you will guide and support staff in providing service to school authorities in 62 jurisdictions across the province on matters relating to First Nations, Métis and Inuit programs and services in the K-12 learning system. Branch staff also work with 44 band authorities and Indian and Northern Affairs of Canada regarding the use of Alberta program standards in Band-operated schools. You will assist also in the implementation of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy throughout Alberta. You will ensure that the information needs of key clients and stakeholders are addressed and that important linkages are maintained. In addition, you will assist staff in applying their diverse competencies and interests in program areas as needed for implementing the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services team charter.

You will have knowledge of the Alberta basic learning system and will bring a strong interest in service excellence and commitment to improving education for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. Salary: \$93,156 - \$118,296. Closing date: May 23, 2008.

Qualifications: A Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree preferably in Education, eligibility for teacher certification in Alberta is preferred. Extensive current related administrative experience ideally at the jurisdictional level is required. An in-depth knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture, an ability to communicate effectively with members of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities plus proficiency in Plains Cree, Woodland Cree, Blackfoot or another First Nations, Métis and Inuit language is essential. Excellent leadership experience with a diverse team would be a definite asset. Equivalencies will be considered.

For further information regarding this position, contact Wilma Haas, Assistant Deputy Minister of Learning Supports at (780) 427-2051 (toll free by dialing 310-0000 first).

Online applications are preferred. To apply online visit www.jobs.alberta.ca or submit your resume to: Alberta Education, Human Resource Services, 8th floor, Commerce Place, 10155-102 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4L5. Fax: (780) 422-5362. Please ensure you quote competition number 48384.

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[windspeaker confidential] — Senator Thelma Chalifoux

Windspeaker: What one quality do you most value in a friend?
Senator Thelma Chalifoux: There are many values in your friend that are special. George Bernard Shaw said that if you can count your true friends on one hand, then you can die a rich person. When my friend can accept me as I am with all my faults, my good points and my human failings, then I am truly blessed.

T.C.: Madge McCree. She overcame a violent marriage. She never gave up on her sisters, brothers and her children. She was never afraid to say she was sorry. We laughed, we cried, we sang, hugged and talked together about life, love, children and all things important in our single mom's lives. Our spirituality kept us both sane. We prayed together and our faith made us strong.

W: What is it that really makes you mad?
T.C.: When I was young I was a very protective tiger about my children. When people were abused, I fought for them. That made me angry. When I saw people giving up, that made me angry.

W: What is the most difficult thing you've ever had to do?
T.C.: I had to watch my daughter die with cancer. I had to bury her and then I had to be strong for her babies.

W: When are you at your happiest?
T.C.: When my friends and I gathered to laugh, to cry — then our spirits soared. I was happiest when my babies were born and when my children and I shared the songs, the dancing, the music and the bannock and stew.

W: What is your greatest accomplishment?
T.C.: I gave my children the best values that I had been taught. I showed them that faith in our Creator is the most powerful force and now they are teaching these values to their children, and their grandchildren.

W: What one word best describes you when you are at your worst?
T.C.: Ugly.

W: What one goal remains out of reach?
T.C.: I have a goal to reach every day. Every tomorrow's goal is always out of reach. As long as we have a goal to reach, our destiny is fulfilled.

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

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

you be doing?
T.C.: The Creator always gives us a road to follow. I have always tried to take that road. So far, I don't know what else I would be doing.

W: What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?
T.C.: We must always have faith that the Lord takes care of us as long as our faith is strong.

W: Did you take it?
T.C.: Yes!

W: How do you hope to be remembered?
T.C.: Through the lives of my children and all the lives of the people that I have touched.

Senator Thelma Chalifoux was the first Aboriginal woman appointed to the Senate of Canada, serving between 1997 to 2004.

She currently helps preserve and foster Métis culture and identity at the Michif Institute "A Metis Living Museum" in St. Albert, Alberta.

Because she was born in Calgary in 1929 during a violent blizzard, Chalifoux's father, Paul Villeneuve, foretold she would be strong and independent. He taught her that the Métis have always worked to support each other and true to his teaching, she has continually served others in various capacities.



Laura Suthers

Senator Thelma Chalifoux

After leaving an abusive marriage in the 1950's, she managed to raise seven children on her own and attend school while working, studying sociology at the Lethbridge Community College and construction estimating at the Southern Institute of Technology.

Since the late 1960's Chalifoux has worked to establish facilities such as friendship centres, and Cree language programs. She has worked in numerous social

agencies, helping to provide people with such amenities including housing, education, healing from addiction, and safety from abuse.

She was the first full-time Métis woman staff announcer on northern Alberta's CKYL Radio in Peace River, and was also the first Métis woman to serve on the University of Alberta Senate.

She was awarded a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for public service in 1994.

[radio's most active]

ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

| ARTIST | TITLE | ALBUM |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Farrah Meade | I'll Be Gone | Single Release |
| Derek Maurice | Forgive | I Am Derek Maurice |
| Holly McNarland | Mermaid | Chin Up Buttercup |
| New Horizon | Woman In The Picture | Single Release |
| Derek Miller | Devil Came Down Sunday | The Dirty Looks |
| Crystal Shawanda | You Can Let Go | Single Release |
| Rick Dixon | Cowboy Up | Ten Candles |
| Sandy Scofield/Kinnie Starr | Faith | Nikawiy Askiy |
| Tracy Bone | Soldier Of Love | No Lies |
| Hector | Die For Me | Rain Dancing |
| Little Hawk | Bottle Drinks From You, The | Home & Native Land |
| Mykal Gambull | I'm Your Man | Volume 1 |
| Guy Chaput & Sci-fi | That Girl | Awakenings |
| Fred Moose | Come On In | Once & For All |
| Mitch Daigneault | Driving All Night | Single Release |
| Brenton Linklater | Mystery Woman | NCN's Sound Of A New Beginning |
| Lester | Let Me Love You | Day One |
| Donny Parenteau | Old Man Thibodeaux | What It Takes |
| Shane Yellowbird | Drive Me Home | Life Is Calling My Name |
| Desiree Dorion | I'm Gonna Love You | Single Release |

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



Artist—Little Hawk
Album—Home and Native Land
Song—The Bottle Drinks from you
Label—Arbor Records
Producer—Little Hawk

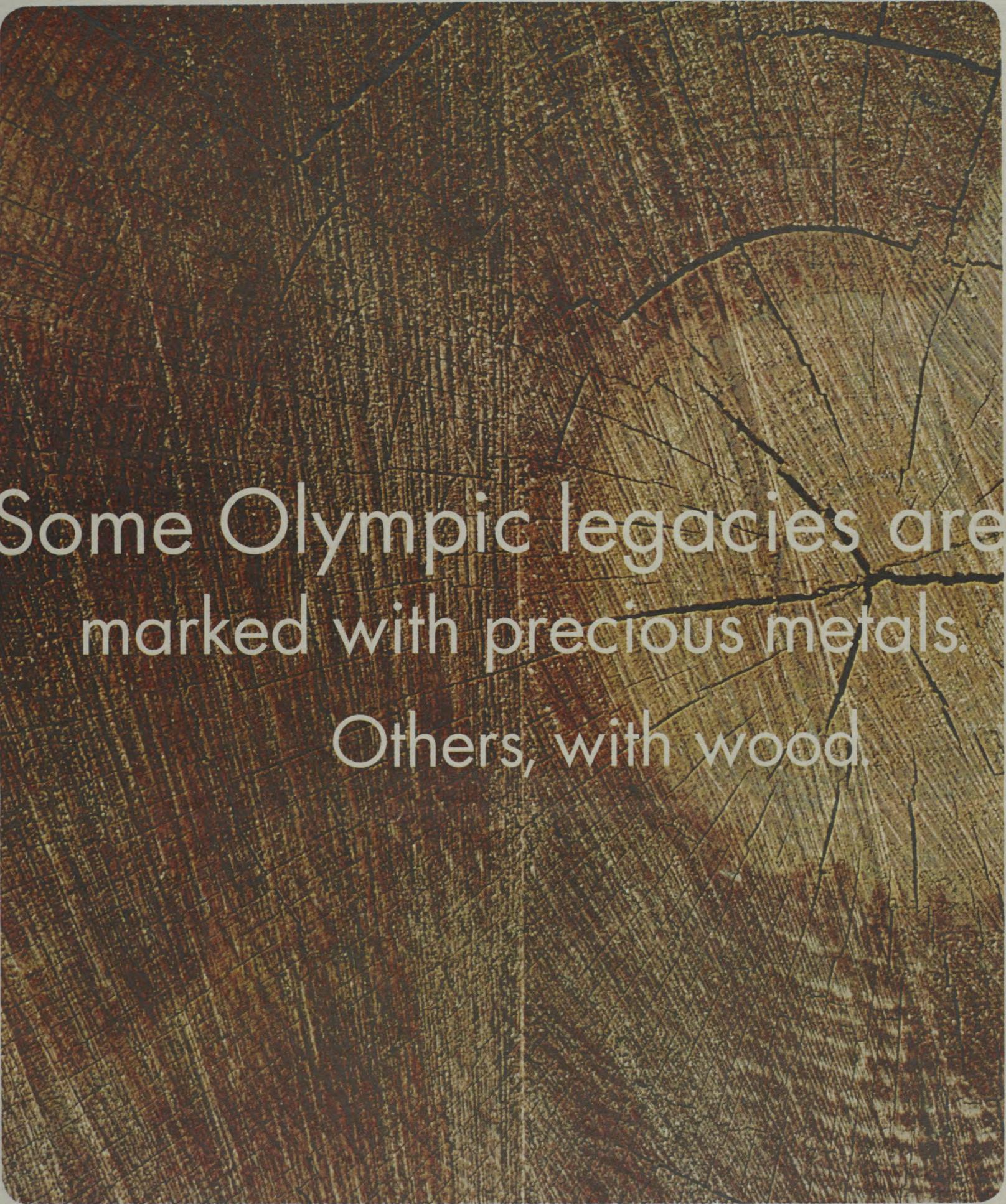


Hawk pours every emotion into CD

It is estimated that three quarters of our population drinks alcohol and of this, 10 per cent will develop alcohol problems. Alcohol abuse is one of the leading causes of most serious health problems. Many believe that alcohol is not a disease but instead a self-inflicted wound that if not treated will leave an ever lasting scar.

The very first words on the song, "The Bottle Drinks from You", from Littlehawk's second album titled 'Home and Native Land', starts out "You don't drink from the bottle, the bottle drinks from you. You don't laugh when it's empty, the empty laughs at you." Like a heart struggling to beat is how this very gripping song begins and throughout the song you can hear the drum as it struggles to beat. The instruments in this song are infused with the emotion of despair and are arranged in the most precise manner.

Tears, weakness, guilt and remorse are heard in every beat of this song. The guitar symbolizes the strength we all possess that we sometimes forget to embrace. Little Hawk's voice sings with strength, faith, hope and belief. These are only a few attributions that this very talented and highly intelligent person embraces on a daily basis. Like his first album 1492 - 1975, 'Home and Native Land', is a learning tool for our everyday struggles: the Ipperwash Crisis, Substance Abuse, the after math of our Elders suffering from Residential School abuse, Suicide, Depression, Our stolen sisters —the sad and heart wrenching list goes on. Little Hawk expresses his compassion and love for Native people. We must be strong and rise above all our pain. Let us stand up and stand up with pride and strength. Let us learn from our mistakes and let it only make us stronger. For more information and to purchase Little Hawk's music go to www.littlehawkmusic.com or myspace.com/littlehawkmusic



Some Olympic legacies are
marked with precious metals.
Others, with wood.

The Totem Pole Project.

Petro-Canada has commissioned British Columbia artist Klatle-Bhi to carve a legacy totem pole commemorating the spirit of the West Coast, the strength of our athletes, and the ability of the Olympic Games to gather the world in a celebration of culture. It's just one of many contributions Petro-Canada is making to support the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver.

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Scholarships help ease financial burden

By **Andréa Ledding**
Windspeaker Writer

Formal education isn't just an investment of time and energy – significant money for tuition, books, and living expenses is needed.

Student loans are a possibility – but if you happen to qualify, they also have to be repaid, and it's easy to go into extensive debt trying to improve earning potential. This is where a scholarship can be a student's best friend. Many education costs can be covered with minimal time, research, and effort.

For example, Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY), one of the longest running programs of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB), believes education is the key to prosperity, a better life, and a brighter future – and has helped over 1,400 students with scholarships and bursaries totaling more than \$2.3 million in the past 14 years.

Any Canadian resident of First Nation (status or non-status), Métis, or Inuit heritage, of any age, is eligible to apply to FAAY if they are in high school or any full-time post-secondary program within Canada.

The bursary program provides \$750 to high school students, while the scholarship provides \$2500 and upwards in any discipline. By submitting one form, you are eligible for the consideration of about 145 different scholarships through FAAY, and Lori Williams, FAAY Co-ordinator, explains that they also encourage applicants to apply elsewhere to maximize their chances of receiving assistance.

When fishing for scholarships, cast the widest net you can, focusing on your area of specialty while applying for general scholarships anywhere you're eligible.

Admissions offices will often have information on scholarships, but Internet searches are also effective, and many applications can be completed online.

Williams listed organizations with spring deadlines such as the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (www.naaf.ca) and a comprehensive scholarship listing at the Aboriginal Multi Media Society Web page (www.ammsa.com).

"One of the most important factors for FAAY is need as opposed to best grades," said Williams. "We encourage the students to give as full a picture as possible."

There's no reporting back on how you spent your money, so students can use it wherever they need it. This takes a little pressure off single parents, or those supporting families or having to work their way through school.

For this reason, FAAY has a later deadline than most places – Oct. 15.

The applications forms are available on their Web site, www.ccab.com, starting in May. Most scholarships have spring deadlines with the idea of covering fall tuition costs. Sometimes scholarships go directly to the institution to be disbursed or assist with tuition fees.

"Our scholarship helps them make it through the Christmas season and January tuition," explained Williams, adding that it takes her staff a few weeks after the cutoff to sort through the 500 to 1,000 applications they typically receive for completeness and system entry. In mid-November corporate sponsors provide a one-day selections committee to meet and choose recipients. Williams notifies the winners as soon as possible, and the rest by mail. "Each application has the same criteria and same cutoffs.† It's totally based on selections criteria and CCAB has no influence on the outcome, the staff is simply administrating."

Criteria and eligibility vary from

place to place but once you've completed a first application, the second one invariably goes faster. It is mainly a gathering and organization of information for the sponsor awarding the scholarship, so checking carefully to meet the criteria and goals listed by the organization will increase success. Williams advises keeping copies of documentation, such as letters of support, to use for multiple submissions.

FAAY criteria includes proof of ancestry (photocopies of cards or for non-status, photocopies of long form birth certificates establishing relationship), two letters of support from academic and community members, the most recent transcript of marks, a letter of acceptance or enrolment, and a recent colour photo accompanying your cover letter. The letter is a mini-essay including background, goals and plans, special circumstances, and personal successes and contributions made. It is like a specialized resume or job application that gets easier with practice.

"Read through the guidelines first – it will help you compile your information so you won't get frustrated," advises Williams. She also suggests checking out past winners and their bios on the Web site. If submitting electronically, scans can generally be attached as long as there is a visible signature.

The FAAY application, like many scholarships, can be done online at ccab.com, downloaded from the website, or requested by mail or fax by phoning the office at 1-866-566-3229, and then returned by mail or courier.

Although supporting documentation can be sent separately, as with all scholarships it must all be received before deadline or your application won't be considered. The postmark is your final, but sometimes most important, criteria to be met: because one day's difference can mean instant elimination.

Demonstrated financial need, academic and career commitment, contributions to family and community, and leadership/role model qualities are the key to a successful application at FAAY, but Williams noted that a common pitfall for many applicants, including really strong candidates, is incompleteness before the deadline. If any supporting documentation is missing, all FAAY can do is keep it on file for next year and hope the candidate will re-apply with all the material needed.† Many organizations don't even go that far, and will simply toss the application out.

Williams doesn't know if candidates get frustrated or simply run out of time, but encourages applicants to go all the way to stay eligible and show commitment and responsibility.

"Just keep trying, don't give up – you give yourself a better opportunity for the selection committee," urged Williams. "Your chances may also increase the second or third time you apply because you persevered – and they pay attention to that."

Once you've received a FAAY scholarship, your chances increase the following year. Sponsors are working to learn who the students are and maintain a supportive relationship, which can even include summer employment opportunities, bringing cohesion to the process. And this is another aspect of scholarships – everyone likes to back a winner! List past scholarships received whenever you can; it can increase future potential.

"If you're a previous winner, note it," said Williams. "Don't be shy about telling us exactly what your situation is. There are a lot of things that can impact – family, health, finances – the opportunity to do something financially is a big part of it."



2008 Aboriginal Scholarship Guide

An Insert Exclusively From Windspeaker.

The following list of scholarships and bursaries has been compiled by Windspeaker with the kind assistance of participating companies, schools and foundations. For a complete and up-to-date listing of Aboriginal scholarships and bursaries please check our online listings located at: www.ammsa.com.

NATIONAL

Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation (CMSF):

The CMSF Awards program was started in 1989 to identify, recognize and reward well-rounded students who combine distinguished talents with character, leadership potential, and a commitment to the community.

The CMSF National Awards The CMSF National Award is our most prestigious scholarship. It is awarded after a rigorous process, which includes the written application and extensive interviews. A description of the National Awards follows: Up to 35 National Awards are offered to students bound for one of our 25 participating Canadian universities. The top National Award is valued at up to \$8000 cash and up to \$8000 in annual tuition for up to four years of full-time study, plus up to \$7500 in summer program funding over the course of a degree.

The CMSF Finalist Awards CMSF Finalist Award are valued at \$2,500 and are one-time entrance awards tenable at any accredited university in Canada at which the recipient gains admission and enrolls in a full-time program of study. A Finalist Award is offered to every finalist who participates in National Selections but is not offered a CMSF National Award.

The CMSF Provincial Awards CMSF Provincial Award are valued at \$1,500 and are one-time only entrance awards tenable at any accredited university in Canada at which the recipient gains admission and enrolls in a full-time program of study.

All Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) Awards inquires contact: Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) 53 Yonge Street, 5th floor Toronto, ON M5E 1J3 1-866-544-2673 Website www.cmsf.ca

Garfield Weston Merit Scholarships for Colleges (GWMSC)

Eligibility: 1) Be in the final year of study for a high school diploma OR be an adult in the work force. 2) Must NOT be university degree or college diploma graduate within the last 3 years. 3) Demonstrate an academic ability that will ensure success in their chosen course of study. 4) Demonstrate leadership potential. 5) Present a record of service to the school and/or community. 6) Demonstrate an interest in his/her selected field of study. 7) Be accepted at an accredited community college for 2-4 year diploma studies in the academic year after selection. National Award: Up to 50 available annually

For each National Award the colleges make a tuition grant of up to \$4500 per year. In addition to this, the GWMSC offers up to \$8000 per year as a stipend. The National Award is renewable for up to 4 years of diploma studies only at our participating colleges.

All GWMSC Awards inquires contact: CMSF/GWMSC

53 Yonge Street 5th floor Toronto, ON, M5E 1J3 1-866-544-2673 Web Site: www.gwmisc.ca

Native Women's Association of Canada Corbiere - Laval Two-Axe Early Student Awards

Aboriginal women and be enrolled in a post-secondary institution. Two (2) awards valued at \$1,000.00 each

For more information contact:

Native Women's Association 9 Melrose Avenue Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 1T8 Phone: (613) 722-3033 Fax: (613) 722-7687

The Ross Charles Award

Deadline: March 15
Dedicated to providing six weeks of specialized training to young professional Aboriginal men and women from Northern Canada who are interested in furthering their knowledge in the fields of broadcasting and telecommunications
Send to: Attn.: Cancom 155 Queen Street, Suite 1204 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L1 Phone: (613) 232-4814

Gil Purcell Memorial Journalism Award - The Canadian Press

To a Native person studying journalism. Value: One scholarship of \$4,000 Eligibility: Native ancestry. Studying journalism at a Canadian university

or community college. Deadline: December 31 of each year.

Information: Manager of Human Resources Canadian Press 36 King Street East Toronto, Ontario M5C 2L9 Phone: (416) 594-2179 Fax: (416) 364-9283

The Canadian Medical Foundation Dr. John Big Canoe Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: Applications and supporting documentation for the 08/09 academic year must be received by March 31.

During each year of the program, a \$2000 scholarship may be awarded to an undergraduate Aboriginal student enrolled in the last or second to last year of study in a Canadian school of medicine who has demonstrated both strong academic performance and outstanding contributions to the aboriginal community in Canada.

Applications and supporting documentation to: Darlene Brown, Manager, The Canadian Medical Foundation, 1867 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7 Phone: (613) 731-9331 ext. 2291 Toll Free: 1-800-267-9703 ext. 2291 Web site: www.cma.ca

Canadian Medical Association Special Bursary Program for Undergraduate Aboriginal Medical Students

Deadline: TBA

The bursary is awarded based on financial need and will provide a maximum of \$4000 per academic year to each successful applicant. A total of up to \$40,000 in bursaries may be awarded in each academic year of the program. Given that financial resources are often limited by the end of the academic year, bursaries will be awarded at this time. Bursary recipients will also receive memberships in the CMA, the relevant division of CMA (provincial or territorial) and the Native Physicians Association in Canada.

Darlene Brown, Manager The Canadian Medical Foundation, 1867 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7 Phone: (613) 731-9331 ext. 2291 Toll Free: 1-800-267-9703 ext. 2291 Fax: (613) 731-9013 Web site: www.cma.ca

CanWest Global Aboriginal Internship Award Deadline: September 2

Annual Internship Award for Aboriginal Canadian working in private television. The award is valued up to \$10,000 and places the award recipient in a 4 month Internship program at either the Global Television Network in Don Mills (Toronto) or STV-Regina in Regina, Saskatchewan where the award recipient will be paid on a salary basis for the summer of 1998.

Canwest Global System Broadcasters of the Future Awards 81 Barber Greene, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2A2

Heroes of our Time Scholarships - Assembly of First Nations

Sponsored by: Assembly of First Nations Eligibility: First Nations Citizen Value: TBA Deadline Date: June 1 each year Tommy Prince Award Walter Dieter Award Omer Peters Award Robert Smallboy Award James Gosnell Award Applications submitted to: Selection Committee - Heroes of Our Time Awards The Assembly of First Nations - Education Sector 473 Albert Street - Suite 810 Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4 Toll-Free: 1-866-869-6789 Phone: (613) 241-6789 Fax: (613) 241-5808

The Banff Centre - Aboriginal Leadership and Management Programs

Special grants, which can be applied against the tuition for Aboriginal professional development programs, are available to Canadian Aboriginals or non-Aboriginals who work for Aboriginal communities or organizations. Contact: 1-888-255-6327 Website: www.banffleadership.com Email: leadership@banffcentre.ca

Investing in the future growth of Aboriginal Youth - Canadian National

Deadline: June 1st CN developed its Native Educational Awards Program because of its commitment to the education and training of Aboriginal youth. Every year since 1988, we've awarded five \$1,500 scholarships to help Aboriginal

students pursue university studies leading to a career in transportation. This covers a wide range of occupations - from nurses to engineers, computer experts to market analysts. For more info. contact your band office, friendship centre or college of your choice Web Site: www.cn.ca

Canadian National Native Educational Awards Program 935 de la Gauchetière Street West Montreal, Quebec H3B 2M9 1-800-329-9780

CN Scholarship For Women

Deadline: October 13th

One scholarship of \$500 available to women registered in programs of non-traditional trades. Qualifying programs include Welding, Machine Shop, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Industrial Electronics Technician/Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology and CAD/CAM Engineering Technology. Applicants must be accepted into fall semester in specified program of non-traditional trade. Application is required by July 25; forms are available through Student Services and Registrars offices.

Web Site: www.cn.ca Canadian National Educational Awards Program 935 de la Gauchetière Street West Montreal, Quebec H3B 2M9

Educational Awards Program - Husky Oil

Deadline: May 31 Awards announced: July 31

Up to 7 Aboriginal students are selected each year. Awards of up to \$3,000 per year will be granted to cover a portion of tuition, books, or living expenses.

Aboriginal people (Inuit, Métis, Status and Non Status Indians) who meet the following qualifications: "Canadian citizen" in need of financial assistance* demonstrate serious interest in furthering their educational and career development. Preference will be given to applicants whose residence is located on or near one of Husky's exploration, development or operation sites. Individuals pursuing academic post-secondary studies at a university, community college or technical institute are eligible to apply. Diversity and Aboriginal Affairs Husky Oil Operations Limited P.O. Box 6525, Station D Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G7 Phone: (403) 298-6780

RBC Royal Bank Aboriginal Student Awards

Deadline: January 31 Five (5) awards of up to \$4,000/ year for four (4) years at university or two years at college. Status Indian, Non-Status Indian, Inuit or Métis are eligible to apply. You must be a permanent resident/citizen of Canada. For an application and brochure: www.rbcroyalbank.com/aboriginal

CMHC Housing Awards: Housing for Youth

Individuals, firms, institutions and government agencies that are delivering programs that improve choice, quality or affordability of housing for youth may be nominated for a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Award. Awards and honourable mentions are given to those individuals or groups that have achieved excellence in one of five categories: financing and tenure, technology and production, planning and regulation, concept and design, and process and management.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Social and Economic Policy and Research 700 Montreal Road Room C7-417 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7 Phone: 1 800 668-2642 www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/

Legal Studies for Aboriginal People Program

Deadline: March 31 for Pre-Law Programs. The Department of Justice funds Métis and non-status Indians who wish to attend law school. Through the Legal Studies for Aboriginal People Program, the Department offers scholarships for the three-year law program and scholarships for a pre-law orientation course. Value: Tuition fees, textbooks, living expenses, award based on financial need. For more information: Phone: 1-888-606-5111 Web site: <http://canada.justice.gc.ca>

Polaris - Northern Star Program

This awards program recognizes the creative and innovative environmental actions by youth who have had an impact within their communities. Young people up to 25 years of age may be nominated for an award. Completed forms are due by March 31 of each year. For more information and a nomination form, call the Action 21 National Office Toll free at: 1 800 668-6767.

Department of Justice Canada Entrance Scholarships for Aboriginal Students

The Department of Justice Canada has made available three-year scholarships to Métis and non-status Indian students who wish to attend law school. Each year, ten or more pre-law scholarships will be made available to Métis and non-status Indians, to cover the cost of attending a summer orientation program offered by the Native Law Centre, University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon and a summer French language pre-law orientation program at the University of Ottawa.

In September, ten or more three-year law school scholarships will be made available to Métis and non-status applicants to defray their living costs, textbooks, tuition fees, and other costs. The Department of Justice Canada is accepting applications for the summer pre-law program until 1 April, and applications for the law school scholarships until 1 June. Students interested in both programs must forward two separate applications.

For further information and application forms, contact:

Program Assistant, Legal Studies for Aboriginal People Program, Department of Justice Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8 Similar financial assistance is available from Indian and Northern Affairs for registered Indian and Inuit students.

Department of Indian Affairs or your Local Band Education Authority

Funding for status Indian students is available from the Department of Indian Affairs or your Local Band Education Authority. Legal Studies are generally considered separate from other undergraduate programs and therefore full funding will be available for the three years of legal studies.

Métis, Inuit and non-status Indians may apply to the Department of Justice. The funding covers tuition, books and living expenses and is renewable for the two further years of law school. The funding also covers the Saskatchewan Summer program.

For more information on whether you qualify and the applicable deadlines for funding, contact:

Program Administrator Legal Studies for Aboriginal Peoples Program Department of Justice Canada Ottawa, Ontario R1A 0H8 Phone: (613) 957-9583

Chevron Canada Resources

Deadline: January 31 Number of scholarships varies, value up to \$5,000 Available to students of Aboriginal heritage interested in undertaking a period of study in public administration and/or community affairs involving drug/alcohol education and rehabilitation. Special consideration given to residents of Northwest territories and other areas of concern.

Apply to: Canadian Universities for Northern Studies

#201, 130 Albert Street Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4 Phone: (613) 238-3525

TD Bank and First Nations Bank of Canada Aboriginal Education Awards

Deadline: March 31 Value: Five awards of \$1,000 each Recipients will also receive consideration for summer employment and full-time employment once education is complete. Criteria: Applicants must be of Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Inuit, Métis); full time student at recognized Canadian post secondary institution pursuing a program relevant to a career in banking such as business, economics, computer science, math and sciences; in need of financial assistance to further educational goals.

Apply to: Award Coordinator Toronto Dominion Centre 201 Portage Avenue P.O. Box 7700 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3E7 Phone: (204) 988-2800

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

www.ucc.ca/scholarships/index_e.html

AMEC Aboriginal Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship

Deadline: October 17th Value: \$5,000 In conjunction with AMEC, CEMF offers up to one \$5000 Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship annually to young Canadian Aboriginal women who are proven leaders and active in their community to encourage them to pursue a career in engineering. Applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited Canadian undergraduate engineering program of study and be:

1. In their first year, or 2. In their second year, or 3. In the first term of their third year, immediately prior to the December deadline. Scholarships are based primarily on demonstrated community leadership and involvement in extra-curricular activities. Special

emphasis is placed on leadership to recognize and encourage continued contributions to Canadian society. Work experience may also be considered.

Applicants must be willing to act as role models and promote engineering as a career choice to young Aboriginal girls - each Scholarship winner will be required to make at least one presentation to a high-school level audience of Aboriginal youth.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must be Canadian Aboriginals with permanent residence in Canada. In accordance with the Constitution Act, 1982, Part II, Section 35(2), an Aboriginal applicant is an Indian, Inuit, or Métis person of Canada, or a person who is accepted by one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as a member of their community.

All applications must be submitted by all applicants directly to:

The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation AMEC Undergraduate Engineering Scholarship Award P. O. Box 370, 1-247 Barr Street Renfrew, ON K7V 4A6

The Department of National Defence Security and Defence Forum (SDF)

SDF Aboriginal Scholarship Program

Value: \$10,000

Number available: The Security and Defence Forum has set aside up to \$10,000 a year to fund Aboriginal scholars. The exact number and value awarded annually will depend on the number and quality of applicants. Scholarship funds may cover tuition fees and or expenses related to a degree program, including - but not limited to - support for distance learning.

Fields of study: Social sciences/humanities studies relating to current and future Canadian security and defence issues, including their political, international, historical, social, military, and economic dimensions. Research in the pure or applied sciences is ineligible. Applicants must explain in their proposal the relationship of their study/research plans to Canadian security and defence issues.

Eligibility: * Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents at the time of application and be of either a member of the First Nations (status or non-status), Inuit or Métis. * Applicants must, as a minimum requirement, hold an Honours Bachelor's degree (four year program) or its equivalent before taking up the award.

Duration: One academic year, and can be used to assist students in continuing their graduate studies at university and/or to purchase technology required to assist distance learning Eligible institutions: Graduate scholarships are tenable only at Canadian institutions. For more information: For complete information and application form please visit the DND website.

If you wish to have an application form emailed to you, please contact awards@ucc.ca

Phone: (613) 563-1236

Web site: www.ucc.ca/dnd.html

KPMG's Aboriginal Client Services Group Awards Program

KPMG is providing five student awards of \$1,500 CDN each. KPMG is committed to building successful relationships with Canada's First Nations and Aboriginal Communities through our Aboriginal Client Services practice - a dedicated group of professional advisors serving the needs of First Nations Aboriginal clients across Canada. We also believe that we can assist First Nations and Aboriginal people through this student awards program. The KPMG First Nations and Aboriginal Student Awards Program is available to encourage and assist First Nations and Aboriginal students in the pursuit of post-secondary education in the fields of Business, Economics, Political Science, Law, or First Nation Financial Administration.

Applications must be received by May 19 KPMG Student Awards Co-ordinator KPMG Marsland Centre 20 Erb Street West Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1T2

Indigenous Scholarship Program - Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown

Value: \$2,000

Number: 6

Deadline: N/A

Conceived and established in 2003 by Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown, the Indigenous Scholarship Program sets aside program funds for every room night spent at the hotel by a member of Canada's Aboriginal Community. Each year, the hotel will award at least one scholarship to First Nation youth that are pursuing a post-secondary education. Open to all Aboriginal students, the Indigenous Scholarship Program considers a number of criteria in awarding scholarships including financial situation, academic achievement, community involvement and career aspirations. The Indigenous Scholarship Program is managed by Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown with recommendations from an Executive



As part of our commitment to encouraging Aboriginal participation in Canadian broadcasting, MuchMusic is proud to offer the annual



\$5000 ABORIGINAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The \$5000 scholarship* is awarded in partnership with AYN (Aboriginal Youth Network) to the individual who best demonstrates skill, talent, excellence and enthusiasm in pursuing a future in the broadcast industry.

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2008

APPLICATION FORM, SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA AND OTHER DETAILS AT MUCHMUSIC.COM/MAYS



*To go toward tuition; payable directly to post-secondary educational institution of student's choice. MuchMusic is a division of CTV Limited



National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

Scholarships & Bursaries

Oil & Gas Aboriginal Trades & Technology (OGTT)

April 30th & November 30th - Annually

Fine Arts

May 1 - Annually

Post-Secondary Education

June 1 - Annually

Aboriginal Health Careers

June 1 - Annually

for more info visit

www.naaf.ca

1-800-329-9780

Lindsay Farrell

Doctoral Program in the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University

Education Committee and input from an Advisory Board made up of representatives from Canada's Aboriginal Community.

Eligibility: Any Aboriginal student currently enrolled at or, accepted to a post secondary institution.

Application form and eligibility criteria for the Indigenous Scholarship Program can be obtained by calling the Holiday Inn Vancouver Downtown at 1-800-663-9151. Web: holidayinnvancouverdowntown.com.

MuchMusic Aboriginal Youth Scholarship Please see our ad on page 3.

The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded in partnership with AYN (Aboriginal Youth Scholarship) to the individual who best demonstrates skill, talent, excellence and enthusiasm in pursuing a future in the broadcast industry. Open to all Aboriginal Canadians under 29. Deadline: November 28, 2008

Application form, scholarship criteria and other details at: www.muchmusic.com/mays Information: scholarship@muchmusic.com

Burlington Resources Aboriginal Awards Program

The Aboriginal Awards Program has been developed to provide financial assistance to Aboriginal students pursuing high school upgrading and post-secondary education. Award amounts are designated according to the educational level you are pursuing:

Secondary School/Academic Upgrading \$1,000 College or Technical Institute \$2,000 University \$3,000

Please send your completed application along with your proof of acceptance and most recent transcripts to the following address no later than June 30th:

Diversified Staffing Services Attention: Burlington Resources Aboriginal Awards Program

100, 805 - 5th Avenue SW

Calgary, AB T2P 0N6

Phone: (403) 237-5577

Toll Free: (877) 271-7720

Fax: (403) 266-3386

Web site: www.diversifiedstaffing.com

2008 Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program

Cultivating Tomorrow's Environmental Leaders Every day, in communities across Canada, young people are actively demonstrating their passion for the environment through the important work they accomplish. These dedicated young Canadians are emerging as tomorrow's environmental leaders and advocates.

Toyota Canada Inc. and Earth Day Canada established the Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program to help cultivate and nurture this environmental leadership. The Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program encourages and rewards graduating high school students and Quebec junior college students who have distinguished themselves through environmental community service, extracurricular and volunteer activities, and academic excellence.

Because environmental issues are increasingly being tackled through multidisciplinary approaches, future environmental leaders will come from a broad range of academic backgrounds. The Toyota Earth Day Scholarship is offered to students entering their first year of post-secondary studies in the discipline of their choice, to prepare themselves for the career of their choice.

The Toyota Earth Day Scholarship Program grants 15 awards of \$5000 each annually, to be applied directly towards tuition, books, room and board (where applicable) or other educational expenses for the first year of post-secondary full-time studies in Canada.

Regional panels of community, business and environmental leaders will select the winners who best meet the selection criteria. Awards will be granted in five geographic areas. The National Award Ceremony will be held in Toronto on Earth Day (April 22)

Application Deadline: Jan 31st 2009 For applications and more information please visit: www.earthday.ca/scholarship Email: scholarship@earthday.ca

The Canadian Nurses Foundation

Value: varies
Deadline: April 1, 2008.

The Canadian Nurses Foundation is the only national foundation solely committed to promoting the health and patient care of Canadians by financially supporting nurses through study awards, specialty certification, research grants and general support of educational endeavors that advance the nursing profession.

The criteria and 2004 application forms are presently on our website www.canadiannursesfoundation.com

We would appreciate your promoting these scholarships on your web site.

Canadian Nurses Foundation

50 Driveway

Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1E2

Toll Free: 1-800-361-8404

Fax: (613) 237-3520

email: info@cnursesfdn.ca

Web: www.canadiannursesfoundation.com

The Weather Network — Pelmorex Inc.

Value: One award of \$500.00

Deadline: May 30

The Weather Network educational incentive award is to create interest among Aboriginal peoples in the Canadian Broadcasting industry.

Eligibility: A status or non-status Aboriginal full time student who demonstrates financial need. The applicant is enrolling in a Third or Fourth year Canadian Journalism or Radio and Television Arts program at a recognized College or University and has received passing marks (60% or better) in their previous year of study. Applicants are committed students with proven leadership ability, and enthusiasm for their chosen career path.

If no students entering are eligible, the award may go to an Aboriginal student in another reputable program specifically, Business Administration, Meteorology, Computer Science, Graphic Design or Engineering Technology.

Requirement: Resume, official transcript from most recent year of study, successful interview with Pelmorex and good references.

Information: Pelmorex Inc.

Human Resources

1 Robert Speck Parkway Suite 1600

Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 4B3

Phone: 905-829-1159

Fax: 905-566-9696

Millennium Excellence Awards

Please see our ad on page 8.

Involved in your community? Are you a leader who finds original solutions to seemingly unsolvable problems?

Value: From \$4,000 to \$20,000

Eligibility: Good citizenship, demonstrated by significant community involvement; an ability to lead and motivate others; an interest in innovation; academic excellence.

There are two types of millennium excellence awards:

Entrance awards

for students beginning post-secondary studies for the first time. You must apply directly to the Foundation.

You may be eligible for the

Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award

You must be:

- a First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit person with a treaty or membership number.
- a Canadian citizen.
- Your education was interrupted before completion and you have since resumed.

You may be:

- eligible to apply for *Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award*.

Submission deadline:

- Accepted from May 1st to July 31st of the current year.

Canada Post celebrates it's 5th year of the Aboriginal Education Incentive Award

For more information about this award and submitting, please visit Canada Post's website urls:

English: www.canadapost.ca/Aboriginal

French: www.postescanada.ca/Autochtones



From anywhere... to anyone

National in-course awards

for students who are already pursuing post-secondary studies. You must apply to your post-secondary institution, which will then nominate candidates to the Foundation.

Each year, the Foundation distributes more than 1,000 entrance awards and up to 1,200 national in-course awards.
www.excellenceaward.ca

Millennium Bursaries

Need a helping hand? A millennium bursary can help you out.
Value: Minimum \$500
Average value: \$3,000

No application forms to fill out. You will be automatically considered for the bursary when you apply and qualify for student financial assistance from your home province or territory. (Except in Ontario, where students must check the appropriate box on their OSAP application, indicating they wish to be considered for a millennium bursary.)

Each year, the Foundation distributes approximately 90,000 millennium bursaries to students in need.
www.millenniumscholarships.ca

Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation
1000, Sherbrooke Street West, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec H3A 3R2
(514) 985-0026
1-877-786-3999 (toll-free)
millennium.foundation@bm-ms.orh

Alliance Pipeline Aboriginal Student Awards Program

Number: One

Value: Cost of tuition, books and supplies to a maximum of \$4,000 per academic year.

Deadline: April 30

Eligibility: Aboriginal students who are residents of Saskatchewan, Alberta or British Columbia; enrolled in, or have applied to a technical school, college or university, in a program relevant to the oil and gas industry; relevant programs include: mechanical engineering technology, instrumentation engineering technology, electrical engineering technology, power engineering, mechanical engineering or business administration.

Coordinator, Aboriginal Student Awards Program Alliance Pipeline Ltd.,
#400, 605 5th Avenue South West
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3H5
Phone: (403) 517-6511

Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarships Awards Program

Value: \$3,500 (maximum for college) and \$4,500 (maximum for university)

The awards are designed to cover tuition, textbooks, supplies and other compulsory fees.

Deadline: June 30 of each year

Imperial Oil Resources offers four individual education awards each year to any person of Aboriginal ancestry entering post-secondary studies. The purpose of the awards program is to encourage people of Aboriginal ancestry to pursue undergraduate post-secondary educational studies in disciplines relevant to the petroleum industry. Applicants must reside in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories or the Yukon for at least one year immediately prior to applying for the award.

Application form, full program guidelines and eligibility details can be obtained by calling Imperial Oil Community and Aboriginal Affairs at 780-639-5194.

Jennifer Robinson Memorial Scholarship - Arctic Institute of North America

Value: One scholarship of \$5,000.

The Jennifer Robinson Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a graduate student in northern biology who best exemplifies the qualities of scholarship that the late Jennifer Robinson brought to her studies at the Institute's Kluane Lake Research Station.

Eligibility: Applicants must submit: a brief description of the proposed research (two to three pages), including a clear hypothesis, relevance, title and statement of the purpose of the research, the area and type of study, the methodology and plan for evaluation of findings. A collaborative relationship or work should be briefly identified; three academic reference letters; a complete curriculum vitae with transcripts; and a list of current sources and amounts of research funding, including scholarships, grants and bursaries. The scholarship committee looks for evidence of northern relevance, and a commitment to field-oriented research.

Deadline: January 7

Executive Director

Arctic Institute of North America
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
Phone: (403) 220-7515
Fax: (403) 282-4609

Association of First Nations Women Scholarship

Value: Two awards: one in the fall, and one in the spring.

Scholarships are awarded twice a year. The successful applicants are presented with their awards at the Blanche MacDonald Memorial Dinner and the Native Indian Teacher Education Program Graduation Dinner.

Eligibility: Applicants must: be of First Nation ancestry; be registered as full-time students at a post-secondary institution; and include with their application proof of registration at a post-secondary institution, a copy of their transcript(s), a professional reference, a personal reference, and a support letter from a major Aboriginal organization.

Deadline: Open

Association of First Nations Women

#1 -245 East Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1W4
Fax: (604) 872-1845

Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award

Please see our ad on page 3.

Submissions accepted from May 1st to July 31st of the current year.

Are you - a First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit - a person with a treaty or membership number? - a Canadian citizen? Have you - returned to school after a prolonged absence? - completed one full year of educational/vocational or trade skills training? You are eligible to apply for Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Award.

For more information about this award and submitting, please visit Canada Post's website
url: English: www.canadapost.ca/Aboriginal
French: www.postescanada.ca/Autochtones

Intelligent Sensing For Innovative Structures (ISIS) Canada Research Scholarship for Aboriginal People in Engineering

Value: One scholarship of \$5,000 per year. Intelligent Sensing for Innovative Structures (ISIS) Canada is a Network of Centres of Excellence funded by the federal and provincial governments, the university communities and the private sector. The mandate of ISIS Canada is to develop a new generation of sophisticated civil engineering structures for the 21st century.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible, applicants must be graduates in engineering or applied sciences at a Canadian university or be currently enrolled in a degree program, and must be registered in, or intending to proceed to, graduate study in engineering or applied sciences. The scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period and may be renewed for a second year at the discretion of the awarding committee.

Deadline: March 31

President ISIS Canada
227 Engineering Building
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 5V6
Phone: (204) 474-850

Intelligent Sensing For Innovative Structures (ISIS) Canada - Research Scholarship for Women and Aboriginal People

Value: One scholarship of up to \$5,000. Eligibility: Applicants must: be women or be of Aboriginal ancestry; be engineering graduates or currently enrolled in a degree and intending to pursue graduate studies; be seeking solutions to the deterioration of steel reinforced concrete; and be in third year civil engineering or above.

Deadline: March 31

Intelligent Sensing for Innovative Structures
Room 227 Engineering Blvd.
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2
Phone: (204) 474-8880

Magna For Canada Scholarship Fund

Value: Various scholarships of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Eligibility: Applicants must: be full-time students; and submit a proposal (maximum 2,500 words) on "If I was Prime Minister of Canada, I would do the following to improve living standards and unite the country."

Deadline: May 15

Magna for Canada Scholarship Fund
36 Apple Creek Blvd
Markham, Ontario L3R 4Y4

National Union Scholarship for Aboriginal Canadians

Value: One scholarship of \$1,000.

Eligibility: The award is open to all Aboriginal Canadian students who plan to enter the first year of a public post-secondary educational institution full-time, and who are children of, or foster children of, a National Union member. The award is given to the writer of the best 750-1000 word essay on "The importance of quality public services in enhancing the quality of life of Aboriginal Canadians."

Deadline: June 30

Scholarships National Union of Public and

General Employees
15 Auriga Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B7
Phone: (613) 228-9800
Fax: (613) 228-9801

National Union Scholarship for Visible Minorities

Value: One of \$1,000.

Eligibility: The award is open to all visible minority students who plan to enter the first year of a public post-secondary educational institution full-time, and who are the children, or foster children, of a National Union member. The award will be given to the writer of the best 750-1000 word essay on "The importance of quality public services in enhancing the quality of life of visible minorities."

Deadline: June 30

Scholarships National Union of Public and General Employees
15 Auriga Drive
Nepean, Ontario K2E 1B7

Phone: (613) 228-9800
Fax: (613) 228-9801

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF)

Please see our ad on page 3.

Deadlines:

Fine Arts: Two deadlines annually on March 31 and September 30

Aboriginal Health Careers: One deadline annually on May 1

Post-Secondary Education Awards: One deadline annually on June 1

Aboriginal Health Careers Program Scholarship

Deadline: May 1

Provides support for students who are pursuing accredited health studies leading to employment in the health professions and who have demonstrated the potential for academic success.

Eligible fields of study: medicine, nursing,

dentistry, biology, chemistry, physiotherapy, pharmacy, clinical psychology, laboratory research and technology and any other health field in which a study of the hard sciences is a pre-requisite.

Aboriginal Veterans' Scholarship Trust - Canada (NAAF)

For students engaged in fields of study that support and contribute to Aboriginal self-governance and economic self-reliance. For more information check out the web site Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust.

Business, Sciences and General Education Program (NAAF)

Value: Varies from \$1,000 to \$8,000
Eligibility: Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Métis, Inuit) attending a Canadian Community College (CEGEP) or university (first year or returning students); registered in programs such as business, health sciences, new and advanced technologies (not limited to these). Priority is given to students enrolled

WICHITOWIN FOUNDATION JUSTICE STUDY SCHOLARSHIP

In 1995, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and the Regina Police Service hosted a National Aboriginal Youth Conference in Regina. As a legacy to this conference, the Regina City Police Service and the RCMP established the Justice Study Scholarship for Aboriginal youth who are interested in studying or pursuing education and/or a career in policing.



The Wichitowin Foundation acts as trustee and administrator of the fund. The purpose of this scholarship is to promote the advancement of education of the indigenous youth by providing financial assistance to qualified indigenous students through the provision of scholarships, bursaries, and endowments.

Each year, two First Nations recipient and two Métis recipient will receive an award of approximately \$2,000, depending on the earnings of the endowment. Successful recipients can reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years. This scholarship can also be given in conjunction with other awards, which the successful recipient may be otherwise entitled to receive.



INSTRUCTIONS: Please attach the following items:

- Résumé, describing your studies, employment and voluntary experience to date, your special skills and abilities, and any awards or honours you have received.
- Copies of your statements of marks for previous education, including secondary and post-secondary education. Originals are not required.
- Proof of Aboriginal Ancestry, including a copy of your status card and a letter from the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan or Métis local President indicating status.
- Indication of acceptance at the post-secondary/training program being attended.
- Two letters of reference, no necessarily from the same names listed in the application.

Completed applications must be received no later than August 31, 2008

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:

Sgt. Clayton Lerat
Scholarship Coordinator Justice
Studies Award
Aboriginal Policing
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Bag Service 2500
6101 Dewdney Avenue
Regina, SK S4R 3K7

Find your future here.

The power to choose your life's direction is a good education's greatest gift. The University of Manitoba offers you a thriving community and a world of opportunity within a supportive environment.

With 82 degree programs, countless student leadership opportunities and over 100 student groups, clubs, and organizations, the University of Manitoba has something for you.

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itsmyfuture.ca

One university. Many futures.

umanitoba.ca



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA



in business and sciences.

Deadline: June 1

Diane Fowler Leblanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship (NAAF)

Value: The amount of each scholarship is based on the individual needs of each candidate (tuition, course materials, living expenses, daycare, travel) up to a maximum of \$10,000 per year for three or four years, depending on the institution's course requirements.

The Alberta Museology Internship

Value: Varies.

Two four month internships at the Provincial Museum of Alberta for Aboriginal students pursuing a career in ethnology, natural history or Canadian history.

Arts Scholarship Program (NAAF)

Deadline: March 31.

Value: Based on Budget needs. All areas related to the visual, performing, media, graphic and literary arts. Award decision based on merit of project, quality of training and financial need. Art work samples will need to be sent with application.

Petro Canada Education Awards for Native Students (NAAF)

Deadline: June 15

Five education awards of up to \$5,000 are available to native students of Canadian or Inuit ancestry entering or enrolled in post-secondary programs where studies can be applied in an industrial setting in the oil and gas industry. Selection is based on financial need, academic performance and potential, appropriateness of studies to industry, and future aspirations. Contact individual schools for application forms.

Shell Canada Aboriginal Scholarship Program (NAAF)

Preference will be given to studies in business, science and engineering.

CIBC Achievers (NAAF)

Fields of study are unlimited.

TransCanada Pipelines Leadership Awards (NAAF)

With these awards, TransCanada Pipelines is helping Aboriginal students prepare themselves to play leading roles in the fields of engineering,

business and commerce, law, science and technology, environment and communications.

BP Canada Aboriginal Young Achievers Scholarship (NAAF)

Priority for these scholarships may be given to students who are pursuing careers in business, engineering, environmental studies and physical sciences.

Great-West Life Business Education Scholarship (NAAF)

This scholarship was created to help Aboriginal students from across Canada to succeed in the areas of business and entrepreneurship.

TD Bank Financial Group Scholarships (NAAF)

Through its support of the scholarship program, TD Bank Financial Group is helping to make it easier for Aboriginal students to realize their educational goals.

UGG Agricultural Scholarships (NAAF)

UGG is pleased to provide scholarships to encourage Aboriginal students from the Prairie Provinces to pursue careers in fields related to agriculture.

Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program

Imperial Oil has formed a partnership with the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) to manage its Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program (ASAP). The purpose of the awards program is to encourage and assist people of Aboriginal ancestry to pursue post-secondary educational studies in disciplines relevant to the petroleum industry.

The CN Aboriginal Scholarships (NAAF)

These scholarships provide funding assistance to Aboriginal students from across Canada who are engaged in studies that will prepare them for careers in the transportation industry such as engineering, business, computer science, communications and technical studies.

Suncor Energy Foundation "Shared Achievements" Aboriginal Scholarships (NAAF)

These scholarships were created to assist Aboriginal students who are pursuing post-secondary education in business, teaching and science, particularly engineering, earth

sciences, natural resource management, environmental studies and computer science. Preference will be given to students from Central and Northern Alberta, Northeastern and Southwestern British Columbia and the North West Territories.

3M Canada Aboriginal Health Education Awards (NAAF)

With these awards, 3M Canada is making a positive contribution to the lives of Aboriginal students who are pursuing careers in fields related to health care.

Sun Life Financial Careers in Health Awards (NAAF)

With these awards, Sun Life Financial is providing increased opportunities for Aboriginal students to receive training and education for careers in health care.

Weyerhaeuser Aboriginal Scholarship (NAAF)

Weyerhaeuser is pleased to offer scholarship assistance to Aboriginal students who are pursuing careers in business and science. Contact individual schools for application forms.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Suite 33A, 70 Yorkville Avenue

Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B9
Toll free: 1-800-329-9780
Phone: (416) 926-0775
Fax: (416) 926-7554

Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY)

Please see our ad on page 5.

Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY)

Corporate sponsors who support FAAY will award over \$292,000 in scholarships and bursaries to Aboriginals (Status, Non-Status, Métis and Inuit).

To qualify for a bursary, students must be between the ages of 13 to 18 and be enrolled Grade 9 and up in high school. Students may re-apply each year.

To qualify for a scholarship, students must be enrolled in a Canadian university, college or technical institute. There is no age restriction for post-secondary students.

Scholarships and bursaries are awarded on a national basis and are based on specific

criteria, including contributions to the community, academic performance, career goals plus leadership and role model qualities. Please contact us to obtain a current list of bursaries/scholarships under our administration.

Closing date for submitting applications is mid October. Applications are available at www.ccab.com

For further information contact:
FAAY c/o Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

204A St. George Street
Coach House, Main Floor
Toronto, ON M5R 2N5
Phone: 416-961-8663 ext. 227
Fax: 416-961-3995
E-mail: faayinfo@ccab.com

The Canadian Aboriginal Science and Technology Society CASTS Scholarship Programs

Deadline: June 15

CASTS scholarships are awarded to post-secondary graduate and undergraduate students for leadership and academic achievement. Awards are made possible by individuals who wish to support the advancement of Canadian Aboriginal people. Recipients cannot receive more than one scholarship per year. Students who are members of CASTS will be given first priority, however, all students are encouraged to apply and submit application by June 15 of each year. CASTS Scholarship: Chief Crowfoot Professional Health Careers Scholarship, Duval House Communication Careers Scholarship, Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Scholarship

CASTS Scholarship

This scholarship is made available to students pursuing academic programs in the sciences, engineering, health-related fields, natural resources and math and science secondary education. Programs of study may be two to four years or longer.

Chief Crowfoot Professional Health Careers Scholarship

Administered for the Deb C. Crowfoot Professional Corporation, this scholarship is made available to four students pursuing professional health careers. The four scholarships are to be awarded in the following

manner:

1. must be a member of the Siksika Nation or one of parents must be a Siksika Nation member;
 2. must be a member of Saddle Lake First Nation or one of parents must be a Saddle Lake First Nation member;
 3. must be a member of the Ermineskin, Samson, Louis Bull or Montana First Nations or one of parents must be a member of the four bands;
 4. must be a professional Health Careers student of Canadian Aboriginal Descent.
- Note: Professional health career programs are those that require four or more years of university training.

Duval House Communication Careers Scholarship

This scholarship is offered to students entering fields related to communications such as journalism, graphic design, television and radio arts.

Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Scholarship

Students pursuing academic programs in the earth sciences are eligible for this scholarship. The program of study must be at least two years in length and the student must have completed the first year of their studies.

When applying for a scholarship please send your applications to:

CASTS Scholarship Committee

P.O. Box 5635
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3G6
If you require assistance or to request an application form please contact the Treaty 7 Offices
310-6940 Fisher Road, S.E.
Calgary, Alberta T2H 1W3
Phone: (403) 258-1775
Fax: (403) 258-1811

REGIONAL LISTINGS

Aboriginal Graduate Scholarship in Economics - University of Victoria

Application deadlines: Graduate Students - January 30. Undergraduate Students - May 30
Terms of Reference: A scholarship of \$1,000 is awarded to an Aboriginal Graduate student

Aboriginal students: can we give you a hand?

The Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY) is dedicated to developing the next generation of Aboriginal leaders. You could be one of the many full-time Aboriginal students who we will help in the 2008-09 academic year.

In high school?

If you're heading into grade 9 or higher, you can apply for a bursary.

Attending a post-secondary institution?

If you're studying full-time at post-secondary level in Canada (in any discipline), you can apply for a scholarship.

How to apply

For more information or to apply, please go to www.ccab.com or call 1-866-566-FAAY.

About FAAY

FAAY is the largest non-government funded scholarship program for Aboriginal students. If your company would like to be a sponsor, please call the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business at 1-866-566-FAAY or email faayinfo@ccab.com.

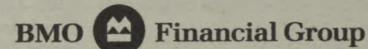
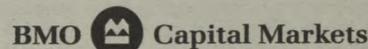


Come visit FAAY on Facebook!



Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth

FAAY Sponsors



entering the Department of Economics. If there is no eligible graduate student then the scholarship will be awarded to an Aboriginal undergraduate student entering the Department of Economics (that is the undergraduate student has declared Economics as their Major, or Honours, programme).

Applications can be requested from the Department in person, by phone (250) 721-8532 or email: jnixon@uvic.ca.

First Citizens Fund - Student Bursary Program

Objective: To provide financial assistance to eligible Aboriginal students enrolled in post-secondary education programs.

Number: Varies

Value: Maximum \$2,000 per year (Students receiving assistance from their Band or Tribal Council are eligible for a maximum of \$700 per academic year.)

Criteria: Bursaries are available to assist Aboriginal post-secondary students that are normally a resident of BC and are attending a recognized university or college on a full-time basis.

Applicants for the bursary program must be registered in a minimum two-year academic program and must maintain an average of C+ or 2.5 GPA.

Bursary levels are determined by the financial needs of each student but the maximum bursary students can receive is \$2,000 per academic year, and this is paid only after the receipt of official transcripts.

The BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), under contract with the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services, currently administers the Student Bursary Program.

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

200 - 506 Fort Street

Victoria, BC V8W 1E6

Phone: 250 388-5522

Fax: 250 388-5502

Toll Free: 1-800-990-2432

Robert Allison Bursary for Non-Status Indians - Okanagan University College

Description: Enables deserving students to begin or continue attendance at Okanagan University College. Value: The annual income from a bequest may be divided or awarded to a single applicant at the discretion of the selection committee. Eligibility: Native descent Applicant's circumstances make it necessary to be self-supporting. Available to students at any College Centre. Duration: N/A. Deadline: May 31 of each year

Vicki Hitchen Memorial Scholarship - Okanagan University College

If you are a member of the Adams Lake Indian Band, Neskonlith Indian Band, Little Shuwaps Indian Band, Spallumcheen Indian Band or Okanagan Indian Band and if you are planning to continue University or College education next year, you may wish to apply for the Vicki Hitchen Memorial Scholarship. This is a \$1,000 scholarship* available to an Aboriginal Canadian currently attending OUC. Applications are available from the Financial Awards Office, or at any OUC campus office.

*Amount may vary slightly depending upon interest actually earned by the endowment fund.

Interior Aboriginal Endowment Fund Award - Okanagan University College

The Interior Aboriginal Endowment Fund Award has been established by the Interior Aboriginal Business Services Society to provide annual awards for Aboriginal students. Recipients will be permanent residents of B.C. and will be enrolled full-time in any year of a degree, diploma or certificate program at any centre of OUC. Selection of the award recipient will be based on a combination of academic achievement and financial need, with emphasis on financial need.

Information: Financial Awards Office
Okanagan University College
1000 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, British Columbia V1Y 4X8
Phone: (250) 862-5419
Fax: (250) 862-5466

McCarthy Tetrault Annual Scholarship - UNBC

One (1) valued at \$750 Available to full-time First Nations student enrolled in Northern Advancement Program. Recipient must be resident of northern British Columbia as defined by UNBC Act.

Bank of Montreal Aboriginal Scholarship - UNBC

One (1) valued at \$1,500 Available to full-time First Nations student enrolled in Northern Advancement Program. Recipient must be resident of northern British Columbia as defined by UNBC Act. Must have completed at least 60 credit hours towards Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Canfor Corporation Scholarships - UNBC
Three (3) valued at \$3,000 Must have completed at least 60 credit hours towards Natural Resources and Environmental Studies program. Preference to dependent relatives of Canfor employees or to First Nations students.
For information on all UNBC Scholarships please contact: UNBC Financial Aid Office
3333 University Way,
Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

BC Hydro Aboriginal Scholarship Program

To encourage and financially assist Aboriginal people to pursue post-secondary education in disciplines relevant to BC Hydro and, where possible, to provide recipients with work experience.

Value: Eight scholarships of \$1,000 each.

Eligibility: Status Indian, Non-Status Indian, Inuit or Métis. Has successfully completed the first year of a full time post-secondary program in a discipline relevant to a broad range of BC Hydro careers.

Good academic standing (preferably 75% grade point average) in addition to good written communications skills. Balanced lifestyle (i.e., fitness, community involvement, hobbies and interests). Supported by a British Columbia First Nation or Native organization.

Deadline: Mid-January

Information: Outreach Programs

BC Hydro

16th Floor, 333 Dunsmuir St.

Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5R3

Grant MacEwan College Foundation - Alberta

Please see our ad on page 7.

Robert C. Carson Memorial Bursary
Sylvia Schulze Memorial Bursary
for Alex Taylor School

Alberta Indian Arts and Craft Society

Scholarship

Alberta Health Careers Bursary

Aboriginal Leadership Development Awards

Canative Housing Corp. Award

CFCW Ltd. Scholarships

92.5 CKNG FM Scholarship

Claudette Rendall Award

CN Bursary

Dreamcatcher Scholarship

Eagle Feather Award

Oldies 1260 CFRN/CFRB-The Bear Scholarship

Robert Markle Scholarship

Social Services Bursary Program

Information:

Student Awards Office

Student Advising Centre

Room 7-112A City Centre Campus

Grant MacEwan Community College

P.O. Box 1796

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2

Phone: (780) 497-5063

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. Scholarships

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc. has announced that they will provide six \$1,000 cash bursaries to any qualifying Métis individuals that are in their first year of Post-Secondary education. All the applicant needs to do is go to our web site at www.apeetogosan.com to receive a copy of the details and application.

George Vass, General Manager

Apeetogosan (Métis) Development Inc.

#302, 12308 - 111 Avenue

Edmonton AB T5M 2N4

Phone: 780-452-7951

Toll Free: 1-800-252-7963

The Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards

If you are a Métis residing in Alberta and need financial help to pursue your education or upgrade your skills, a Belcourt Brosseau Métis Award can help you take the next step. It will give you the opportunity to continue your education by covering a portion of your tuition costs.

Deadline: May 15 of each year. We are now accepting applications throughout the year from students entering the trades.

Applicants are advised to apply early.

For more information call:

1-866-626-0015

Web site: www.DollarsForLearners.com

TransAlta Aboriginal Awards Program

Please see our ad on page 6.

TransCanada has been a long time supporter of educational initiatives focused on Aboriginal people. By encouraging and supporting Aboriginal people to obtain an education, we can help increase the number of Aboriginal professionals and trades people in the workforce. We are proud of our long-standing commitment to education and we will continue to enhance and find new ways of furthering our support. The TransCanada's Aboriginal Awards Program is designed to encourage and assist Aboriginal people (status and non-status Indians, Métis and Inuit) to obtain undergraduate post-secondary education.

Closing Date: Administered by the colleges
Value: Variable (based on interest earned on the endowment)

Eligibility: Aboriginal ancestry; maintain full course load in chosen program; possess promising academic qualifications; require financial support.

Available to students attending: Grande Prairie Regional College; Lakeland College;

Laurence Decore Awards for Student Leadership (AHSF)

Eligibility: Applicants must be Alberta residents who are currently enrolled in a minimum of three full courses at a designated Alberta post-secondary institution. Applicants must also be involved in either student government or student societies, clubs, or organizations.

Additionally, candidates may be involved in student organizations at the provincial or national level or in non-profit community organizations.

Selection: Applicants must be nominated by fellow students from their institution.

Each institution is responsible for the formation of a Selection Committee to review nominations and recommend recipients.

Award: A total of 100 awards are divided among eligible Alberta post-secondary institutions.

Awards are valued at \$500 each.

Jason Lang Scholarships (AHSF)

Background: These scholarships were named in memory of Jason Lang, a 17 year old high school student who was killed in a school shooting. They are designed to reward the outstanding academic achievement of Alberta post-secondary students who are continuing into their second year of an undergraduate program.

Eligibility: Nominees must be residents of Alberta who continuing in the second year of a full-time program. Students must be attending an Alberta institution.

They also must have completed one year of an undergraduate post-secondary program that is at least two years in length.

The nominee must have been enrolled in at least 80 per cent of a full course load in their first year and have earned a grade point average of at least 80 per cent.

Selection: Students will be nominated by the Awards Office of the Alberta institution where they completed their first year. The nominee must take at least 60 per cent of a full course load in their second year of the same program. Students are not allowed to receive the Jason Lang Scholarship and the Louise McKinney Scholarship for the same period of study.

Post-secondary institutions may establish additional requirements for their nominees.

Award: Scholarships are valued at \$1,000 each.

Deadline is August 1.

Theodore R. Campbell Scholarship (AHSF)

Deadline is June 1.

This scholarship was created to reward the accomplishments of an aboriginal student from Blue Quills First Nations College. The scholarship was established by the family of Ted R. Campbell through the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund Endowment Program.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Alberta residents who have completed the first year of an Education degree (university transfer) at Blue Quills First Nations College. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 24 credits with passing marks in all courses. The applicant must be continuing in the Education program.

Selection: Blue Quills will determine the qualifying applicant based on their 1st year grade point average.

Award: Each year 1 scholarship of \$1,500 will be awarded.

Application forms are available from the Research and Planning Office at Blue Quills College

OR

Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund (AHSF)

9th Floor - 9940 106 Street

Box 28000 Station Main

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4R4

Phone (780) 427-8640

(In Alberta, but outside Edmonton dial 310-0000)

Robert C. Carson Memorial Bursary

Deadline: Students should contact the financial aid office of their institution.

Value: \$500 Number Available: Five Eligibility: Awarded to Aboriginal students without sponsorship enrolled full-time in their second year of the Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice Diploma or Faculty of Law programs at Lethbridge Community College, Mount Royal College, Grant MacEwan Community College, University of Calgary or University of Alberta. Applicants must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum for three years prior to applying. Application forms are available from the institution's Student Awards Office.

NAIT Aboriginal Student Club

Value: \$800

Number: 1

Eligibility: Available to students of Aboriginal Heritage who are enrolled in the second year of the Forest Technology program. Conditions:



ALBERTA
PACIFIC
FOREST INDUSTRIES INC.

The AI-Pac Aboriginal Educational Partnership Program offers a variety of scholarships to Aboriginals residing within their FMA.

For more information visit
www.alpac.ca or 1.800.661.5210



ABORIGINAL JUSTICE AND CRIMINOLOGY (ABJAC) PROGRAM

A degree in Sociology with ABJAC prepares students for a career in criminal justice.

Career Opportunities: The main objectives of the program are to provide students with rigorous academic training and practical experience working within the justice system. The goal is to end the under representation of Aboriginal people in the justice work force.



Contact us at:

ABJAC, Department of Sociology

University of Saskatchewan

1019-9 Campus Drive

Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5

Phone: 306-966-2787

Fax: 306-966-6950

Email: abjac.sociology@usask.ca

Website: www.arts.usask.ca/sociology/

ABORIGINAL AWARDS PROGRAM

In keeping with our commitment to provide educational support to the Aboriginal community, TransAlta will present eight educational awards (two college and two university) in 2008 to Aboriginal (status, non-status, Métis and Inuit) students who meet the necessary qualifications.

To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ You must be of Aboriginal ancestry
- ◆ You must have lived in Alberta for at least one year immediately prior to applying for the award
- ◆ You need financial support to pursue your education
- ◆ You possess promising academic qualifications (record of academic excellence)
- ◆ You must provide proof of enrollment to one of the ten colleges or four universities listed
- ◆ You maintain the required course load in your chosen program

Applications must be completed and returned by June 16, 2008. Your transcripts, which include all diploma exams written in June, must be received by July 18, 2008. A letter of acceptance and proof of enrollment from the educational institution is also required to complete the application.

For further information and application forms, please contact:

Community Relations

TransAlta

110 - 12 Avenue SW, Box 1900

Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M1

Phone: 403-267-7570

TransAlta

MACEWAN

think **Spirit**

At MacEwan we are proud of our Aboriginal students, the spirit they have and the culture that they bring. MacEwan offers programming that allows Aboriginal students to bring their learning back into their communities.

Aboriginal Police Studies
Police officers are in high demand and this nine-month certificate program prepares Aboriginal youth for careers with federal, municipal, Aboriginal police services, and much more. Find out more, visit www.MacEwan.ca/aboriginalpolice

Mental Health: Aboriginal Connections
There is a need to find solutions to mental health issues at the community level. This two-year diploma program educates students on the issues of health, violence, addictions, suicide and community. Find out how you can make a difference in the health and wellness of all people, visit www.MacEwan.ca/mentalhealth

Apply today for September enrolment.

www.MacEwan.ca





SUCCESSFUL CAREERS START IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

DID YOU KNOW THAT NAIT HAS SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERED PROGRAMS TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES IN SASKATCHEWAN, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, NUNAVUT AND ALL PARTS OF ALBERTA?

Programs currently being offered in aboriginal communities include:

- Introduction to Trades
- Pre-Technology/Upgrading
- Apprenticeship programs
- Wildfire Training Type II
- Nursing Attendant
- Business/Accounting
- Project Management
- And more

If you would like NAIT programs delivered in your community contact Stephen Crocker, Manager, Aboriginal Training Programs
PH 780.471.8984, FAX 780.491.1305, or EMAIL scrocker@nait.ca



AN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY COMMITTED TO STUDENT SUCCESS
www.nait.ca

Aboriginal Business Leadership Awards

Twelve \$1500 awards available for the 2008/09 academic year



The Aboriginal Business Leadership Awards are offered to Aboriginal students pursuing a certificate, diploma or degree in a business or commerce program at ANY public post-secondary educational institution in Alberta.

Award Recipient Criteria:

First priority: Self-employed Aboriginal students attending a public post-secondary educational institution in Alberta for the first time, and enrolled in a certificate, diploma or degree program in business or commerce.

Second priority: Mature Aboriginal students, attending a public post-secondary educational institution in Alberta for the first time, and enrolled in a certificate, diploma or degree program in business or commerce.

Third priority: Aboriginal students attending a public post-secondary educational institution in Alberta and enrolled in a certificate, diploma or degree program in business or commerce.

Application deadline: June 15, 2008

To receive an application, contact your local Alberta high school or post-secondary institution, e-mail: abla@macewan.ca, or call: 780.497.5063

Founding principal
from the trustees of:

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| ATCO Electric Ltd. | Imperial Oil | Royal Bank of Canada |
| Finning Ltd. | Resources Ltd. | Samson Cree Nation |
| Gulf Canada Resources | TransCanada | Talisman Energy Inc. |
| Province of Alberta | Shell Canada | TransAlta Corporation |
| Enbridge | PanCanadian | |
| | Petroleum Ltd. | |

Find complete scholarship & bursary listings:
www.ammsa.com

Awarded on the basis of academic achievement.
Deadline: September 30th
Office of the Registrar Student Awards and Financial Aid The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
Suite 100011762-106 Street N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta T5G 3H1

Syncrude Aboriginal and Women Education Awards Program

Deadline: June 30
Two awards of \$2000.00 each for Aboriginal people attending post secondary educational institutions in programs related to the oil sands industry (i.e. engineering, computer science, technologists etc.)

Two awards of \$2000.00 each for Aboriginal people attending post secondary educational institutions pursuing studies in the Finance/Accounting/Business disciplines.

Two awards of \$2000.00 each for women attending post secondary institutions pursuing a degree in Science & Technology.

Eligibility: Aboriginal peoples (Indian, Inuit & Métis) Women pursuing studies in science & technology

You must: have lived in Alberta for at least one year immediately prior to applying for the award, or formerly long-term residents; meet the academic requirements for the program of study; maintain a full course work load leading to a recognized degree or diploma; provide proof of acceptance into accredited colleges or universities within Canada (must be provided before awards are received)

A selection committee, comprised of Syncrude employees and community members will evaluate applications and its decision will be final. Criteria to be used in selecting award recipients are: financial need, academic performance and potential, and appropriateness of the discipline of studies to Syncrude.

Syncrude Canada Ltd. will notify all applicants, in writing, of the results no later than mid-August.

How to apply: Application forms are available from the address listed below. Please send your completed application form along with the required transcripts and proof of acceptance to the address outlined below. Please note that if proof of acceptance and/or transcripts are not available at that time, then it must be produced prior to receiving the award.

For further information regarding this award program contact Lana Agecutay at Phone: (780) 790-6356

E-mail: agecutay.lana@syncrude.com
Syncrude Aboriginal/Women Education Awards Program
P.O. Bag 4023, M.D. 1200,
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3L5

Alberta Energy Company Limited Native Scholarship Award

Value: Five (5) \$3,500 scholarships each year. Must be accepted into the oil and gas industry at an accredited technical school, college or university. Candidates must have resided in Northwest Territories, British Columbia, Alberta or other areas where AEC has an operation interest.

Applications are available by contacting: Alberta Energy Company Ltd.
3900 - 421 - 7 Ave S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 4K9
Fax: (403) 266-8212

Senator James Gladstone Memorial Scholarship - Alberta Indian Investment Corp.

To recognize excellence and achievement by a Treaty Indian and to encourage and assist Treaty Indians in the pursuit of post-secondary education in the area of business, finance or economics.

Amount: Maximum of \$750 for students enrolled in colleges and technical institutions. Maximum of \$1,000 for students enrolled in universities.

Eligibility: Treaty Indian and resident of Alberta. Enrolled full time at a college, university or technical school in one of the following programs:

1. Commerce
 2. Business
 3. Administration
 4. Accounting
 5. Small business.
- Personal and academic objectives, particularly as they relate to Aboriginal economic and business development in Canada.
Application Deadline: Varies
Information: General Manager
Alberta Indian Investment Corporation
P.O. Box 577
Winterburn, Alberta T0E 2N0
Phone: (780) 470-3600
Fax: (780) 470-3605

The University of Saskatchewan

Pre-Medicine Awards for Aboriginal Students
Chase Memorial Scholarship
Louis Riel Scholarship
Aurora Awards
Gordon McCormack Memorial Scholarship
Harvey Bell Memorial Prize
Roger Carter Scholarships
Henry Favel Scholarship

Diana Leis Bursary
Siberman Filer Bursary
Nexen Awards for Aboriginal Students
Entering Awards - Business Economics
Continuing Awards - Business Economics
Entering Awards in Land Use and Environmental Studies (LUESt) or Environmental Earth Sciences (EES) Continuing Awards in LUESt or EES:

Information: Scholarships and Awards Office of the Registrar
University of Saskatchewan
105 Administration Place
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 5A2
Phone: (306) 966-6748
Fax: (306) 966-6730
E-mail: awards@usask.ca

SaskPower Diversity Awards Program

Award description: There are two awards categories:

Entrance: up to seven awards will be presented in each academic year for students entering first-year studies. Continuing: up to eight awards will be presented in each academic year for students entering second-year studies and beyond. Award value is \$1,500

Application deadline: No later than September 30. Awards are presented on a one-time only basis and recipients may only receive one SaskPower post-secondary award during their studies.

Although students are eligible to apply for the SaskPower Diversity Awards Program and the SaskPower Scholarship Program, the same student cannot receive both awards. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

Application forms are available from SaskPower on-line at www.saskpower.com/awards

SaskEnergy Aboriginal Scholarships

In support of Saskatchewan Aboriginal youth, SaskEnergy provides 14 post-secondary scholarships each year.

Students must attend Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC), Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT), Gabriel Dumont Institute and Dumont Technical Institute.

Value: Varies from \$1,000 to \$5,000

Eligibility: Aboriginal; Saskatchewan resident; Saskatchewan high school graduate; achieve 80% average in grades 11 and 12; demonstrate financial need; register full-time for the fall or winter semesters.

Phone: (306) 777-9079
Contact each institution for application forms.

City of Regina - Henry Baker Scholarships

The City of Regina offers six scholarships to students at the University of Regina including one at SIFC in Regina

Value: 2 @ \$1000 and 4 @ \$2,000 Eligibility: Varies

Deadline: August 1st
Information: Phone: (306) 777-7800
Application form: www.cityregina.com
Return completed application to:
City of Regina Public Affairs Division
City Hall, 14 th Floor P. O. Box 1790
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3C8

Eugene Lavallee Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: June 15 One valued at \$500 Awarded in preference to First Nations students whose home community is in the Touchwood File Hills Qu'Appelle area. Subsequent preference will be given to First Nations students from Saskatchewan.

Award based on highest average marks and then based on experience in the field of additions. In the event of two or more students having similar marks the scholarship will be awarded based on experience.

No student may receive this scholarship two years consecutively.

Apply to: Executive Director
New Dawn Valley Centre Box 400
Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan S0G 1S0

SaskTel Scholarships and Bursaries

SaskTel Scholarship
Every year, SaskTel awards eleven scholarships of \$3,000 to post-secondary students in Saskatchewan. To be eligible, you must be a Saskatchewan resident; be enrolled in full-time studies related to telecommunications at a post-secondary education institution in Saskatchewan; have achieved a minimum average. SaskTel encourages students from employment equity groups to apply; however, scholarships are not limited to equity candidates.

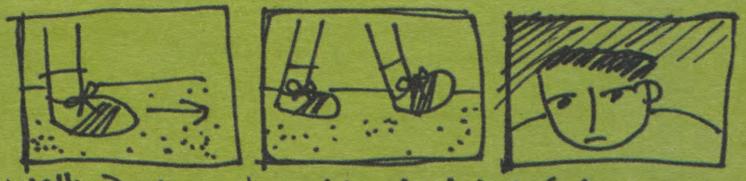
Deadline to apply is September 15.

This Scholarship Guide only lists the portion of the funding programs now available to Aboriginal people. There are many more listings that, unfortunately, we did not have room to include but are available online: www.ammsa.com/ammsabursary.html

I WAS CO-PRESIDENT OF MY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL. *- a KSR film -*

I always saw the glass as half empty. Now I'm having second thoughts.

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. I'm from Hay River, NWT pop. 3600 (Hub of the North)



walk → pan (close up) I could only drive (close up) so far. I walked the rest of the way.

I grew up as your typical Canadian. But I love my moosemeat. long jump-bronze medal / triple jump

DIRECTORS I LIKE: → MICHEL GONDRY → CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

I love hockey.

I volunteer at the First Nations Student Association creating a program to welcome First Nations students to Vancouver.

TO DO:

- Get back to Jon re: Totem filming
- get a drummer lined up.
- type up first draft of "F-Nat"
- books - library

I use my artistic abilities to connect with my heritage.

Worked on 2 documentaries commissioned by the Smithsonian, Washington DC

KELVIN REDVERS
Millennium Excellence Award Recipient

Proud to be Métis. (Métis symbol) the joining of 2 cultures and the existence of a people forever.

I helped grade 8ers and 9ers with their Safer Environment Program.

- classes:
- Film
 - Film production
 - Acting
 - First Nations Studies
 - English - Intro to Fiction

The best way to learn about making movies is to make them. The second is to watch them.

My mother is Chipewyan. At school I get to study who these people were. What blood runs through me.

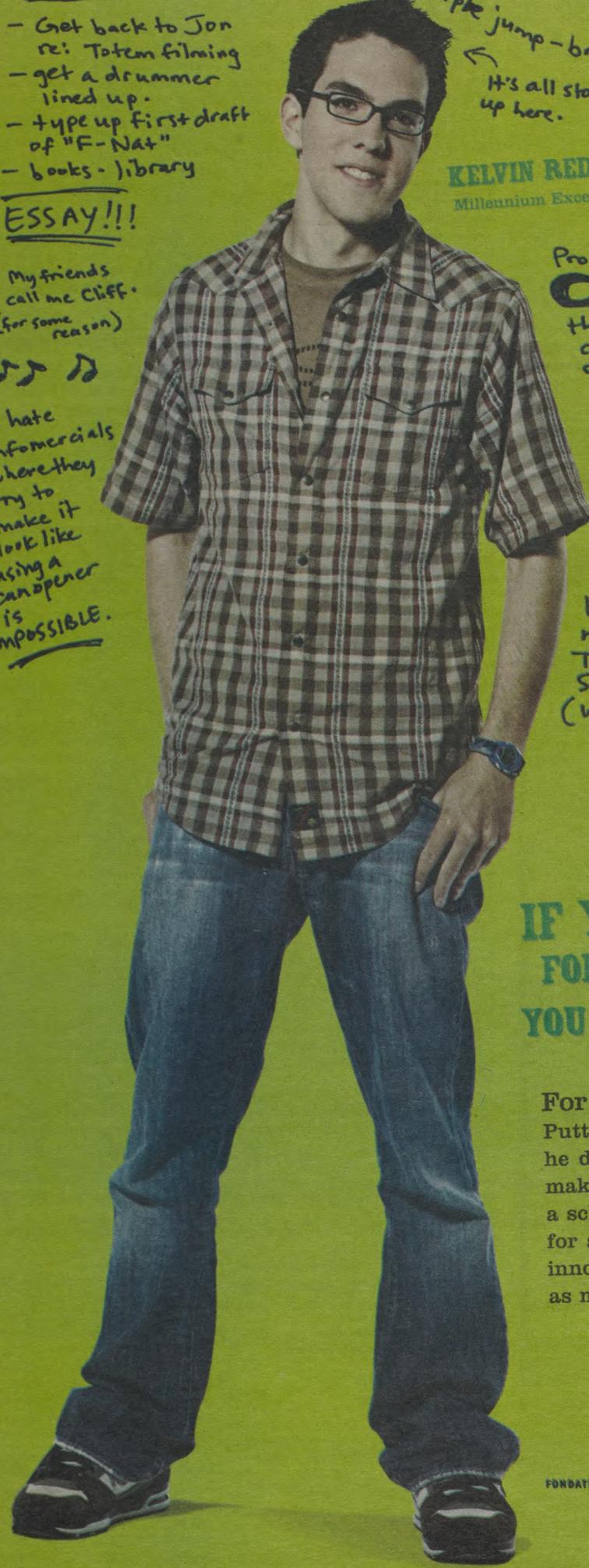
ESSAY!!!

My friends call me Cliff. (for some reason)

I hate infomercials where they try to make it look like using a can opener is IMPOSSIBLE.

It's the little things that make life worthwhile. That's what my film Simple Pleasures is all about. (won 1st place, International Youth Film Festival, Austria)

Be ridiculous. **HELPING COMMUNITIES THROUGH FILM.**



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A year of optimism in Indian country

By Heather Andrews Miller
Windspeaker Writer

EDMONTON

The following article is the first in a series of retrospective stories that will be running in Windspeaker, providing a look back at news and events that made headlines from 1983 to present day.

Pride, confidence and gratitude were emotions felt by participants at the graduation ceremony at the Grouard campus of the Alberta Vocational College. Featuring an aptly named theme of "New Dawn," a large contingent of Aboriginal students graduated with certificates in registered nursing assistant, business management, computer accounting and several other disciplines. The students had returned to the classroom after several years of educational inactivity, and all said they appreciated the on-site

counselling services and small class sizes which helped them reach this eventful day that signalled a new beginning for them and their families. AVC Grouard had seen over 3,000 students reach their career goals since it was established a scant 10 years earlier.

Down the road in Slave Lake, Métis students were also being honoured, with Alberta Métis Nation Association President Sam Sinclair returning to his hometown to present plaques and trophies at the Friendship Centre. A dozen students from the local schools were presented with awards for their great efforts in their scholastic pursuits. It was especially gratifying to see some of the awards were for excellence in the newly-added Cree program, ensuring that the language will continue to be spoken by the younger generation.

The Universiade was held in Edmonton as university athletes gathered from all over the world

to compete and 16 Aboriginal artists were front and centre in creating works on the theme of "Unity." Their artwork was on display at the capital city's convention centre throughout July and artists included those who would become household names in years to come, such as George Littlechild, Joane Cardinal-Schubert, Henry Nanooch, and Alex Janvier, to mention just a few.

The world



Chief Walter Twinn (centre) of the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council signs the parchment agreeing to the transfer of child welfare services over the Council. Social Services Minister Neil Webber (left) signed on behalf of the province of Alberta, while Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister John Munro (right) signed for Canada. Alberta Native Affairs Minister Milt Pahl (foreground) smiles approvingly as the parchment signatures make the transfer official.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS CAN HELP.

Victims of crime often don't know what to do or expect when they go to court. Contact your local victim assistance program about court preparation and accompaniment services.

VICTIMS DESERVE TO BE HEARD

Victim assistance programs can familiarize you with the courtroom, help you prepare to testify, and even come to court with you. Vulnerable or intimidated victims, such as children or people with disabilities, may be able to access additional supports. Assistance is available.

Alberta Solicitor General and Public Security
www.victims.gov.ab.ca

Report the crime to police and ask to be referred to the victim assistance program in your community. For a list of programs, go to www.victims.gov.ab.ca and look under related agencies

Modeling Association recognized Tim Sikyea as Designer of the Year, the only Canadian and the only Aboriginal to ever win the prestigious award. Sikyea, a member of the Yellowknife Dogrib Nation, had come up the ranks in the fashion world following extensive experience in the Toronto garment industry

and through many years of studies.

In the Alberta Legislature, an act was passed allowing representatives from northern Aboriginal communities to serve on local school boards and as school trustees. As a large



Tim Sikyea

population of the students in the area were of First Nations ancestry, the act was a positive step towards improving the education level of the students. The benefits of having representatives of the Aboriginal community on city and town councils was also discussed in an editorial as municipal elections were upcoming in the fall of 1983. Not only was the input of Aboriginal people deemed to be necessary, but it was observed that serving on civic and educational boards and councils was a great stepping stone to higher positions at provincial and federal levels.

Environmental concerns about the Arctic regions are not recent issues as when the third Inuit Circumpolar conference met in Frobisher Bay with representatives from Canada, Alaska, and Greenland, pipelines and non-renewable resources were among the many items on

the agenda.

Harry Chonkolay of Alberta's Dene Tha First Nation received plaques honouring his 45th anniversary as a lifetime chief. Achievements noted during the 74-year-old's time included the opening of nursing stations, new housing, and installation of electricity. As well, a store was

established, making grocery shopping more convenient and providing a place for young people to learn the trade of cashier and manager.

On the sports scene, Hobbema First Nations

sponsored their first-ever boxing card and it proved to be a hit as it was attended by no less than 450 eager spectators at the Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre. Keith Nepoose and Frank Morin were two of the local boxers who stepped into the ring against combatants who came from all over western Canada to compete.

But it was not all upbeat in 1983. The Inuit community of Inuvik, NWT, was reeling from an unusually high number of attempted teenage suicides. Residents were lobbying the government to reopen a badly-needed substance abuse counselling centre that was sitting unused following a scrap over paying the power bill. And in Cadotte Lake, near Peace River, a 90 per cent unemployment rate was plaguing the community, with social assistance payments barely covering daily necessities. (See Twenty-five on page 23.)

Despite efforts students remain academically at-risk

By Christine Fiddler
Raven's Eye Staff Writer

DELTA

Despite the efforts of administrators in the Delta school district to improve the success rates of Aboriginal students, 50 per cent of its students remain academically at-risk, according to a recent annual report on the learning outcomes of students.

"We have 500 Aboriginal students in our district and we're a district of about 16,000 kids. And we find that about half of those 500 kids are at-risk while the other half is doing fine," said Director of Special Programs, Kathy Guild.

The school district uses the term 'academically at-risk' to measure secondary students with a C minus or below on their report card marks, while academically at-risk primary students have marks of 'not yet meeting' or 'approaching expectations'.

The annual report indicates in the last year, the amount of academically at-risk kindergarten students went from 37 to 46 per cent, and in grade one went from 46 to 59 per cent. The district also has a system called Dogwood that measures the success rates of students who progress at a normal rate from grade eight to grade twelve.

"As a district we feel that we are

making progress around our graduation rate. We've had a fairly big improvement there," Guild said. "When we track the at-risk report card marks, it's less easy to see improvement there. As a whole group, for individual students we hear reports that kids are coming to school more, getting their work done, feeling better about being in school. So it kind of depends on what you look at."

Three years ago, the school board made a commitment to increase the success rate of Aboriginal students when they signed the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA).

All schools in British Columbia were required to have an AEEA after provincial statistics in the 1990's showed the graduate rate of Aboriginal students was about 35 per cent. Guild said the Delta district was one of the first urban districts to develop it with their Aboriginal community.

"I think we also wanted to improve things for Aboriginal students, but the pressure certainly came from the ministry requirement to have one. We also as a district have begun to focus on our academically at-risk students. And so the Aboriginal kids have been a part of that focus," she said.

Delta administrators have looked at all the students in the district who fall into the

academically at-risk category and have developed measures to help them.

"The overall goal is to have Aboriginal students succeeding, all of them in our school district," Guild stated. "We have a goal around parent satisfaction with the Aboriginal program, parent satisfaction with the schools' acceptance of Aboriginal culture, and celebration of Aboriginal look at."

Guild said the district has grant monies available to create Aboriginal student support programs, either through one-on-one support or small group intervention. "So we ask schools to identify the schools they want to assist and put together a plan as to what they're going to do," she said. "Then we will fund it."

Guild states the reasons why she believes Aboriginal students are not doing as well as non-Aboriginal students in the district, one being the discomfort likely felt by students as a minority group.

"There's not that sort of sense of comfort, cultural comfort and safety in our schools. As a group they probably have a lot of hardship from poverty and family situations as a group. Probably if you compare them to other groups they would be more challenged in those areas as a group. Those are probably the main reasons I think, cultural difference and not feeling secure

and safe in our environments, challenges of low income."

Aboriginal Support Worker, Faye O'Neil, from the Ktunaxa Nation in East Kootenay, works with students from the district's six schools, many of them from the Tsawwassen First Nation. She sees firsthand a number of difficulties that Aboriginal students face.

"Transportation seems to be an issue for a majority of the families, getting them from one end of Delta to the next can be very difficult," she said, adding that another issue is the mindset of the 'millennia child' who don't participate if they don't see it as being fun. On the other hand, the Aboriginal students in high school face a lot of pressure when they are the first to graduate within their family.

"Kids not knowing how to be successful, to succeed at something is a big step for them. We talk about that a lot, we see kids dropping out in grade 11, and in grade 12. The last two months they're dropping out or they're not even going to write their final exams."

O'Neil points out these personal struggles often stem from the intergenerational affects of residential schools, issues that need to be recognized and dealt with in the current school system.

"I think we're still struggling with a lot of hurt from residential schools," she said, adding that her own mother attended residential school. "We're still seeing those generations coming around and parents not knowing how to deal with the school system, we're still seeing that struggle of not trusting (the system) through the families."

She said she comes across school administrators and teachers who don't understand that Aboriginal people can't simply get over the issues brought about by residential schools and put it all in the past.

"Get over it' 'Move on' 'I'm tired of this' 'I don't want to hear any more about it,'" O'Neil said about the attitudes demonstrating this lack of understanding. "Those are the things we still hear in the system."

Despite this, many improvements are visible in the schools, especially with the new programs in place to help students. These include after-school homework clubs, one-to-one tutoring, cultural awareness, and Aboriginal support workers to help students.

"I've been working with them from kindergarten to grade seven, in the elementary schools," said O'Neil. "They're more comfortable being around the support workers, they can trust them, they're able to talk to them," she said, adding they can benefit from more community resources. "Sometimes it's not as easy as you think to be able to find those resources out there and to bring them to the schools in a school year. Just because, we're lacking Elders, how do we find these Elders to come into the school. How do we get these families back into the schools when there's still a lot of hardship there from residential school."

O'Neil looks at parental involvement as a critical measure to help Aboriginal students to succeed.

"I really think we're still struggling to the level where if we can't engage the parents, how do we engage the students and I think that's the direction we're going in," she said. "We may not see it in this generation but maybe the next generation. And maybe when they have their children and those children start coming to school, there will be a more sense of calmness in the family about being able to come to school, being able to come to parent-teacher interviews and gatherings at the school, so it's getting better."

The Aboriginal graduation rate has improved from 37 per cent in 2002 to 61.2 per cent in 2007. Approximately 30 per cent of those Aboriginal graduates went on to post-secondary studies, meeting the district's goal.

The Delta district is a suburban municipality in the Greater Vancouver region with three urban communities - the heritage village of Ladner, the garden community of Tsawwassen and the family place of North Delta.

The 2008 NAIG to be held in Cowichan B.C.

Athletes from 13 Canadian provinces and territories - and as many as 20 United States teams - are peaking in their training for the Aug. 3 to 10 North American Indigenous Games, to be held in B.C.'s Cowichan Valley on Vancouver Island.

Coaches say young athletes are hard at work preparing their minds and bodies for exemplary showings in 16 contemporary and traditional sporting events, such as archery, badminton, lacrosse, softball, swimming, volleyball and wrestling.

On the organizing side of the fence, Cowichan Tribes hosting the games are transforming the Cowichan Community Centre into an Athletes' Centre, a concept revolutionizing the way the Games provide for participants' care, with the comfort of these athletes in mind. The main goal is to provide athletes with a "home away from home" complete with Elders and other role models available to offer advice and support when needed, in addition top notch food services, sport information

and results, as well as a games room and movie theatre will be made available.

The Games' centerpiece is the Cultural Village, hosted by the world-renowned Quw'utsun' Cultural Centre, owned and operated by the Cowichan Tribes. Highlights of the village include an international main stage, marketplace for games' memorabilia, artist market and cultural celebrations like the much-anticipated "Tribal Journeys Canoe Voyage."

The arrival of as many as 80 traditional ocean-going canoes, from a variety of canoe cultures and nations, will mark the beginning of the games.

Paddlers will make the two-week journey - from as far north as the Alaskan border (Tlinget) and the Queen Charlotte Islands (Haida) and as far south as Oregon State - to Cowichan Bay.

A traditional welcome will greet the canoeists at the opening ceremonies, expected to draw over 20,000 participants and spectators. As well, a unique art project will culminate at the

opening ceremony field.

To commemorate the rich history of British Columbia's Aboriginal peoples and share the story of the international multi-sport games, a Coast Salish artist will transform a 20' western red cedar log into a traditional story pole.

The pole will travel throughout the province, offering the citizens of British Columbia an opportunity to participate and try their hand at carving.

Tribal Journeys 2008 will escort the pole for the final leg of its journey, arriving in Cowichan Bay on Aug. 1, 2008.

The pole will be carried with honour through the crowds to be raised and unveiled, marking the official opening of the Games.

A formal announcement of the next host community will be made at the closing ceremonies.

The games reflect the traditions of Indigenous cultures using athletic competition to teach holistic principles leading to physical, mental and spiritual wellness - while reinforcing family and cultural values.

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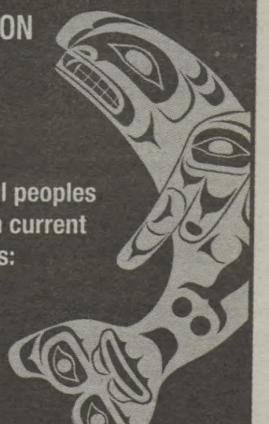
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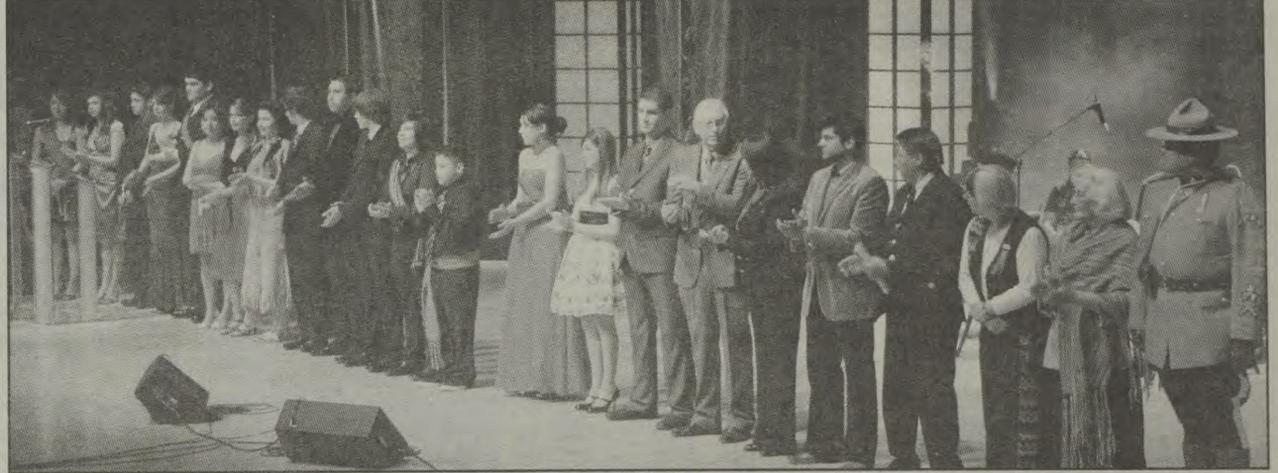
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Alberta Sweetgrass: Special Section providing news from Alberta

Youth honoured for their achievements



(Top left) Vocalist and world-class fiddler, Sierra Noble performed during the Alberta Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards on March 28 at Edmonton's Windspear Centre.



(Bottom left) Daniel McKennitt was one of 16 youth to be recognized in various categories. McKennitt was the recipient of the Senior Community Leadership award for his efforts to promote the health of Aboriginal people.



(Bottom right) Alexandria Ceasar of Grande Cache was awarded the First Nations Culture and Heritage award.

PHOTOS BY: CHRISTINE FIDDLER

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Lafontaine walked away as next great prime minister

By Christine Fiddler
Sage Staff Writer

SASKATOON

The political future for Aboriginal people at the House of Commons is looking brighter. That certainly seems to be the case with the win of 25-year old Alika Lafontaine, on Canada's Next Great Prime Minister. Lafontaine, a Métis physician in Saskatoon, not only took away a prize of \$50,000 and a six-month paid internship, but he also found out being a part of a contest like this demonstrates a growing participation of youth in politics that is pivotal to finding solutions to Aboriginal issues.

"There's a lot of youth in the country who are very interested in making Canada a better place and if I wanted to take anything away from my participation it's that you have to be involved in the dialogue, in order to become a part of the solution," he said.

"A lot of times we, not only Aboriginal people, but just youth in general, kind of get caught up in the idea that we don't agree with what's going on, so we won't participate. And I think you have to take the approach that if you don't agree with what's going on then you have to participate; that way you can change the way things are going."

The annual CBC/Magna International reality-TV competition urges young people from ages 18 to 25 years old to consider Canada's political future by bringing forth their new ideas for a better Canadian political system. The program aired across Canada in March and named Lafontaine the winner after he was questioned by a panel of three former prime ministers Paul Martin, Kim Campbell and John Turner, and premier, Danny Williams.

"Me and my brother were actually watching the program last year," Lafontaine said about his decision to enter. "And as I'm sure happened with some people watching the show this year, some answers to questions we weren't one hundred per cent satisfied about. For myself, it was the answers to how to deal with the issues facing Aboriginal people and a lot of the issues facing health. And so after that me and my brother kind of decided that we should maybe enter the competition in the next year and that's what ended up happening," he said.

Lafontaine is not new to the spotlight, he performs with the musical group Fifth Generation and it was just last March that they appeared on the National

Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Among other awards, he was the recipient of the Youth National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 1999 for his combination of success in university academics and volunteer work, despite a huge obstacle he faced as a child when he was diagnosed with a learning disability.

As a medical student he has also mentored youth

interested in the health field. He said some challenges he has faced in his own education to become a doctor are dealing with stereotypes about Aboriginal people and questioning his own capabilities.

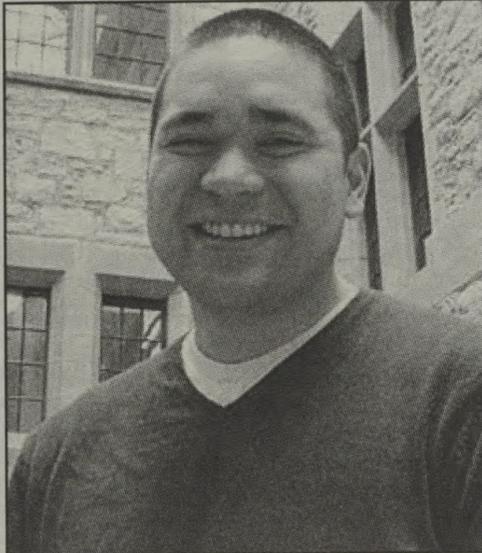
"A lot of the challenges have come from kind of inside, me thinking that I've never had anyone in my family whose ever accomplished this, ... it makes you kind of think of your capability to accomplish it, especially when you're going against other people who may have a lot more of that history," he said.

Regardless, he has overcome these struggles and not only has achieved his goal of being a doctor, but has used his knowledge of Aboriginal issues to win the political competition.

His entry was a video-taped speech submitted to Youtube outlining his idea: to introduce a third arm of parliament focused on dealing with Aboriginal issues and led by elected Aboriginal people. He said the idea is not new, it has floated among others such as former Liberal MP, Rick Laliberte, who brought the idea forward a few years ago when the Liberal party was in the minority government.

"The great thing about the idea is that the structure is already in place," Lafontaine noted. "I mean we already have two systems for everything right? We have two systems for health — Canadians and Aboriginal peoples — we have two systems for a bunch of other social systems. So it's not a completely new idea, it's just it hasn't been presented as being a third arm of government, it's always been looked at as kind of a separate entity to itself."

Lafontaine was chosen as one of the ten finalists to compete in a political boot camp and afterward, made the round to compete against three other contestants: an Ottawa university



ALIKA LAFONTAINE

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

student politician, a Calgary lawyer, and a business grad from Waterloo, Ontario.

"For people who are here in the province of Saskatchewan, hearing that there's a winner who is not from Ontario or Quebec definitely gives people more interest in the competition in that you really can win regardless of where you're from," he said.

In the final question, Lafontaine was asked what he would do as a leader if a Quebec referendum won by a 900-vote margin.

He said he would recognize the decision of the majority and gained the support of the audience when they chose him as the final winner. Although he entered the competition to win he admits an interest in politics also surfaced.

"I've never really been interested in politics and I think that's probably from the way that politics is in a lot of ways and the way the media portrays it," he said.

"There's a lot of fighting that goes on in the House of Commons, especially since this most recent government has gotten in and things have kind of spiraled down to where you kind of look at things and you wonder whether anything actually gets done or do people just stand there yelling at each other."

He said after the competition he sat down with a few of the judges and realized that those involved in the competition really believe that the idea they're putting forth can really change Canada for the better.

"Regardless of the reality of how parliament actually works, these people are really trying to do things the best way they know how in order to improve things for all of us," he expressed. "And I never really changed my opinion as far as politics. I think I definitely want to get involved in some way in the future."

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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

Conference highlights Aboriginal artists

By Steve Bonspiel
Birchbark Writer

OTTAWA

Vibrant voices and colourful characters from across the country were on display at Carleton University in Ottawa March 1, as an eclectic mix of Aboriginal artists from a wide array of disciplines, strutted their stuff to a full house of 150 people.

Attendance at the 7th annual New Sun Conference was not affected by the morning snow storm; although a few of the artists had their planes delayed and were running on minimal sleep.

The day started with Kahnawake Mohawk filmmaker Tracey Deer as she laid out her early beginnings in filmmaking at the tender age of 12.

"All I wanted from that age on was to be a filmmaker," she said. "I saved up my allowance for three months at a time so I could rent those huge cameras and shoot my own films. I fell in love instantly."

Award-winning filmmaker Deer showed clips of her three

documentaries, starting with One More River, which was nominated for a Gemini in 2005.

In it, Deer and co-director Neil Diamond examined the \$3.5 billion agreement deal between Quebec and the Cree signed in 2002.

She also talked about Mohawk Girls, which gave audience members a glimpse into the lives of Kahnawake teenagers and her latest doc, Club Native, a film that took a human approach to the Kahnawake Mohawk reserve's controversial membership law that excludes Natives recognized by Ottawa, who are deemed 'too white' to live and be a part of the reserve.

"The question of membership is on everyone's minds," she said. "I'm just trying to bring a little bit of humanity to the subject and to give a voice to those who otherwise would not have one."

New Sun Chair Allan Ryan started the conference shortly after his arrival from out west. He is always trying to look for new and unique talent.

"I wanted to showcase Aboriginal artists who don't always make the mainstream

newspapers," said Ryan. "This lineup is an eclectic mix of individuals from very different mediums. But they all have one thing in common; they all have a strong voice and important messages."

The next presenter was Heritage Language Activist John Medicine Horse Kelly. He talked about the horrific suicide rates amongst native peoples, citing rates as high as 800 times the rate of mainstream society.

He demonstrated six components, including a tie to one's Native language, culture and Native ownership over essential services on reserve as a primary factor in reducing the suicide rates.

In communities where most of these factors existed, the suicide rates were much lower than other reserves that had lost their language and culture and were living off the government with no sustainable development or land base.

He spoke about his Web site, natedrums.ca and how it was an important tool for the future where 'the Internet doesn't see colour.'

The Web site demonstrates various Aboriginal musical instruments, some of which have lost their luster over the years with the local populations they once entertained.

Kelly talked about a language revival that happened in the 1990's on his Haida reserve in B.C.

"Little kids were all of a sudden dressed up in traditional regalia," he said. "We're coming back through things like this."

Inuit Spoken Word artist Taqralik Partridge whipped through her works with a little bit of trepidation as an Inuit Elder sat and watched her.

Works like Eskimo Chick and Annie Says had the crowd buzzing for more.

"I am usually a shy person, but when I get up here and do my thing I feel really comfortable and happy," she said.

Her poems talk about everyday life and observations of specific events and people such as 'Inuit Superstar' Charlie Adams.

He was a musician in the north but he became a beggar on the streets of Montreal. Partridge wrote two moving pieces on him.

Even those who did not know the late Inuit legend could appreciate the passion and warmth she felt for him as she read each line.

Santee Smith, a contemporary Mohawk dancer and choreographer from Six Nations put on a beautiful display of her art shortly after a traditional meal of assorted veggies, arctic char and buffalo stew.

The audience had a special treat as actor/dancer and filmmaker Michael Greyeyes screened his film Triptych.

In it, he examines the residential school 'hurt' through modern dance. Although no words are spoken, the story is effectively told and the point was well received. It was very graphic and is not for the faint of heart. He also starred in the 23-minute short.

Greyeyes' father is a residential school survivor and he said the hardest thing for him was to get his father to talk about his experience. He still has not to this day.

In the end, he dedicated his film to those residential school survivors who 'have the courage to look back.'

Director bases play on real life events

A brand new play with an Aboriginal perspective debuted on April 24 at the Algoma University College(AUC) Shingwauk theatre in Ontario called "The Pencil Box".

Tom Gower is the director of the original drama/comedy performed by the university's aboriginal student group. Gower and his fellow group member, John Paul Chalykoff, co-wrote the play, basing it on real life

events told to them by an acquaintance, Tammy Sanderson.

"It's really fascinating to be able to take part in creating a new artistic work," said Gower, a Law and Justice student at AUC. "Tammy brought forward a great story, which John-Paul and myself then made some changes to, by giving the protagonist an Aboriginal perspective and by writing the play to take into account the architecture of the

Shingwauk Theatre."

The play's main character is a mixed-blood woman called Nancy who is abandoned by her parents as a child and placed under the guardianship of an elderly Aboriginal woman called Gina.

Nancy is sexually abused by Gina's son and as an adult, must find peace through dealing with her past. She does this by drawing strength from a pencil box given

to her by her mother when she was a child.

Chalykoff also plays the character of Billy, who is Nancy's romantic interest in the play. Musician Nathan Muto returns to the stage with live performances, after being featured in the last two productions.

A few years ago, Gower helped found the aboriginal theatre troupe 'Shingwauk Players

Theatre Group' at the university with the encouragement of AUC's indigenous advisor, Judy Syrette.

The objective was to give a First Nations perspective to an already thriving community theatre scene in Sault Ste. Marie. Since its inception, the theatre troupe has performed the plays 'The Bootlegger Blues' by Drew Hayden Taylor and 'Windmill Baby' by David Milroy.



Executive Director
Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services

Location: Wikwemikong • Posting Deadline: May 16, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family are a First Nation, Prevention Services Agency that provides both prevention and foster care services. The Agency is located on Manitoulin Island and provides services to seven First Nation Communities to both the on and off membership within the Districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin Island: Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation, M'Chigeeng First Nation, Sheguiandah First Nation, Shesheganing First Nation, Whitefish River First Nation, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve and the Zhiibaahaasing First Nation.

This position requires a thorough knowledge of the Child and Family Services Act and other related legislation; demonstrated clinical expertise with the ability to deal with high risk situations; analytical skill with respect to data and organizational management; the ability to provide strong leadership, direction and support to agency staff; comprehensive decision maker; proficiency in human resource management; ability to prioritize and work under pressure; excellent written and oral communication skills; working knowledge in the field of public relations; the capability to motivate others and delegate responsibility and the ability to work cooperatively in conjunction with the Board of Directors toward improving and furthering the work of the Agency. The incumbent will have the knowledge of the communities and family structures, customs and traditions and administrative structures of the First Nations served by the agency. Ability to communicate in Ojibway is an asset.

Salary is negotiable and commensurate with qualifications and experience.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Preferred Master of Social Work Degree or equivalent degree. Minimum Bachelor of Social Work Degree with at least five years proven successful management experience in prevention, child welfare, personnel management, program planning and administration;
- ◆ Must possess a valid Ontario Driver's License and be willing to travel;
- ◆ Must provide a clear Criminal Records Check and Driver's Abstract.
- ◆ Candidates of aboriginal ancestry are encouraged to apply.

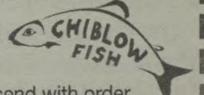
Complete applications must include a covering letter, curriculum vitae, four current work related references and a current criminal reference check, marked "Confidential" to:

Kina Gbezhgomi, Child and Family Services
Board of Directors
Attention "Executive Director" position
98 Pottawatomi Avenue
Wikwemikong, Ontario P0P 2J0

Incomplete application packages will not be accepted.

For additional information, please contact Kerry Francis, interim Executive Director, Kina Gbezhgomi Child and Family Services, 705-859-2100, Ext 2025 or toll free 1-800-268-1899. Fax 705-859-2195.

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Windspeaker sports briefs

By SAM LASKARIS

Governments offer support

Aboriginal sports programs in Saskatchewan will receive more than half a million dollars in support from a pair of governments.

The three-year agreement, which was announced in early April, is actually worth \$562,000.

For starters, the federal government provided \$281,000 in support. This figure was then matched by the Saskatchewan government.

These figures are in addition to the almost \$800,000 over three years the Canadian government had previously put up to support participation programs in Saskatchewan sports.

The latest agreement, however, is money that will be used specifically for Aboriginal sports.

Besides having various organizations offer more structured community sports programs, it's expected some of the government funding will be utilized on programs for Aboriginal coaches and officials.

Christine Tell, Saskatchewan's Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, is hoping that part of the money will go to Aboriginal communities, especially in the northern parts of the province, where organized sports are not as readily available as they are in southern Saskatchewan.

Helena Guergis, Canada's Secretary of State For Sport, said the support being offered comes at a crucial time, especially these days when there are numerous reports of children not being as active as they should be.

Tournament takes hit

Indications are it might take awhile for one of Canada's longest-running Aboriginal hockey tournaments to return to its glory days.

Though it was not held in 2007, the Lumber Kings Sports Club in Prince George, B.C. staged the 23rd running of its tournament from Apr. 11 to 13.

Though organizers were originally hoping to attract 48 teams in five divisions, they only ended up with 24 entrants in four classes. And the two highest calibre divisions, the men's A and men's B groupings, were not held due to a lack of interested teams.

A total of 40 squads had competed at the last tournament, in 2006.

"The forest industry has really taken a hit out here," said tournament director Harley Chingee. "It has impacted a lot of communities that have teams that usually come here."

Organizers were hoping to have 12 squads take part in the men's A division. Though there was an advertised \$23,000 up for grabs to the top four finishers in this division, including \$12,000 for the champions, there was not enough willing participants.

"I'm disappointed there wasn't enough teams," Chingee said, adding only six teams from across western Canada had shown some interest in taking part in this division.

Iroquois team at worlds

The Iroquois Nationals will be one of 12 clubs participating at a world lacrosse tournament this summer.

The boys' squad will compete at the International Lacrosse Federation's world under-19 championships. The event will be staged July 3-12 in Coquitlam, B.C.

The Iroquois Nationals have been placed in the event's highest calibre pool along with Canada, United States, Australia, England and Japan.

The tournament's other pool will consist of Bermuda, Finland, Germany, Scotland, South Korea and Wales.

Nine squads, including the Iroquois Nationals, competed at the last world boys' under-19 tournament held in Maryland in 2003.

The U.S. won the gold medal at that event, defeating Canada in the championship match.

Australia also took home some hardware, beating England in the bronze-medal contest.

The Iroquois Nationals will no doubt be looking to improve upon their fifth-place finish from the 2003 tournament.

Besides Ontario and Quebec, the Iroquois Nationals' roster also includes players from the states of New York, Maryland, Virginia and Arizona.

The Iroquois Nationals are expected to get an indication rather early on in the tournament as to just how good they will be. That's because they will play their opening game on July 3 versus the defending champs from the U.S.

After squaring off against Japan the following day, the Iroquois Nationals will then meet Canada on July 5.

Top athletes receive Tom Longboat award

By SAM LASKARIS
Windspeaker Writer

SAULT STE. MARIE

For the second straight year a standout lacrosse player from Six Nations has been named as Canada's top Aboriginal male athlete.

Cody Jamieson, who had more than his share of accomplishments in 2007, has been selected as the male national winner for the Tom Longboat Award.

And Victoria native Stacie Anaka, a wrestler who captured a bronze medal at a world meet last year, is the female national winner.

The awards will be presented on May 1 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. The ceremony will be held in conjunction with the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, being staged in Sault Ste. Marie that week.

"It's a big honour," Jamieson, a 20-year-old who is completing his sophomore studies south of the border at Syracuse's Onondaga Community College, said of his national accolade. "Especially when you see all of the great athletes who have won this award."

Jamieson is well acquainted with last year's male national winner, Sid Smith. The pair have grown up together in Ohsweken and have played on numerous Six Nations lacrosse teams together.

Jamieson said he was unaware he had even been nominated for the Tom Longboat Award. And he was shocked officials opted to give it to a lacrosse player from the same community in back-to-back years.

"That's what surprised me the most," he said.

Jamieson, however, is certainly a deserving recipient. He was a key member of the Six Nations Arrows Express who captured the Minto Cup, the national Junior A lacrosse title, this past September in Coquitlam, B.C.

Jamieson was named as the most valuable player at the Minto Cup event after scoring a tournament-high 14 goals and adding nine assists in five games.

Jamieson was also a member of the Iroquois Nationals men's squad that won the silver medal at the world indoor championships held last May in Halifax. Jamieson's collegiate accomplishments were also rather

impressive. He was one of the main reasons the Onondaga Lazers had a perfect 19-0 record and won the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association (NJCAA) field lacrosse championship.

Besides being named a first-team all-American at the junior college level, Jamieson was also chosen as the lacrosse player of the year in the NJCAA. And an even more prestigious accolade came Jamieson's way when he was presented with the David Rowlands Memorial Award.

This award is annually presented to the best male athlete in any sport and in any junior college in the U.S.

Jamieson became the first lacrosse player to win the award. And he said he was thrilled with this award since some previous winners have gone on to professional football or baseball careers.

As for Anaka, she placed third in the girls' 63-kilogram division at the world junior (20 and under) wrestling championships this past August in Beijing, China.

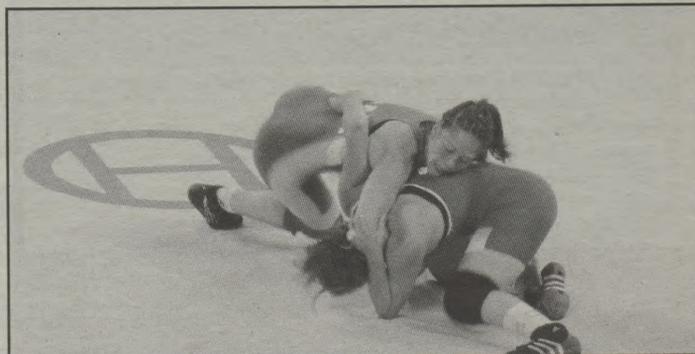
Anaka said she wasn't all that surprised to win a medal at the world meet. That's because she had some experience, having placed seventh in her weight class at the 2006 world junior championships in Guatemala.

Anaka, a 20-year-old who is a third-year student at British Columbia's Simon Fraser University, took up wrestling a dozen years ago. Another highlight for Anaka in 2007 was when she won the gold medal at the Canadian university championships held in Saskatoon.

"I think it's a pretty big accomplishment," she said of her Tom Longboat Award. "I don't think I've won a national award before."

Anaka's trophy case, however, does include some provincial awards. During her graduating year she was selected as British Columbia's top female high school athlete. And she's also a previous winner of B.C. junior wrestling athlete of the year.

Jamieson is hoping her latest award will bring some recognition to her sport, especially among Aboriginals. "A lot of the Native communities might not know about wrestling," she said. "This might create some awareness."



Stacie Anaka (on top) captured third place in her division at the Jr. Worlds 2007 in Beijing.

Honouring Life Network targets Aboriginal youth

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Writer

NOVA SCOTIA

Jasine Dennis is a front line worker with the Eskasoni Community Health Centre in Nova Scotia. In the two years she has served as a registered nurse in that community, located 75 km west of Sydney, she has faced the issue of youth suicide.

And that's not unusual. The overall First Nations youth suicide rate is five to seven times higher than the national rate for Canadian youth and the suicide rate among Inuit youth is up to 11 times higher than the national average, and the highest in Canada.

The newest tool in a combined federal government-National Aboriginal Health Organization five-year strategy to prevent youth suicide has Dennis thrilled.

"I think it's awesome," she said about the recently launched Honouring Life Network Web site. "More tips, something anyone can have access to, is

great."

The launching of the Web site falls in the middle of the five-year \$65 million National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy which kicked off in early 2006.

The Honouring Life Network is targeted at both Aboriginal youth and suicide prevention workers in First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities. The site is readily available in English, French and Inuktitut.

"The Web site is dynamic and interactive and contains resources for youth and youth workers, including a Youth Worker's Forum where youth workers from across the country can connect to discuss and share suicide prevention resources and strategies," said Paul Spendlove, media relations officer for Health Canada.

"I always find the Internet helpful. It's where I go to get information," said Dennis, who anticipates tapping into the youth worker's forum as well as the resource centre on the site. Dennis has also received youth

suicide prevention training from NAHO.

The Honouring Life Network also hosts a youth corner. "This new and innovative suicide prevention resource for Aboriginal youth was developed by Aboriginal youth to provide positive examples of how to cope with suicide-related issues," notes Spendlove.

Personal stories are part of the youth stream. The River of Life is a short piece contributed by a youth identified only as Richard. He writes, "I still recall the day when I stood beside a mighty river, ready to jump into it, hoping that it would drown me and take my life. When the water surrounded my feet I could feel the power of the current wanting to pull me into its darkness. I could hear the voice of the night telling me I should just end my life right here. That night, another part of me started to sing. It was singing the tune of life and that part of me wanted to live. Secretly, I did not want to die. Thankfully, when I stood there thinking about ending my life, I

did not follow through with it. I realized that I have a chance to change my life. I began to see that I can make a life out of the life I am given. Even though there are hard times in life and even though there are challenging days, I know that I want to live. Today I am grateful to be alive. Today if I am going to jump into a river, I make sure it's not a river that leads to death, but a river that leads to life."

The federal departments of Health and Indian and Northern Affairs joined forces with NAHO to launch the Web site in early April.

In a news release, health minister Tony Clement stated, "Suicide among Aboriginal youth is an urgent matter. I am very proud that the Government of Canada has funded this innovative tool that will help First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth rediscover the joy of life, and let them know that there are resources available to help them through difficult times."

NAHO chief executive officer Paulette Tremblay classified

suicide as a "grave problem" and said the Web site would be "an invaluable tool for those working to prevent suicides in our communities."

The Honouring Life Network Web site stemmed from a joint working group of the Indian Health Service in the United States and the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada.

The Web site is only one of approximately 140 community-based projects funded across the country under the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Health Canada said the strategy is expected to increase protective factors and reduce risk factors through community-based initiatives, it is expected to strengthen crisis response, create more awareness about mental health promotion, public education and increase more awareness and provide information about suicide prevention.

The Web site can be accessed at www.honouringlife.ca.

Dedication and determination pay off for nurse

By Tamara Bodi
Windspeaker Writer

WINNIPEG

When Michelle Monkman was growing up in the Norway House Cree Nation in northern Manitoba, she knew one thing for sure: she is a nurturer.

Lucky for her, when she reached adulthood the post-secondary education possibilities open to her at the time were mostly geared to careers that involved nurturing.

In 1999, Monkman enrolled in the Health Education Access Program (HEAP) at Keewatin Community College, a program that depends on sponsorship from the band.

She spent her first year of nursing studies with the support of her close-knit community and in the company of friends, family

and her one-year-old daughter.

To continue on with her studies, the following year Monkman made the difficult decision to take her little girl and move to Winnipeg, a city she'd barely spent time in previously, in order to start her Bachelor of Nursing degree at the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Nursing. But Monkman seems to roll with life's punches and although she initially had some hesitations, she knew her path in life was to build a future for herself and her young family.

"After the first little bit I made a few friends," she said. "I felt more confident in what I was doing probably after my second year, though, and I got a lot of support from study groups and the faculty."

Monkman always planned to return to Norway House after her degree. But some might argue fate

played a hand, and the course of her life was changed forever.

In her fourth and final year of studies she'd applied for and anticipated she'd do her practicum in Manitoba's north, when another student received the placement instead.

"So I changed my mind," she said.

Monkman's ability to adapt has not gone unnoticed.

"Michelle persevered and achieved her dream," said Marilyn Klimczak, an instructor in the Faculty of Nursing. "Recently, I was pleased to see her return to a Faculty of Nursing workshop as a graduate to learn about the nurse-preceptor role for senior students."

"As I became reacquainted with Michelle and learned about her unique nursing role I knew she would be a wonderful guest speaker for several nursing classes.

Michelle immediately agreed to come to speak to first- and fourth-year nursing students. She was a hit. Michelle has a wonderful way of engaging the audience with a variety of stories from her rich experience."

A career in nursing offers a variety of paths. It's wonderful to see that Michelle has made the most of her opportunities and that she is willing to share her successes."

Today, Monkman and daughter live in Winnipeg where she works as a public health nurse in communicable disease control. Part of her job takes place in her office, while the rest involves street nursing and on-site health clinics.

"I feel very fortunate," the 27-year-old said. "I'm the youngest one in my office and we have a big Aboriginal population in Winnipeg so I can help them. I

do case management for sexually transmitted diseases in the office and do flu clinics in Main Street bars. We practice a harm reduction approach," she continues.

"When I do street nursing I work with vulnerable street entrenched populations in the city's core area, who are sometimes sex trade workers or drug abusers. I'm not turning a blind eye."

Indeed. Monkman's philosophy is reminiscent of a grander scheme than perhaps even she realizes just yet.

"I love to share my successes and am hoping to spread my motivation to others, despite the challenges," she says. "And what would I say to other Aboriginal peoples wanting to do what I've done? 'Believe in yourself. It's hard, but stick it out. The payoffs are tremendous.'"

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Students design project with traditional knowledge

By Christine Fiddler
Windspeaker Staff Writer

LA RONGE

The traditional knowledge of Aboriginal Elders will lend a hand to classroom teaching if three students from the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP) have their way with shaping education curriculum.

As fourth-year students of the program — Morris Elderkin, Sheldon Landry, and Devin Bernatchez — began a class project in January that focused on using traditional ecological knowledge to teach science lessons.

"It's knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation, like how to survive off the land and how to respect nature and all living things," said Elderkin, who is a band member of the Peter Ballentyne Cree Nation.

The idea arose when a professor told them Aboriginal knowledge could be incorporated into science. So the three students set out a plan to gather resources through interviewing Elders and other research.

"They have had four months out doing their internship (teaching) in classroom," said their instructor Deborah Gibson-Dingwall. "And while they're in the classroom, they're supposed to be reflecting on something they think is very important to them or something they see is a need for northern Saskatchewan children and teachers. The main criteria is that it will be a project that is useful to them when they become teachers, it will be useful to them and other teachers across northern Saskatchewan," she said.

The team chose to work on traditional ecological knowledge, particularly on incorporating the Dimensions of Science Literacy (DSLs) into lesson plans that focused on northern activities.

"I think it's a real passion for all three of them. And going about it in the proper manner, in

order to respect the Elders and the knowledge, was something they really, really worked on," Gibson-Dingwall added.

Bernatchez, a Lac La Ronge band member, said the valuable knowledge Elders share can't be taken for granted.

"You really have to appreciate their time and their effort in teaching you this stuff and you always present them with a gift, either dry meat or cranberries or some sort of tobacco or you give them a gift, just for taking their time," he said.

Both Elderkin and Bernatchez agree the lessons apply not only to science but other subjects as well and can be modified for any age.

"You'd have to look at your foundational assessments in the curriculum," Elderkin stated. "The foundational objectives they're what have to be taught, but your teaching objectives can be modified." This is where teachers can bring in the traditional ecological knowledge and gear it towards a specific group.

Elderkin points out the ways that traditional ecological knowledge can be taught to students. For instance, he said, they can go out of the classroom and onto the land to learn about plants used for medicines. They can also look at the ways animals were once used for survival.

"(They) can learn about moose; have students learn how to preserve meat and smoke it, dry it. And the anatomy of an animal, what bones were used for what tools for scraping hides, what parts when cooked can be boiled, fried, smoked ... it goes on," he said.

He points to the Elders as valuable to teaching this aspect of the lessons because they are the keepers of knowledge and use stories that catch the interest of the learner. He also said this approach is needed because the Aboriginal population in Saskatchewan is growing and there's little mention in the curriculum about Aboriginal

people. "We feel that it's important that there is more Aboriginal content being taught in schools across Saskatchewan. If this breaks down all the things with racism and stereotypes, they'll have appreciation for Aboriginal people, and how they have lived and all the knowledge that they have to offer," he said.

As for Bernatchez, he said the traditional knowledge would teach Aboriginal students to respect Elders, be proud of their identity, strengthen traditions, and care for the environment.

"I think today's society, with the children being influenced by this new wave of technology and the ever-growing consumer life, you could say, there's a lot of youth not respecting the elders. They're not really respecting their traditional roots and they're moving towards a different lifestyle. And we see a lot of problems in our Aboriginal communities and non-Aboriginal communities, but especially in our Aboriginal communities where our children are losing their traditions," he expressed.

"If they can grasp some of these teachings then it might heal and help some of these problems that we have. A huge problem right now, everybody knows, the environment is being taken for granted. Up here in northern Saskatchewan we have the mines that are taking resources out of our traditional lands every day."

Bernatchez said during the interviews, an elder told him a story that showed the great impact humans have on the environment. The story demonstrated that if all the insects were eliminated from the world everything would die, on the other hand, if people were eliminated, the world would flourish. "That was one thing that stood out in my mind and I guess as teachers we have to bring in these Elders and get them to tell these young students about the old ways and try to inspire them to become environmentalists," he said.

The students presented the project in Regina at the



Morris Elderkin and Devin Bernatchez at the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Earth Day in Regina.

Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's 2008 Earth Day conference in April. "It went really well, we used a lot of humour, we got the attention of a lot of people out there. People who write the curriculum, students, teachers, professors," Elderkin said. "When we first started off it was solely for us three as student teachers, but after the conference with people interested in the project, a lot of them wanted these resources to help them with their teaching."

He adds that traditional ecological knowledge can be taken from non-Aboriginal Elders as well, for urban teachers who would like to use the knowledge in non-Aboriginal classrooms.

Bernatchez said they are trying to be advocates for Aboriginal knowledge in the curriculum. "The NORTEP program has really helped bring Aboriginal teachers into the schools (and) has

been a credit towards what we're trying to do too," he said. "And I just want to acknowledge Deborah Gibson-Dingwall and Sheldon Landry, because he also had a large part in the format and the development of the presentation."

Landry, who is from the Canoe Lake First Nation, was unavailable for the interview.

Elderkin and Bernatchez said they plan to use the information they gained through their project in their future teaching careers. However, at this time they have not laid out any definite plans of where they are going to teach.

NORTEP is a four-year education program based in LaRonge that leads to a Bachelor of Education degree in Secondary or Elementary education. Students may choose either a regular Arts-based program or a program with greater emphasis on science courses.

Bill C-292 under consideration by committee

(Continued from page 11.)

"Even the limited test case funding that was made available to us to clarify our rights in the courts has been cut off," Chartier said.

The Kelowna Accord resolved the status of the relationship between the Métis Nation and Canada, and held the promise of revitalized Métis institutions. "Moreover it held all the signatories to account for the result," Chartier noted.

"This is a far cry from the entrenched, dysfunctional state of affairs and programming in which federal bureaucrats are in control of programs their departments do not actually deliver and Métis organizations are delivering programs that they do not control... As a consequence, no one is responsible for the result."

Claudette Dumont-Smith of the Native Women's Association of Canada appeared before the

committee as well.

"The process that led to the accord marked a new understanding by the other participants of the need to include Aboriginal women in the joint development of balanced, holistic solutions," she said.

Peter Dinsdale of the National Association of Friendship Centres, who expressed support for Bill C-292 despite his association's concerns about Kelowna also stood before the

committee.

One of the failures of the accord was that it did not attempt to address the "jurisdictional challenge" of who's responsible for urban First Nations people, Dinsdale said.

The day before Fontaine's appearance before the committee, Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl announced a two-year, \$330 million program to assess drinking water in every First Nation community and train

more water treatment operators.

Fontaine questioned the strategy which he said won't change the fact that over 100 communities will continue to live under boil-water advisories.

"It appears that the investment represents monies that were unspent and re-profiled in the recent budget. We understand, based on our analysis, that infrastructure funding in fact will go down and be reduced by \$250 million over the next two years."

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Twenty-five years later and little progress made

(Continued from page 15.)

Attempts to fish and trap for food had been foiled by extreme industrial and energy development in the area, which had scared the game away and fouled the waters of local lakes and streams.

The controversial elimination of the Papaschase reserve in Alberta was in the news that year too. Descendants of the former residents were attempting to receive compensation for lands illegally taken from them in the 1800s. It is interesting to note that little progress has been made and this claim is far from over as it continues to this day to be

unsettled.

Meanwhile, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations at the time David Ahenakew became embroiled in a discussion about racist comments that were spoken by a senator in Canada's upper house. Ahenakew demanded that a parliamentary committee be set up to investigate racism, citing examples by judges, doctors, politicians and the public at large. History has shown that the tables were turned when, 25 years later, Ahenakew was accused of uttering uncomplimentary racist remarks himself, an action which caused him to be stripped of his Order of Canada and other

awards, and which is still in the news.

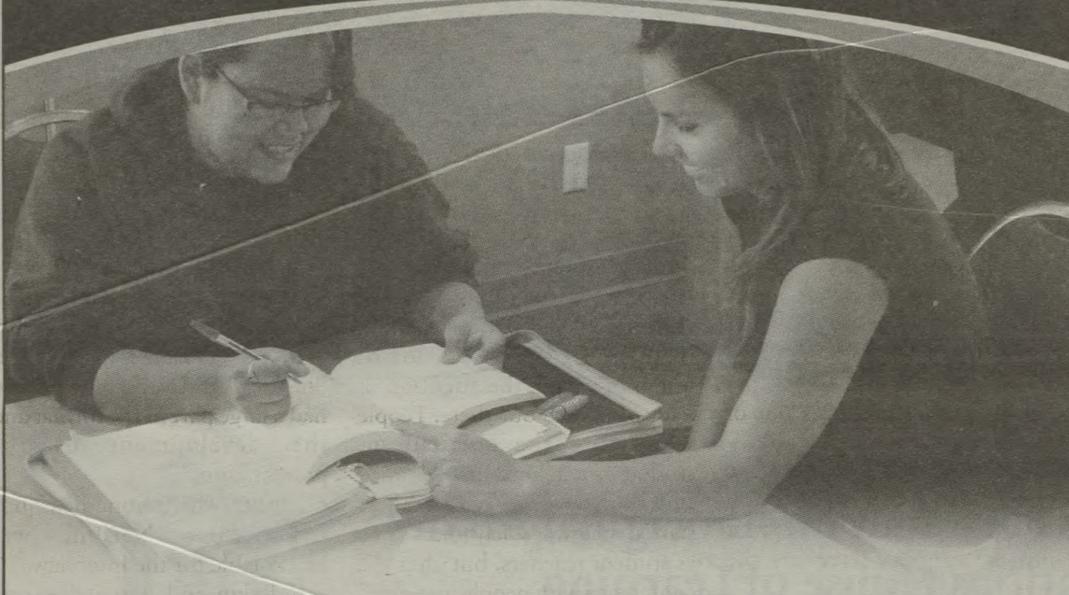
The Métis Association of Alberta began a project in the summer of 1983 which saw three students hired to conduct research and collect primary data on the youth who were working the streets in Edmonton. Residents of correctional institutions as well as educational and social groups were also interviewed to discern the problems that face young people. The information was to be put into an audiovisual display which would be shown to vulnerable youth in the hopes it would keep them from the perils of street life.



Geoff Hill and Scott Olson slug it out in one of the best bouts of the night at the first ever boxing card sponsored by Hobbema.



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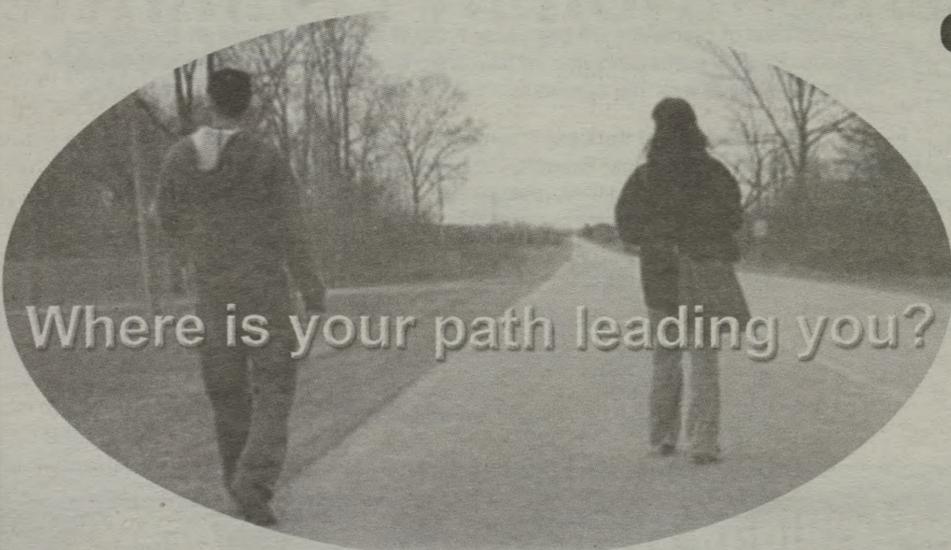
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Fond memories of Christmases past were related as the year closed. Shirley Oker remembered when her grandmother was hosting the family for Christmas dinner in her Rose Prairie, BC home, but forgot to thaw the turkey. The result was the unusual, but apparently very tasty, modification to the traditional feast as the family sat down to enjoy boiled turkey along with all the trimmings. And Roderick Ratt remembered coming in from the trap line at Pelican Narrows, Saskatchewan, to decorate a Christmas tree which they'd cut down themselves, and being reunited with old friends when all gathered

in town to shop for groceries and presents.

Shirley Tsetta recalled the Christmas of 1973 when her Yellowknife, NWT, family set aside the many chores and duties that needed to be done, and attended midnight mass together. Opening presents and receiving guests were enjoyed the following day which was made extra special because all the family members had returned to celebrate the occasion. Her remembrance set the tone for the end of 1983 as she reminded us that regardless of the social problems experienced by Aboriginal people, there was always love and support of family and friends to celebrate.



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*Deline Land Corporation and Deline First Nation,
Community of Deline, NWT*



Located within the Deline Land Corporation Office Building this senior management position will work closely with the Self Government Chief Negotiator and will report directly to the Self-Government Chief Negotiator, the Deline Land Corporation Board of Directors and the Deline First Nations Council. The Director is responsible for coordinating the work of technical consultants, community consultations, communications, planning, undertaking/contracting specific transitional and implementation projects.

This position is demanding and stressful, requiring an individual with experience working in a First Nation environment; familiarity with community consultation relating to self government; familiarity with self government implementation negotiations, preparation, and execution; excellent interpersonal and cross cultural communication skills; excellent analytical and interpersonal skills; a high degree of self reliance and initiative; ability to deploy resources effectively and manage a team of diverse English and Slavey-language professionals; and a strong track record of performance.

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Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs and Director, First Nations House of Learning



The University of British Columbia is seeking nominations and applications for the joint position of Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs and Director of the First Nations House of Learning. The successful candidate will take office at a critical time, as the University reaffirms its commitment to Aboriginal people and embarks on the development of its Aboriginal Strategic Plan.

The Senior Advisor to the President on Aboriginal Affairs provides vision and leadership in achieving UBC's strategic plan in relation to Aboriginal affairs. He or she will play a pivotal role in establishing consistent, open channels of communication between indigenous people in the UBC and broader Aboriginal communities and the senior leadership of the University. The Senior Advisor will challenge and inspire the UBC community to meet the even higher aspirations related to Aboriginal affairs, at UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan.

The Director leads in the UBC Vancouver First Nations House of Learning's mandate to make the University's vast resources more accessible to First Peoples, and to improve the University's ability to meet the needs of First Nations. The FNHL facilitates the participation of Aboriginal people in a wide range of study areas by assisting with the development of academic, student service and community initiatives; encouraging, supporting and undertaking Aboriginal research and scholarship; promoting Aboriginal education; consolidating information on Aboriginal academic achievement; and sustaining and developing a "home away from home" for members of the UBC Aboriginal community. A spectacular longhouse enhances its ability to provide a positive environment for students, staff and faculty.

The successful candidate will be an Aboriginal person with a record of leadership and administration, preferably in higher education, and will be eligible for appointment to a tenured faculty position. (A description of the nature of a tenured appointment, and the criteria are available at www.hr.ubc.ca/faculty_relations/careers/tenure.html.)

UBC is a publicly supported, medical-doctoral university comprising 12 faculties, 11 schools, and 22 centres and institutes. UBC Vancouver enrolls more than 35,000 undergraduates and 8,000 graduate students, and UBC Okanagan hosts more than 4,000 students, to rise to 7,500 by 2010. System-wide faculty and staff number over 12,000. UBC-O and UBC-V have 20 Aboriginal coordinators and more than 20 Aboriginal faculty members, including one who holds a Canada Research Chair. For additional information, please visit www.ubc.ca.

With Aboriginal participation, UBC-V has developed many Aboriginal academic programs, courses and services – beginning in the mid-1970s in Education and Law, and later adding Social Work, Medicine, health professions, Forestry, Land and Food Systems, and Business, as well as First Nations Studies and First Nations Languages in the Faculty of Arts.

In partnership with the Aboriginal community, UBC-O has invested in Aboriginal Programs and Services, the Indigenous Studies Program and the Aboriginal Students Centre.

Consideration of candidates will begin May 1, 2008 and continue until an appointment is made. The successful candidate will take office on July 1, 2008 or as soon thereafter as mutually convenient. The appointment is for a term of five years and is renewable.

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. We encourage all qualified persons to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority. Applications, nominations, and requests for further information may be submitted in confidence to the address below.

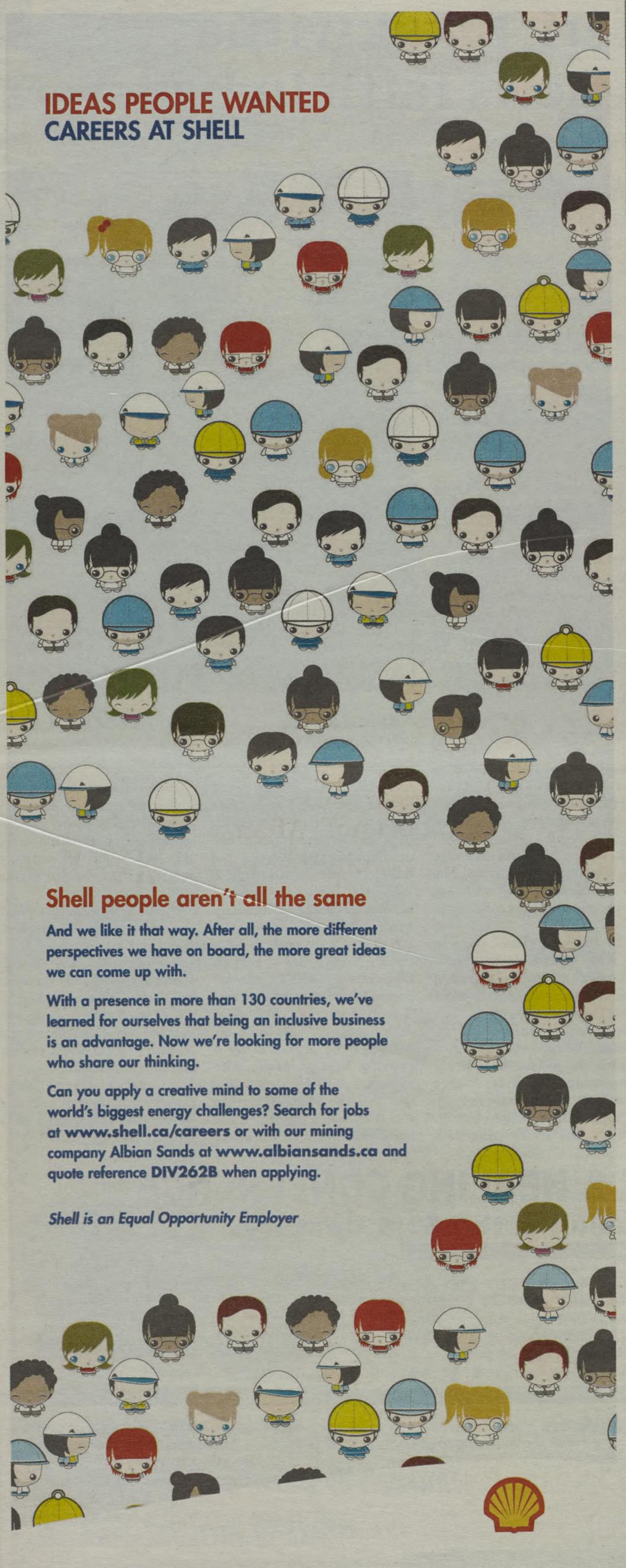
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- Anticipates and responds to information and action requests;
- Develops agendas and supporting documentation for NACOSAR meetings;
- Development of policy and procedures manual for NACOSAR;
- Produces annual report from NACOSAR to the Minister of the Environment; and
- Review of work undertaken by consultants.

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- Possesses a keen interest in protecting species at risk and promoting the awareness of species at risk issues;
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- Developing strategic plans, policies and procedures;
- In-depth knowledge of the *Species at Risk Act*;
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- Possess experience in organizing informational events;
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- Proficiency in computer applications including: Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Excel;
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[footprints] Kateri Tekakwitha

Memories of Kateri Tekakwitha renews faith in believers

By Dianne Meili

In front of the St. Francis Cathedral just east of the historic plaza in the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico, stands a beguiling statue. It's of a beautiful, full-figured Aboriginal woman, wearing white Navajo boots, turquoise jewellery, and a pleated, broomstick skirt. Clutched to her bosom are four black and white eagle feathers.

Visiting the church last Christmas, I was immediately drawn to the statue, curious as to who this attractive woman was. The bronze plaque at her feet read "Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha". I was bemused as I had always thought Kateri was Mohawk, and here she was dressed up as a Navajo. I read further, on another sign, that the artist had taken license in representing Tekakwitha as a southwestern woman, because all of Native North America claims her as their own since she is the first Native American to be declared blessed. Venerated by Pope Pius XII in 1943; she was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980. In order for her to be canonized and declared a saint, another miracle attributed to Kateri must first be proved.

I was interested in who Kateri was and found a plethora of information about her online. What struck me the most, of course, was reading about this woman's demonstrated faith in God and her stand as a Christian at a time when living as a Christian was deadly.

Kateri was born in 1656 in Ossernenon, a Mohawk village located near present day Auriesville, New York. Her father was a proud Mohawk chief, but her mother was an Algonquin woman who had been captured by the Mohawk and who had converted to Christianity. It was she who influenced Tekakwitha's great faith.

When her community was ravaged by smallpox, Tekakwitha

was orphaned at the age of four. She was the only member of her family to survive, and she was adopted by her father's brother, who assumed the role of chief.

She didn't escape the disease unscathed though, for her body was weakened and covered in scars. It also affected her eyesight and in bright sunlight she was almost blinded. Thus, she was given the name Tekakwitha, which means "she who stumbles into things."

Tekakwitha's uncle was bitterly opposed to Christianity. He distrusted all newcomers because of the way they treated the Indians, and the fact they were responsible for introducing smallpox and other deadly diseases to his people. When Tekakwitha was eight years old, her foster family, in accordance with Iroquois custom, paired her with a young boy who they expected she would marry. However, she showed no interest in marriage.

When Tekakwitha was ten, in 1666, a war party composed of French soldiers and hostile Indians from northern regions destroyed the Mohawk strongholds on the south bank of the Mohawk River, including Ossernenon. The surviving Mohawks moved to the north side of the river and built their fortified village about half a mile west of the present village of Fonda, New York.

When Jesuit missionary Father Jacques de Lamberville arrived to set up a permanent mission, Kateri slipped past her uncle's scrutiny and spoke to him. She told him she wanted to be a Christian and on Easter Sunday in 1676 she was baptized.

Tekakwitha took her instructions in the Catholic faith in secret. Even though her uncle finally relented and gave his consent for his niece to follow Jesus, provided that she didn't

leave the Indian village, the rest of her people hated her and threw rocks at her as she walked to the chapel, calling her "the Christian."

One day, when Tekakwitha was alone in a longhouse, a young male villager, angered by her beliefs, burst into her home and threatened to kill her if she didn't renounce her faith. As he stood over her, spiked war club in hand, she calmly told him he could take her life, but not her faith, then lowered her head and waited for him to crack her skull. Her unflinching calm and faith flustered the would-be killer and he left without harming her. A year later, finally hoping to escape her persecutors, Kateri fled to the Mission of St. Francis Xavier, a settlement of Indians in Canada, also named Caughnawaga (Kahnawake, Quebec) populated by Mohawk people who were much more accepting of Christianity. That Christmas, she made her first communion. Kateri lived in Caughnawaga for the next ten years.

In Canada, Tekakwitha was in her element. She taught children to pray, and cared for the sick and elderly. Many were inspired by her goodness, while she felt the need to do penance for her weakness and sins. She denied herself simple comforts, mixed ashes in her food, and once slept on a bed covered in thorns. She even branded herself with hot coals, offering up her suffering to God.

In 1679 she visited nuns in nearby Ville-Marie (now Montreal) and was so impressed with their lifestyle that she asked to set up her own convent. Her request was refused, but she still chose to take the vow of chastity, which she did on March 25, becoming the first Native American woman to do so.

Sadly, by the winter of 1679, her poor health affected her with



RICK MOYSE

A figure of Kateri Tekakwitha stands in front of the St. Francis Cathedral in Sante Fe.

dire consequences, no doubt helped along by her extreme penances. Headaches, stomach pains, and weakness plagued her, until she took to her bed and finally slipped away on April 17, 1680. Her last words professed her love for Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

A miracle is said to have transfigured her corpse. Observers say that 15 minutes after her death, the smallpox scars that had marked her since childhood, completely disappeared, replaced by a glowing beauty. Many who witnessed this even took it as a sign that the Mohawk woman was truly special, and felt the transformation occurred at the

moment Tekakwitha saw God. Following her death, people also reported seeing visions of her, and many say she healed them, or that they were made well simply by touching the cross that she had held on her deathbed.

Many shrines across North America pay homage to the Blessed Kateri today; she is recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, and thousands still flock to these for healing. She is the patron of the environment, people in exile, people ridiculed for their religious beliefs, orphans, and of World Youth Day.

In Canada, the Feast of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is celebrated April 17, the anniversary of her death.

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