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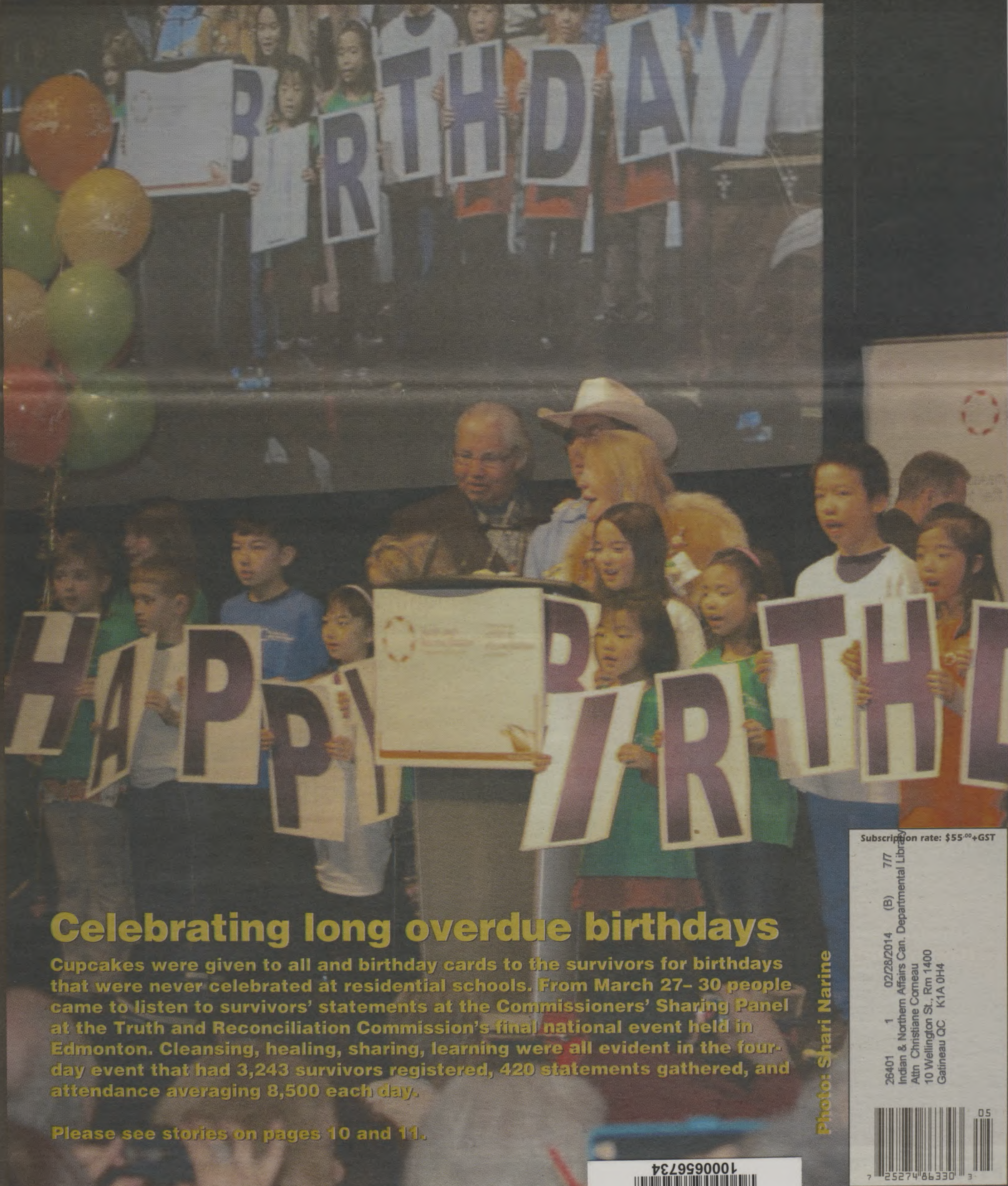
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Publications Mail Reg. No. 40063755

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Celebrating long overdue birthdays

Cupcakes were given to all and birthday cards to the survivors for birthdays that were never celebrated at residential schools. From March 27- 30 people came to listen to survivors' statements at the Commissioners' Sharing Panel at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final national event held in Edmonton. Cleansing, healing, sharing, learning were all evident in the four-day event that had 3,243 survivors registered, 420 statements gathered, and attendance averaging 8,500 each day.

Please see stories on pages 10 and 11.

Photo: Shari Narine

Subscription rate: \$55.00+GST

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Monthly Circulation: 20,000
Windspeaker 1-year subscription: \$55.00+GST
Published since 1983, Windspeaker is politically and financially independent.

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Edmonton, Alberta T5L 4S8
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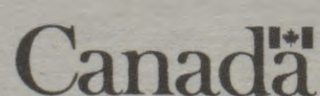
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Valerie Crowshoe and her husband Ivan McMaster chose not to tell their stories at the seventh and final national Truth and Reconciliation Commission event held in Edmonton March 27 to March 30. But the event did open their eyes.

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Survivors Committee member Eugene Arcand is urging survivors to "stay calm" as his committee pushes for changes to the personal credit portion of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

Provinces commit to residential school instruction 11

The Alberta and Yukon governments are the latest to commit to curriculum development to get the history of Indian residential schools taught in the classroom. But for the real story to be told, instruction has to go deeper and be consistent, say proponents of Aboriginal learning.

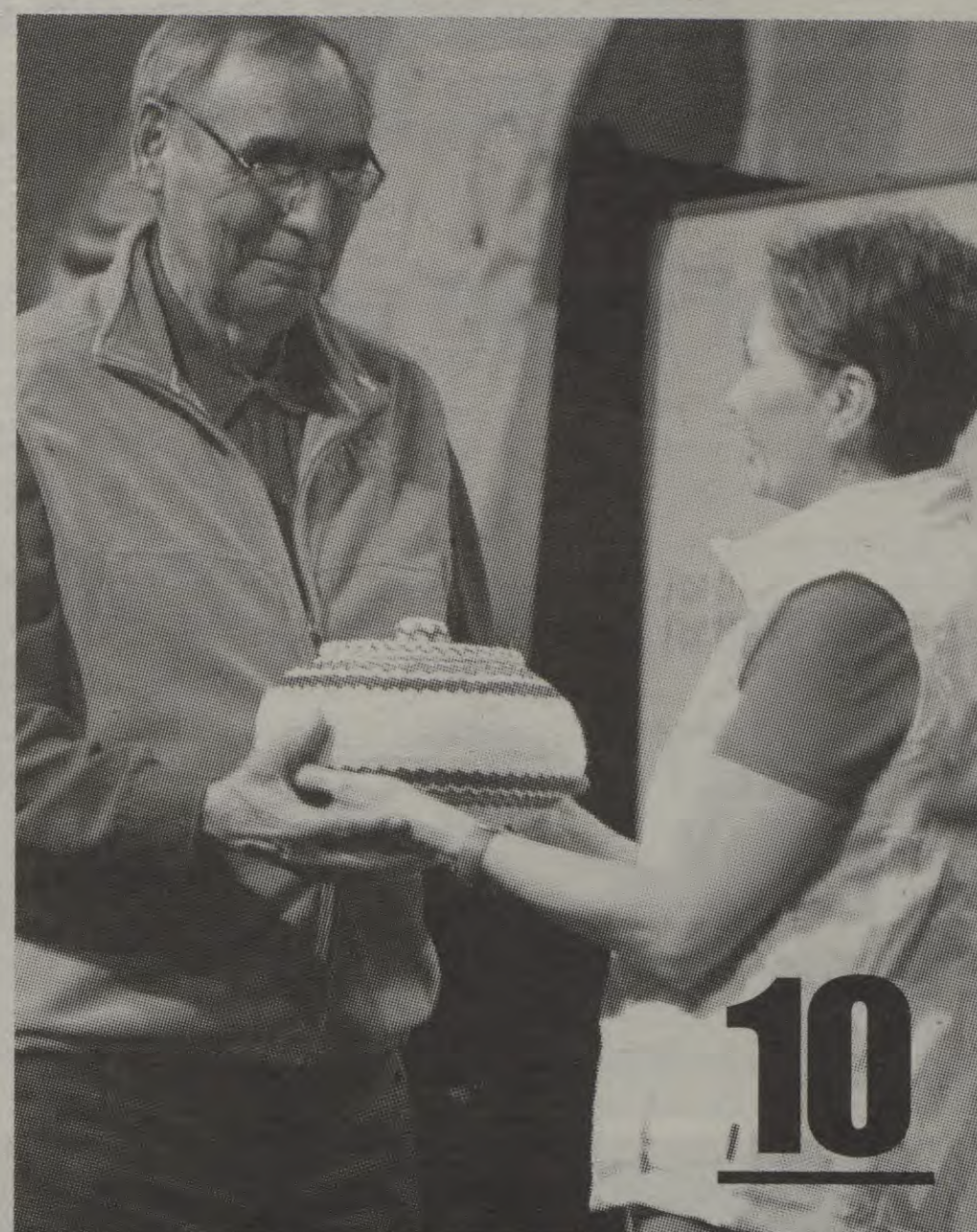
Women prisoners kept in 'zombie-like' state on meds 16

Canada's Corrections watchdog has launched an investigation into the increasing "over-medication" of female prisoners — some into a perpetual "zombie-like" state while incarcerated.

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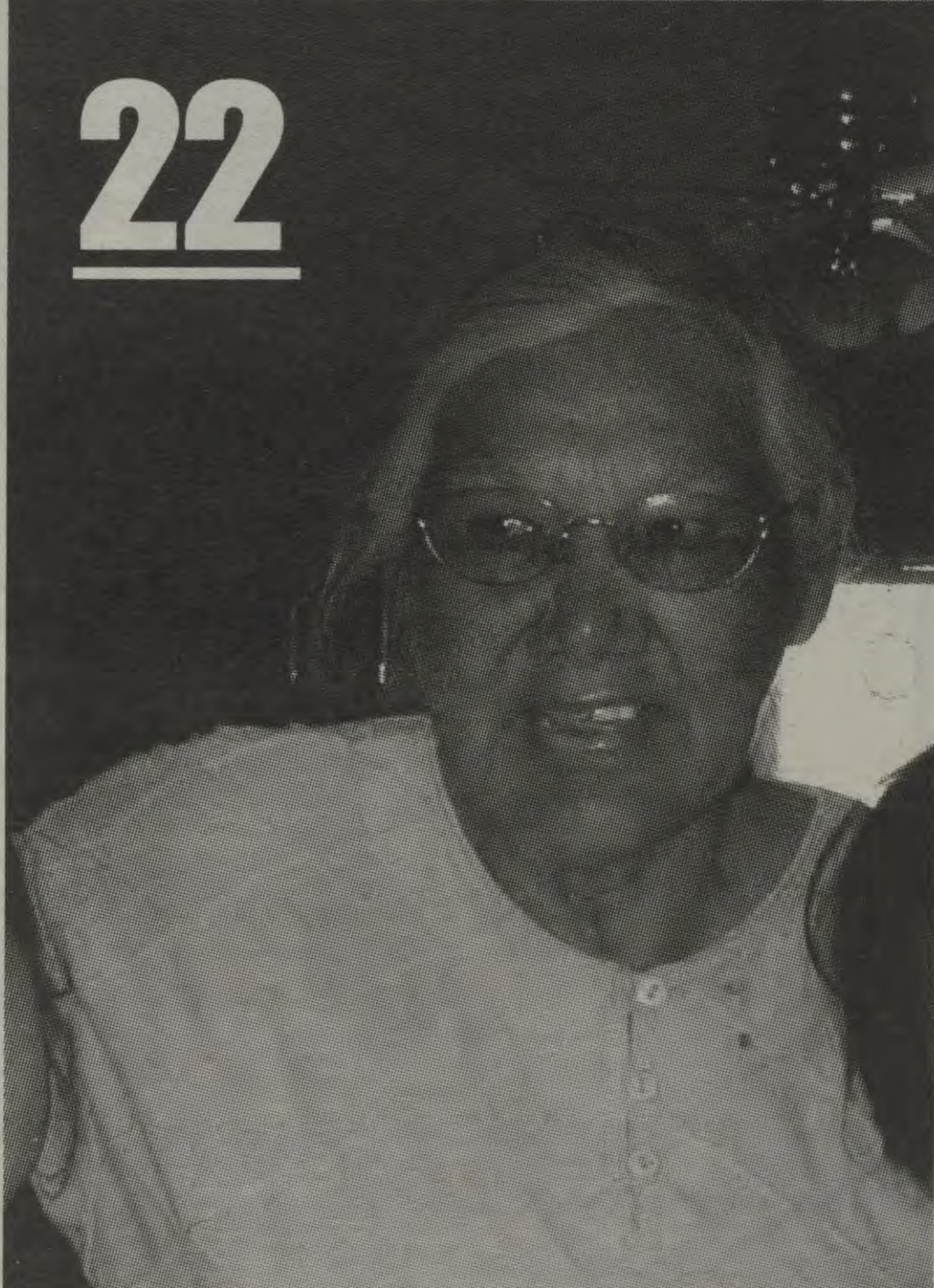
Though she wasn't allowed to speak Mi'gmaq in residential school, Chief Margaret Pictou Labillois of Eel River Bar First Nation preserved her language because her mother and sister pressed her to speak it. She passed away on April 19, 2013.



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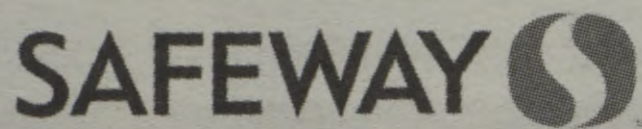
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B.C. fails with LNG deceit

The Christy Clark government of British Columbia has really stepped in it this time, going behind the backs of First Nations in its haste to develop the Liquefied Natural Gas industry in the province, poisoning relationships and endangering the \$78 billion development that the BC Liberals have pinned so much hope on.

It all came crashing down during an LNG Summit in Fort Nelson First Nation mid-April that brought together First Nations leaders, industry representatives and government types. After spending hours with Aboriginal Relations Minister John Rustad around the table one day, having what was described as good discussions, it was learned that the BC cabinet had been developing plans to exempt most natural gas production from mandatory environmental assessments, all done without a peep about those plans to First Nations leadership. It had reached the Order in Council phase, and that Order was filed before any consultation took place, though it was later learned that big industry did know about the plan.

The chief of the host Fort Nelson First Nation, to her credit, tossed the government representatives out of the conference on their ears, in the most respectful way.

"My elders said you treat people kind, you treat people with respect... even when they are stabbing you in the back," said Fort Nelson Chief Sharleen Gale, who has become a bit of a hero since she stood with an eagle feather held aloft as Dene drummers sang while government guests packed up their things. The young chief deserves kudos for her handling of the betrayal.

While government was asked to leave the Summit, industry was asked to stay, at least as long as it took to deliver a message that Gale said needed to go back to the CEOs of any company hoping to do business in the territory. Act respectfully and share in the bounty the territory provides.

We are the ones, Gale said, that make decisions for our territories, for our people. No one else. She said the message should go to the top, and be carried all the way down to the ground.

"In order for this relationship to go forward, we need to find that common ground... there's ways we can work together. We want good things for our people too. This isn't just about money... it's about who we are, protecting the

land, protecting the environment. When we sit across the table and speak to you in this fashion, it's from our hearts. It's what we learned from our people, our elders, our ancestors." She then asked industry to go and have a good day, enjoy the area, while the First Nations representatives had a heart to heart.

She got Minister Rustad on her cell phone to address the assembly, pressing the phone up to a microphone so the room could hear his words.

The Order had been mistakenly filed, he said. Sometimes in government there are some mechanisms that the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing, Rustad said.

(That's encouraging, isn't it?)

BC was going to consult, the minister promised, and the Order in Council was being rescinded.

Then came an apology from BC Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas Rich Coleman. It wasn't supposed to happen this way, he said. "This is not how we do business." Coleman said the government was embarrassed about the situation. "We were surprised last night when the Order had been posted." He said government wanted to do the consultation "before we put it in place."

But Chief Gale struck back. "Sorry ain't good enough," she said. Government had made the decision to exempt natural gas from environmental assessment on April 11, but the minister had sat across from Chief Gale on April 16 without communicating any of those plans.

Gale said she had no interest now in dealing with middlemen. "If you want to get to the table, then I expect the premier will have a chief-to-chief meeting with my council, and that's the only way we are going to move forward on this," she said.

There is a lot at stake, and "you guys, have a lot to think about," she added. All agreements with the province were now under review, said Gale, and the First Nation was looking at all options in regards to its relationship with government and industry.

As we go to press, 28 First Nations and political organization in B.C. had signed a Declaration to put B.C.'s LNG strategy on hold.

This is a lesson in how not to do business with First Nations. What a shame. Everyone was just starting to get along.

Windspeaker

Letter: Community losing hope; has nothing to offer

Dear Editor:

My name is Francine. I have worked in the Pacheedaht First Nations community of Port Renfrew for almost six years. We are a small community of 300 First Nations and non-Native community members.

I have been a grateful member of Alcoholics Anonymous for 16 years. We have a small meeting every Monday and Thursday. We have five members. I am contacting you because my heart breaks for the hold alcohol has on this community.

I thought I had seen much but having lived here only a short while I have seen suicides, accidents and broken homes. We are grieving the loss of a beautiful young lady. She hanged herself and, prior to that, there was more binge drinking over a cousin who overdosed, Three weeks prior a man said to have heart failure was in fact another victim of this disease.

This has led to profound grieving in the community and has left staff wringing their hands

and losing hope. Comments have been "this place will never change" while the community continues to try and drown their sorrows, but sorrows float.

It scares me that so many struggle with fetal alcohol syndrome, poverty and generational abuse that there will be more if leadership continues to accept there is nothing we can do. Our community does have support from healthcare, counselling, honoring traditions, as well as educational and work training.

Staff are discouraged that there doesn't seem to be anything more that they can offer, and have nothing more to give. Please pray for Pacheedaht. If there is anything you can share with us, I would be so grateful.

My program tells me that there is hope and we are all miracles. If there has ever been a time for renewed hope and direction, it is now.

Thank you in advance for considering the words of so many here.

Francine

[rants and raves]

Page 5 Chatter

On April 8, Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy issued

a warning to industry and to governments. Cuts to core funding for First Nations organizations, in an attempt to dismantle collective voices of First Nations, will not address the risk that extractive industries face when wanting to develop on or near First Nations' territories. "We know all too well that cutbacks are an attempt to minimize our capacity to speak out about our rightful role in the protection of the environment and our authority to provide free, prior and informed consent on projects in the natural gas, energy, and mining industries," Beardy said. He also expressed concern with major federal funding cuts for specific claims research and development affecting many First Nations in Ontario in active claims and called for the restoration of this funding. "I am perplexed as to how the Harper Conservative government can think that unresolved land claims (that will be the result of cuts to specific claims funding) will be helpful for third parties wanting to do business on or near First Nations' territories in Ontario—it will, in fact, have the opposite effect," Beardy stated. Cuts to both core and specific claims took effect on April 1. The Chiefs of Ontario has taken an 80 per cent cut in total core funding as result of both federal and provincial cuts and has been forced to lay off 10 staff. This will affect First Nations in Ontario who rely on the organization for critical policy advice, regional coordination and advocacy in the areas of youth, social services, and economic development, reads a press release.

The Globe and Mail reports proposed new measures

that would require mining and oil companies to disclose payments made to band councils and their corporations. The paper says it is part of Ottawa's agenda to enhance the transparency of First Nations. Natural Resources Canada says it is "consulting" with industry, non-governmental organizations and Aboriginal communities over this mandatory reporting of payments made by resource companies to foreign and domestic governments. United States and Europe have such rules, but Canada's initiative would include Aboriginal governments and the corporations they set up. Legislation will be tabled in September unless provincial securities regulators implement the reporting requirement. "We continue to have a lot of questions about the inclusion of First Nations in this," said Pierre Gratton, president of the Mining Association of Canada, in an interview with the Globe and Mail. "We continue to encourage Natural Resources Canada to consult extensively with First Nations before proceeding on this."

The Wickaninnish Sand Dunes near Ucluelet in B.C.'s

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is re-opened after being closed in February 2012 when an unexploded mortar shell from the Second World War II was found. The Department of National Defense believes the risk of additional explosives being uncovered is low, though the site can never be declared hazard-free. DND conducted a geophysical survey of the dunes in 2013. "There were lots of bits of metal found, but no more mortar shells or hand grenades," said Park Reserve Supt. Jim Morgan. Metro newspaper reports that all the metal was dug out. "We're delighted to let people back in there." Morgan, however, warned visitors not to touch anything they don't recognize in the sand, just in case a stray shell was missed. The Park Reserve is part of the traditional territories of the Nuuchah-nulth nations.

Replace beads and trinkets with fair offers

and environmental guarantees. That's the message to governments and multinational corporations from a conference called Value it: Connecting the dots, which will run May 2 and May 3 in Westbank First Nation. The conference is being organized by Indigenous Nations Economies and Trade (INET) in partnership with Grand Chief Ron Derrickson to help prepare Indigenous communities to deal with an estimated \$650 billion of resource extraction investment on Aboriginal title lands. INET is headed by Arthur Manuel, who served eight years as chief of the Neskonlith Indian Band. "Grand Chief Derrickson is one of the country's most successful Indigenous businessmen who served for 12 years as the Westbank chief and is credited with turning Westbank from one of the economically weakest to one of the strongest reserves in British Columbia," reads a press release. Derrickson now administers his own international business interests from his offices in Westbank and in Kiev, Ukraine. The conference will feature American Indian activist Winona LaDuke and Strategic Bulletin editor Russell Diabo, as well as specialists in mining and Aboriginal title legal rights. "Some communities have been making bad deals because they don't know what their title is worth and they don't know how to negotiate a fair deal with multinational interests in a way that also includes long-term protection of Aboriginal title lands," said Manuel.

Do you have a rant or a rave?

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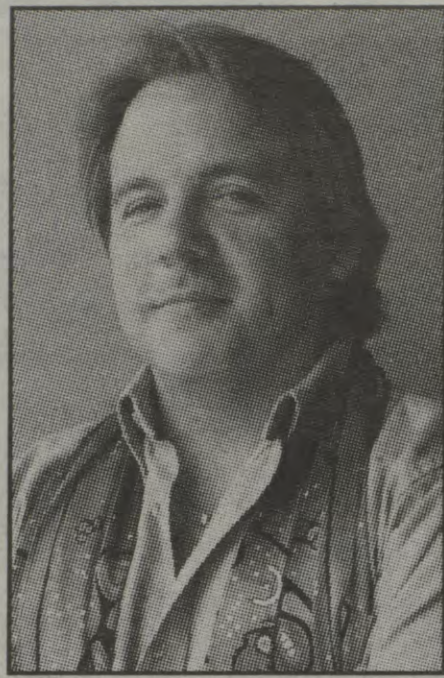
Sticks and stones and no, it's not funny

It's been said we live in kinder, gentler times, that overt and aggressive stupidity by some people, especially towards other people, is gradually being weaned out of our society.

Witness all the zero tolerance messages being enforced in grammar, middle and high schools these days. I heard of one seven year old being sent home for pointing his fingers like a gun at a fellow student and going 'bang'.

Yet, sometimes it's difficult to believe this agenda is working. There are always a few people out there that manage to, with a few words, restore your tainted impression of humanity.

On a national level, the best example of this happened a month or so ago. A group of students at the University of Ottawa, who for some reason known only to them and their like, saw fit to post on Facebook a disparaging conversation, sexual in nature, between four men (and I use the term loosely) regarding a fellow student. A female student, the Student University President. And these



THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

young men were high level dudes in the student government. No doubt a good example of the Peter Principle at a university level.

On a smaller, more personal note, this same bizarre inability to know what's right and what's wrong seems to orbit me. I spend a good chunk of time travelling Canada and the world lecturing about Native culture and humour, trying to breed a level of understanding and bridging cultures. But every once in a while I bump into somebody, usually of a non-Native background, that seems

to think they have funnier opinions and jokes about Canada's Indigenous people than I do. And they are not afraid to share them. In fact, they do so enthusiastically.

It's their complete and total belief that what they have to share is not only acceptable, but also highly funny that fascinates me. I can only hope that God did not indeed create man in his own image. If so, then I am severely disappointed in Him... or Her.

Case in point, two years ago I was lecturing on Native humour at an Adult Learning Centre in

Toronto, waxing on poetically about the origins and nature of Aboriginal humour. Obviously this included telling a few 'Indian jokes' while giving a political and cultural context to each joke.

Next, I do a Q & A, and a young man in the first row puts up his hand quickly, saying he has a joke he wants to share. Question: "What's the definition of confusion on a Native Reserve?" Answer: "Father's Day."

A very old, and tired, joke. I remember that one when I was a kid. I think we've all heard it. Now this White guy is telling it to me, grinning brightly in front of about a 150 people, mostly immigrants whose understanding about Canada's Indigenous people was limited. Now they have this bouncing around in their heads. I think he expected me to applaud his familiarity with Native wit. Then he seemed confused when I didn't share his enthusiasm for his contribution to the lecture.

More recently, when I was playing Texas Hold'em at a local

haunt in Buckhorn, there were two new players that night. I was wearing a novelty t-shirt implying I was a lifeguard from South Africa (it was a gift). I don't quite remember how the topic came up, but one of the guys suddenly burst out asking me "Ever save any Native people?" Not being an actual life guard, and not understanding why he was asking me such a question. I innocently said 'No', and he smiled yelling "Good!"

Once again I managed a weak smile, and debated if this was the time and place to try and educate such an individual. However, I didn't think he was open to possible enlightenment. Besides, I was busy trying to fill an inside straight. (Note: I didn't do it).

It always amazes me how people can think this kind of thing is acceptable. Or relevant. Or proper. Or the worse sin I can possibly imagine, think it is funny!

I should know better. I guess that's the kind of people you meet at poker games, and Adult Learning Centers.

Métis are practical people within the federation

Guest Column
By President
Clément Chartier
Méis National Council

On behalf of the Métis Nation, I applaud the April 17 decision of the Federal Court of Appeal in the Daniels case. It reinforces our longstanding position that the federal government has constitutional responsibility to deal with the Métis.

Ottawa's non-recognition of Métis for jurisdiction purposes never made sense. Logic dictates that it should be Canada's national government that has a special relationship with the Métis, one of the three Aboriginal peoples in the Constitution and one of Canada's founding nations.

I am particularly pleased that the court clarified the Trial Judge's concept of the Métis to make it clear that he recognized the Métis to be a distinct people and that his conception was not contrary to history or the decisions of the Supreme Court

in Powley, Cunningham or Manitoba Métis Federation. The Supreme Court had basically validated our own citizenship criteria adopted before the Powley decision based on ancestral connection to and acceptance by historical Métis communities.

I am also pleased by the Court's affirming that the trial Judge did not issue a declaration that lacked practical utility. The findings it cites in this regard bear repeating:

The federal government acknowledged that the Métis were far more exposed to discrimination than other Aboriginal peoples;

The federal government largely accepted constitutional jurisdiction over the Métis until the mid-1980s, when matters of policy and financial concerns changed that acceptance;

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recognized the existence of a real jurisdictional issue and called for the federal government to bring a reference, particularly in

respect of the Métis, to determine whether section 91(24) applied to the Métis people;

A government document entitled "Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Final Report Comprehensive Assessment for Cabinet Purposes" concluded that it would be premature to embrace the Commission's recommendation to negotiate Métis claims to lands and resources in the absence of a higher court decision on, among other things, the division of federal-provincial liability;

The Métis were not supplied with services while governments fought about jurisdiction, principally a fight about who bore financial responsibility;

The political/policy wrangling between the federal and provincial governments produced a large population of collaterally damaged Métis. As a result, they are deprived of programs, services and intangible benefits all governments recognize are

needed;

The resolution of constitutional responsibility has the potential to bring clarity to the respective responsibilities of the different levels of government.

The recognition of Métis as Indians under section 91(24) should accord a further level of respect and reconciliation by removing the constitutional uncertainty surrounding the Métis.

We as Métis are a practical people who seek practical solutions to make the Canadian federation work for us. As residents and taxpayers of the provinces, we always accepted that the provinces have an important role to play with us. At the same time, we always believed that Ottawa has primary responsibility to deal with us and must show leadership. The Appeals Court decision buttresses this belief. The federal government can no longer shrug its shoulders and assume that Métis matters will be dealt with by others, all the

while knowing this is not being done.

We are not the only ones who have been seeking confirmation of primary federal responsibility to deal with us as a distinct people. Industry has been seeking it as well because it wishes to collaborate with Métis authorities in filling labor market gaps and expediting major energy and resource development projects in western Canada. It wants to work with us in many areas and has been frustrated by Ottawa's indifference to Métis concerns and priorities. It, like us, wants the federal government to set out rules of engagement in matters such as Duty to Consult to facilitate their work with us rather than leaving them in the dark.

I will be writing to Prime Minister Harper, requesting that he enter into government to government talks with the Métis National Council to define the special relationship between the federal government and the Métis Nation.

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Enbridge Northern Gateway hits a hurdle with referendum loss

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

KITIMAT, B.C.

Despite winning the National Energy Board's support last year, Enbridge Northern Gateway took a hit on April 12 after the town of Kitimat, B.C. voted 58.4 per cent against the controversial project, despite being the job-rich terminus for the pipeline.

A spokeswoman for the Yinka Dene Alliance applauded the referendum results, but said that regardless of the outcome it wouldn't have changed the minds of the more than 130 First Nations, which signed the alliance's anti-pipeline Save the Fraser Declaration.

"It was a great victory for many people in B.C. but also across Canada," said Jasmine Thomas of Saik'uz First Nation. "It's an expression of the solidarity being shown across this country."

"You can see why they wanted to amp up their media campaign and door-to-door efforts, but we've said from Day One that we'll be there making sure this project never goes through."

Thomas said the next steps for oilsands pipeline opponents will be to continue invoking Indigenous law as part of their "unbroken wall" of resistance to a project with a high risk of ruptures, spills and tanker accidents.

One day before the plebiscite, Indigenous leaders and land defenders gathered in northern B.C. to reiterate their position that pushing the project through would amount to a violation of their traditional laws, which are based on mutual respect and a relationship with the environment.

"The Save the Fraser Declaration is an expression of our law, but it's not where our law comes from," she explained. "We live our law."

"(This) gathering was the start of seeing that happens ... It affirmed for our people that our decision is legally binding. We must ensure that the Enbridge ban is respected and enforced as part of living our law."

Although largely a symbolic vote by Kitimat residents, which saw roughly three-in-four eligible voters take part, the plebiscite represents "a turning point in the overall campaign" against the pipeline, said Kai Nagata.

The former CTV Quebec Bureau Chief recently joined the Dogwood Initiative as the environmental advocacy group's energy and democracy director.

"We saw what happens when you give people the chance to vote on this project," he said. "In this case, this was a community that had everything to gain from the Northern Gateway pipeline, permanent jobs, \$5 million in tax revenues, but they decided the



Several of the more than 130 signatories of the Save the Fraser Declaration gather in Vancouver to mark its anniversary in 2012. PHOTO: DAVID P. BALL



Members of the Yinka Dene Alliance address media in October 2013 after expressing their opposition to the Northern Gateway to UN special rapporteur James Anaya in Vancouver. PHOTO: DAVID P. BALL

risks weren't worth it.

"Enbridge spent 10 years trying to buy social license ... and they still lost."

But with Prime Minister Stephen Harper's cabinet still to reveal its decision on the pipeline—an announcement is expected this summer—Nagata agreed with Thomas that the tensions between Indigenous and Canadian legal systems will be the most substantial challenge facing Enbridge.

He said the Save the Fraser Declaration's ban on the Northern Gateway "carries a great deal of legal weight," particularly since most of B.C. is unceded Indigenous territories, almost entirely without historic treaties.

That could lead to massive lawsuits against the government should it approve the pipeline against aboriginal wishes.

"However, do we want to wait and watch this go behind closed doors in a courtroom for years and years, and cost millions of dollars?" Nagata asked. "Those

court cases are ... an enormous financial risk for a small community to take on.

"If we can avoid that in any possible way, through a political solution, I think that's the best outcome for everybody."

Such a "political solution," the Dogwood Initiative proposed, is a province-wide referendum following in the wake of Kitimat's. Under B.C. law, citizens can trigger a provincial plebiscite if they collect enough signatures in multiple ridings.

The past month also saw another twist in the Enbridge saga with a completely new pipeline proposal, which was proposed as a First Nations-backed "alternative" to Northern Gateway on April 14. But instead of chemical-diluted oilsands bitumen, the idea is to transport the less-risky synthetic crude through a "state-of-the-art pipeline" from an upgrader in either northeast B.C. or northern Alberta itself.

The Aboriginal-owned firm

Eagle Spirit Holdings Ltd. revealed that—unlike Enbridge—it had spent years "carefully listening to the feedback and concerns of First Nations communities to learn what it might take to earn a social license for such an important project," according to a statement from its president and chairman Calvin Helin.

That support includes the backing of Stelat'en and Nee Tah Buhn bands in B.C., as well as the endorsement of the influential Aquilini Group.

"First Nations have resided on the land for time immemorial," Helin said in the statement. "Their culture and heritage is infinitely tied to the land and the water."

"We have a lot of work ahead of us and will continue to be respectful of First Nations protocols and seek their consensus, taking their lead to bring forward amicable solutions for the benefit of all communities ... Ultimately, it will be their

decision whether or not they support Eagle Spirit Energy's proposal."

Whether the alternative proposal gathers enough steam to be seen as viable is still uncertain, but with Enbridge still on the table—as well as Kinder Morgan's TransMountain pipeline expansion—the Yinka Dene Alliance is calling for a change to how all such projects are built.

Now—after offering gifts at their recent meetings to representatives of the federal government for "finally listening"—the Yinka Dene Alliance hopes Canada will expand its project approval process beyond the current Joint Review Panel model, which the alliance boycotted.

"We've been asking for a separate First Nations review process that actually incorporates our laws and considers Aboriginal rights and title," Thomas said, "but also the cumulative effects of increasing the tarsands and impacts to the climate."

Nation wants answers on lands and munitions

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

ENOCH CREE NATION, Alta.

The fear of unexploded munitions has forced Enoch Cree Nation to immediately close its golf course and historic cultural grounds indefinitely.

The Alberta First Nation is the latest First Nation to find its land had been used for war exercises, says legal counsel for Enoch, Will Willier.

Reserve land was regularly used for training exercises in the First and Second World Wars and the Cold War.

"The federal lands that the (federal government) still had were where all the Indians were. The Department of National Defence is federal. They had to look at their federal lands. They asked for land back from Alberta to bomb unoccupied Crown lands, so the paper work was easier for them just to take it back," he said. "It was common back then to just take back the Indian lands and use them."

Willier points to Vernon, B.C. where unexploded devices killed a number of children. An active training area and five unexploded ordnance legacy sites are located in the Regional District of North Okanagan in south-central B.C., which includes the Okanagan Indian Band land. Willier said the band reached a settlement with the federal government.

He notes that there are two other test sites in Alberta, on the Tsuu T'ina First Nation, where artillery training took place, and the Cold Lake First Nation, where

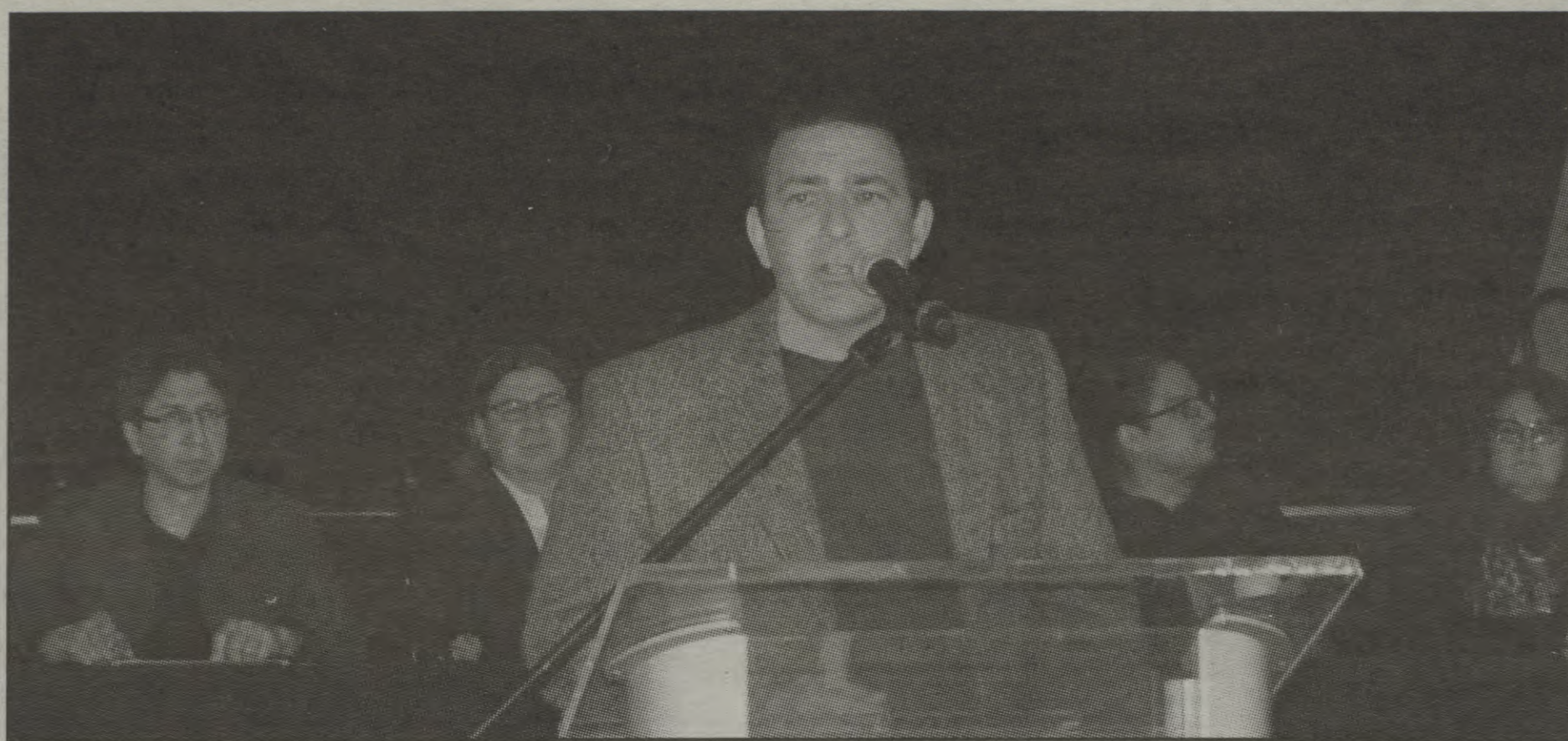


PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Enoch Cree Nation Chief Ron Morin (far left) looks on as Reg Letourneau talks about what his company turned up through accessing government information and doing its own probing. Enoch calls for truth about munitions left on lands.

the Cold Lake weapons range exists.

A claim submitted to the Specific Claims Tribunal by the Enoch Cree Nation for the Yekau Lake area was accepted in June 2011. The claim area, which is a leased area established by the federal government in the 1940s to serve as a Commonwealth practise bombing site during the Second World War, was demarcated by the Department of National Defence. However, DND's own records indicate that bombs fell outside the approved area and Enoch Cree Nation has determined that bombs fell outside three of those four boundaries.

In August 2013, the federal government stipulated that, for the claim to go ahead, Enoch Cree Nation had to accept that the leased land had been remediated and that the Nation be satisfied with the maximum payout of

\$150 million allowed under Specific Claims.

"But if we're accepting the shape of the land that it is in, then we better know that, not based on their records, but based on our records," said Willier.

After years of waiting for a full report from the federal government and getting only sections at a time, chief and council engaged Anvil GeoSpatial Corporation to undertake physical work of the area and an examination of government material provided and government material obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Some very alarming findings have been brought to the attention of me and my council," said Enoch Chief Ron Morin. "We are absolutely disgusted and angry... with these findings."

Morin said that up until the band undertook its own analysis, they had been led to believe by the

federal government that the site was used to drop 11.5 pound smoke bombs. He also said they were told 12,000 munitions were dropped, but council now estimates that number at 140,000 to 200,000.

"Our findings to date contradict the information that was made available to us (by the federal government). Based on that... I have to assume (the area) is potentially dangerous unless the government can basically demonstrate otherwise," said Reg Letourneau, president of Anvil.

"Alarming" information came to light, he said, including two areas that "appeared to be the results of... bomb craters." Also discovered was an unexploded practise round.

"It's relatively harmless, but it's symbolic in terms of what it represents. This is an artillery round. A Nation has been led to believe for almost 70 years that

this was a Commonwealth air practise bombing range and no one had ever suggested it was an artillery range," said Letourneau.

Based on its findings, Enoch Cree Nation is demanding that the federal government take action.

"We're calling on the government of Canada to write full and complete truth about the activities that took place at the site, including disclosure about the number and type of munitions used and all related information," said Morin.

The federal government is also being asked to supply funding to erect a fence around the area in question; provide safe drinking water until it can be determined if the leeching of munitions has contaminated the ground water; restore the land to its original natural state; and financially compensate for the loss of the lake, land, and all activities that cannot occur at the site. The closures will impact at least 50 employees at Indian Lake Golf Course and those within the Nation's cultural department. Council will undertake a search for a new location for cultural activities to be carried out.

Morin said there is also concern that German and Japanese Prisoners of War, who were held in camps at the Enoch Cree Nation, died while in care. He said preliminary examination has found what could be burial sites or graves not far from the POW camps.

"We need to give proper homage, respect and diplomacy to those nations and do proper ceremony here for any of their loved ones that may have been lost," he said.

Tla-o-qui-aht continues to protect its garden

By Debora Steel
Windspeaker Contributor

TOFINO, B.C.

The Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation marked the 30th anniversary of the fight against logging on Meares Island in the Clayoquot Sound at a gathering in Tofino April 20.

On April 21, 1984, Tla-o-qui-aht declared Meares Island a tribal park, and that began the push back against forestry giant MacMillan Bloedel's plans to clearcut 90 per cent of the timber—old-growth forest with trees as old as 1,500 years—on the island.

It also was the start of a Native, non-Native alliance that would spark worldwide attention, rallying against undesirable resource development in the area.

Many of those on the front lines of that struggle gathered for a meal and traditional dances and to share stories from what became known as the War in the Woods.

Chief Councillor Moses Martin, who was chief councillor also at the time of the declaration, remembered the conflict and the help Friends of Clayoquot Sound provided in saving Meares from

being logged off, destroying sensitive salmon habitat, medicine gathering areas, places of spiritual significance, and the systems that provide Tofino with its water.

The day following the celebration, Martin traveled with a small group to the site of a stand-off in November 1984 with MacMillan Bloedel at a place the company dubbed Heel Boom Bay, which the Tla-o-qui-ahts call C'isaqis. Protesters had built a cabin that survives to this day at the base of a planned road that would bring the logs down from the mountain.

The soft-spoken Martin, who stood with many hundreds of people behind him, said he had a choice to make; tell the loggers to stay on their boats or welcome them to the shores. In traditional Nuu-chah-nulth fashion, Martin said he decided to provide a welcome to the forestry representatives. With a sweep of his hand he gestured to the forest and said "You are welcome to come ashore and join us for a meal, but you have to leave your chainsaws in your boats. This is not a tree farm — this is Wah-nah-juss Hilth-hooiss, this is our Garden, this is a Tribal Park."

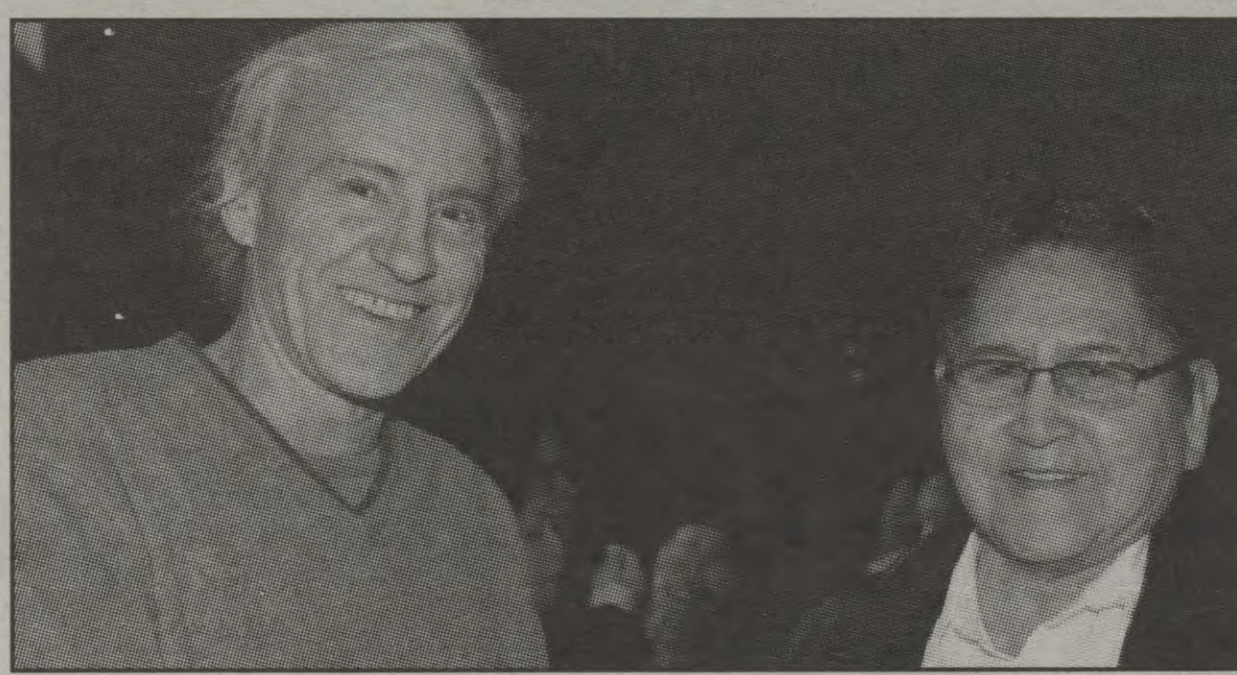


PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

Lee Hilbert (left) was once a forestry engineer working for MacMillan Bloedel. He saw that the company would take 90 per cent of the trees on Meares Island and decided to quit and fight against the plan. He was on the front lines with Chief Councillor Moses Martin 30 years ago.

Martin recalled a discussion between the then chair of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council George Watts and an RCMP officer on the beach that day. The officer told Watts that there was room in his cells for a thousand Indians. Watts, in return, said if the RCMP arrested a thousand of his people that day there would be a thousand more on the island the next.

The fight made its way to the courts and protesters successfully fended off MacMillan Bloedel's logging plans until March 27, 1985 when the BC Court of

Appeal ruled that no logging could occur on Meares Island until Aboriginal land claims had been settled in the region.

Tla-o-qui-aht continues to face threats to its territory from resource developers, including the mining industry. The Nation chose to mark the 30th anniversary of their tribal park declaration by expanding the designation to Tla-o-qui-aht's entire traditional territory, which includes the municipality of Tofino.

The Meares Island Tribal Park was the first Tribal Park declared

in British Columbia and it has inspired First Nations' protected areas across British Columbia and around the world.

"The declaration of Meares Island as a Tribal Park 30 years ago set in motion an idea that has caught and spread throughout Indigenous communities, that we can sustain our cultures by safeguarding the land and living things that provide for us," said Eli Enns, Tla-o-qui-aht co-founder of the Ha'uukmin (Kennedy Lake Watershed) Tribal Park in Clayoquot Sound. "We can assert our own management plans for our territories, as we have been doing for thousands of years, so that we can continue to live in harmony with the land that sustains us — and all of humanity."

Saya Masso, Tla-o-qui-aht band councillor and resource manager, said "We have just finished a tribal park planning initiative that sustains jobs for 500 years, not just 10 years of jobs and 500 years of impact," said. "We are developing plans for our long-term future. We regard fish as a value, the serenity of our lands, and spiritual practices that we have to do there as all vital for our culture."

Appeals Court tidies up ruling on Métis, non-status Indians

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

Both the Métis National Council and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) are lauding the Federal Court of Appeal's decision upholding a lower court ruling that the federal government has jurisdiction over Métis and non-status Indians.

However, in making its unanimous ruling that both groups were covered under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, the Court of Appeal said that non-status Indians were not a distinct group of peoples and that their rights were already included with their existing bands.

Justice Eleanor R. Dawson delivered the decision in her 57-page judgement.

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), who had intervener status in the appeal, had asked that non-status Indians be separated from the declaration that was delivered by the Federal Court in the Daniels' case, which stated, "those persons who are Métis and those who are non-status Indians ... are 'Indians' within the meaning of the expression 'Indians and Lands reserved for Indians' contained in s 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867."

"The court agreed with our submission," said Jason Madden, legal counsel for MMF. "Everyone has always acknowledged that Indians are within 91(24) but what they

don't say is that they're a distinct group that needs to be negotiated with through their own representatives... what they say is that those issues are dealt with through their respective Indian-based collective."

Following the lower court decision in January 2013, CAP National Chief Betty Ann Lavallée said that non-status Indians had a place at the negotiating table. But the Court of Appeal has not upheld that.

In a news release issued following the April 17 decision, Lavallée said she was "very pleased ... the federal government conceded at the appeal hearing that non-status Indians fall under federal jurisdiction."

CAP was created in 1971 and has, as part of its mandate, advocacy for non-status Indians and Métis. CAP and the late Harry Daniels launched the case in 1999, challenging the federal government for denying it had a fiduciary duty to non-status Indians and Métis.

The Federal Court of Appeal also addressed a concern that the lower court decision caused.

"The court (of appeal) actually does what the Métis asked them to do, which was to clean up the potential confusion around the definition in Daniels of who the Métis are," said Madden.

Dawson pulled from the more recent decisions of the Supreme Court of Canada in Powley, Cunningham and Manitoba Métis Federation for her definition of Métis, replacing the view espoused by lower court

Judge Michael Phelan, who referenced a 1980 government definition which defined Métis and non-status Indians as "a group of native people who maintained a strong affinity for their Indian heritage without possessing Indian status."

That definition contradicted the citizenship definition Métis governments across the country have adopted stating that Métis are a distinct people who can trace their heritage back to a historic Métis community.

Dawson reaffirmed the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling that the federal government had a fiduciary relationship with all Aboriginal people, including the Métis.

From that, says Madden, a fiduciary duty flows, which is based on specific facts and specific situations.

"The federal government approach to things has been to historically exclude Métis... but now we have a clear answer," he said. "I think everything will be on the table now, evaluating why (the federal government has) excluded Métis from initiatives."

Dawson made it clear that provincial agreements and legislation with the Métis were not compromised because primary federal jurisdiction over the Métis had been recognized.

Madden expects the federal government will appeal the Daniels decision to the Supreme Court of Canada.

At deadline, neither the Department of Justice nor Aboriginal Affairs had issued statements on the decision.

Story will challenge concepts of truth and justice

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

Shira Leuchter and Chris Hanratty of Unspun Theatre have brought to light a long-forgotten 200-year-old story of a murdering fur trader, Chippewa Indian brothers and a sunken ship. They've turned the story into a performance piece that will be staged May 15 to May 18 at the Enwave Theatre located at Toronto's Harbourfront.

In 1804, the HMS Speedy set sail on Lake Ontario enroute to Newcastle. Passengers on the ship were to try a case against Ogetoncut, a Chippewa man accused of killing a white fur trader. A year earlier, Ogetoncut's brother Whistling Duck had been murdered by a white fur trader. The governor had promised Ogetoncut an immediate trial.

After a year of waiting and with no trial in sight, Ogetoncut decided to take justice into his own hands. He allegedly killed his brother's murderer. The death of



PHOTO: CHRIS HANRATTY & SHIRA LEUCHTER

Shira Leuchter is one of the creators of *The Speedy*, a performance piece about shipwrecks and colonial justice that will be staged at Toronto's Harbourfront May 15 to May 18.

a white man at the hands of an Indian seemingly dictated speedier justice. On Oct. 7, 1804, 20 of the most important citizens of the day boarded the HMS Speedy at modern day Queen's Quay to try a murder case against Ogetoncut.

At the time, it was thought Newcastle would replace York as the capital of Upper Canada. York had only 400 residents at the time

and was considered unsuitable because of its large constituency of criminals and sex trade workers.

Six handwritten copies of the Constitution of Upper Canada accompanied the passengers aboard the HMS Speedy. The ship went down, justice was never served and York remained the capital of Upper Canada.

(See *Story* on page 16.)

Windspeaker News Briefs

A North-South Alliance between Marten Falls First Nation and Aroland First Nation in Ontario was reaffirmed

April 14. Chief Eli Moonias of Marten Falls and Chief Sonny Gagnon of Aroland are anticipating Ring of Fire development with the alliance. "The development of the Ring of Fire requires infrastructure, and the first priority is to build a road that will allow people and goods to move. Building a North-South road to access the Ring of Fire makes the most sense, and since any road built on that alignment will pass through the traditional territory of both our First Nations communities, we are re-affirming our alliance," said Moonias. The North-South Alliance was first announced in March 2012. "Our communities can benefit from the economic opportunities that come with a road, and we want that road to be built in our traditional territories, so our people can benefit. We are willing to work with mining companies, governments and other partners to ensure that our rights are respected and our communities are partners in the development of the Ring of Fire," said Chief Gagnon.

British Columbia rescinded an Order in Council after

First Nations reacted with anger. The Order would have removed regulations requiring environmental assessments for natural gas developments, ski resorts and year-round resorts. The decision was made without any consultation with British Columbians, including First Nations. Government and industry officials were asked to leave the Shale Gas/LNG Summit, hosted by Fort Nelson First Nation in April, as a result of the move. "In a stunningly stupid move, the Province has effectively declared war on all BC First Nations and jeopardized all LNG discussions throughout the entire Province of BC," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs in a press release. The government has apologized for "failing to discuss the amendment with First Nations prior to its approval." Said Adam Olsen, interim-leader of the BC Green Party, "Unfortunately, the BC Liberals continue to make decisions without properly consulting British Columbians and Order in Council #185 was only rescinded after insulting First Nations. The government is burning through political capital in their relations with First Nations and everyone else in B.C. at an alarming rate."

The Chiefs of Ontario have launched a data collection project

that they hope will provide a solid foundation for developing policy and increasing advocacy efforts. It's called the First Nations Regional Early Childhood Education and Employment Survey. It is a product of the First Nations Information Governance Centre. The survey respects the principles of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession and is designed to generate evidence based results. "This program will provide us with invaluable information that will contribute to a better understanding of our needs and priorities in our communities," said Regional Chief Stan Beardy. "This confidential information will focus on First Nations early childhood education and employment needs." The study is being conducted in 10 regions across Canada—the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Wikwemikong First Nation is the first community to agree to participate in the survey in Ontario and the survey team is preparing to visit over the coming few weeks. "We can only benefit by having more complete information about early childhood development, education and employment and a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges that can lead to success," said Ojima Duke Peltier of Wikwemikong First Nation.

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) announced

the 17 communities that have been chosen to participate in this year's saveONenergy Aboriginal Conservation Program, which helps reduce electricity used in residential housing, eligible businesses and band-owned/operated facilities, such as community centres. The program, now in its second year, provides customized conservation services to help First Nation communities, including remote and northern communities, reduce their electricity consumption, build a culture of conservation and improve home comfort. More than 30 applications were considered for year two. Those participating are Fort Severn First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation and Webequie First Nation in the remote category; Iskatewizaagegan #39 (Shoal Lake #39), Mattagami First Nation, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, Chapleau Cree First Nation, Eagle Lake First Nation, Wahgoshig First Nation and Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation in the Near North; Moravian of the Thames, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Wasauksing First Nation, Henvey Inlet First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, Serpent River First Nation and Whitefish River First Nation in the South. Members in participating communities will work with a certified energy auditor, who will recommend energy-saving measures based on an assessment of their homes. Based on the assessment, eligible businesses and facilities can receive between \$300 and \$1,500 worth of energy-efficient lighting and water heating upgrades free of charge, installed by an approved licensed electrical contractor.

Focus shifts from truth to reconciliation

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

"I am inspired by the stories that we have heard and the dialogue and commitment to reconciliation that we have witnessed ... I have been moved by the incredible generosity of spirit that we have seen from survivors and from the intergenerational survivors... I was brought to tears by the acts of love you showed each other," said Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chair Justice Murray Sinclair in the closing ceremony of the seventh and last national event hosted by the TRC.

The Edmonton gathering, held March 27 to March 30, had 3,243 survivors registered, and 420 statements gathered. Attendance averaged 8,500 people each day. Federal, provincial and municipal governments committed to various activities that would lead to both the sharing of Canada's darkest period of history, as well as work toward reconciliation.

Youth stood strong, willing to take on the mantle of leadership. Churches, beyond the four that signed the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, apologized and pledged to walk the path with survivors and their families.

Honourary witnesses promised to follow through with their task of teaching about the residential schools legacy. People from around the world tuned into the

TRC's webcast, with more than 30,000 streams to 36 countries.

But pledges made for the future do not mean action is not needed now, said former Prime Minister Joe Clark, who was previously inducted as an honorary witness.

"The relationship between Indigenous leaders and successive national governments has too often been fractious and disappointing. Moreover, in my view, there has been a decline in the genuine interest of Indigenous issues shown by the non-Indigenous Canadians," said Clark.

Treaty rights are not being adhered to.

Full consultation is not happening at all levels of government. Recommendations that have come through various accords and agreements have not been followed. The federal government is not undertaking a national public inquiry into murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls. And the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, along with partner organizations, is in front of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The Canadian government is accused of underfunding children in care on reserve as compared to provincial funding for children in care living off-reserve.

Sinclair warned that achieving reconciliation will not be easy.

"Reconciliation is going to be damned hard work. If you thought the truth was hard, reconciliation is going to be even harder," he said. "By discovering

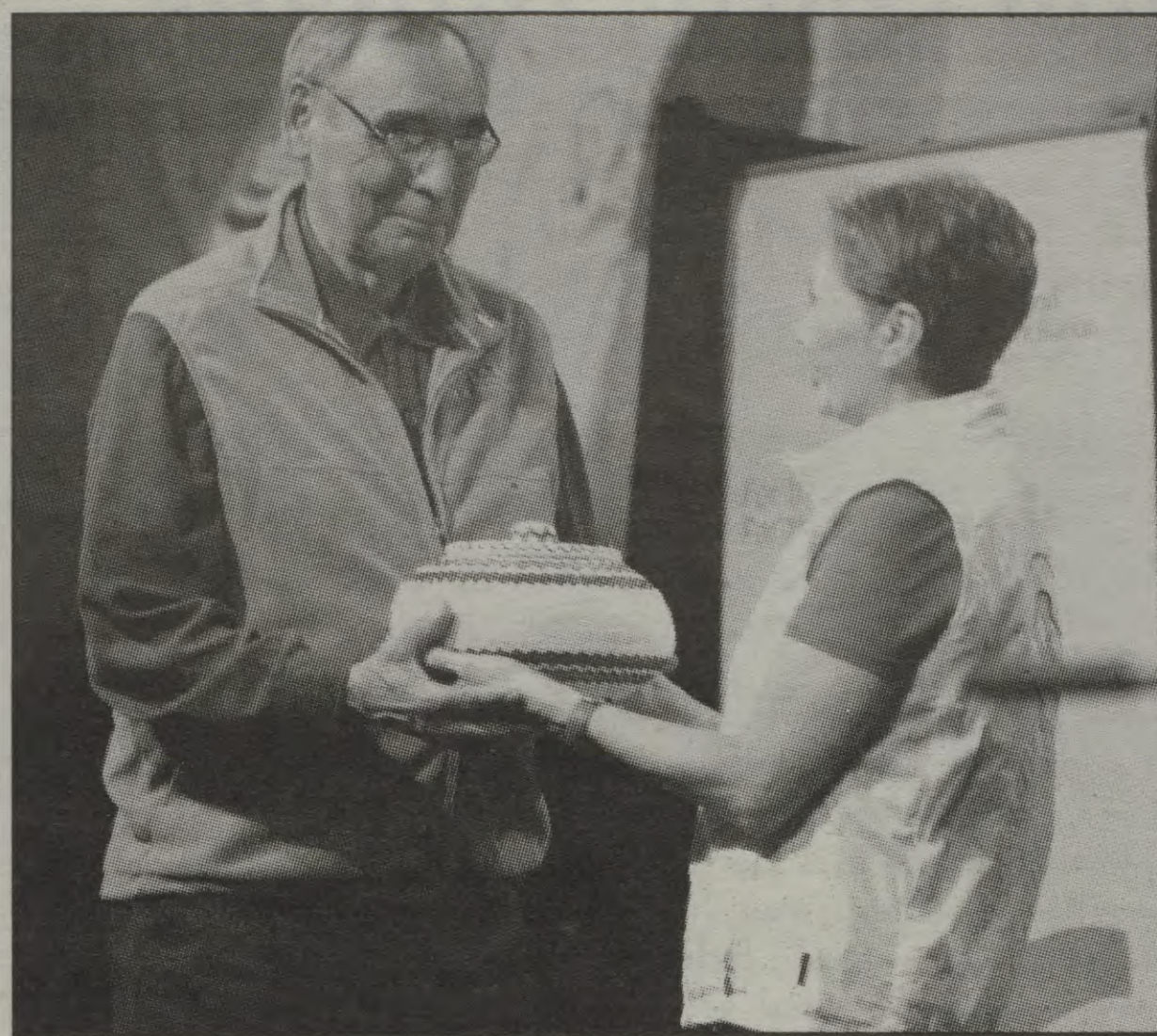


PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Brenda Reynolds, representative from the Edmonton planning committee, transfers the basket containing the ashes from the sacred fire, which includes the tissues that dried tears cried, to Gordon Williams, the Ontario representative on the Survivors Committee.

what we have discovered and what we have talked about and what we have (told) the Canadian public, we have revealed things that people did not expect to know, that people did not expect to see and hear about. And it has caused anger on the part of survivors and their families. It has caused anger in the Aboriginal community generally. It has caused anger from the part of those who get the blame about all of this."

Responding to that reaction, said Sinclair, will be a vital part of the commission's work.

"We have to put forward a plan that takes into account that anger,

which we have... helped to create by opening this doorway. But anything that results from a dialogue that does not include that knowledge would be useless," he said. "That is why we must now embark on that conversation of reconciliation."

In writing the final report, a task the commission has already begun, Sinclair said academics and political leaders will have role to play. The commission will also be meeting with specific groups, including Elders, youth, women, and the lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender community, to hear what they think the TRC should say about reconciliation in the

final report.

"We want the voice of our report to be strong, we want it to be inclusive and we want it to be in a direction that people understand," said Sinclair.

Getting a strong commitment for reconciliation is important, said Justice Frank Iacobucci, who served as the federal government's negotiator for the IRSSA, and who was inducted as an honorary witness in Edmonton.

"Although the report of the TRC will be again crucially important, even more important will be to give meaning and implementation to the words and spirit of their report. And this calls on all Canadians, not just Aboriginals, to support a pathway forward to establish a harmonious, respectful, collaborative partnership between Canada and its Aboriginal people," said Iacobucci.

Sinclair stressed that youth will be driving this move to reconciliation and while "we need to ... ensure that they are aware of the past, (we must ensure) they do not carry all the burdens of the past, including the frustration, the anger and the pain."

The closing ceremony for the TRC will be a single day event to take place in Ottawa in 2015. Sinclair said the TRC may hold a series of one-day events in the coming year throughout the country in order to hear from more survivors and their descendants.

The TRC was created through the IRSSA and received a one-year extension on its original five-year mandate.

NRC to be memory of residential school experience

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

Valerie Crowshoe and her husband Ivan McMaster chose not to tell their stories at the seventh and final national Truth and Reconciliation Commission event held in Edmonton March 27 to March 30. But the event did open their eyes.

"We learned something new every day," said Crowshoe. "I may be preparing for my healing journey."

Crowshoe attended the Anglican Church-run St. Cyprian Indian Residential School on the Piikani First Nation from 1953 to 1960. She was taken at five years of age. McMaster was a student at Old Sun Indian Residential School, also Anglican-run, at Gleichen from 1947 to 1956, starting there at seven years of age.

"From this conference it makes me think I wasn't the only one mentally and sexually abused," said Crowshoe.

If the healing journey leads her to tell her story over the next year, she may get the opportunity if the TRC's plan to hold smaller community events leading up to the closing ceremonies in Ottawa

in July 2015. But if it takes longer, the National Research Centre will be available.

The NRC, which has not yet been officially named, will open its doors when the TRC shuts down. The NRC will be located at the University of Manitoba, which was awarded the contract after an open competition. The NRC headquarters will be at Chancellor Hall and will have a space to allow survivors to continue to provide their statements.

"The one thing that needs to happen, I believe, is that we must not lose sight of the survivor no matter what. I've seen it happen too many times where these (events) become everything else but the survivor," said Barney Williams, Jr., one of the 10 members on the Indian Residential Schools Survivor Committee, which serves as an advisory body to the TRC.

The governing model for the NRC includes a survivors circle, as well as a governing circle, comprised of partners, universities and First Nations, Inuit and Metis representatives.

"The national research centre is also a place that is really meant to be governed by Aboriginal peoples in a lot of ways as well.

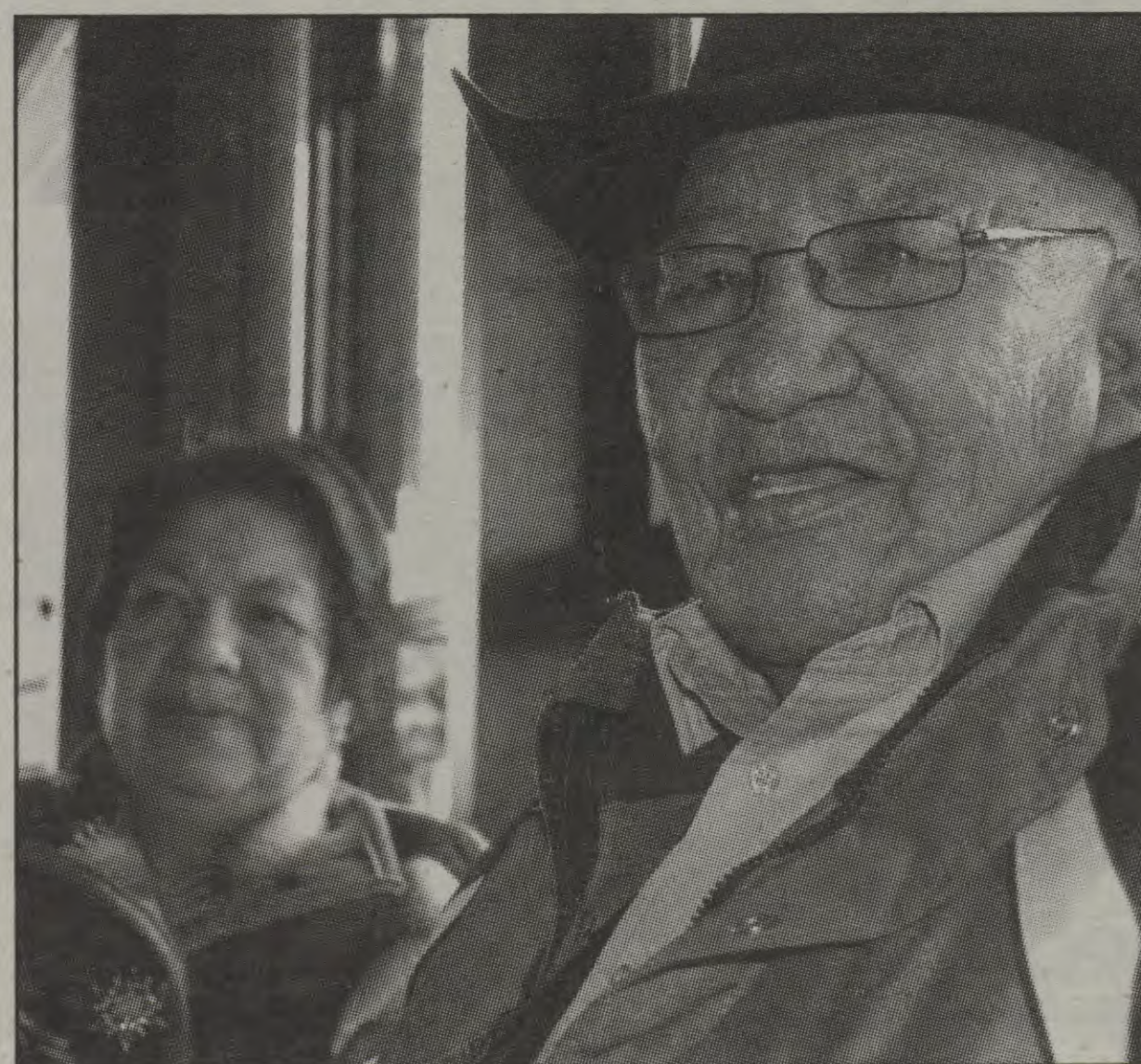


PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Both Valerie Crowshoe and her husband Ivan McMaster attended residential school. "From this conference it makes me think I wasn't the only one mentally and sexually abused," Crowshoe said.

This is really an important aspect of bringing control back over Aboriginal people's records to Aboriginal people," said Ry Moran, newly-appointed director of the NRC.

The NRC will contain documents and records from the federal government and churches that signed the Indian Residential

School Settlement Agreement, along with the statements of survivors and their descendants. Gifts and statements of reconciliation that were placed in the Bentwood box will also be included in the NRC.

"These to me are very sacred items that we are talking about. They're about people's lives.

They're about our lives as survivors. And they're also about our children's lives who are very much affected by our schools and our experiences," said Doris Young, also a member of the survivors' committee.

Young spent 13 years in two residential schools. "It's not just a research centre and these are not just statistics that are going to be housed in this place. This is a place of sacredness for our people... a final resting place where our experiences are going to be."

The development of the NRC is in its early stages, said Moran, who led a panel and open microphone discussion at the TRC event in Edmonton.

The NRC has partnerships across the country as well as with the National Association of Friendship Centres that will facilitate access to the close to four million records, which are primarily digitized. However, Moran stressed that private statements will remain private.

The centre will also serve to educate the public. While it will provide information for those who wish to advocate for survivors, it does not hold that role of advocating itself.

(See NRC on page 21.)

Provinces commit to residential school instruction

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

The Alberta and Yukon governments are the latest to commit to curriculum development to get the history of Indian residential schools taught in the classroom. But for the real story to be told, instruction has to go deeper and be consistent, say proponents of Aboriginal learning.

"I don't think it's enough for us just to say, 'Listen, we had residential schools, it's terrible and we apologize and now Canada's a better place,'" said Wab Kinew, director of Aboriginal inclusion at the University of Winnipeg.

"We cannot divorce the residential school system from the motivations of it, and that needs to be taught as well. We ought to teach that, yes, residential schools happened ... but we also need to teach that the origins of that system, the motivations of it, were to open up our lands for settlement."

Kinew spoke in response to a question that dealt with the role of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's

National Research Centre. Would it advocate for a change in school curriculum? Kinew was part of a panel discussion on the NRC during the seventh and final national event for the TRC held



PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Westaskiwin Mayor and former teacher Bill Elliot (centre) was inducted as an honorary witness by Truth and Reconciliation Commission members Marie Wilson and Chief Wilton Littlechild.

in Edmonton at the end of March.

As part of expressions of reconciliation, Alberta and the Yukon said curriculum would include Indian residential schools in classes kindergarten through Grade 12.

In a letter, Premier Darrell Pasloski said Yukon was working with First Nations to develop curriculum that would include "the residential school experience and the significant impacts."

Premier Dave Hancock and Aboriginal Relations Minister Frank Oberle personally delivered the Alberta government's commitment, which went a step further. Not only would residential schools be included in the curriculum — Alberta operated the

most residential schools in the country at 25 — but that the "curriculum must include the diverse perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples living in Alberta in relation to historical and contemporary contexts."

The need for such curriculum development, particularly in Alberta, was underscored by comments made by Wetaskiwin Mayor Bill Elliot, who was inducted as an honorary witness in Edmonton.

"I taught school for 32 years in Wetaskiwin, said Elliot. "I was not aware residential schools existed in our area and the last one closed in 1996. Until the TRC hearing last July (in Maskwacis) I knew

nothing about residential schools survivors."

Wetaskiwin is located less than a 20-minute drive from Maskwacis, which is the central community for four Cree First Nations.

"There is curriculum development going on," said Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Lakehead University vice-provost, Aboriginal initiatives, also part of the NRC panel, "but it's not happening completely."

In a partial list provided by the TRC, and in addition to Alberta and the Yukon, Manitoba, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories have each committed to teaching about

residential schools in the classroom.

"(This) is the latest information that we have gathered about where the provinces and territories are in terms of mandatory curriculum. We know it's not up-to-date, but haven't the resources right now to update it," wrote Heather Frayne, senior communications advisor with the TRC.

Wesley-Esquimaux noted that many teachers she has spoken to do not feel comfortable teaching about residential schools. She suggested that teachers heading to the northern parts of the country, where the Aboriginal population is the heaviest, should be given training to prepare them to go into the isolated communities.

"So one of the things we push for is that teachers colleges have more than one hour on First Nations peoples, that they have an actual course that is well-thought of, well-informed," she said.

Kinew applauds the work to be undertaken by the provinces and territories, but adds that the educational demographics have to be wider.

"We're doing good things, but in as much as we need to focus on educating people through kindergarten to Grade 12 and at the university level, we can't forget to educate the adults of this country as well because that's where most of the work needs to be done," he said.

AIP claims triple expectations

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

There are still more than 12,000 cases—more than one-third of the applications received—that need to work their way through hearings in the Independent Assessment Process.

The Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat expects it will be 2018 when all reviews are concluded and the last compensation made.

Unless new schools are added to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement's prescribed list of approved schools.

"If there are other applications pending and if those are successful, then the court would ensure to be asked to provide an extension to the deadline to apply," said Chief Adjudicator Dan Shapiro. "That is another reason why we can't give an exact date on when our work will be complete. There may be other schools that become eligible, and therefore other former students become eligible."

The deadline for applying for the IAP was Sept. 19, 2012. IAP, which was part of the negotiated IRSSA, provides compensation to students who can prove they suffered physical, mental, emotional, and sexual abuse at residential schools. The IRSAS is a quasi-judicial system. Hearings are non-



PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

The Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat (from left) Executive Director Shelley Trevethan, Chief Adjudicator Dan Shapiro, and Senior Communications Officer Michael Tansey, was in Edmonton recently to launch its video "Telling Your Story."

confrontational and, although a representative for the federal government is present, only the adjudicator is allowed to ask the survivor questions. When the IRSAS was established in 2007, it was expected that 12,500 applications would be received. To date, 38,000 claimants have stepped forward.

The IRSAS was in Edmonton March 27 to March 30 for the seventh and final national event of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and were providing updates for IAP claimants as to the status of their applications.

The IRSAS also launched a video entitled "Telling Your Story." The short piece informs

residential school survivors, their families and supporters, what to expect at the hearing, which takes place wherever the survivor chooses.

"Many folks are telling their experiences for the first time and so it is understandable they would find the experience difficult and emotional," said Shapiro. "The whole intention (of the video) is to try to minimize the areas of anxiety or apprehension that people have going into their hearings so they can focus on getting their experiences out and then providing their testimony."

To date, \$2.75 billion has been paid out in compensation. The

average award is \$100,000. In the "most extreme case," said Shapiro, compensation has been awarded at \$285,000, and there is a loss of income portion that may reach up to \$250,000.

Of the claims already dealt with, not all resulted in financial compensation as some were withdrawn by the applicant or dismissed by the IRSAS, said Shapiro.

"Historically, there's been a success rate of about 90 per cent. It doesn't mean a person received everything they were asking for but in about 90 per cent of the cases that went to hearings before our adjudicators, the claimants

were awarded some compensation," he said.

If all the information needed to make a decision is provided at the hearing, the IAP requires a decision be made within 30 days of the hearing. Shapiro noted that "certain benchmarks" had been established through research conducted by Canada which may validate or refute the survivor's claim.

"A claimant may name a new alleged perpetrator at the hearing (and) that could require further research to be done and that perpetrator has the right to be contacted and to participate at the testimony," said Shapiro. The alleged perpetrator is not required to participate. Shapiro noted that while criminal charges have been brought against a number of the perpetrators it has not been as a result of the IAP hearings.

Requiring further information, such as medical records or psychological assessment, will also cause a delay in the process.

Shapiro said a record 4,500 hearings are anticipated in this new fiscal year, about 300 more than took place in the previous fiscal year. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, 3,000 more hearings are expected to be held.

"It's a big project," said Shapiro. "Some of (the claimants) are getting older, some of them are having health difficulties, and we want really to make sure they have their hearings and we do everything we can to make sure that happens."

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

The First Nations Education Steering Committee

is "deeply disappointed" that Bill C-33, the so-called First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, is an updated version of the October 2013 proposal for legislation that was resoundingly rejected by First Nations. Tyrone McNeil, president of FNEC, said "Bill C-33 will effectively displace our BC First Nations Education System that First Nations have spent the past two decades building. Our system is comprehensive, accountable and includes standards designed by First Nations for our 130 schools." Bill C-33 does not sufficiently accommodate regional diversity or protect the system, reads a press release from FNEC. BC chiefs, through resolutions, formally called for the October proposal to be set aside and for a new one be co-developed with First Nations on a government-to-government basis consistent with their inherent rights. "The government has not responded to concerns and recommendations put forward by BC First Nations through many submissions over the past several months," McNeil said.

"Not once did the government come to First Nations in BC to meaningfully discuss how to address our needs. Instead, the process was closed and lacked transparency." Contrary to First Nations control over the education of their children, the Bill would create a new Joint Council of Education Professionals to be appointed by Ottawa to advise the minister, reads a press release from FNEC. Bill C-33 outlines an extensive list of regulations to be developed that will prescribe in detail how First Nations schools can operate, according to minimum standards set by Canada. "Canada committed to a robust engagement process to co-develop regulations," said McNeil. "However, regulations will be approved by the minister, with advice from his Joint Council. This council will provide opportunities for First Nations to 'make representations' to it on regulations. This is not co-development of the regulations." Greg Louie, president of the BC First Nations Schools Association said the Bill raises serious challenges. "It mandates costly administrative procedures and will detract from focusing resources on

classrooms. We are not prepared to sacrifice our hard work and achievements in BC in First Nations education." FNEC believes government wishes to pass the Bill before summer. FNEC will examine the Bill in detail and bring First Nations together to determine next steps.

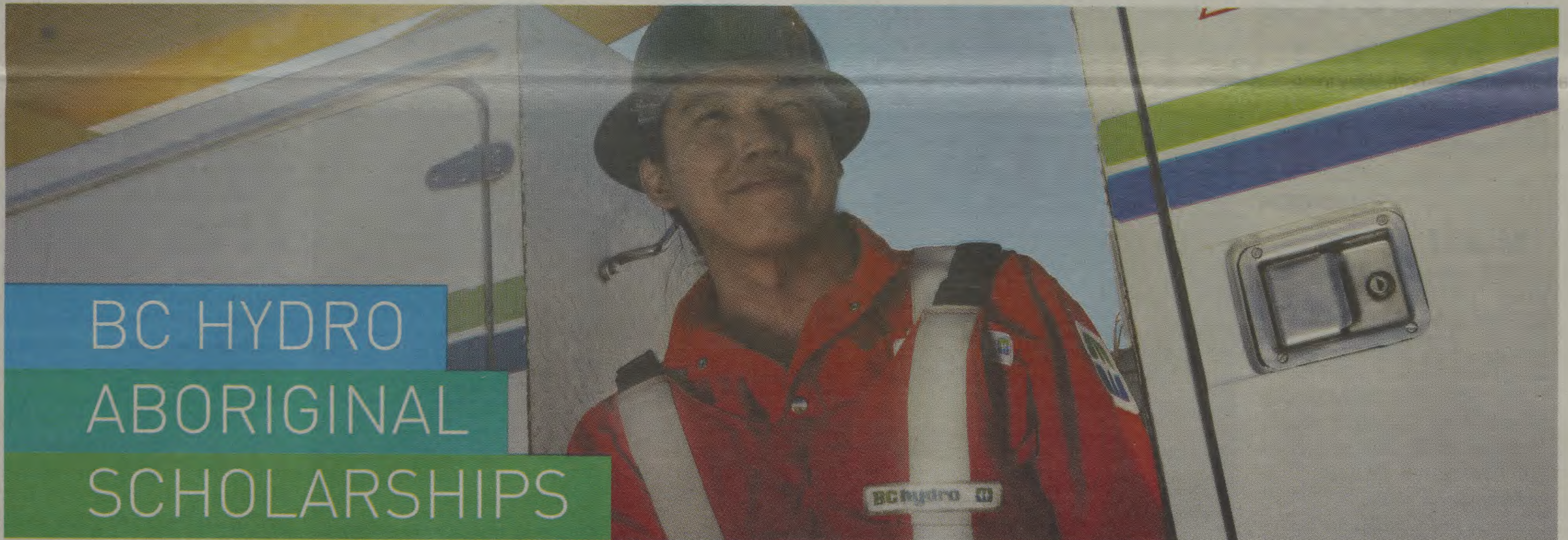
The Gitksan hereditary chiefs have set a deadline

of June 21 for the governments of Canada and British Columbia to withdraw offers of land and rights claimed by Gitksan to the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum. The hereditary chiefs will stop discussions on proposed pipeline development if the Crown chooses to ignore this deadline, reads a press release. Agreements in Principle signed last spring offers land and rights taken from the Gitksan hereditary chiefs, they say. As a result, the Gitksan believe the Crown has been in an unfair consultation process with the Gitksan that began in September 2011. "These offers by both governments are unconscionable and without proper notice to the affected Gitksan Simgiigyet (chiefs),

says negotiator Bev Clifton Percival. "The Supreme Court of BC in 2002 ruled that the Gitksan have a strong prima facie right and good prima facie title to these very lands since 1846. The Gitksan have better rights and title to those lands than even that of the governments under the Constitution of Canada, 1867." Tenimgyet, Art Mathews said the province does not have the authority to overrule the courts. "The Crown is jeopardizing the treaty they are negotiating with the Kitselas and Kitsumkalum by attempting to take legally recognized rights and title from us. This situation is occurring in no less than four other areas in B.C." Natural gas pipeline projects are being proposed on Gitksan territory by Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Ltd (PRGT Project), Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Ltd (Spectra Energy) and Pacific Northern Gas Ltd (PNGL). All projects will be affected by this deadline, say the chiefs.

Aboriginal Tourism BC (AtBC) has launched a full-service travel agency

dedicated to the business and leisure needs of companies, First Nations bands, organizations and individuals throughout Canada. Developed as a social enterprise, Aboriginal Travel Services will use the latest technology, including a comprehensive online booking platform, that will provide the best rates with airlines, hotels and car rental companies. It will also offer full meeting and event planning. With an extensive knowledge of local, authentic Aboriginal experiences, ATS is able to provide unique packages to interested leisure and corporate travellers. "The launch today is a major achievement and is a reflection of the hard work and dedication by our management team and board of directors," said Keith Henry, CEO of Aboriginal Tourism BC. "Extensive review and research was completed and AtBC is extremely proud to launch a First Nations owned and operated agency that will reinvest profits into the Aboriginal communities and tourism initiatives—truly a win-win for all involved."



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Applications accepted January 27 to April 15, 2014

Apply for the BC Hydro Aboriginal scholarship. You are eligible if you are a Grade 12 student planning to pursue a full-time post-secondary education or if you are a student enrolled in a full-time post-secondary program, and can self-identify as Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis or Inuit). Students pursuing an education in technology or engineering will be considered priority applicants. General Admission students are also encouraged to apply.

Application forms and further details are available online at bchydro.com/scholarships.

For more information:

Jeannie Cranmer


Aboriginal Education and Employment Strategy Manager

Phone: 604 623 4401

jeannie.cranmer@bchydro.com


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Alberta Sweetgrass: Special Section providing news from Alberta

Cancer information released to public, not Fort Chipewyan First Nations

The release of a report about the state of cancer in the Fort Chipewyan area has First Nations leaders incensed despite Alberta Chief Medical Officer Dr. James Talbot's claim that the government's hand was forced through a request for information put in by a third party. "This is gross negligence. The leaders of Fort Chipewyan have been requesting a thorough analysis on incidences of cancer in our community for years. Not only was this research and study done without our direct participation we were left in the dark about key findings and the announcement of the release to the public," said Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam in a news release. "This behaviour is once again reminiscent of the way the government of Alberta has treated our community in relation to the public release of cancer statistics related to our community," said Mikisew First Nation Chief Steve Courtoreille, in a news release. The findings from the report, which covers 1992-2011, indicate that cancer rates in the area are on par with the rest of Alberta, although there are reasons to be concerned about cervical, biliary tract and lung cancers. However, none of these are environment-related. Talbot said children under 15 who had cancer were more likely to be impacted by environmental causes, but there are no such

reported cases of cancer in the region for that demographic, which Talbot said is "reassuring." Talbot was clear that the information he related was not from a study, but from ongoing work undertaken by Cancer Control Alberta.

Redford resigns amidst spending controversy

Premier Allison Redford stepped down on March 23, turning over the reins of the province to David Hancock. She announced her intention on March 20. Redford was a strong proponent of controversial pipeline projects that were being protested by First Nations and Energy Minister Diana McQueen said the government will continue to back proposals from Enbridge, Kinder Morgan and TransCanada. Redford came under heavy criticism for her \$45,000 price tag on her South African trip for President Nelson Mandela's funeral. Redford, a lawyer, was elected to the Alberta legislature in 2008 and led the PC party to a majority in the April 2012 election. She will remain as the MLA for Calgary-Elbow.

Dover oil sands project receives Cabinet approval

Brion Energy Corp.'s Dover oil sands project was given approval by the Alberta cabinet on March 13 after the company and Fort McKay First Nation reached an out-of-court agreement. The Dover oil sands project is a 250,000-barrel-a-day steam-

driven bitumen project. Brion is 60-per-cent owned by PetroChina; Calgary-based Athabasca Oil Corp. has the rest. Brion still requires an approval from the province's environment department, a process that normally takes two to four weeks following the cabinet decision. The project received conditional approval from the Alberta Energy Regulator last summer, but was held up when Fort McKay disputed the decision, and was granted leave to appeal in court. No details were released regarding the agreement struck between the oil company and the First Nation, although a 20-kilometre buffer zone, for which Fort McKay First Nation had been pressing, was not granted. That buffer zone, said Fort McKay officials, is a talk that needs to happen with the government.

Further consultation with Aboriginal groups for southern land-use plan

Robin Campbell, minister of Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development, said he will be consulting with Aboriginal communities before finishing up a land-use plan for southern Alberta. "I've asked my department to take a second look at some things because I want to make sure we're doing it right and that we've engaged all of the stakeholders," Campbell told the *Calgary Herald*. The upcoming South Saskatchewan plan covers all of

southern Alberta, which includes 13 First Nations and one Métis nation. Campbell said he's hired former Siksika Chief Fred Rabbit Carrier to meet with southern Alberta Elders and community members. Further consultations are not expected to delay release of the plans, says a department spokesperson. The plan is expected this spring.

Public input on child intervention roundtable sought

The public has until April 11 to respond to the government's report from the January roundtable on child intervention. The roundtable, while heavy on experts and those who work in the system, was light on Aboriginal representation and those who were part of the child welfare system. Approximately 68 per cent of children in government care are Aboriginal. There was a strong consensus that all child deaths should be investigated; that the child death review process be structured and transparent; and that more information on the investigations be made public. Online input into the report from the public is being accepted. "It is my hope that Albertans will take the time to help me drive change and improve our services to Alberta's most vulnerable," said Human Services Minister Manmeet S. Bhullar, in a news release.

New oil and gas leases, license disturb caribou ranges

The Alberta Wilderness Association says the Alberta government has auctioned more new oil and gas leases/licenses allowing surface disturbance within its threatened woodland caribou ranges since October 2012 when the federal caribou recovery strategy mandated provinces to start developing plans to protect caribou habitat. Alberta has also announced that by April 30 it plans to sell even more leases/licenses in five caribou ranges. "Alberta's ongoing energy leasing in caribou ranges leads directly to more surface disturbance, which increases the already high risks to its threatened caribou," said Carolyn Campbell, conservation specialist at AWA, in a news release. "This undermines the federal caribou strategy requiring provinces to reduce risks to their caribou, and violates Alberta's own stated caribou policy priority to maintain caribou habitat. Alberta must stop this irresponsible disregard for the basic survival requirements of caribou, or we will lose these populations within a few decades." All Alberta boreal caribou populations have habitat disturbance levels well beyond the maximum 35 per cent threshold set in the federal strategy.

First Nations among the less than 20 per cent granted full status

Dozens of First Nations are among the 400 interveners the National Energy Board has

accepted for the upcoming Kinder Morgan proposed Trans Mountain pipeline expansion hearing, slated to begin in August. More than 2,118 applications were received seeking intervenor status for Kinder Morgan's \$5.4 billion pipeline expansion from Alberta to the company's Westridge terminal in Burnaby, British Columbia. Intervenor status was also granted to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Environment Canada, and the Alberta and BC provincial governments.

Written submissions will be accepted from an additional 1,250 individuals and groups. Changes to the NEB, effective July 2012, limit participation in the hearing to those directly impacted by the project as well as those with specific expertise or information.

Syncrude hits \$2-billion mark with Aboriginal businesses

Syncrude has reached a major milestone by passing the \$2-billion mark in business conducted with Aboriginal-owned companies. Syncrude first began tracking the amount of goods and services procured from Aboriginal-owned companies in 1992 as part of its commitment to business development in its Aboriginal Relations Program. "Even before we began production in 1978, Syncrude's founding president Frank Spragins insisted the wealth created from oil sands development should benefit Aboriginal communities in the region," said Syncrude President and CEO Scott Sullivan, in a news release. "We have established excellent long-term partnerships with Aboriginal-owned contractors, who have delivered high quality goods and services safely." The \$1-billion threshold for business conducted between Syncrude and Aboriginal-owned companies was crossed in 2006. Syncrude does business with more than 25 Aboriginal-owned companies based in Wood Buffalo and is a founding member of the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association.

New endowment award at U of L told help Indigenous students

The new Masson Family Endowment and Masson Family First Nations Transition Program Award at the University of Lethbridge will support both the university's First Nations Transition Program as well as individual FNTP students. Alumnus Richard Masson, who established the fund, said, "I started with pretty meager financial resources, so I'm a big believer in helping students out financially." Masson is CEO at the Alberta Petroleum Marketing Commission. The FNTP assists incoming students, students returning to university education after an absence to make a smooth transition. The program has as its goal to increase university attendance by and success of First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Syncrude Canada Ltd.
Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act
Notice of Application

AMENDMENT TO EXISTING OILSANDS MINE

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Syncrude Canada Ltd. has applied to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development for an amendment to an existing approval to construct a nominal 92 megawatt (MW), dual fuel fired power plant. The fuel for the gas turbine generator will be both natural gas and refinery fuel gas. The proposed project will occur within the boundaries of the existing upgrader facility located in the NW 1/4 of Section 6, Township 93 Range 10 West of the 4th Meridian (in the Fort McMurray area).

Pursuant to section 73 of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, any person who is directly affected by this operation may submit a written statement of concern regarding this application. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board. Such a statement of concern must be submitted within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

Environment and Sustainable Resource Development
Regulatory Approvals Center
Main Floor, 9820 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6
Fax: (780) 422-0154
Email: aenv.northernepea@gov.ab.ca

Please quote Application No. 035-26 when submitting a statement of concern in regards to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act application.

NOTE: Any statement filed regarding this application are public records which are accessible by the public.

Copies of the application and additional information can be obtained from:

Syncrude Canada Ltd.
Attention: Fred Payne
BOX 4024
FORT MCMURRAY AB, T9H 3L1

Telephone: (780) 790-6249
Fax: (780) 790-6338

Syncrude
Securing Canada's Energy Future

The Syncrude Project is a joint venture undertaking among Canadian Oil Sands Partnership #1, Imperial Oil Resources, Mocal Energy Limited, Murphy Oil Company Ltd., Nexen Oil Sands Partnership, Sinopec Oil Sands Partnership, and Suncor Energy Ventures Partnership.

Saskatchewan Sage: Special Section providing news from Saskatchewan



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Artwork recognizes Child Taken

A group of University of Saskatchewan art students showcased their work at the seventh and final national Truth and Reconciliation Commission gathering in Edmonton in March. Their creations are part of the Child Taken Project, meant to raise awareness about the history and effect of residential schools on Aboriginal youth through art. The project was a result of a partnership between the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the university's Department of Art and Art History. A portfolio of the artwork was offered to the TRC as an expression of reconciliation and was placed in the Bentwood box.

Natural resource royalties to go directly to band

Kawacatoose First Nation is the first band in the country to take full control of money earned from its land and natural resources. Under the Indian Act, First Nations communities have to go through Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada to get permission to use their own money and finalize business contracts related to oil and gas reserves. Now that the Kawacatoose First Nation has opted into the First Nations Oil and Gas and Moneys Management Act, it can manage its own finances, including royalties from oil, mining and gas. Investors will be able to provide the band with more flexible capital because it is in full control of natural resource royalties and can use them as collateral to attract investment, said John Jurrius, president and CEO of Native American Resource Partners, a firm investing in resource development on Kawacatoose land. Chief Darin Poorman says this will help the community develop its natural resources and use the funds to tackle local problems, such as overcrowded housing, poor infrastructure on reserves and healthcare for the elderly.

(Continued on page 23.)



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National Energy Board / Office national de l'énergie



Public Notice

FUNDING AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEB'S REGULATORY PROCESS REGARDING THE ENERGY EAST PIPELINE PROJECT

The National Energy Board is making \$2,500,000 available under its Participant Funding Program to assist landowners, Aboriginal groups, incorporated non-industry, not-for-profit organizations, and other interested persons to participate in the regulatory process of the proposed Energy East Project. A higher amount may be considered once applications for funding are received.

TransCanada filed a project description on 4 March 2014, informing the Board that an application seeking approval for Energy East will be submitted later this year. The proposed project would include converting an existing natural gas pipeline to an oil transportation pipeline and the construction of new pipeline segments to transport oil from Alberta to New Brunswick.

The funding available will help those who are interested in reviewing the Energy East application and participating in the hearing. Interested persons are encouraged to review information on the proposed project, including the List of Issues, before submitting an application for funding.

Funding must be used to prepare for and participate in the hearing. Details about the hearing will be announced by the Board at a later date.

To receive funding, interested persons must apply for and be accepted as an Intervenor in the NEB's regulatory process. Only persons who are directly affected or persons who in the Board's opinion, have relevant expertise or information, can be accepted as Intervenors. A funding review committee, independent of the regulatory process, will consider all applications for funding and make recommendations on the allocation of funds.

Funding applications should be submitted as soon as possible. Funding will only be awarded for hearing related activities conducted after you have signed a Contribution Agreement.

Information about the Participant Funding is available on the Board's Web site (www.neb-one.gc.ca) under *Public Participation*; select *Participant Funding Program*. Please review the *Participant Funding Program Guide* to determine when and how to apply for funding and what will be covered.

For more information, please contact:
Participant Funding Program Coordinator
Tel: 1-800-899-1265
E-mail: PF.PAFP@neb.one.gc.ca
Web site: www.neb-one.gc.ca

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Send your resume to derrickmotorhotel@gmail.com or Fax to 306-634-4878

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11th Annual Aboriginal Gathering on Diabetes
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Spots fill quickly! Please pre-register!
Contact: Lauren Suchan at lauren.suchan@diabetes.ca or 306-933-1238 X 228 for further information.



National Energy Board

Office national de l'énergie

Canada

Public Notice

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The NEB will be hosting public information sessions about the NEB's role as a regulator for this Project, its public hearing process and participant funding.

Saint John, New Brunswick

Saint John Exhibition Association, Building #1
37 McAllister Drive
12 May 2014, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Hampton, New Brunswick

Saint Alphonsus Parish Hall – 22 Church Street
13 May 2014, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Edmundston, New Brunswick

Quality Inn – 919 chemin Canada
14 May 2014, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Cacouna, Quebec

Parish Hall – 425 rue de l'Église
15 May 2014, 6:30pm-8:30pm

For more information on the Participant Funding Program, please contact:

Participant Funding Program Coordinator

Tel: 1-800-899-1265

E-mail: PFPPAFP@neb.one.gc.ca

For more information on upcoming open houses contact:

The Energy East Process Advisory Team

Tel: 1-800-899-1265

E-mail: EnergyEast.ProcessHelp@neb-one.gc.ca

Protest over Energy East pipeline

First Nations members and other organizations were out in protest at the open forum held in Thunder Bay on April 9 and 10 for the TransCanada Energy East Pipeline proposal. The proposed 4,600-kilometre pipeline is expected to carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil daily across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario to reach refineries in Quebec and New Brunswick. The pipeline routes will pass through a number of First Nation territories across the provinces. Despite the environmental concerns, TransCanada said the project will create thousands of direct full-time jobs and billions of dollars will contribute to Canada's economy. The day after the forum, a protest took place with members of the Council of Canadians and First Nation and community allies at the corner of Gore Street and Brown Street near the CN rail oil trains shipping yard.

First Nations call on government to clean-up contaminants

"We need high-level action from government and industry that brought these contaminants into our territories. We need them to take responsibility for cleanup," said Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy following a recent two-day Chiefs of Ontario Contaminant Workshop held in Timmins. "While new business in forestry, natural gas, energy and mining are being considered, the mess left behind on our homelands the first time around remain there. It is affecting not only the environment but our health and our traditional way of life." The workshop indicated that contaminants are a critical area that requires high-level attention between First Nations, scientific researchers, government and industry. It was the first formal meeting that focused explicitly on contaminant issues. Since 2008, First Nations in Ontario have been calling on the federal government to clean up Mid-Canada radar sites, ensure healthy environments, and provide funding to address contamination, environment, and nutrition and to develop safe guidelines for contaminants in food and water.

Enbridge's Line 9 could be challenged in court

The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation has filed a request to the Federal Court of Appeal seeking leave to appeal the National Energy Board's approval of Enbridge's Line 9 pipeline project. Enbridge wants to reverse the flow of Line 9 and increase its capacity from 240,000 barrels a day to 300,000. The 38-year-old pipeline runs between Sarnia

(Continued on page 23.)

Women prisoners kept in 'zombie-like' state on meds

By David P. Ball
Windspeaker Contributor

Canada's Corrections watchdog has launched an investigation into the increasing "over-medication" of female prisoners — some into a perpetual "zombie-like" state while incarcerated.

One Native woman is believed to have gone into a coma because of being drugged by authorities.

With Aboriginal women making up a disproportionate number of those incarcerated across the country, advocates say it will take significant and deep change before the injustice is addressed.

The announcement that Correctional Investigator of Canada Howard Sapers will probe why 60 per cent of federal women inmates are reportedly on at least one psychotropic drug — up from 42 per cent in 2001 — is being praised by prisoner advocates with the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. But the group remains cautious after decades of unmet reform promises.

"We're very happy to see it's being investigated," executive director of Kim Pate told Windspeaker. "The challenge will be whether the practices will be changed."

"It's a huge concern, especially when you consider how many women enter prisons with all kinds of trauma. Zombifying, putting them into zombie-like states, is not appropriate. Essentially, it's a way to not have emotional reactions from the women, to have them basically not in any way be a challenge to the administration."

Pate cited data that 91 per cent of all Aboriginal women serving federal sentences (those longer than two years) have histories of physical and sexual abuse before incarceration. But with many women undiagnosed upon being jailed, powerful antipsychotic medications like Seroquel are being used "off label" as a sleeping pill, despite health warnings against using the medication for unintended purposes.

Despite making up only two to three per cent of the Canadian population, Aboriginal women make up 34 per cent of prisoners, a number which could reach a full half this decade, Pate said. That figure is already more than double

the national average in the Prairie provinces, where the numbers of psych drugs also skyrocket.

In an email to Windspeaker, Correctional Service Canada disputed the number of women being treated with psychiatric medications, despite previous media reports finding that there was no CSC data collection on the drugs' prescriptions to inmates. As of April, a spokeswoman said that federally 54 per cent, or 298, female inmates were "receiving at least one psychotropic drug."

The emailed response stated that prescriptions were administered only by health professionals and the practice meets "professionally accepted standards."

"The Correctional Service of Canada has a legal mandate to provide essential health care to inmates and mental health care that can contribute to the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders," the email read. "Treatment of psychiatric illness is established on a case by case basis, based on offender need, and may include psychiatric medications."

But advocates argue that sedating women prisoners in such high numbers amounts to an extreme reliance on "chemical restraints" to make women more compliant, something some call a form of cruel and unusual punishment.

On top of that, a high number of female prisoners are locked up for either an escalating cycle of administrative or non-violent offences, or for acts of self-defence against their abusers, according to Pate.

"We know there's an increased use of restraints overall in prisons," she said. "When I ask (correctional) staff what makes women difficult to manage, many will talk about emotional responses like crying or being upset, not posing a danger to anyone else."

"Let's face it. Anyone in prison for 20 to 30 years will have mental health issues — often created by the prison environment, even if it was sparked by residential school."

Like many issues in Indian Country, the dark history of the racist schools, up until the last one closed in 1996, looms large in understanding today's crises.

"Many of the women impacted by this have previously been in

residential schools," she said, citing several cases of women who were already in jail within a year of leaving the notorious schools. "It's a tragedy. People had no access to their family, culture and communities. It's not a surprise that when they were thrown out of school they ended up figuring out how to survive on the streets. Many ended up in abusive relationships, among the missing and murdered women, or in prison."

She said that many women she works with behind bars were only categorized as "dangerous" in jail after their first assault charge inside prison itself. But she cited several cases where women were charged with assault for trying to defend themselves from inappropriate or abusive strip searches and interventions from guards.

One prisoner repeatedly defended her right to fair treatment, Pate said, which led to her being drugged repeatedly into submission because she was viewed as combative towards authorities.

"The response was always more punitive punishment towards her instead of correcting the actions of staff," she said. "What gets characterized as 'mental health problems' in prison are often circumstances of people's reasonable reactions to unreasonable situations."

"It's not unreasonable for somebody to be depressed when they're suddenly institutionalized. When you talk about the legacy of residential schools, these women had to resist authority, quite frankly in order to survive, and many have had to survive in increasingly marginalized circumstances because of income and abuse."

Elizabeth Fry Societies want to end over-prescriptions, particularly for off-label uses akin to forced sedation — and instead boost the services and support for women struggling with mental health issues such as depression behind bars.

For instance, helping connect them with family members and community, even if through access to internet chat services like Skype, would go a long way towards healing and rehabilitation. Likewise, improved counselling services available at all times would also improve things.

Story will challenge concepts

(Continued from page 9.)

"We've joined two different art forms in this piece," said Leuchter, "choreography and movement, and song." Leuchter and her husband came up with the idea after they discovered the story of the Speedy.

"We'd looked for stories specifically that happened at the Harbourfront site," she said. "We wanted to shed a light on the gaps

in the colonial justice system, the different approaches to the notion of justice, as well as the different ways we pass our stories along. We wanted to look at the question of what does the idea of truth mean."

Aboriginal involvement has been important, said Leuchter. Thunder Bay-based Metis actor and playwright Keith Barker will be performing in *The Speedy*. *Native Earth*, a Toronto-based

Aboriginal theatre company has reviewed the script. "Native Earth has been incredibly generous with us," she said. "They've been a great resource."

"We're hoping this story will change how people look at the ground under their feet and that they'll think about the city in a different way. This is such an important story and such an interesting story," said Leuchter.

Health Watch

Compiled by Shari Narine

Fort Chipewyan First Nations push for cancer study

The public release of ongoing work undertaken by Cancer Control Alberta has local First Nations enraged. The work declared that although certain cancers are prevalent in the region, which is steeped in tarsands development, none are due to environmental concerns. Local chiefs are angry that the report was released to the public and not to the First Nations or their councils. Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, the Mikisew Cree First Nation and Nunece Health Authority had asked for an advanced copy of the report from the government but had been denied. They sought the information through a Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, which was filed by the Liberal Party. Alberta Chief Medical Officer Dr. James Talbot then released the information publicly. Athabasca Chipewyan Chief Allan Adam said in a news release that "not only was this research and study done without our direct participation, we were left in the dark about key findings and the announcement of the release to the public." The chiefs are now calling for a study because statistics released by Talbot show that lung, cervical and bile duct cancers were higher than the provincial average. "Getting money to fund an independent study is definitely something we are seriously looking at and discussing," Chief Steve Courtoreille of the Mikisew Cree First Nation told Fort McMurray Today.

Culturally safe cancer care needed in Inuit communities

Cancer has become the second-highest cause of death in the Inuit population. The Inuit Cancer Control in Canada Baseline Report provides context for the cancer pathway for Inuit and includes information on promising practices across the cancer control continuum. It looks at the patient experience from screening and diagnosis through to survivorship or palliative care, as well as challenges experienced by Inuit patients throughout their cancer journey. "The necessity of medical travel, health human resources shortages and lack of culturally relevant resources and services present significant barriers to effective cancer control," said Lee Fairclough, vice-president, Strategy, Knowledge Management and Delivery at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. This baseline report is part of a series of reports released by the partnership to further examine emerging priorities for action among First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

Action Plan extended for suicide prevention

Partners in the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy have announced a one-year extension to the first phase of the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan. Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the Government of Nunavut, the RCMP and the Embrace Life Council formed the partnership in 2008. The strategy was released in 2010 and the accompanying action plan in 2011. "There is no easy fix to this terrible crisis, but NTI and our partners in this strategy know that we need additional time to evaluate the action plan, to learn from what was accomplished and to incorporate these important lessons into our work as we move on to full implementation of the strategy. This partnership is essential. It will continue until we find meaningful solutions that reduce suicide in Nunavut," said NTI President Cathy Towntongie. Since beginning work on the action plan, the partners have addressed knowledge and service gaps in mental health and suicide prevention in Nunavut. In addition, considerable progress has been made on all eight commitments outlined in the action plan.

Healthy living programs receive additional funding

The province of Ontario is doubling its support for three successful health promotion programs run by Aboriginal organizations and tailored to their unique cultural traditions and knowledge. The programs, Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living Program, offered by the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, the Healthy Eating and Active Living program, delivered by the Aboriginal Health Access Centres, and the Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program, through partnership with the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association, all provide hands-on experience such as access to community kitchens and gardens, school and family-based healthy eating and physical activity programs, and recreational activities such as sport and dance, which incorporate traditional cultural practices. The government is providing \$4.3 million to expand the healthy eating and active living programs, and another \$2.2 million over four years to support the Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program.

By Sam Laskaris

Alaska wins Arctic Winter Games

The host Alaska contingent ended up winning the most medals at this year's Arctic Winter Games. The Games are held every two years and feature representatives from the circumpolar north. As a result, many of the competitors at the AWG are Aboriginal. The multi-sport competition was staged March 15 to March 22 in Fairbanks, Alaska. Team Alaska ended up winning a total of 202 medals (68 gold, 60 silver and 74 bronze). The Yamal contingent, featuring representatives from Russia, finished second in the overall medal standings, racking up 134 medals, including 55 gold. The Games included five Canadian teams. Alberta North placed third in the medal count, with 129 medals. The Northwest Territories team was fourth with 86 medals, while Team Yukon was right behind them, collecting 85 medals. Nunavut finished in seventh spot with 32 medals while Quebec's Nunavik side ended up in eighth place with 31 medals. The other competing teams were Greenland and Sapmi, featuring athletes from Finland, Norway and Sweden. The AWG did feature plenty of winter sports, including alpine skiing, cross-country skiing and snowboarding. But there were also several activities held indoors such as badminton, basketball and gymnastics. Two of the other activities offered were Arctic Sports and Dene Games. Arctic Sports included one- and two-foot high kick competitions and the Dene Games featured disciplines such as the snow snake and pole push. About 2,000 athletes, coaches and support staff took part in this year's AWG. Age categories varied from sport to sport, but the majority of the entrants were ages 10 to 24.

Six Nations gets another team

It's no secret that Six Nations has long been a lacrosse hotbed, but if any further proof was required, it is provided with the fact that the Six Nations Warriors, an expansion Junior C team, are gearing up for their inaugural campaign. The Warriors are one of 10 teams that will participate in the West Division of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Junior C circuit. The league also includes a seven-squad East Division. The Warriors will play a 16-game regular season schedule. The club's first game is set for May 9 against the host Shelburne Vets. The Warriors will then stage their home opener the following night against the Vets. The Warriors become the third junior franchise from Six Nations that competes in the OLA. The Six Nations Rebels are one of 26 squads that take part in the OLA's Junior B league. And the Six Nations Arrows Express is one of 11 entrants in the Junior A loop. Six Nations also has a pair of men's teams that are members of the OLA. The Six Nations Chiefs and five other clubs take part in a league dubbed Major Series Lacrosse. And the Six Nations Rivermen is one of seven clubs in the OLA's Senior B league. Six Nations also has another men's team, the Six Nations Slash, which competes in Can-Am Lacrosse. The Slash is the only Canadian squad in the eight-team league.

Rush season is over

A pair of Native American minor hockey league players had their hopes of winning a championship come to an end. Winston Day Chief and Justin Sawyer were members of the South Dakota-based Rapid City Rush, a club that competes in the Central Hockey League. The league, which featured 10 teams during the 2013-14 season, is considered a couple of steps below the National Hockey League. Six of the CHL squads this season were an affiliate team for an NHL franchise. The Rush, however, is not affiliated with a team in the NHL. Rapid City had an impressive regular season, posting a 39-23-4 record. The Rush finished fourth in the league standings, one point behind the third-place Allen Americans from Texas and just eight points behind the front-running Missouri Mavericks. Rapid City though was upset in its opening round of the playoff by the fifth-seeded Quad City Mallards of Illinois. The Mallards won the best-of-seven series thanks to 3-1 Game 7 victory. Day Chief, a 26-year-old Blackfoot who is from Alberta's Blood Reserve, and Sawyer, a 28-year-old Ojibwe who was born in Peterborough, Ont., were both in their second seasons with the Rush. Day Chief was one of Rapid City's offensive leaders. He finished third in team scoring with 54 points, including 26 goals, in 58 regular season contests. But he only had two points in the playoff series versus the Mallards. Sawyer, a 6-foot-6, 240-pound defenceman, had a different role with the Rush. He led the squad in penalty minutes; 155 minutes in 58 regular season games. He also had 16 points. And he did not see any playoff action.

Organizers pull off struggling national bonspiel



Men's Champs: Lionel Chartrand - Skip; Rod Wuttunee - Third; Duane Parker - Second Sam Wuttunee - Lead



Karon McGillivray - Skip; Marie Jebb - Third; Dianne Sergeew - Second; Norma McLean - Lead

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

SASKATOON

Lionel Chartrand was not sure whether the Canadian Aboriginal Curling Championships would even be held this year.

The national bonspiel had been cancelled in 2013 and it appeared doubtful it would be revived this year.

But following some hurried preparations, organizers did indeed manage to stage the event this year. It was held April 18 to April 20 at Saskatoon's Granite Curling Club.

Chartrand, a 59-year-old Metis criminal lawyer who lives in Edmonton, is glad the bonspiel was brought back. He skipped a rink to the championship in the men's category, which featured 26 teams. The nationals also included a women's division, which attracted six entries.

The Canadian bonspiel featured representatives from Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Chartrand had previously skipped teams to victories in 2004, 2010 and 2012. He's obviously thrilled to be called a Canadian champion once again.

"I never get tired of hearing that," he said.

Chartrand had only registered for the Canadian bonspiel three weeks before it started.

"Everything seemed tentative," he said. "I had heard it was going to be cancelled."

Once he received word the event was indeed on, Chartrand then had to find himself some teammates.

His team included brothers Sam and Rod Wuttunee from Saskatchewan's Red Pheasant First Nation, who played lead and third for the rink, respectively. Saskatoon's Duane Parker was the second for the winning team.

The Wuttunees and Parker are all Cree.

Chartrand had previously played with his teammates at a bonspiel four years ago.

Despite only practicing together briefly the evening before this year's nationals began, the Chartrand-skipped entry fared well. The foursome ended up posting a 7-2 record in Saskatoon.

Chartrand was one of the older competitors at the nationals. But he doesn't believe he was the oldest.

"There were guys with more grey hairs than me," he said. "And there were guys with less hair than me."

Chartrand, who has been curling for 41 years, is a member at a pair of Edmonton-based clubs, the Crestwood Curling Club and the Saville Sports Center.

Though he had enjoyed previous success at this event, he was a bit surprised to take top honours once again.

"I didn't expect to win it," he said. "I went there with a totally different team. But we had fun and we had a good run."

Chartrand's rink also made a bit of money at the event. By winning the championship they were presented with a \$4,000 cheque, a figure which was 10 times more than its \$400 entry fee.

Karon McGillivray from Manitoba's Opaskwayak Cree Nation skipped a team to the championship in the women's division.

McGillivray's teammates included a pair of other women from her First Nation, lead Norma McLean and third Marie Jebb. McLean and Jebb are sisters.

The winning rink also included Dianne Sergeew, a Metis from Meadow Lake, Sask., who played second for the team.

For McGillivray, this marked

the fifth time she has won a championship at the national bonspiel. She had previously skipped two others rinks to titles in the women's category and she also won a pair of championships in the mixed (two women, two men) division.

The mixed category, however, was not held at this year's nationals.

McGillivray, who plays out of The Pas Curling Club, was a bit disappointed there were not more participants in the women's division.

"There used to be 24 ladies teams in the past."

McGillivray's rink won all seven of its matches in Saskatoon.

"I knew we would have some tough competition," said McGillivray, a 58-year-old who has been curling since 1982. "And curling can go either way. But we knew as long as we played a good game and kept our heads in the game we would have a chance."

This year the nationals were held thanks to the efforts from individuals from Ile-a-la-Crosse, a Metis community more than a six-hour drive north of Saskatoon.

"It seems like they're always looking for people to (organize it)," said Nap Gardiner, a spokesperson for this year's bonspiel.

Besides last year, the 2011 national tournament had also been cancelled.

Gardiner said it cost about \$20,000 to run this year's event. Organizers were hoping to at least break even on the bonspiel through various sponsorships and the funds collected from registration fees.

Gardiner said officials from Ile-a-la-Crosse also plan to continue staging future national bonspiels.

"We're intending on learning this year and enhancing it and growing it in future years," he said.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

Annual Windspeaker Insert — May

Check online for complete listings at www.ammsa.com

Scholarship Search Tips!

- When fishing for scholarships, cast the widest net you can, focusing on your area of specialty while applying for general scholarships/bursaries anywhere you're eligible. Admissions offices will often have listings, but internet searches are also effective, and many applications can be completed online.

- 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.

- Always try and keep copies of documentation, such as letters of support, to use for multiple submissions. Many scholarships can be completed online.

- Read guidelines thoroughly and check biographies of past winners.

- Remember to make deadlines – even the strongest candidates will be eliminated if they file too late – this demonstrates commitment and responsibility! And if you don't make it this year – your chances can only increase with time and experience for next year.

- Many sponsors learn who their students are and maintain a supportive relationship, which can even include summer employment opportunities.

- Everyone likes to back a winner! List past scholarships and bursaries received, for that "snowball effect".

NATIONAL

The Canadian Medical Foundation Dr. John Big Canoe Memorial Scholarship
 Deadline: Applications and supporting documentation for the 2014/2015 academic year must be received by October 2014. 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: Marie-Jeanne Schoueri, Office Manager
The Canadian Medical Foundation,
 1867 Alta Vista Drive,
 Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7
 Phone: (613) 520-7681
 Toll Free: 1-866-530-4979
 Fax: (613) 520-7692
 Email: marie-jeanne.schoueri@cmf.ca
 Web site: www.medicalfoundation.ca

Canadian Medical Association Special Bursary Program for Undergraduate Aboriginal Medical Students

Deadline: October 9

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.

Applications and supporting documentation to: Marie-Jeanne Schoueri, Office Manager
The Canadian Medical Foundation,
 1867 Alta Vista Drive,
 Ottawa, ON K1G 3H7
 Phone: (613) 520-7681
 Toll Free: 1-866-530-4979
 Fax: (613) 520-7692
 Email: marie-jeanne.schoueri@cmf.ca
 Web site: www.medicalfoundation.ca

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

Tom Longboat Award

Sponsored by: The Aboriginal Sport Circle
 Eligibility: Nominations are invited from all levels of sport. To be eligible, nominees must meet the following criteria:
 Must be of Aboriginal descent
 Must have amateur status in the sport which they are nominated
 Must be for athletic achievements within the awards calendar year
 Must submit a completed Nomination Form to the appropriate Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sport Body on or before the annual deadline.
 Value: TBA

Criteria: Currently enrolled/accepted in medical program, demonstrated exceptional academic abilities, involved and committed to extra-curricular activities

Deadline Date: January each year.

For more information contact:

Aboriginal Sport Circle at

Email: mtrudeau@aboriginalsportcircle.ca

Ph: (613) 236-9624 ext. 223

website: www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca

Educational Awards Program - Husky Oil

Deadline: May 31

Awards announced: July 31

Up to 7 Aboriginal students are selected each year.

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

RBC Aboriginal Student Awards

Deadline: January 31

Ten (10) awards of up to \$4,000/ year for four (4) years at university or two years at college.

- * You are a permanent resident or citizen of Canada

- * You have been accepted to or are currently attending an accredited post-secondary institution in Canada

- * You maintain a full course load that leads to a recognized degree, certificate or diploma

- * You require financial assistance to pursue your education

ATCO PIPELINES ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AWARDS PROGRAM

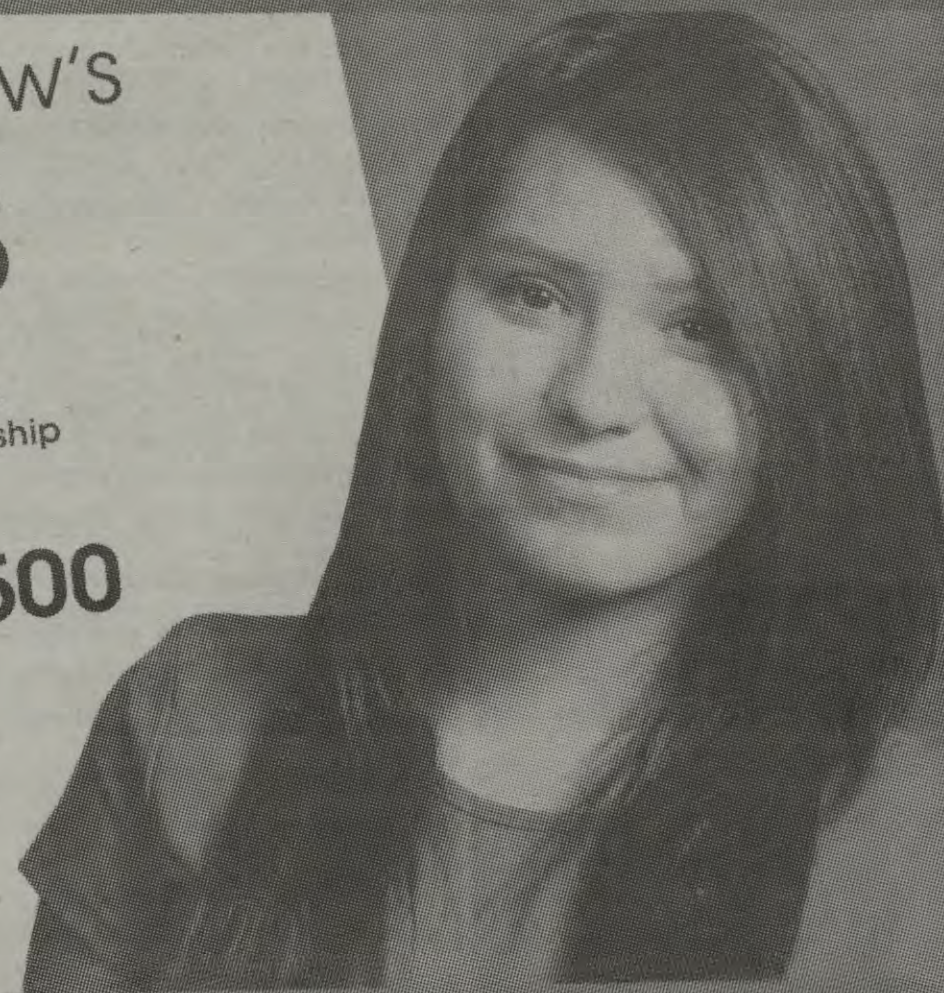
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 For more information, please contact ATCO Pipelines Corporate Communications at 403.245.7300

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Aboriginal Student Access Program (ASAP)



Considering the University of Calgary, but wondering where to begin?

ASAP offers a selection of first year classes, concurrent upgrading, workshops, tutoring, academic advising and assistance, as well as cultural supports and activities.

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For more information, please call 403-220-5975 or e-mail asap@ucalgary.ca

ucalgary.ca/nativecr/asap

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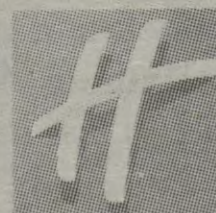
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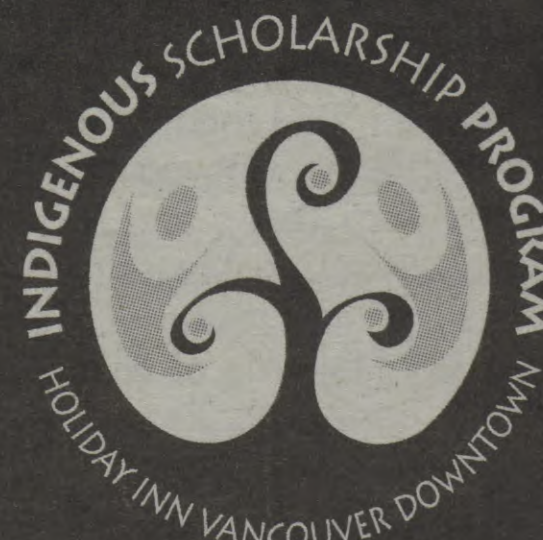


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Aboriginal Scholarship & Bursary Guide

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A committee of Aboriginal academics and RBC representatives review all completed applications and makes the final selection of the award recipients primarily based on personal and academic achievements and individual financial need. Successful applicants are notified of the committee's decision by June 15 of each year. All decisions of the committee are final.

You will receive up to \$4,000 per academic year for educational and living expenses for a maximum of four years. To receive the full amount for all years of study, you must attend an accredited post-secondary institution, remain in the program of study we awarded the scholarship for and maintain a full-time course load and good academic standing. RBC requests confirmation of your full course load and good academic standing at the beginning of every fall and winter semester. This confirmation will be collected in a way satisfactory to RBC. You will receive the first half of your scholarship at the beginning of the fall semester. If you maintain a good academic standing, you will receive the balance in January. Please note that RBC reserves the right to change or discontinue this program at any time. We will honour commitments already in place if the program changes or ends.

Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-780-2188

Toll-Free Fax: 1-866-780-2188

Mail:

RBC Aboriginal Student Awards

C/O Aboriginal Link

PO Box 50058, 17-2595 Main Street

Winnipeg, MB R2V 4W3

www.gotoapply.ca/RBC

Strategic Alliance of Broadcasters for Aboriginal Reflection (SABAR) Scholarship
Deadline: May 16, 2014.

SABAR is pleased to offer our first annual Scholarship to an Aboriginal student in Journalism or Radio/Television Arts. SABAR is particularly proud to play an important part in supporting the development of a future community leader who may have the potential to help us meet our primary goal of increasing Aboriginal reflection in Canadian broadcasting.

Eligibility: 1. First Nations, Inuit or Métis

permanent Canadian resident;

2. Desire to follow a path to a career in the broadcast industry;

3. Enrolment in Canadian post secondary Journalism or Radio and Television Arts Program or Equivalent Certified Training Program; and

4. Interest in acting as an ambassador for the broadcasting industry and serving as a role model for other Aboriginal people to encourage them to pursue careers in broadcasting.

Guidelines: One scholarship valued at \$5,000.00 will be awarded. This award may be applied to academic and/or living costs.

Scholarship winners are eligible for continued scholarship awards each year they continue in their approved programs in the amount of \$2,500.00 annually to a maximum total scholarship value of \$10,000.00.

For more information: www.sabar.ca

Canada - US Fulbright Program

Deadline: November 15

Student must be American or Canadian with Native Heritage and attending a post-secondary education institution studying countries relations between other countries. Value of award is \$15,000.00 for student and \$25,000.00 for faculty members enrolled in graduate studies.

For more information contact:

350 Albert Street, Suite 2015,

Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 1A4

Ph: (613) 688-5540

Fax: (613) 237-2029

E-mail: info@fulbright.ca

web site: www.fulbright.ca

Investing in the future growth of Aboriginal Youth - Canadian National

CN makes awards available to Inuit, status or non-status Indian or Métis students entering or enrolled full-time in a post-secondary program in Canada that leads to a career in the transportation industry. This includes fields such as engineering, business, computer science, communications and technical studies.

Deadline: June 1 of each year.

For more info. contact your band office, friendship centre or college of your choice

Web Site: www.cn.ca/en/careers-offer-scholarships-aboriginal-awards.htm

To obtain further information or an application form, please contact:

Aboriginal Awards Program

c/o Indspire

70 Yorkville Avenue, Suite 33A

Toronto, Ontario M5R 1B9

Telephone: 1-800-329-9780 (toll-free)

CN Scholarship For Women

Deadline: October 15 each year

CN encourages women to pursue non-traditional careers in areas such as trades, technology and operations. To date, participation by women in these fields has been limited. This is a special CN initiative aimed at promoting employment equity in Canada. Scholarships are awarded annually to women in selected community colleges and institutes of technology across Canada.

Web Site: www.cn.ca/en/careers-offer-scholarships-women.htm

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

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Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7

Phone: 1-800-668-2642

Web: www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca

ATCO Pipelines Aboriginal Education Awards Program

The ATCO Pipelines Aboriginal Educational Awards Program is aimed at supporting Aboriginal students from First Nations and

Métis communities in close proximity to our facilities. Successful applicants will demonstrate a balanced lifestyle and commitment in the pursuit of education. These awards, bursaries and scholarships are awarded to select students who demonstrate leadership capabilities and strive to be role models in their schools and communities.

This program was launched in 2011 and saw 26 students from across the province receive awards.

There are three different awards available:

- Merit Awards - of \$500 to be granted each year; Must be attending High School (completing grades 10-12).
- Bursaries - bursaries of \$1000 to be granted each year; Must be attending a recognized trade/community/technical college diploma or certificate program; Preference will be given to those enrolled in a program relating to the natural gas industry
- Scholarships - scholarships of \$1,500 to be awarded each year; Must be registered in a university program intended to lead to a bachelor or graduate degree; Preference will be given to those enrolled in a program relating to the natural gas industry; Maximum one award per applicant per calendar year; Must re-apply to be considered for subsequent years

Eligibility

All applicants must be enrolled full-time in a secondary or post-secondary educational program and be Canadian citizens of Aboriginal ancestry and originate from within 50km of ATCO Pipelines facilities. ATCO employees and/or their children will not be considered for these awards.

The deadline to submit an application is August 1st annually. Applications received after that date will not be considered during the review and selection process.

The following information must ALL be included in the application package in order to be regarded for any one of these awards:

- A completed application form
- One reference letter from a teacher, faculty member, employer or other community leader
- A short essay (minimum 250 words) describing why you are a suitable candidate for the award
- Proof of enrollment for the upcoming semester

in a secondary or post-secondary institution Official transcripts from a secondary and/or post-secondary institution in which you are currently enrolled must be ordered and sent directly to ATCO Pipelines.

Mail or deliver completed application packages, and direct official transcripts, to:

Corporate Communications

ATCO Pipelines

#1300, 909 - 11th Avenue SW

Calgary, AB

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Indspire Awards

(formerly National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation)

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OFIFC Bursary:

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Legal Studies for Aboriginal People (LSAP) PRE-LAW Bursary Award: Deadline May 15

Oil and Gas Aboriginal Trades & Technology

Two deadlines annually on May 1 and November 30

Aboriginal Health Careers:

One deadline annually on June 1

Post-Secondary Education Awards:

One deadline annually on June 1

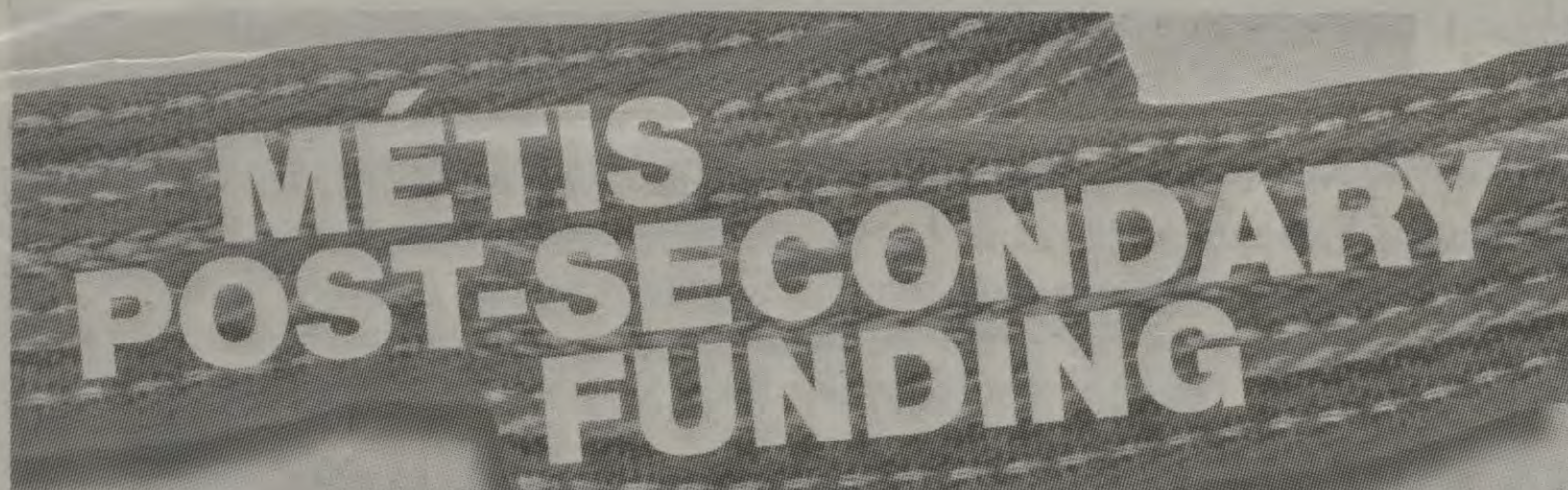
Imperial Oil Aboriginal Scholarship Awards Program (Inspire)

Imperial Oil has formed a partnership with Indspire 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.

Please apply on-line at Indspire's post-secondary education bursary awards program or contact Indspire at 1-800-329-9780.

Aboriginal Health Careers Program



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[education]

The Winter We Danced: Idle No More changed Canada, 15 minutes at a time

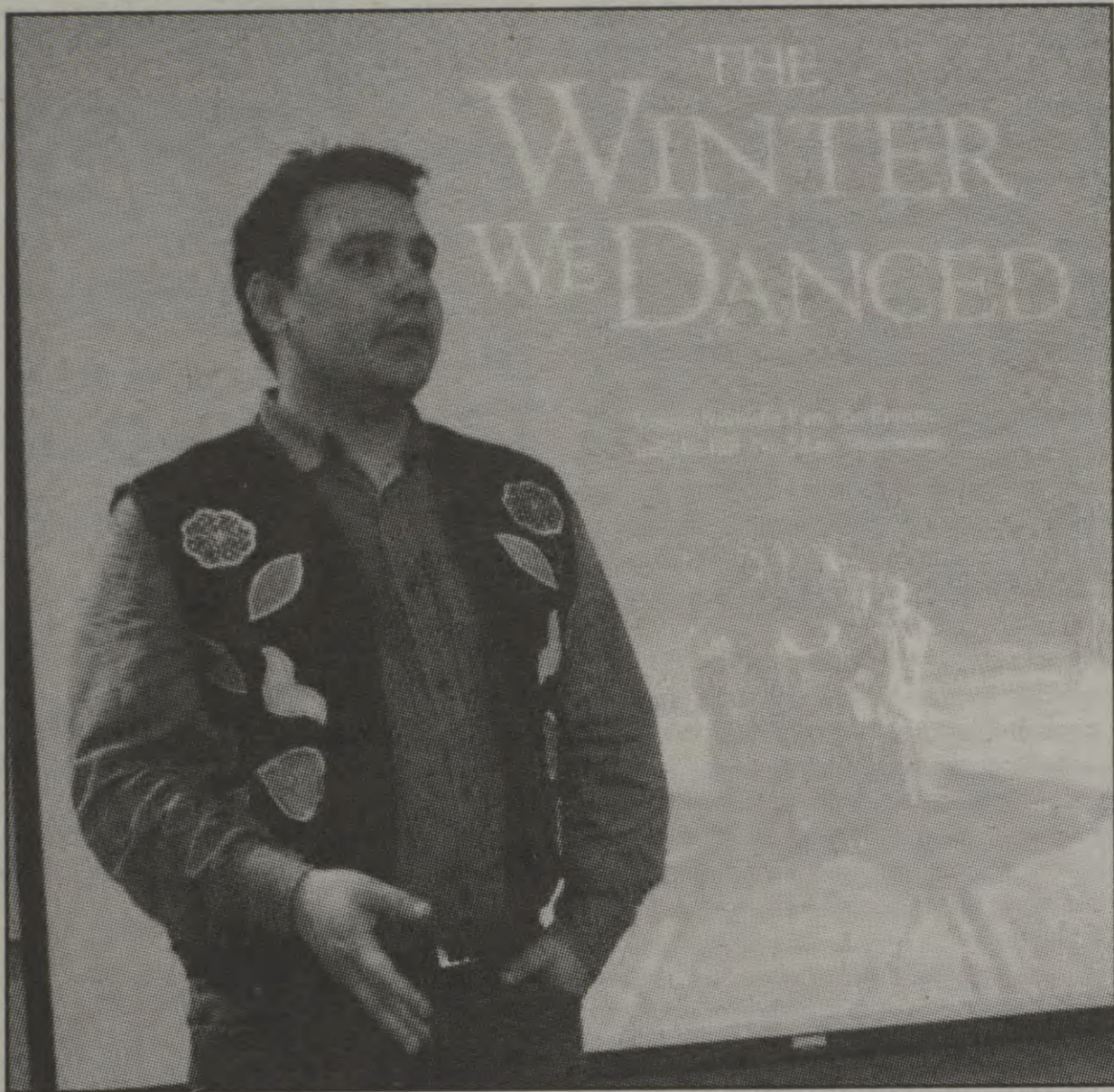


PHOTO: BARB NAHWEGAHBOW

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair at the launch of *The Winter We Danced* at Toronto's Ryerson University April 4.

By Barb Nahwegahbow
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

In the winter of 2012-2013, round dances erupted in malls, universities, airports, major intersections in cities and First Nations communities. Hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of Indigenous people and non-Indigenous allies joined hands to dance. That was part of the phenomenon that was called Idle No More (INM).

On April 4, a book that documents and celebrates the

INM movement in writing, poetry, photographs, paintings and posters, was launched at Toronto's Ryerson University. About 40 people attended the Canadian launch of the book entitled *The Winter We Danced*.

Monica McKay, director of Ryerson's Aboriginal Initiatives and a member of the Nisga'a Nation, performed a traditional opening ceremony.

The *Winter We Danced* has 74 contributors. The book was the brainchild of a group called the Kino-nda-niimi Collective. Among its members are Hayden King, assistant professor of

Politics and director of the Centre for Indigenous Governance at Ryerson. King is Pottawatomie and Ojibwe from Beausoleil First Nation in Ontario. Among other things, King selected the photographic images contained in the book.

Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair, who is Anishinabe from St. Peter's Little Settlement in Manitoba, acted as the lead editor for the book. Sinclair teaches courses in Indigenous literatures, cultures and histories at the University of Manitoba.

Anishinabe Arts consultant and INM Toronto organizer, Wanda Nanibush, curated the Image Warriors section of the book, which includes paintings, prints and posters by artists such as Sonny Assu, David Garneau, LauraLee K Harris and Tannis Nielsen.

When Sinclair saw the images of the round dance at the Saskatoon Mall in December 2012, "I sat on my couch and I literally cried," he said, knowing he was seeing something far different from what he had ever seen before. Thousands of people had gathered there for a flash mob INM round dance, and Sinclair said, "I knew this had captured the spirit and the imagination and the feelings of concern and...the desire to want to be more than things we have inherited."

INM emerged because of three things, said Sinclair. The omnibus legislation that removed protection for the

waters and put forth radical changes to the Indian Act, both of which he described as the "new removals in order to create the Northern Gateway Pipeline." The second concern was the intense poverty manifested by Chief Theresa Spence's hunger fast. The third problem, Sinclair said, "is the sick and violent and hierarchical relationship that this country's built upon, which is the main problem of all. Everything else is a symptom of that relationship," he said.

"This book," he said, "it's a part of this movement to say, we need to be more than we already are."

From the first moments of the movement, Sinclair knew it had to be documented. "Those first sparks began a fire," he said, "the fire of the beauty of expression that lived predominantly through dance was manifested in the spirits and the intention and the beauty of all of these writings that came after that...there were hundreds of pieces and tens of thousands of Tweets and status updates from Facebook and Twitter which is what largely drove the movement..."

"What this book is trying to convey," said Sinclair, "is the fact that we have never stopped dancing. We have never been more powerful than we are now and ultimately, we have the power to control our future. And regardless of the government, change is happening... for the very first time in history, we changed the country for 15

minutes at a time."

Sinclair said through the round dances, Indigenous people recreated what Canada has always been – a place of people, a place of relationships, a place of collaboration. That's what they wanted to convey through the writings and the images in the book.

Hayden King said people were inspired by the photographs of the movement. "Some of the first images that came out of the movement, I couldn't believe," he said. "I just could not believe it." While Indigenous peoples in Canada and North America have a long history of resistance...in my time, I've never seen anything like it," he said. "I was skeptical...until I started seeing some of the images that were coming out. That really inspired me to be part of the movement, to contribute what I could of writing."

In his presentation, King showed a photograph of what he called, "one of the most provocative protests of the movement," the blocking of the Ambassador Bridge, the link to the U.S. in Windsor. This occurred in January 2013.

The *Winter We Danced* is more than 400 pages and is published by ARP Books in Winnipeg. For information on stores that carry it, their website is: www.arpbooks.org. The royalties from the sale of the book will be donated to the Native Youth Sexual Health Network www.nativeyouthsexualhealth.com

Survivors upset at limitations on education credit monies

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

Survivors Committee member Eugene Arcand is urging survivors to "stay calm" as his committee pushes for changes to the personal credit portion of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

"Don't react to the psychological warfare we have endured for the past five years of this residential school settlement agreement... Now is not the time to lower our level of intelligence and integrity to someone else's, who continues to wound us," Arcand told a hall full of survivors and family members during the seventh and final national TRC event, which was held in Edmonton at the end of March.

Survivors have taken exception to the limitations set for the use of personal credits.

"Recently we have been re-victimised with an issue called personal credits," said Arcand. "We are (treated as) little

children, told how to spend the piddly little \$3,000. We are challenging that."

According to the IRSSA, recipients of Common Experience Payments are entitled to \$3,000 in non-cash personal credits which are to be used to further the education of that residential school survivor or a family member at a pre-approved educational institution. The IRSSA stated that if more than \$40 million remained in the CEP Trust Fund, that money would be distributed as personal credits to CEP recipients. Personal credit acknowledgement forms were mailed this past January and claims must be submitted by Oct. 31.

"We want those personal credits invested in our own communities for language and cultural retention. We were not warned of that part of the agreement and it has upset many of our people," said Arcand.

The Assembly of First Nations is aware of the concerns survivors have about personal credits.

"We're getting lots of feedback

in respect to personal education credits...and there are issues," said AFN CEO Peter Dinsdale. AFN is one of the signatories to the IRSSA.

However, he noted, the agreement does set out a method, which is "a little bit cumbersome," that allows recipients to pool their credits so they can be used for language programs or back to the land camps. Recipients would have to work through an organization, such as the band council or a friendship centre, in order to do this.

But other concerns noted by survivors are not addressed by the terms set out for personal credits by the IRSSA.

Some survivors have noted that the personal credit should be more than \$3,000, said Dinsdale, while others said they would rather have the \$3,000 in cash and not in credits. Survivors have also said they would rather the credits have a broader use so that the funding can cover supportive services such as daycare, for a student's children; health care; room and board; or books.

"I think they're legitimate concerns. I think they're all kinds of barriers that exist. I think the challenge is for us is that these funds weren't really contemplated for that and because they are part of a legal settlement agreement... we're kind of bound by those terms," said Dinsdale.

AFN liaison officers are continuing to meet with survivors to understand their needs, but bringing about changes to the implementation of personal credits is limited.

"We're going to do our best to communicate those (concerns) back to government and where there's flexibility, try to make sure those amendments are made but it's a very short time frame, it's a very short window and there's certainly no shortage of needs out there," said Dinsdale.

In an email reply to *Windspeaker*, Valérie Hache, spokesperson for the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, stated, "The Government of Canada is committed to a fair and lasting resolution to the legacy of Indian

Residential Schools and is focusing on an agenda of reconciliation between Aboriginal people, their families and communities, and all Canadians."

She did not respond to inquiries on whether the government was aware of the concerns voiced by CEP recipients or if the federal government were open to changes guiding personal credit uses.

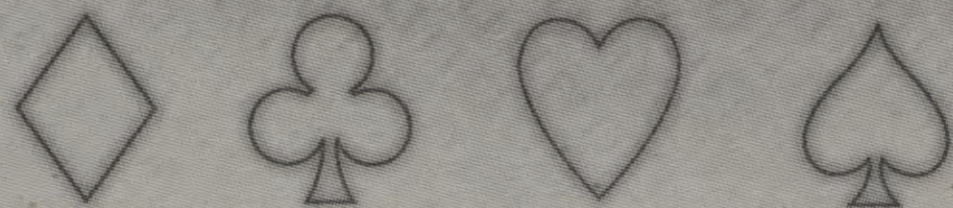
If after personal credits have been allotted there is surplus, that money will be divided proportionally between the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund and the Inuvialuit Education Foundation and used for educational programs.

"And frankly, we're not anticipating there will be a surplus. That's the reason why we're doing such a push through our liaisons," said Dinsdale. "This money... is to help facilitate reconciliation in some way and that's really where it is best spent. So our hope and really expectation is that all be spent through that process."

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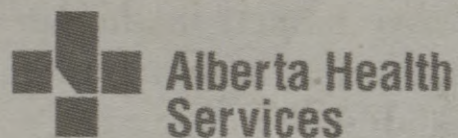
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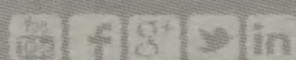
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[careers & training]

NRC to be memory of residential school experience

(Continued from page 10.)

"This centre ... cannot be all things to all people and it cannot be a continued version of the TRC... because the one thing we must help it and guard against is overreaching in the work that is so important," said Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chair Justice Murray Sinclair.

Sinclair noted that the TRC's mandate included gathering documents from the signatories of the IRSSA. The NRC will continue to gather that information after the TRC has concluded. But just as important, said Sinclair, is the residential school information that is archived by the provinces and other church entities, which are not part of the IRSSA.

Sinclair pointed to a flash drive that was presented to the commission in an earlier gift of reconciliation from the British Columbia government, which contained the names of all Aboriginal children ages four to 19 who died in that province

between 1870 and 1984. While not all those deaths are related to residential schools, that information is now available.

Sinclair also stressed the importance of having the NRC located at a university as such institutions have demonstrated the ability to remain independent from government. He said in talks with other TRCs it was determined that governments often stepped in to block the information from being shared.

"The centre being in existence, it should not only establish a central memory around residential schools, it should also establish a memory around the experiences of Indigenous people in this country and that's what our vision for the research centre was. It was to give it a status so that it would be a centre for Indigenous knowledge, and not only the ability to house it and to make it available, but to continue to promote it," said Sinclair.

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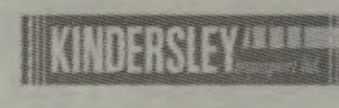
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[footprints] Margaret Pictou Labillois

Chief worked hard to retain Mi'gmaq identity

By Dianne Meili

Though she wasn't allowed to speak Mi'gmaq in residential school, Chief Margaret Pictou Labillois of Eel River Bar First Nation preserved her language because her mother and sister pressed her to speak it.

"When I was away at school I forgot certain words to make a sentence ... I spoke only English and when I came home I was lost for words," she told Judy Bowman in an interview for a New Brunswick seniors' project several years before her death last year on April 19.

Pictou Labillois continued speaking her language with her family and was convinced Mi'gmaq was so important to her people's identity that she went back to Lakefield University to learn language structure.

"On our reserve she brought back the culture," Colleen Gauvin, Pictou Labillois' oldest daughter, told CBC News. "She went into the elementary school teaching our students here our language and she instilled this in all of her children, what it means to us, who we are as traditional people."

In 1939, Pictou Labillois had the distinction of being the first resident in Eel River Bar to graduate from high school, a tradition her children and grandchildren have followed. Later in 1970, she became the first woman to be elected chief in the New Brunswick region.

Born on July 10, 1923, Pictou Labillois spent her childhood picking berries and fishing with her grandfather, who took a prominent role in her life after her father died.

"My grandfather would go fishing and, of course, we thought it was our job to help him. We were just teenagers, running after him barefoot, running in the water, running to clean the fish," she told Bowman.

"Every day in the summer my grandfather would go and dig clams on the far side of the sand bar. One day my sister said to me, 'let's go and dig clams with him.' So we followed him and we went to our knees in the mud and fell over. He wore hip waders, but we had nothing for the mud. That was the last time we tried that."

After graduating school, Pictou Labillois trained to be a nurse but feared the school fees were too much for her mother, who was raising the family alone.

"On the train home one day I met a recruiting officer and she mentioned I could send money to my mother if I joined the air force, so I did. My brother got a great laugh when he saw my uniform and my hat."

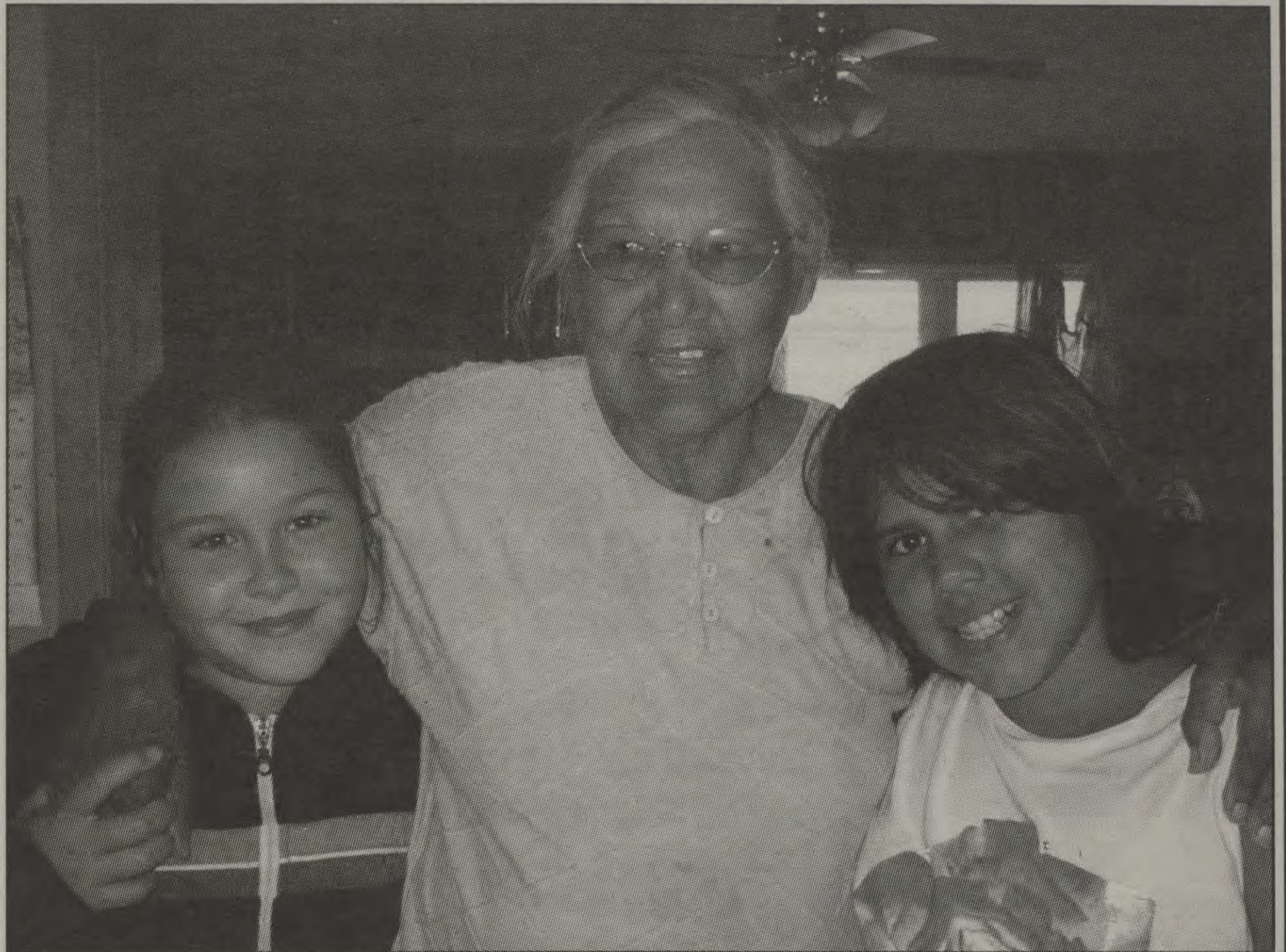
In the Royal Canadian Air Force, she was posted to Rockcliff Photographic Unit in Ottawa and trained in aerial photography, taking shots of bridges and roads by hanging out of planes. She laughs as she recalls she was told, "If you drop the camera you might as well jump after it. It will take you forever to pay for it."

As the threat of the Japanese army crossing the Bering Strait into Alaska loomed, her unit took photograph after photograph and made maps.

"We did all the printing and making maps of the area where the Alaska Highway would go. We did the pictures from Alaska right down to the border of the United States. We would print the photos and send them back."

Pictou Labillois served two-and-a-half years in the RCAF before returning home. After the war, she married Michael and raised 14 children. She took it upon herself to restore the Mi'gmaq language and culture with her people.

"The decision makers had no say. We were going to do it any



Margaret Pictou Labillois with her granddaughters.

way. Our language is such a vital part of our lives. It is who we are," she said.

In 1970 Labillois was elected chief, serving two terms. "I didn't think of running for chief, but my friends came to me and seemed to think I could do it. Then, when I became chief, I wondered what I had gotten into. Being a woman was, first of all, the biggest challenge ... women weren't supposed to be chief. "It didn't seem to change my life in any way. I suppose it was meant to be."

Lt. Gov. Graydon Nicholas was a young lawyer working for the Union of New Brunswick Indians when he met Labillois in 1974. He found her to be a "quiet leader" and an inspiration to many people in the province.

"She took a risk with me and that's how we got to know one another really well," said Nicholas, quoted in Indian

Country Today, as he recalled the occasion Pictou Labillois asked him to help her with her community's land claim.

He said as the first female chief in the province people had high expectations of her.

"I think she more than surpassed those expectations. I always found her leadership to be very quiet leadership in the sense she would say, 'okay, this is what we want to achieve, this is what we should do and let's do it,'" he said.

Nicholas admired her for her firm belief in her language and for being a woman who respected and loved people and wanted them to come together to overcome injustices.

"She's also a great example ... about the importance of education, about the importance of acquiring as much knowledge and wisdom as you can so when

you go out and advocate for the rights of your people, you have a very firm basis to do it."

Toward the end of her 89 years, Labillois could be found on the beach of Chaleur Bay under a shelter with her dog, still marvelling that she was lucky enough to live "close to such beauty." That is if she wasn't travelling to attend meetings and powwows as an honoured speaker, or stripping ash to weave baskets in the Mi'gmaq tradition with her grandfather's handmade tools.

Pictou Labillois was awarded the Order of Canada in 1998 in recognition of her leadership qualities and significant demonstration of traditional skills. In recognition of her leadership and protection of the Mi'gmaq language, she was awarded the Order of New Brunswick in 2005.

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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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 in business and sciences.

Deadline: June 1

Diane Fowler Leblanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship (Indspire)

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.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open to all Aboriginal people, including Métis, Inuit, and Status and Non-Status Indians, interested in studying at the Bachelor of Social Work level at a recognized educational institution in Canada.

The Alberta Museology Internship (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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

CIBC Achievers (Indspire)

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TransCanada Pipelines Leadership Awards (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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

The CN Aboriginal Scholarships (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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 (Indspire)

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

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Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth (FAAY) - Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

Deadline: October 15

Number of Awards: The number of awards is dependent on the sponsors of the program. In 2010 we disbursed 140 awards, 95 were scholarships and 45 were bursaries.

Award Amount: Scholarships for post-secondary applicants range from \$2,500 - \$5,000. Bursaries for high school applicants are \$750.

Eligibility Factors: Canadian residents of First Nations (Status or Non-status), Métis and Inuit Heritage attending High School or a Post-secondary Institution full-time within Canada. Mature students and adult education programs are included.

Supporting Documents Required:

1. Letter of introduction: introduce your-self, mention education goal and career plan, any challenges, any successes, contributions to family, school, community, and answer why you think staying in school is important.

2. Proof of Heritage includes: copy of Indian Status Card; copy of Métis membership card; copy of Inuit beneficiary card; parent/

This is only a partial listing of the funding currently available to Indigenous students. There are many more listings posted online at www.ammsa.com.

This online list is updated throughout the year as new information becomes available. To add/update scholarship information from your school or organization please forward the information via email to us at: market@ammsa.com

Saskatchewan Sage News Briefs

(Continued from page 14.)

ESSP sets First Nations, Métis subjects as focus

The province's first Education Sector Strategic Plan identifies reading and First Nations and Métis subjects as the focus. "We want to meet our targets by 2020 of increasing our graduation rate and closing the gap on First Nations students," Education Minister Don Morgan said at a news conference. For 2014-15, school divisions will jointly focus on developing reading evaluations and improving learning initiatives for First Nations and Métis students. Input for the ESSP was provided by both public and Catholic school divisions across Saskatchewan, ministry staff, school boards, students, and First Nations and Métis partners.

Little Pine faces uphill battle on casino development

The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority says casinos the Little Pine First Nation plans to build in Estevan and Lloydminster would violate an agreement between the province and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. Any change to the agreement, which gives sole control and authority over Aboriginal casinos to the gaming authority, would have to be negotiated between the province and the FSIN. Delegates to a recent chiefs meeting did not support Little Pine First Nation's casino proposals. Little Pine has already purchased land in Lloydminster for a casino and hotel. The city has designated that land an urban reserve. Preliminary talks have begun on

a \$30-million casino in Estevan. City residents are to vote on it in a non-binding referendum to be held as part of a byelection April 23.

FSIN staff cuts minimal

Cuts to salaries of Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations vice chiefs and tapping into gaming revenues and a treaty rights protection fund has allowed most of FSIN's workers to keep their jobs. Chiefs voted nearly unanimously to cut the salaries of the four vice-chiefs from \$100,000 per year to \$75,000. The \$135,000 salary of FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde remains unaffected, as it is funded by the Assembly of First Nations. In January, 66 employees were told that because of federal government funding cuts of \$2 million they

might not have a job as of April 1. Eight people have been laid off, but Bellegarde says proposals have been submitted for other funding in hopes of bringing the employees back.

Post-secondary bursary program extended by government

The Crown Investments Corp. (CIC) of Saskatchewan is extending funding for its Aboriginal Bursary Program to help post-secondary Aboriginal students achieve higher education. The provincial government renewed the program for another five years, starting this upcoming fall. CIC estimates the cost of the renewal will be \$2.2 million. Donna Harpauer, Saskatchewan's CIC minister, says financial demands are one of the top three reasons

that students leave their studies. Up to 85 bursaries worth \$5,000 each can be granted annually.

University of Regina starts consultation on strategic plan

A 41 per cent growth in the number of self-declared Aboriginal students is one highlight of the University of Regina's five-year strategic plan, which ends this year. Now the university has launched the planning and consultation process for its next five-year strategic plan, to be released in fall 2014. "I am proud of what we have accomplished in the last five years toward fulfilling the objectives we set out together in our existing strategic plan," said University of Regina President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Vianne Timmons, in a news release.

Ontario Birchbark News Briefs

(Continued from page 15.)

and Montreal and will carry crude oil from oilfields in Western Canada and North Dakota eastward to refineries in Quebec. Final approval is contingent upon Enbridge meeting 30 conditions, mainly related to safety and emergency planning. Several First Nations took part in public hearings on the project as interveners, while more submitted letters of comment to the regulator, arguing that a spill from the aging pipeline could adversely affect their rights. Chippewas of the Thames Chief Joe Miskokomon said the federal government did not consult meaningfully with First Nations. "We feel that this raises the possibility of new impacts beyond the (pipeline) right-of-way and we are concerned about our water resources and

the environment," said Miskokomon in a Toronto Star report. "The federal government has to consider our treaty and Aboriginal rights enshrined in the Constitution."

Recruitment for new position underway

The new position of assistant deputy Attorney General, Aboriginal Justice has been created by the province at the Ministry of the Attorney General and will lead the government's work on Aboriginal justice issues as recommended by Justice Frank Iacobucci in his 2013 report First Nations Representation on Ontario Juries. Part of the effort to find the best possible candidate for this new position will include extensive outreach to Aboriginal organizations and communities across Canada. This is the first

recommendation to be implemented in consultation with the Jury Review Implementation Committee formed in September 2013 to oversee the implementation of recommendations in Iacobucci's report. The ADAG, Aboriginal Justice, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, will lead the development of new programs and services to support Aboriginal people in the justice system, and will be responsible for overseeing the government's response to Iacobucci's report.

Health care to shift to community settings

Aboriginal health access centres, which deliver culturally-appropriate health promotion and chronic disease prevention initiatives in schools and community organizations, will be included in the shift the province

will be making in health care within the next three years. Ontario will more than double its annual investment in community health infrastructure to help shift care from hospital to community settings, including community health centres, Aboriginal health access centres and community-based mental health and addictions agencies. Ontario is also creating a dedicated Community Infrastructure Renewal Fund that could help community organizations such as public health units, family health teams and nurse practitioner-led clinics with the cost of maintenance and deferred capital repairs.

Eabametoong to get new police facility

Eabametoong First Nation, a fly-in community, will be getting a new police facility to replace

the existing detachment. The federal government has committed \$1.82 million for this project, while the province has anted up \$1.68 million. As part of that agreement, Ontario will invest \$173.2 million over five years. Funding has come through under the First Nations Policing Program, which provides support for professional, dedicated and responsive policing services for First Nations and Inuit communities. Under the program, the federal government provides 52 per cent in funding, with the provinces and territories contributing 48 per cent. "We are confident that having the new facility will provide a renewed sense of safety and security for our community members," said Chief Elizabeth Atlookan in a news release.



Scholarships in Broadcasting

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- © First Nations, Inuit or Métis permanent Canadian resident;
- © Desire to follow a path to a career in the broadcast industry;
- © Enrolment in Canadian post secondary Journalism or Radio and Television Arts Program or Equivalent Certified Training Program; and
- © Interest in acting as an ambassador for the broadcasting industry and serving as a role model for other Aboriginal people to encourage them to pursue careers in broadcasting.

\$5,000 scholarship will be awarded in 2014

One scholarship valued at \$5,000.00 will be awarded.

This award may be applied to academic and/or living costs.

Scholarship winners are eligible for continued scholarship awards each year they continue in their approved programs in the amount of \$2,500.00 annually to a maximum total scholarship value of \$10,000.00.

Application deadline: May 16, 2014

Full scholarship details and application forms are available online:

www.sabar.ca/scholarships-internships

SABAR is pleased to offer our annual Scholarship to an Aboriginal student in Journalism or Radio/Television Arts. SABAR is particularly proud to play an important part in supporting the development of a future community leader who may have the potential to help us meet our primary goal of increasing Aboriginal reflection in Canadian broadcasting. Please visit www.sabar.ca for more on our organization and our initiatives.



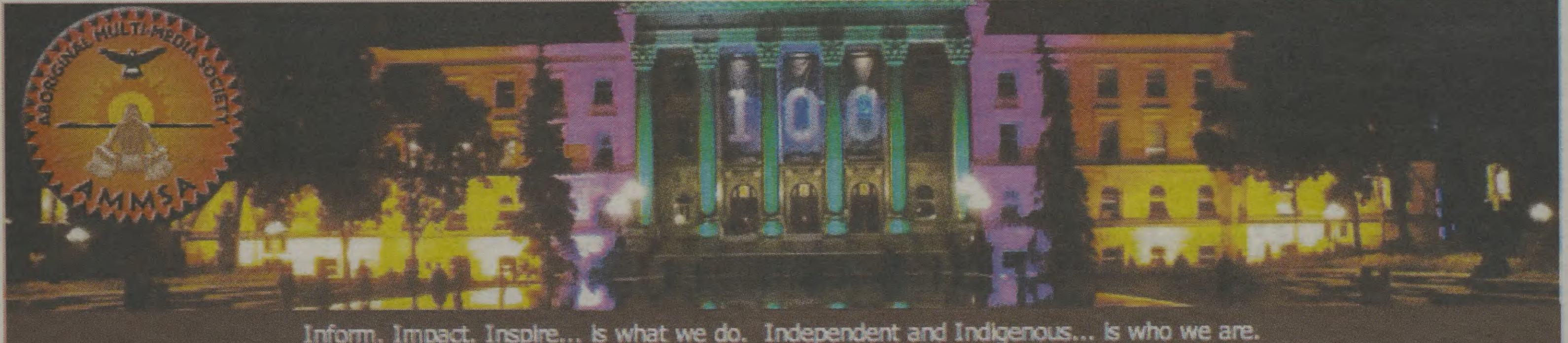

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