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Wind speaker



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Despite increased awareness, Aboriginal women remain at risk
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Embattled Chief

Guy Lonechild, the embattled leader of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, refused to resign his position after his drunk driving charge became public last month. Some chiefs of the organization are working to secure his ouster through a change in the FSIN's executive act.

More coverage on page 9.

Also see the editorial on page 5.

Photo Credit: Chusate Fiddler

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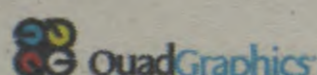
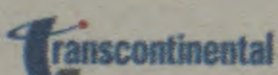
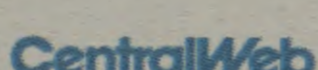
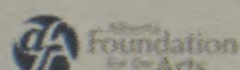
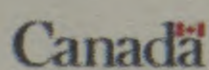
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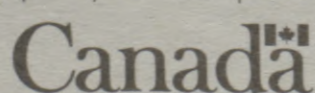
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Work continues to reach homeless or incarcerated residential school victims 10

Former residential school students who are incarcerated or homeless are receiving extra attention as the deadline looms for compensation as set out by the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

Métis push back on federally-awarded contract 10

A contract awarded by the federal government to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to develop a verification strategy for Métis identification systems has been pulled.

Hope remains that day scholars will get compensation 11

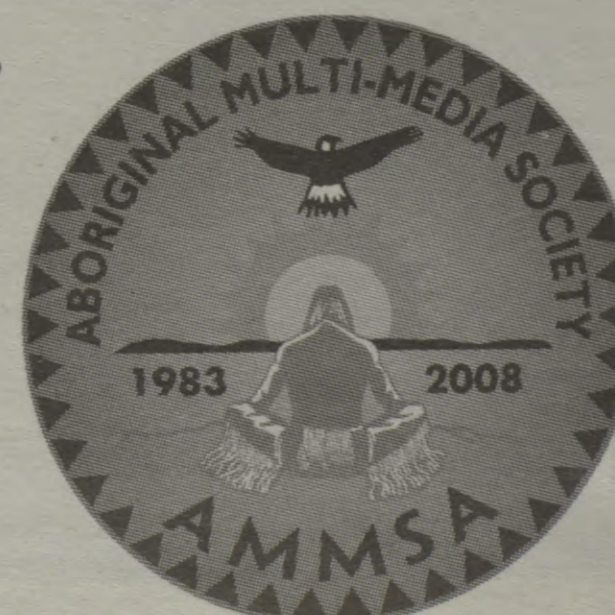
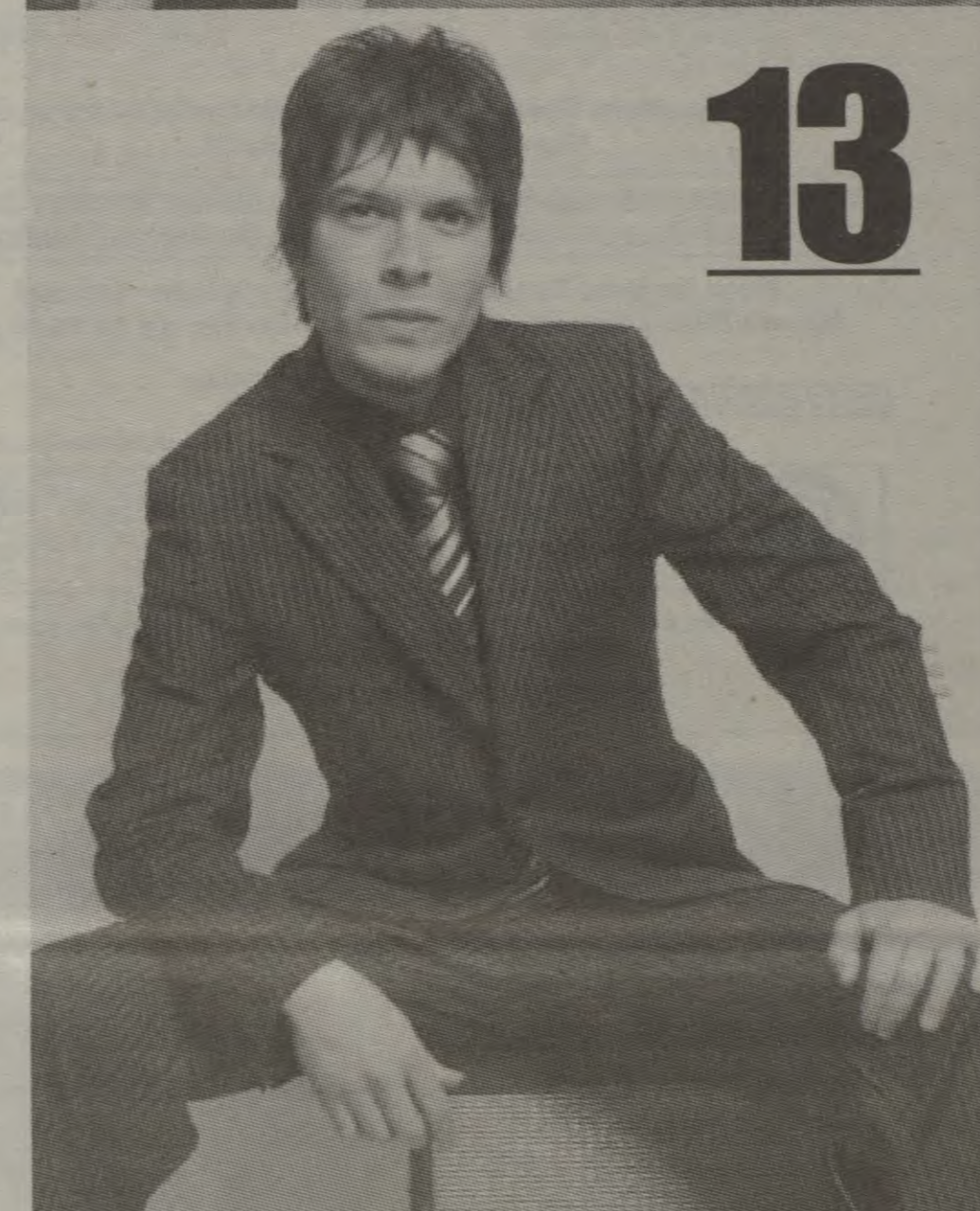
The push to obtain common experience payments and Independent Assessment Process payments for Aboriginal day scholars is rolling ahead.

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Pouring Sweet and Low into his cup of tea, Jose Amaujaq Kusugak stopped to laugh at himself. "What the hell am I doing with this stuff? How can real sugar hurt me now?" Despite the fact he'd lost weight and his hair had turned snow white, aggressive cancer failed to eradicate the leader's sense of humor. He died on the morning of Jan. 19 at his home in Rankin Inlet.



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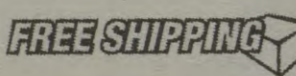
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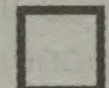
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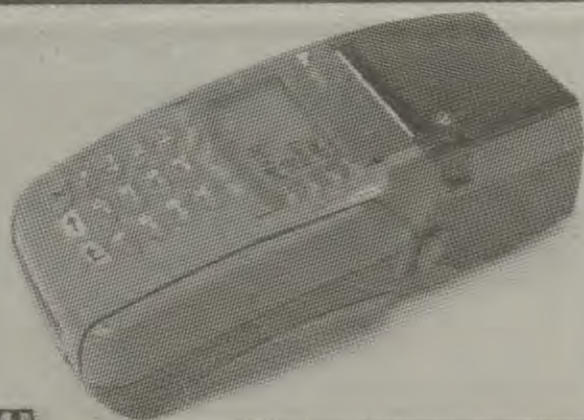
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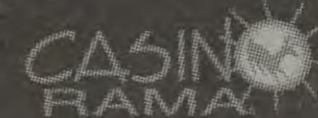
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FSIN taking the high moral ground, or are they?

Can a person come back from a bad choice, like the lack of judgment Chief Guy Lonechild demonstrated when he chose to drive while under the influence in 2009, before he was elected to lead the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations? Well, some have, but will he?

Efforts are underway to remove Lonechild from the power he holds at the FSIN on the basis of his legal issues, but the push to remove him just doesn't have that righteous smell to it. It should be about having no tolerance for drinking and driving, but it's starting to look like the campaign to remove Lonechild has more to do with the number of chiefs that have no tolerance for the reforms Lonechild has made in the organization.

"The principle of the whole thing is not impaired driving; it's payback," Ralph Paul, chief of the English River First Nation, is reported to have said. Lonechild was a key player in pulling First Nations University back from the brink of collapse when he was first elected. Paul says the most vocal proponents of removing Lonechild from his post are former university board members. And, if readers remember, there were a lot of them, mostly FSIN chiefs, who had the chance to reform the university structure themselves, but chose not to. Instead they waited for governments to pull funding and endanger the reputation of the school and the education of the students enrolled there before allowing Lonechild to take critical action.

It's hard not to make enemies when you're trying to make change. The old guard doesn't

like their comfortable place to get mugged up. And a drunk driving charge is just the ammunition they would need to head up to the moral high-ground to shout from the rooftops that 'he must pay for his mistake.'

And really, who is going to argue the point? In this day and age leaders must be more than merely elected, they must be role models too. It is possible that Lonechild will hang on to his seat at the head of the table. Look at outgoing British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell who, in 2003 during a vacation in Hawaii, was charged with driving drunk. Campbell said it was his darkest moment. "I think I let everybody down. I feel awful about it." He did let people down, and yes, he should feel awful about, yet he survived the political storm that brewed for a long time after the charges were put to rest. He went on, in fact, to lead his BC Liberal Party to two more terms in power.

Maybe instead of changing the FSIN's executive act to make it easier to hold a non-confidence vote, as the chiefs did at the last assembly they convened, they should consider changing their election rules to include a morals clause. If you've ever been convicted of a crime, then you can't be a chief at the FSIN table. If you are facing any charges at the time of the election, then you must wait until you are cleared of those charges before being allowed to run. Then the rules would be the same for all, and the integrity of this process would not look so skewed. Now, it's just a convenient tool to remove the thorn in the side that Lonechild seems to have become to some FSIN chiefs.

Windspeaker

Money complicating a simple decision

The Yinka Dene Alliance has rejected the financial incentives offered by Enbridge, which wants to cut through their lands to build its \$5.5 billion Northern Gateway project. With about a quarter of the lands necessary to accommodate the proposed right-of-way of the project, the rejection of the plan by the alliance is pretty significant. That is if it's really a rejection, and not part of the negotiation dance.

"We won't trade the safety of our rivers, lands and fish that are our lifeblood," said Chief Jackie Thomas of Saik'uz First Nation. Good for Chief Thomas. The package the alliance rejected would have been a lucrative one.

"Enbridge knows it can't guarantee there will be no oil spills into our rivers," said Thomas. "Their promises and their money are no good to us."

The benefit package is based on a 10 per cent equity interest in the pipeline and a trust established with contributions of one per cent of Enbridge's pre-tax earnings. Enbridge also said it would hire Aboriginal people to fill at least 15 per cent of project's construction jobs. And it would work with communities on strategies for procurement from Aboriginal businesses.

"We believe these commitments will break new ground by providing an unprecedented level of long-term economic and social benefits to Aboriginal communities in the North," the company said in a statement.

"It's an insult to us for [Enbridge] to ask us to borrow money or to get loans or to invest in this pipeline. We don't see no economic

benefits from it," said Geraldine Thomas-Flurer, co-ordinator of the Yinka Dene Alliance.

"There's no amount of money that could ever make us say yes to something like this. This is not something that is economically sound. It's environmentally dangerous," Thomas-Flurer said.

So, it's clear. You just can't put a price on the waters, lands and animal life that would be affected by an oil spill.

To hear Enbridge tell it, the majority of First Nations along the pipeline route support the project. Eight nations have signed up to consider the financial package. But more than 80 Native groups have joined forces with environment organizations and politicians to just say no to the pipeline.

And talk to everyday folk about the plan and they say you just have to look to the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico to say 'we don't want that stuff messing up our waterways.' They want the Enbridge plan scrapped.

The coastal tanker traffic alone is enough to scare the living daylights out of even the most money-hungry of us.

"Quite simply: it's about the environment, stupid," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillips when he rejected the project on behalf of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

But put a few dollars on the table and sometimes it's not so simple anymore. It's quite simply, pretty complicated balancing community needs with environmental protection.

Windspeaker

THE TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL REPORTS

that two reserves in New Brunswick are negotiating land claims that will result in the largest settlements ever paid out to First Nations in Atlantic Canada. Compensation could be in the tens of millions for both Tobique First Nation and Metepenagiag First Nation. Tobique is negotiating a claim for about 3,300 acres of land surrendered in 1892. Metepenagiag is seeking compensation for 1,335 hectares of land surrendered in 1895. Together, the settlements may exceed the amount of compensation the federal government has paid out in over three decades of Native land claim settlements in New Brunswick, which is roughly \$20 million to date.

THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA

will hear the landmark fishing-rights case of the Lax Kw'alaams band. The case could have wide-ranging implications for Aboriginal fisheries and treaty negotiations in BC. "This is the first time that a civil claim started by the First Nation seeking declaration in respect to commercial fishing rights will go all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada," said Keith Bergner, a partner at the Vancouver firm Lawson Lundell and specialist in Aboriginal law, reported the Vancouver Sun. The court will decide the extent of Aboriginal fishing rights and what the process is for proving those rights, Bergner said. According to Bergner, the results of this case could have an effect on other B.C. First Nations with similar cases pending. Treaty negotiation will also be given a boost.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

is exploding in First Nation communities in northwestern Ontario, reports Global TV. Native leaders say 55 to 60 per cent of residents may be addicted. OxyContin pills started arriving in the communities over the last four years, but now there is so much of the drug addiction seems to be eclipsing alcoholism and gas sniffing. "This is different—and it's worse," said Donnie Morris, chief of the 1,200 member Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (K.I.) First Nation. "It cripples families. It's crippling communities. And the leadership just doesn't know how to deal with it." Most of the reserves affected are isolated, only accessible by air, or by ice roads. OxyContin pills are sold for \$400 each, which is four times the street price in southern communities.

THE COHEN COMMISSION ON

Fraser River sockeye will have another year to complete its work, and the head of the BC Treaty Commission says the federal government should pay for the delay. Sophie Pierre, chief commissioner for the BC Treaty Commission, said treaty negotiations with at least seven First Nations are being held in limbo, their debts mounting, awaiting a verdict from the inquiry. "The Cohen inquiry should not continue to be used as an excuse not to get on with business at the treaty table," she said. First Nations in the final stages of treaty negotiations cannot move forward on their fisheries chapters and the delay may mean a cost of some \$30 million in treaty debt accrued by the nations to pay for negotiations. Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed the Cohen commission to investigate what happened to the salmon run on the Fraser River in 2009 when only one million sockeye of an expected 10 million salmon returned. Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, deferred negotiating fisheries issues at treaty tables until the Cohen commission's reports is released. The Cohen report was due by May 1, but has been pushed back to June 2012.

THE CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY

Commission is "ignoring the rule of law" by approving a nuclear waste shipment through the Great Lakes, says the Anishinabek Nation. The Supreme Court has stipulated that First Nations must be consulted when such shipments are made, said Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee, and First Nations must be accommodated on activities that could have an impact on their traditional territories. On Feb. 4 the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission authorized Bruce Power to transport 16 decommissioned steam generators from southwestern Ontario to Sweden for recycling. The commission is satisfied that the Bruce Power application meets Canadian and international regulations for the transport of nuclear substances. Madahbee, speaking for 39 member communities, said Anishinabek First Nation communities occupy all of the Great Lakes shoreline and a significant part of its basin.

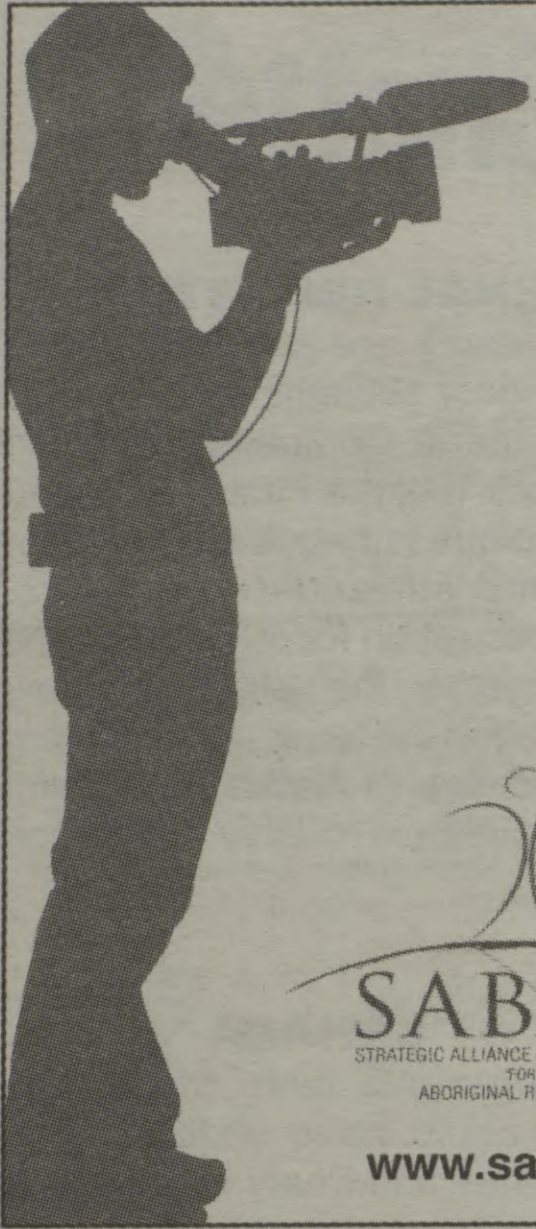
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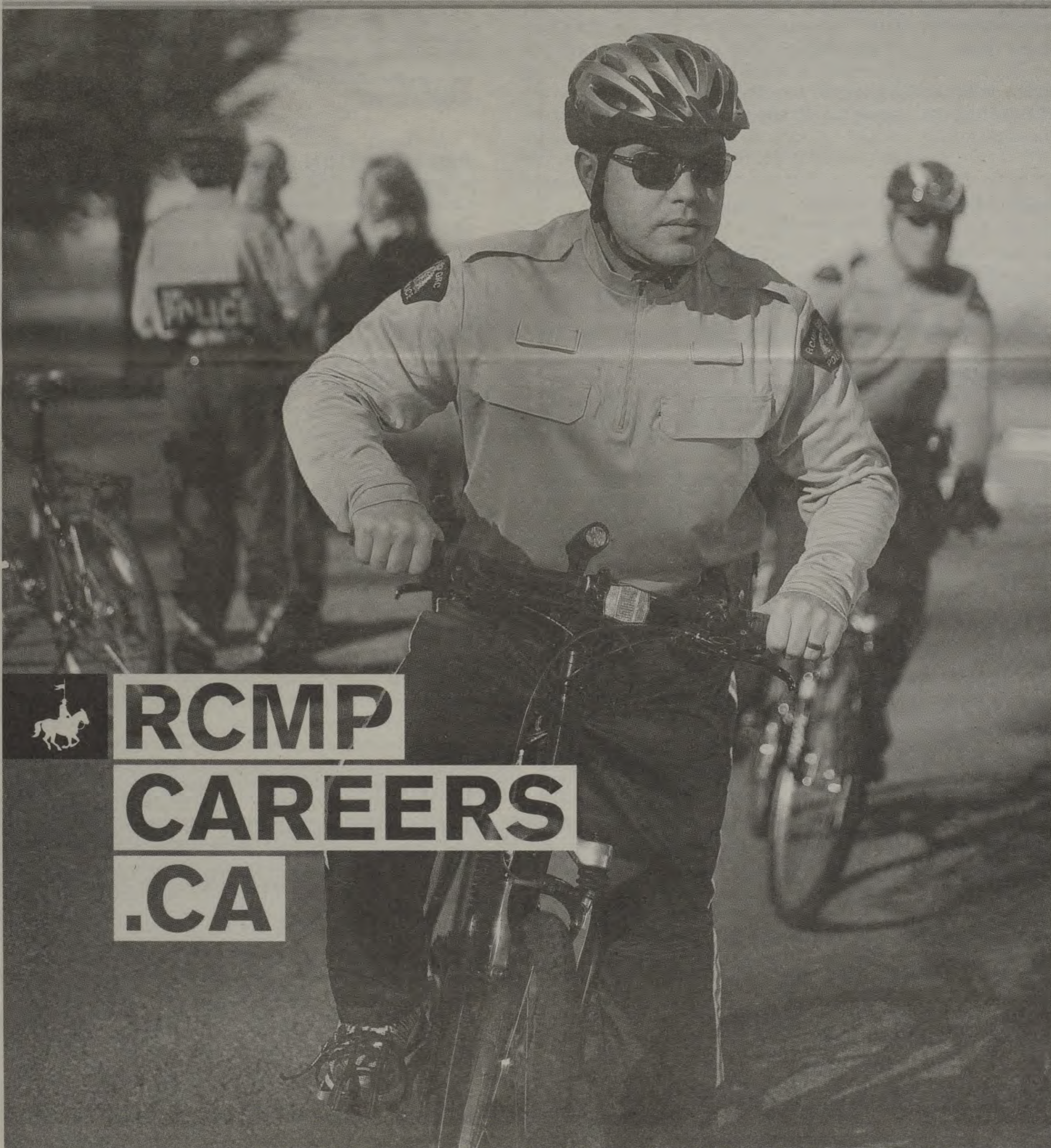
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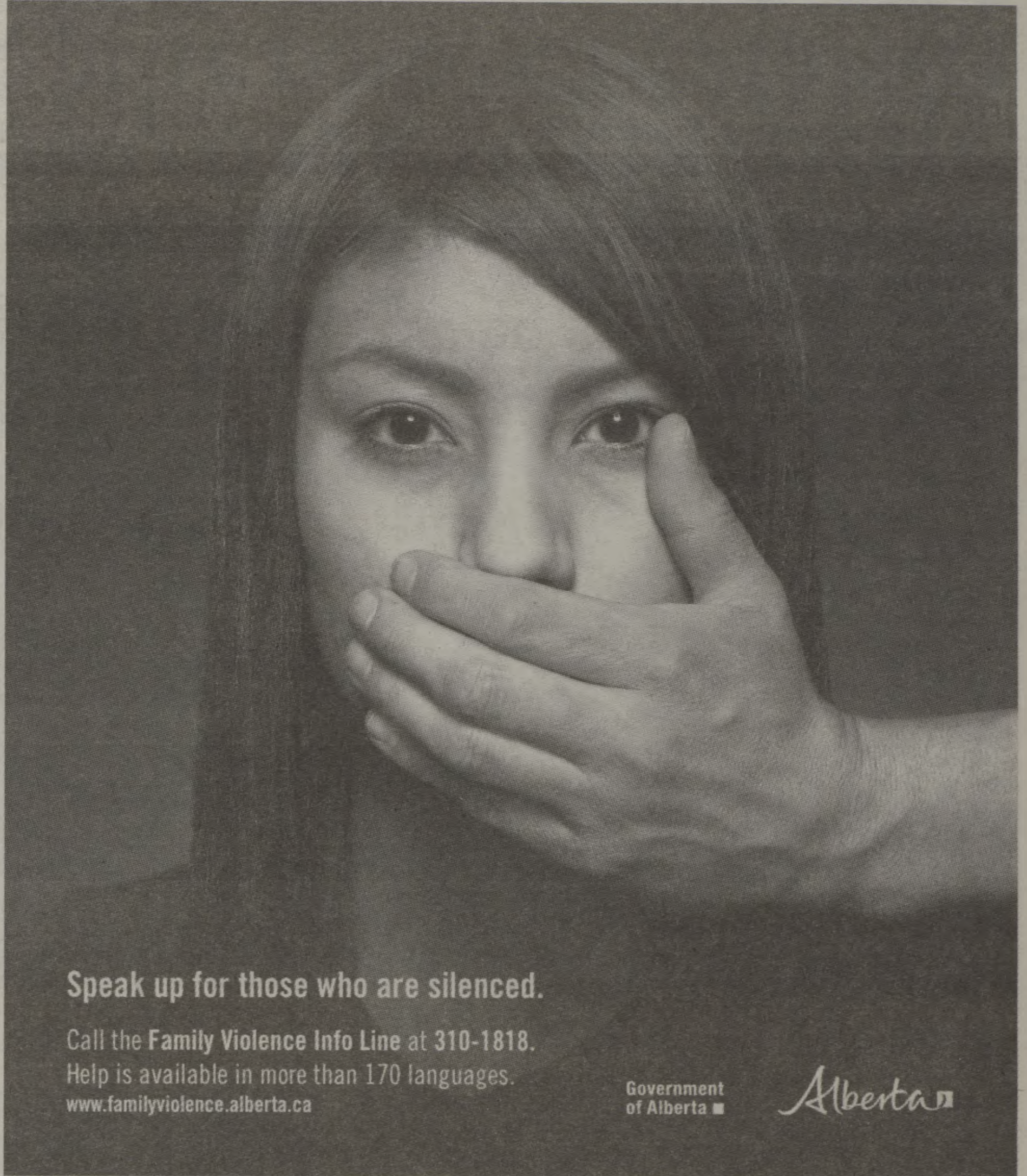
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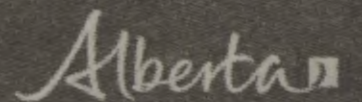
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Despite increased awareness, Aboriginal women remain at risk



PHOTO: SHAUNA LEWIS

The participants of the Annual Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women stopped traffic on Feb. 14 as they made their way through Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

By Shauna Lewis
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

Hundreds of people battled heavy rain to gather in solidarity and remember the missing and murdered women of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The 20th Annual Women's Memorial March was held Feb. 14.

"We are here because we are failing to protect women from the degradation of poverty and systemic exploitation, abuse and violence," said organizer Marlene George in a statement before the march. "We are here in sorrow and in anger because the violence continues each and every day and the list of missing and murdered women gets longer every year," she said.

Despite growing public attention to the issue and various police initiatives to respond to it, little has changed in the past 20 years regarding the safety of women in the Downtown Eastside, say area advocates, adding that about 10 women from the community have been killed in the past year.

"There are loud and clear messages that we need justice," participant Gladys Radek told family and friends at a memorial gathering before the march. "We have to start taking our lives back, women," she urged.

"We need accountability and we need justice," said Lynn Frey of Campbell River, whose daughter Marnie was one of the six women murdered by convicted serial killer Robert Pickton.

"This isn't going to end today or tomorrow," Frey continued. "But if we all stand together maybe the laws will change."

But Dalannah Bowen of the memorial march committee said the Vancouver Police Department must start taking seriously the complaints and tips from the Downtown Eastside community. She believes that authorities only started paying attention to missing and murdered women after Pickton's arrest. Bowen blames discrimination and class stratification for police inaction.

"Because there were Aboriginal people and addicts and sex-trade workers giving [police] the information, and they didn't listen," she insisted.

A Missing Women Commission of Inquiry, headed by former judge and B.C. attorney general, Wally Oppal, was announced last year. The inquiry will review the police files into the missing women from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside from January 1997 to February 2002.

The report will examine why Pickton wasn't arrested sooner and what could be done to enhance future murder investigations. Pickton is convicted of brutally slaying six women and is currently serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole for 25 years, the maximum sentence under Canadian law. Pickton has allegedly boasted about murdering 49 women during his killing-spree.

Oppal has until the end of 2011 to complete the inquiry.

While most Downtown Eastside advocates say they hope the report will provide insight into the botched Pickton investigation, many also say they have concerns regarding the inquiry process.

"While the government has



PHOTO: SHAUNA LEWIS

Messages to the murdered or missing women were carried through Vancouver streets.

finally established an inquiry which we have demanded for years, we have not been consulted or involved in any meaningful way about the purpose or scope or terms of reference," said Carol Martin, a victims service worker in the Downtown Eastside.

Critics of the inquiry also say the investigation timeline is too narrow and doesn't take into consideration the countless missing and murdered women prior to 1997, including women who have vanished along the so-called Highway of Tears, Hwy. 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert in northern British Columbia.

During the march, which wound through the streets of Vancouver's skid row, yellow and red roses were placed in alleys and alcoves where women had died. Elders and march officials uttered prayers and burned sweet grass, while many in the procession drummed and sang.

Two women remembered at the march were Ashley Machiskinic, 22, of the Kawacatoose First Nation in Saskatchewan, and known sex-trade worker, Carla Marie Smith, 27. Machiskinic was found dead in an alley behind a Downtown Eastside hotel after she was allegedly pushed to her death from a fifth floor suite Sept. 15, 2010. Smith's body was found Feb. 7 in a Burnaby park. Homicide is believed to have been a factor in both cases, although police initially ruled Machiskinic's death a suicide.

The march concluded at the Vancouver Police Department offices where speeches were made and cries of justice and solidarity rang out.

"I stand before you today with a heavy heart of pain that I carry for the loss of a loved one," said Mona Woodward, whose niece was Machiskinic. "If we stay united and take a stand we can

make changes," she told the crowd. "You have the power to change yourselves. You have the power to change future generations," she concluded.

"What is good is that people are listening and people are raising awareness," Bowen told Windspeaker. "But until there is justice for these situations we still have more work to do," she said.

Memorial marches took place in 10 Canadian cities, including: Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Calgary and Victoria.

The march came one day before convicted Vancouver sex-offender, Martin Tremblay, was sentenced to 11 months in jail on two drug counts. In 2002 Tremblay was convicted of five counts of drugging underage Aboriginal girls, sexually assaulting them and videotaping the attacks. Now that Tremblay is behind bars, Vancouver police are asking all potential victims to come forward.

Provinces frustrate tobacco trade on First Nations territory

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

KAHNAWAKE FIRST NATION, Que.

Canada's three most western provinces are taking exception to cigarettes crossing their borders and bearing only the federal stamp for taxes paid.

Rainbow Tobacco Company's latest shipment of cigarettes, a gift to a woman in the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, was the latest tobacco seized by a provincial financial department.

"I'm getting frustrated," said Rob Dickson, chief executive officer for Rainbow Tobacco Company, which operates on the Kahnawake First Nation, Mohawk territory in Quebec.

"I met with the federal government (early in February). They said I'm in good standing, but they don't want to get involved."

Dickson's company supplies tobacco for sale to First Nations in both Quebec and Ontario and sales tax is not paid in those provinces.

But Dickson's plans to expand his company's business to western Canada have raised an issue that has forced Dickson to hire legal counsel in Alberta.

"The constitutional argument is that the Provincial Tobacco Tax Act does not apply to First Nations lands because they are federal lands," said legal counsel Chady Moustarah. "It's quite clear this is federal lands. Our view is that the provincial government doesn't have the jurisdiction to enforce the Provincial Tobacco Tax Act."

Moustarah cited section 35 of the Constitution Act in conjunction with sections 87 and 88 of the Indian Act.

The issue came to the fore in early January when 14 million

cigarettes were seized by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC) from a Quonset in Hobbema on the Montana First Nation. The cigarettes were not marked for legal sale in Alberta. Provincial taxes are approximately \$3 million.

On Jan. 5, the RCMP was called in by Montana First Nation Chief Carolyn Buffalo, who reported a break and enter at the Quonset containing the 75,000 cartons of cigarettes. A small quantity had been stolen. The RCMP notified the AGLC and Buffalo was served with a warrant. The cigarettes were seized and are being stored in an undisclosed secured facility. No charges have been laid.

"Wherever cigarettes are sold in Alberta they do have to be marked for legal sale in Alberta and there are legal tobacco sales that take place everywhere in Alberta, including on First Nations," said Lynn Hutchings-Mah, spokesperson for AGLC.

As money had not changed hands between Montana First Nation and Rainbow Tobacco Company, Dickson flew to Alberta to claim his product. He was refused.

Moustarah was then obtained as legal counsel for Rainbow Tobacco Company, the Montana First Nation and Buffalo.

The AGLC was given until Jan. 27 to either return the tobacco or respond to correspondence demanding the return of the product. The AGLC did not respond. Moustarah has made a legal claim on behalf of his clients.

"I think it will take quite some time to deal with this issue," said Moustarah. He expects the Alberta government will move ahead on Sect. 4(1) of the provincial Tobacco Tax Act which states, in part, "... no person shall, in Alberta, purchase, possess, store, sell or offer for sale

tobacco products that are not marked for tax-paid sale in Alberta..."

Six days after the tobacco was seized in Alberta, the federal government renewed Dickson's federal manufacturing license.

Dickson has been in contact with the federal government since the latest seizures in early February. Ten thousand cigarettes intended as a gift for Elders in Squamish First Nations in B.C. were seized along with 20,000 cigarettes heading to Saskatchewan as a sample product to be stored on a First Nation in that province.

Dickson said he will continue to focus his legal efforts in Alberta at this time.

"We've received so many calls of support. Everybody says the province does not have jurisdiction," said Buffalo. She noted that the sale of tobacco products was an economic venture that would bring much needed employment to her impoverished people. The cigarettes would only be sold to other Alberta First Nations.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo had strong words.

"First Nations leaders and governments are legitimately asserting their authority and jurisdiction regarding tobacco sales and distribution in their communities based on their authority over health, commercial activity and economics and trade," he said in a news release issued after the seizure on the Montana First Nation. "Furthermore, it is obvious that there is no consensus regarding the jurisdiction issue since the tobacco products seized come from federally licensed First Nation tobacco manufacturers and, generally, provincial jurisdiction on reserve is limited according to Canada's own constitutional law."

Environment now worth protecting

Taseko Mines Ltd. will again attempt to gain federal approval for its \$800 million Prosperity mine. Last November, Taseko was told that the mine near Williams Lake could not proceed because the copper and gold mine would make nearby Fish Lake a tailings dump. Area First Nations fought the company hard on the development. This time the company is prepared to spend \$1.1 billion to make the mine a go.

CEO Russell Hallbauer announced Feb. 21 that Taseko has a revised its plan to address concerns Environment Minister

Jim Prentice and First Nations raised, including greatly reduced environmental impacts that preserve Fish Lake, and which enables all mine operations and related components to be contained within a single watershed. There are still profits to be made with higher copper and gold prices, said Hallbauer.

"In 2005, when we initiated engineering work and economic and environmental studies on our Prosperity project, the long-term price projections for copper and gold were \$1.50 per pound and \$550 per ounce, respectively. Using these metal price projections, we put forward

the best plan to ensure the project was economically viable. This plan involved the elimination of Fish Lake," Hallbauer said in a release.

"The assumptions used were consistent with the environmental assessment terms of reference and the project was advanced with both provincial and federal agencies as well as with First Nations groups."

Hallbauer said prices for copper (\$2.50 per pound) and gold (nearly \$1,400 per ounce) makes the Prosperity mine viable even if an extra \$300 million in costs for preserving the environment must be spent.

Windspeaker news briefs

THE THUNDER BAY POLICE SERVICE

held a news conference on Feb. 23 to provide an update on the case of missing 15-year-old Jordan Wabasse who was last seen exiting a city bus near Mary Street and Holt Place around 10 p.m. on Feb. 7. Thunder Bay Police had found a cap in the Kaministiquia River on Feb. 15. Service Insp. Andy Hay said it was sent to a Sault Ste. Marie lab for testing. Police won't know the results of those tests for several weeks. The OPP will wait until the spring before they attempt another underwater search, but city police will continue to look in the area of the James Street swing bridge.† City police, the OPP and volunteers searched the Mary Street and Holt Place area on Feb. 12, but found no clues. The searched moved to the partially frozen Kaministiquia River following a tip. A few days later, the OPP diving team retrieved a baseball cap that matched the description given of one worn by Jordan at the time of his disappearance. After three days in the water, police called off their underwater search. But by land and air the search continued. Anishnawbek Police Service officers and volunteers from the Fort William First Nation began a snowmobile search of wooded land behind a busy gas bar on City Road. An OPP helicopter arrived from southern Ontario two days later to aid in the search, but no new evidence was discovered.

THE NUU-CHAH-NULTH TRIBAL COUNCIL

wants the Seattle Police Department and a former police officer held accountable for the shooting death of John T. Williams, a carver with roots in Ditidaht First Nation on Vancouver Island. Tribal Council Vice-President Priscilla Sabbas-Watts said she was shocked to learn on Feb. 16 that the King County Prosecutor's office would not bring charges against Seattle Police Officer Ian Birk, 27, who fatally shot Williams on Aug. 30, 2010. Williams was making his way along a busy downtown street when the police officer noticed him.† Birk fired his weapon within a few seconds of calling to Williams to drop the knife he was using to carve a block of wood. "This decision is hugely significant to us, with so many Nuu-chah-nulth people living in Seattle," said Sabbas-Watts. "Birk and the Seattle Police Department must be held accountable." The King County Prosecutor claims that Washington law gives police officers an added level of protection against criminal liability in such cases, unless it can be proved that an officer acts with malice or in bad faith. The Seattle Police Department's Firearms Review Board, however, concluded that Birk's shooting of Williams was not justified. Sabbas-Watts said there is a clear disconnect between the prosecutor's conclusions of the shooting and those of the Seattle Police. "Ian Birk did not act in good faith when he engaged John T. Williams," said Sabbas-Watts. "John was visibly a carver. He was carrying a legal knife and a block of wood. He was not menacing; not threatening the public in any way. So why was Birk so quick to fire five shots from his gun?" Sabbas-Watts said Birk violated the policies and procedures set out by his own department and shouldn't get "a pass," just because he is a police officer. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs said he "shares the disbelief, disgust and deep disappointment of the Williams family, the Ditidaht First Nation and the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. He called for systemic change for policing. It appears that quite a number of critical police incidents resulting in death or serious bodily harm involve young and inexperienced officers. More and more, the general public want officers who exercise poor judgment and abusive misconduct to stop hiding behind the badge and the mythology of the good guy and stand before the law like everyone else." Phillip said it was too easy to say such officers "went rogue" or to paint them as bad apples. Instead they are a reflection of modern-day policing where funding for pre-screening and training are growing scarce. Birk has resigned from the police service under threat of discipline.

THE CENTRE FOR ADDICTION AND MENTAL

Health launched Canada's first mobile research laboratory on Feb. 22 to study mental health and addictions in communities across Ontario. The mobile lab will allow researchers to reach underserved populations in rural, remote and First Nations communities to help improve prevention and treatment services. "The mobile research lab fills a gap by bringing world-class research by epidemiologists, psychiatrists, neuroscientists and social scientists to communities that are far from research centres," said Dr. Bruce G. Pollock, the centre's Vice-President of Research. "The results will be shared with local health and social service agencies, enabling them to improve service delivery." Researchers are targeting Ontario communities that are less advantaged due to higher unemployment or poverty rates, among other factors. Among the series of studies planned, one line of research will tease out the complex interactions between a person's genes and problems in the community, which may put people at risk for mood and anxiety disorders, substance abuse and violence. The lab will be used to conduct interviews and surveys, run focus groups, and take hair, saliva or blood samples to measure stress or obtain genetic information.

Work continues to reach homeless or incarcerated residential school victims

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

Former residential school students who are incarcerated or homeless are receiving extra attention as the deadline looms for compensation as set out by the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

"We're assuming the deadline is fixed. We have no influence on that," said Dr. Akivah Starkman, executive director, Indian Residential School Adjudication.

Starkman's team is in charge of ensuring that those eligible for compensation have the opportunity to apply for it under the Independent Assessment Process. Deadline for application for the IAP is Sept. 19, 2012. Deadline for application for compensation under the Common Experience Payment is this year on Sept. 19.

As well, the statement gathering team for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is stepping up its efforts as the TRC's five-year mandate is set to expire in 2014.

Reaching those incarcerated or homeless "is something we're quite engaged in right now because they are obviously some of the most difficult populations to reach and we're assuming there could be a number of people in those circumstances that might be eligible to put in a claim," said Starkman.

IAP, CEP and the TRC's statement gathering team are all working with community organizations to bridge the gap. The latest round of funding through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Advocacy and Public Information Program includes an additional \$4 million in 2011/2012 and an emphasis on proposals that focus on expanding outreach to include those who are homeless, incarcerated or otherwise disadvantaged with respect to information about and participation in the residential schools settlement agreement.

Work is also underway with correctional institutions.

Starkman noted that his secretariat just completed a couple of sessions in a minimum security facility in Yellowknife.

The TRC's statement gathering team is presently working with Corrections Canada, as well as corrections in Saskatchewan and Ontario. While interest has been expressed by those particular provinces, "planning hopefully is going to be a fairly comprehensive national strategy," said Ry Moran, director of statement gathering for the TRC.

Logistical considerations, such as security and appropriate space to take statements are part of the national strategy.

Moran said the biggest concern is providing the necessary health support.

"How can we do this work in a good way that will not introduce or create harm to the people in jail?" said Moran. "We are mandated to do no harm in the statement gathering process."

Efforts on the homeless front are also ramping up.

Starkman noted that the IAP secretariat is taking a two-fold approach: holding sessions in shelters and centres to reach former residential school survivors, as well as having sessions with shelter and centre staff.

"They are the ones who really know best how to reach these people and how to make sure they're aware of it," said Starkman.

As well, said Moran, shelter staff and outreach staff already have an established bond.

"Ideally we want to find organizations that are working with homeless people (and) who are willing to work with us," said Moran. "That's a real interest to us because statement gathering is built on trust."

Moran is optimistic that processes used in Calgary at that city's Homeless Connect event on Feb. 19 can be employed nationwide to take statements from residential school survivors who are homeless.

The TRC partnered with Boyle Street Community Services, out of Edmonton, provided training, using Boyle Street's resolution support workers and other personnel, to take statements at Calgary's Homeless Connect.

Moran said Boyle Street was brought to his attention by the coordinator for the regional health board.

Using organizations like Boyle

Street could be implemented nationally.

"We're moving as fast as we can while making sure it's all done in the best way possible for the statement provider," said Moran.

Starkman also expressed that sense of urgency.

"We're not allowing ourselves the luxury that people may have more time. We're gearing up our outreach sessions," he said. Since April 2010, 45 events have been held.

Starkman said his office monitors payments to ensure they are made, but it is INAC who disburses the dollars. Most recipients who are incarcerated would receive their payments through their lawyer, said Starkman. However, he was unclear as to how homeless recipients were paid.

CEP is given to former students who lived at one of the prescribed residential schools and is awarded at \$10,000 for the first school year and \$3,000 for every subsequent year. IAP is given to a student who suffered sexual, or serious physical abuses, or other abuses, and falls between \$5,000 to \$275,000 in compensation.

Métis push back on federally-awarded contract

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

A contract awarded by the federal government to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) to develop a verification strategy for Métis identification systems has been pulled.

"With all the controversy and push back from all the five (provincial Métis associations) and the Métis National Council, the contract is no longer going to go through," said Audrey Poitras, president of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

Reports that the contract was awarded without consulting the Métis, and to an organization best known for approvals for household items like light bulbs and such, angered Métis leaders across the country.

Registrars and officials from the Métis National Council (MNC) and Métis Nations of Alberta, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, and the Manitoba Métis Federation, met with officials from Indian and

Northern Affairs on Feb. 10 in Edmonton. The meeting was scheduled as a regular meeting of registries and post-Powley officials. INAC attended to discuss the CSA contract and it took Métis officials by surprise.

"There was no consultation before (INAC) went ahead with the contract," said Poitras.

"To clarify, INAC officials listened carefully to the concerns raised by Métis organizations and they were informed that the contract with the CSA is temporarily on hold to ensure that, through dialogue, their concerns are addressed," said Genevieve Guibert, media relations with INAC, in an email. "We are currently in conversation with these organizations to continue that dialogue and find a mutually agreeable solution."

"We're trying to move forward. We see this issue with regards to the MERX proposal as being behind us," said Robert McDonald, manager of public and political relations for MNC.

According to the posting on MERX, where public tenders are

listed, the CSA would be contracted for "the development of a Verification Strategy for Métis Identification Systems . . ."

The major objective of the verification exercise is to identify a set of conditions, standards and means of verifying those standards to a level that provides the government with confidence as to what constitutes a satisfactory membership system."

The Métis associations are already doing this, said McDonald, meeting on a regular basis to discuss the processes each has in place, see what can be improved on, and ensure the same standards are being implemented.

As an example of collaborative work that has already been undertaken, Poitras said last fall the MNA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ontario association to share information so neither organization is "reinventing the wheel. One of the things we want to work on together is the registry system."

Approximately one-third of

the MNA's membership is registered as citizens. That number puts it ahead of any other provincial Métis organization.

"We want a constitution for our nation. But if you don't know who your citizens are it's difficult to develop your nation further," said Poitras.

In 2002, a national definition for Métis was adopted: "Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples and is accepted by the Métis Nation."

The Powley decision, which followed in 2003, said the Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. had an Aboriginal right, protected by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, to hunt for food. That decision has been used as a yardstick to look at Métis rights further.

The Métis citizenship registry has been on the go since 2003.

Poitras said the MNA spent the first few years establishing the process, which included

determining "historic Métis Nation ancestry," according to the definition. That meant people who self-identified as Métis needed to produce long-form birth certificates, baptismal certificates, church records or another document supporting their claim.

While Poitras doesn't support the route INAC took in contracting CSA's service, she said she is not surprised by the government's push for a national standard.

"All of us, as five governing members, have looked at how do we standardize what we're doing? We can't have a national registry if we're all doing things differently. In the end we all want a national registry . . . so we can have our president elected nationally and we can do all those kinds of things we want to do from a national perspective," said Poitras.

The Métis registrars and post Powley-officials have another regularly scheduled meeting for March 24 and 25 in Vancouver. McDonald does not expect the CSA contract to be discussed further at that time.

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Hope remains that day scholars will get compensation

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

TK'EMLUPS FIRST NATION, BC

The push to obtain common experience payments and Independent Assessment Process payments for Aboriginal day scholars is rolling ahead.

"It's a matter of initiating a campaign and then I think a lot of people will sign on. The campaign will gain momentum, it will gain a profile. It's pretty much replicating what happened with the residential school initiative itself," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC).

Tk'emlups Indian Band was planning to host a day scholars and survivors meeting on Feb. 25 (after press deadline). It would be the second such meeting in as many months. Legal counsel, who are experts in class action lawsuits, were to be in attendance to discuss what comes next. Among those next steps is whether the campaign for the inclusion of day scholars should move from a regional initiative to a national campaign. It is presently centred in British Columbia, although names of day scholars are being gathered from other parts of the country.

The ground work has already been set for the campaign to go national. In 2010, the Assembly of First Nations passed a

resolution at its annual general assembly directing the AFN to coordinate a political action plan on behalf of day scholars and for the AFN to engage the Canadian government in a reconciliation and compensation package for day scholars. Barring that, the AFN was directed to seek support for a class action suit.

The resolution was put forward by Tk'emlups Chief Shane Gottfriedson and Splatsin Chief Wayne Christian, both from BC First Nations.

Phillip noted that the UBCIC also has a resolution supporting action be taken on behalf of day scholars.

Phillip believes that the apology issued by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in June 2008 "contemplates complete inclusivity of all students who suffered as a result of the residential school experience, including day school scholars."

Phillip thinks day schools were left off the list for compensation because of an oversight.

"I think the task of organizing this initiative (Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement) was pretty overwhelming and all in all, (day scholars) were simply overlooked."

Phillip believes that day scholars suffered the same degree of abuse as their residential school counterparts.

"There was a lot of abuse in the classroom and in the school itself that will reveal itself as we bring this matter forward," said Phillip.

Day school students who were abused are only eligible for compensation through the settlement agreement if they were abused while attending an Indian residential school.

Exclusion of day scholars from the settlement is also a concern raised by Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chair Justice Murray Sinclair.

"The issue of day scholar exclusion and exclusion of certain schools from the settlement agreement or from the class

action litigation still remains to be discussed... I'm not sure it makes any sense for us to be looking at the possibility there may be another class action lawsuit, there may be another settlement agreement and there may be another truth and reconciliation process in the future," Sinclair told a room full of former day scholars and residential school students in December 2010 in Gatineau.

The residential school settlement agreement was signed in May 2006 between Canada, representatives from the Catholic Entities, Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches, representatives for the students, Assembly of First Nations and Inuit representatives.

Sinclair said that not including day scholars in the settlement agreement left out a "large segment of the Aboriginal population."

The issue of inclusion of day scholars has been brewing for a few years, said Phillips.

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[strictly speaking]

The things you do in Native theatre

It's been said that politics makes strange bedfellows. Well, whoever said that has obviously not worked in Native theatre. I say this because Native theatre is an odd mistress indeed. You work with interesting people with interesting talents. You find yourself doing and saying things you wouldn't normally say or do. And it all seems so ... normal. It's in this unique vortex called Native theatre that art and culture are synthesized into a unique and often bizarre hybrid. I often wonder if other theatre companies end up doing or even saying some of the things we do. Or deal with the unique taboos that occasionally pop up.

I bring this all up because this coming year is going to be a busy theatre year for yours truly and it will be interesting to see what adventures may arise from it. You see, in February, my play *In A World Created By A Drunken God* is going to be produced at Theatre Orangeville and possibly in Calgary next fall (negotiations are ongoing). In June, *The Berlin Blues* opens at 4th Line Theatre in Peterborough. I also have a couple of children's plays currently touring the country



THE URBANE INDIAN

Drew Hayden Taylor

too.

One time several years ago when I was doing quite a bit of work with the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) in Saskatoon, they came up with a unique way of raising money for the company. They had their own black box (a small, intimate, square shaped theatre, as the name implies) and they thought it would be interesting and fun to culturally appropriate a popular English film for a fundraising cabaret.

The film – *The Full Monty*. *The Cabaret – The Full Bannock*. For those not fully knowledgeable about Aboriginal cuisine, bannock is a type of Indian fried bread; Golden

brown, tasty, and hot, just like a lot of Native actors, I suppose. And playwrights, of course.

So they were looking for a small (don't take that the wrong way) line up of Native men to perform the required choreographed scene on stage for a paying audience. Men with a recognizable name and hopefully an appeal that would encourage patrons (one would think female ones) with disposable income to attend. They had one position left in the chorus line to fill. So they asked me.

Normally, I don't dance or sing, clothed or unclothed, but here I was in a bit of a situation. I was flattered by the attention, and their interest in me parading

my stuff. I had great respect and admiration for SNTC and the work they did. I would do anything I could to support them. But perhaps this was a little above and beyond the call of duty. At first I thought my girlfriend might come to my rescue and object to the very thought of me showing off the bannock in such a public display. Nope. She thought it was a fabulous idea and gave me her full, if amused, endorsement. Yet I knew my best naked days were way behind me – so to speak.

To make a long story short, the fundraiser never happened, and I was saved any public embarrassment, though occasionally they still threaten to revisit the idea. I wonder if they would have used that song from 1950s, 'Running Bear,' as the actual number? Or that Rolling Stones song, 'Brown Sugar.' Or possibly that old novelty country song, 'Don't Go Near The Indians.'

I have to safely say, I have never been asked to take my clothes off for any mainstream, or non-Native theatre company. I hope Theatre Orangeville or 4th Line Theatre doesn't get any ideas.

That wasn't the only unusual case where combining culture and craft created a conflict for me. I was once working with a Cree director on a play, and at one point he couldn't help admiring my shirt. "That's a very nice shirt you're wearing," he told me. I, of course, thanked him. Then he paused for a moment before adding "you know, in the Cree community, when somebody compliments you on something they like, its traditional to give it to them. Yep, that's a really nice shirt."

Though I was Ojibway, not Cree, I still couldn't help feeling that my respect and Aboriginalism was being called into question. So, feeling pressured, I started unbuttoning my shirt to give it to him, like a good Indigenous person would. As I undid the last button, I casually mentioned to him, "By the way Floyd, I really like your girlfriend."

Briefly put, I got to keep my shirt, but I was more than willing to give him the very shirt off my back in the name of traditionalism. I guess maybe I was a little more traditional than he was.

DUI charge threatens chief's position

By Christine Fiddler
Windspeaker Contributor

SASKATOON

Saskatchewan's 74 band chiefs may eventually decide the fate of their head chief's leadership position after his drunk driving charges became public last month.

A January court appearance saw Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Guy Lonechild plead guilty to a Sept. 2, 2009 incident of driving under the influence (DUI), around a month before he was elected head chief of the organization.

At the time, he was charged with failing to immediately pull over for police at a check-stop. When police caught up to him he was also charged for refusing a breathalyzer.

"I was returning home after a game of golf and drinks with friends and the Saskatoon Police Service pulled me over. At the time I was arrested and charged," Chief Lonechild said in a Feb. 1 statement to media.

He said the situation is a completely private circumstance and is in no way associated with his work for the FSIN, advancing the rights and interests of the First Nations across the province.

But chiefs-in-assembly in Saskatoon from Feb. 15 to Feb. 17 were not convinced the charges were unrelated to Lonechild's work. They started off the first day of their meetings voicing their concerns for the

chief's failure to disclose the charges prior to the election.

"It boils down to integrity and the trust of the people that you serve," said Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas. "If you don't have that how can you effectively advocate and lobby for all the First Nations?"

Speaking strongly in support of Chief Lonechild was English River Dene Nation Chief Ralph Paul, who questioned why the chiefs concerns could not wait until after Chief Lonechild's March 23 sentencing on the charges.

"The assembly should wait until Lonechild's impaired driving conviction is dealt with by the court," Chief Paul said to chiefs-in-assembly, adding he wanted to focus on more important issues dealing with the communities rather than on ousting the chief.

The issue of whether or not Chief Lonechild should be allowed to remain in his leadership role continued well into the last day of the assembly. Doors were closed to media as chiefs debated the issue, with some chiefs attempting to enact measures that would see Chief Lonechild immediately removed from his position of power.

Chief Thomas and the Saskatoon Tribal Council's chiefs were among a group of 30 who signed a petition demanding that Chief Lonechild resign, with a threat that the group of chiefs would follow through with a vote of non-confidence if he refused. But Lonechild remained steadfast, refusing to step down.

Sakimay First Nation Chief Lynn Acoose put forward a resolution to immediately suspend the powers of all four FSIN chiefs, and show non-confidence in Chief Lonechild's position. The move would have transferred the power and authority of the FSIN chiefs to the province's tribal council chiefs and avoided the long process of holding a separate assembly for a non-confidence vote. However, the resolution was defeated.

Chief Lonechild remained in his position, and Chief Acoose voiced her concern that too many chiefs were absent from their seats at the assembly's proceedings.

Now it's expected that the lengthy formal process of a non-confidence vote will ensue. The FSIN executive council and the Indian Government Commission will decide if another assembly-of-chiefs should occur for a non-confidence vote.

Prior to Chief Lonechild's success in the FSIN election, he said he fully disclosed the charges to the FSIN Credentials Committee and they determined his candidacy was still legally valid.

One week after the charges became public, FSIN Senators Roland Crowe and Sol Sanderson voiced their indignation at Chief Lonechild's secrecy, and they called for his resignation.

"He's got some responsibility. He can't be in total denial that

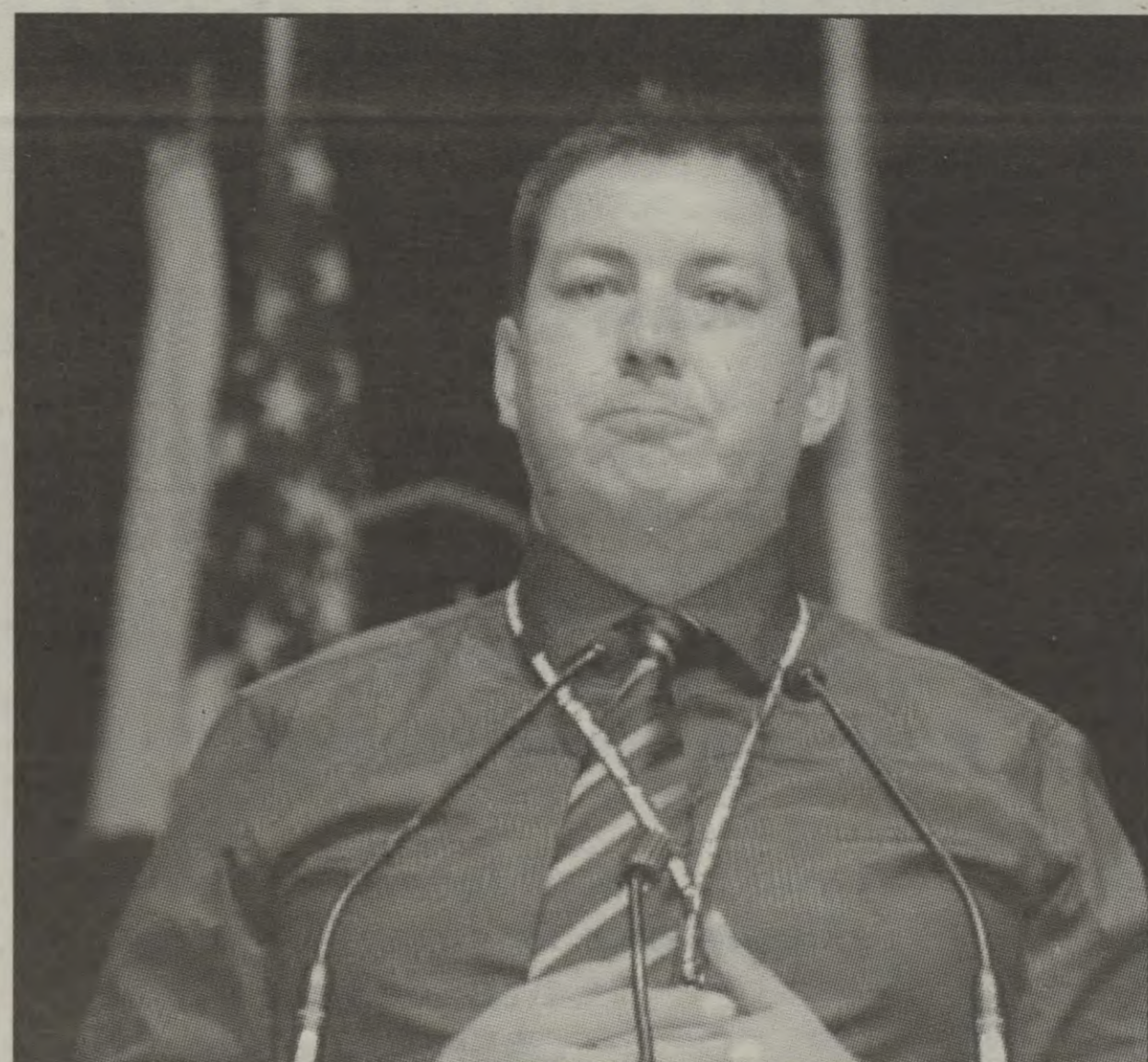


PHOTO: FILE

FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild

he is responsible," Senator Sanderson told a *Star Phoenix* reporter, adding that Chief Lonechild wouldn't have been approved to remain a nominated chief candidate if Sanderson had been on the committee.

A few days later, Chief Lonechild sent a letter to the Saskatchewan's Chief and Councils regarding the comments made to media by the FSIN senators.

"The recent actions of these two Senators undermine the integrity and confidence of the Senate, the Executive offices and the authority of the Chiefs-in-Assembly," Chief Lonechild stated in the letter.

He went on to say the senators

breached the political, neutrality, and confidential policies of the FSIN and may face disciplinary measures. Furthermore, their actions prove an urgent need for a thorough review of FSIN's governance structures.

A senator also questioned whether a decision to move Chief Lonechild's hearing to a Rosthern court from Saskatoon was meant to keep the case private, but Chief Lonechild responded to media that the request was made at the advice of his lawyer.

Once sentencing occurs, Chief Lonechild faces a minimum fine of \$1,000, a victim surcharge, or suspension of his drivers license for at least a year.

Aboriginal musicians knocking at mainstream's door

By Jennifer Ashawasegai
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

Juno award nominated Aboriginal artists hope the Canadian music prize will lead to more exposure and perhaps mainstream airplay, but even with a Best Aboriginal Album win, the larger mainstream markets remain frustratingly out of reach.

The Aboriginal Album of the Year has been a category in the Juno Awards since 1994, thanks to blues producer Elaine Bomberry, who petitioned to have it become a category to bring exposure to Aboriginal artists.

And while the category has done just that for artists like Digging Roots, who picked up the hardware at last year's awards, and for singer/songwriter Derek Miller, who has scored two of the coveted Canadian music awards, they say it doesn't open the doors they wish it would.

Miller, who has been nominated for his third Juno this year, is thankful to Bomberry for ensuring Aboriginal musicians get the recognition in their niche category.

"The Juno nomination is a very big asset for people like myself to

get the word out there."

Miller says he's been speaking with larger record labels, "to create infrastructure in Indian Country to have our music out there and have mainstream exposure." He said the Juno category "gave us a chance to express ourselves and give our views to the people so they understand our history." The next steps are controlling our own media and being a part of the mainstream media, so we're not looked upon as "a back of the bus situation."

Miller said he has had a real struggle trying to get his albums played on mainstream radio, and has been turned down in the recent past because the carriers told him they didn't have an 'Aboriginal hour.'

"We're living in 2011 last time I checked, and we're still dealing with these sorts of things and it's totally ridiculous."

Miller is not the only one feeling a sense of frustration by being pigeon-holed into a category. ShoShona Kish of the duo Digging Roots echoes Miller's sentiments. Last year, Digging Roots picked up a Juno for Best Aboriginal Album of the Year. Kish said it's a challenge to get into other categories, as well as get more airplay in mainstream.

She doesn't want to be typecast. "I'm really not interested in contriving an image. I think when we do what we do, we're just ourselves. Such a strong part of our identity does come from our community."

It's an issue, she says, they constantly think about.

"This is something that we're always trying to figure out, because people make all of these assumptions. And not to be critical, because it's a journey, but I think racism is still alive and well in this country. Certainly, even the good intended situations, people come with these stereotypes that are pretty strongly ingrained, so they make assumptions about who we are and our music that especially in our case don't necessarily apply."

Digging Roots music could probably fit into a number of categories, including folk or blues. And trying to pinpoint a category is something even Miller can't quite figure out about his own music.

Miller says his music may fit into a 'Roots' category, but even then, it's hard to find a real fit for his music because he says, "it's so eclectic... It's got a country, soul, blues, rock 'n' roll element, so it's hard to put it into those sorts of

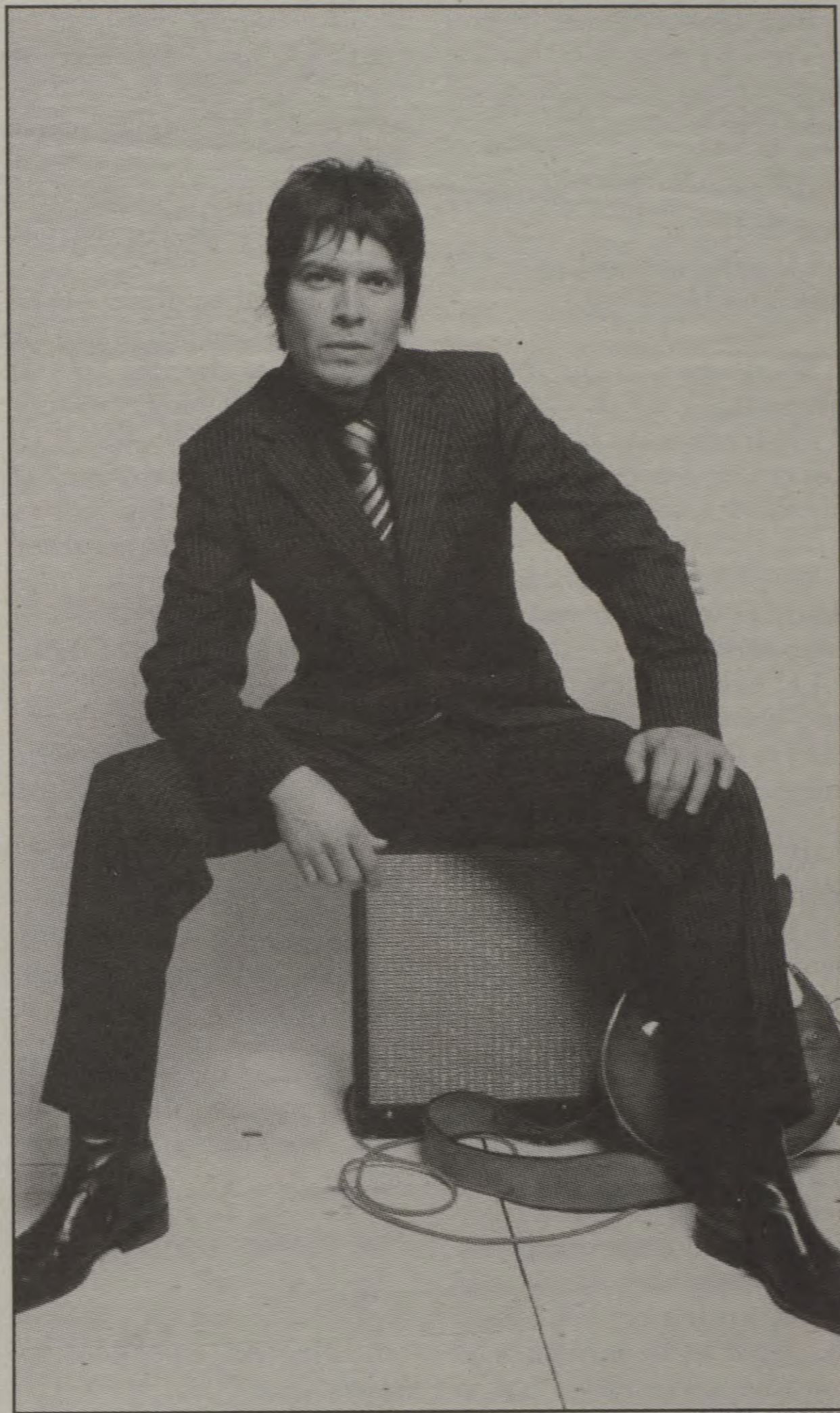


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Derek Miller

categories. But I'd try to put it into producer of the year, engineer of the year. I don't know."

According to Kim Cooke, co-chair of nominating and voting for the Canadian Academy for Recording Arts (the organization that hosts the Juno Awards), Aboriginal artists are not limited to the 'Aboriginal' category for Juno awards.

"Anybody wishing to submit their recording for consideration by a panel of judges may do so. There's a filing fee and parameters to follow for each of the 40 awards."

Cook also says, "No card-carrying Aboriginal should ever feel pigeon-holed. They can submit in any of the craft categories or any of the sales

categories if they qualify. For instance, Tanya Tagaq had an entry in one of the instrumental categories a couple of years ago."

As for Troy Little Hawk or "Little Hawk," another of this year's Juno nominees, he says the best thing about the nomination is that they are able to shed light on the issues they sing about, and share their platform with so many more people because of the exposure the nomination brings.

The list of this year's Juno Best Aboriginal Album of Year nominees include Derek Miller for 'Derek Miller with Double Trouble', CerAmomy for their self-titled album, Eagle and Hawk for 'The Great Unknown', Joey Stylez for his album 'The Black Star', and Little Hawk for 'Vigilance.'



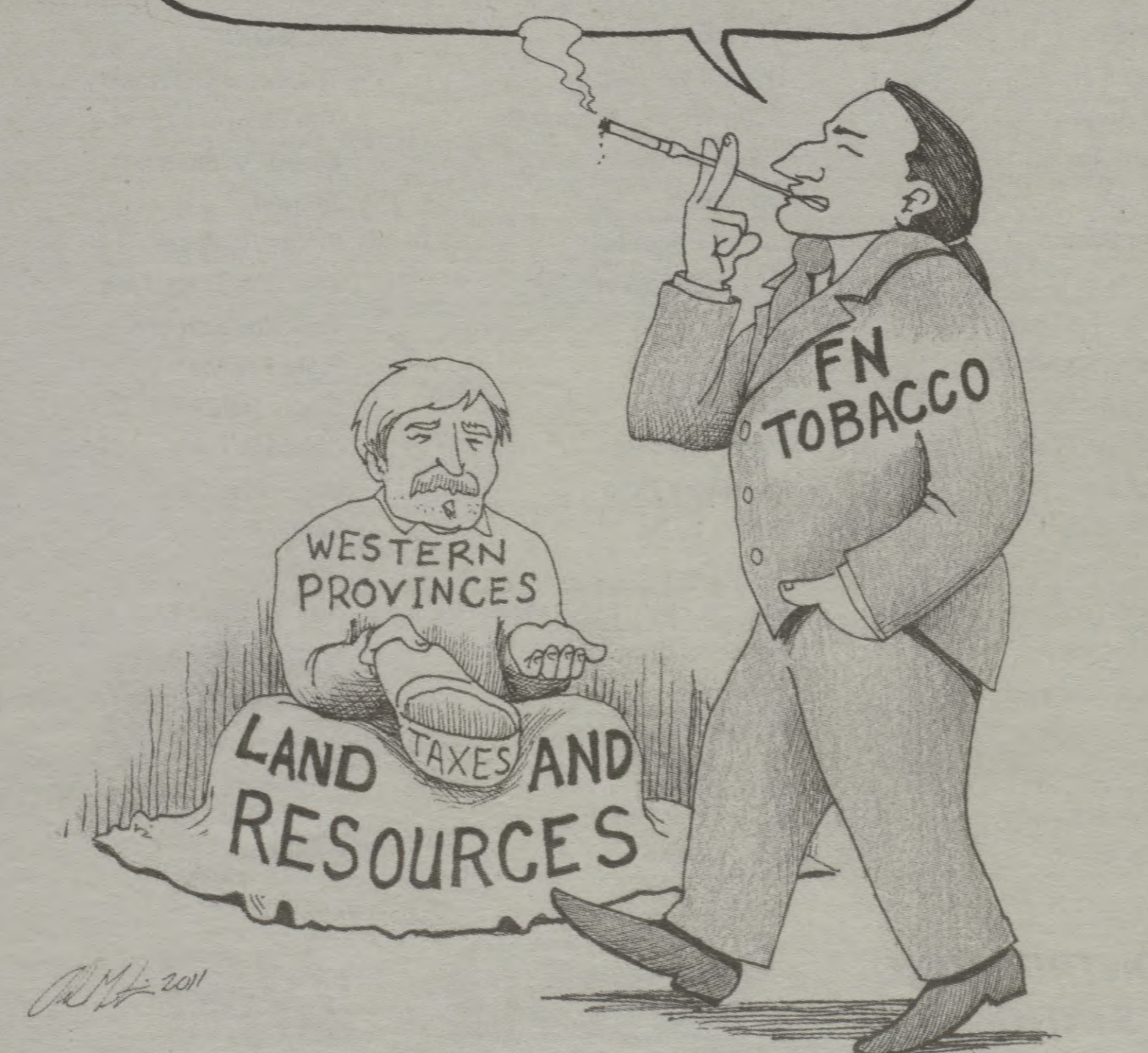
PHOTO: FILE

ShoShona Kish left and Raven Kanataktka of the duo Digging Roots perform at the 2009 Mahnitoahbe Music Awards.

Rank Comix

by Adam Martin

NO, NO... I THINK
WE'VE GIVEN YOU QUITE
ENOUGH ALREADY.



AM 2011

Inez Jasper — [windspeaker confidential]



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Inez Jasper

pave the way for Aboriginal entertainers to be recognized for their work and inspired many people to pursue a career as a nurse.

Inez is a Sto:lo singer/songwriter with powerhouse talent and universal appeal. As one of Canada's top Aboriginal musicians, her blend of traditional Native sounds with a love for contemporary hip hop and R&B brings the best of her culture to the mainstream world.

Exploding onto the Canadian

music scene in 2006 and releasing her hit album *Singsoulgirl* in 2008, this proud Sto:lo, Ojibway and Metis artist has been featured at myriad high profile events across the country, including *2009 Aboriginal People's Choice Awards*, *2009 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards* and 14 shows at the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, not to mention feature spots on national television programs like *Aboriginal Day Live!* and *The New Canoe*. Despite all the

attention, she maintains an endearing humility and commitment to inspiring youth.

This past year, Inez was recognized with three *Canadian Aboriginal Music Award* nominations, a *Western Canadian Music Award* nomination, a *Juno* nomination, and she took home four *2009 Aboriginal People's Choice Awards!* In 2010 she was nominated for two *Aboriginal People's Choice Awards* and made a huge splash with her performance of her upcoming single *Make You Mine*.

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

Inez: Trustworthiness. It's hard to come by these days, but I've been blessed with some good solid friends.

W: What is it that really makes you mad?

I.J.: Ignorance and racism. It makes my blood boil.

W: When are you at your happiest?

I.J.: It's a toss up: Either when I'm getting a tickle attack from my son or rocking out onstage.

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

I.J.: Grumpy. I can't lie. I can be a grumpy pants sometimes, but I've learned to see the silver lining.

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

I.J.: My mother. She's hardworking and always makes time for everyone.

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

I.J.: The most difficult thing was the time I had to put on a happy face after hearing bad news from my home community while I was on the road. I wanted to curl up and cry but I knew that I had to keep moving and continue my journey. I had to make a positive out of a negative.

That was a tough day.

W: What is your greatest accomplishment?

I.J.: My son. I have learned many lessons from him and he continues to be my most influential teacher to this day.

W: What one goal remains out of reach?

I.J.: I used to dream about being on TV and performing for thousands of cheering fans. It seemed like that dream was out of reach. Now that I've performed on live television that dream became a reality. Perhaps now, my crazy aspiration about crossing over into the mainstream music industry is not a goal that is out of reach. Hmmm.

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

I.J.: I would be starring in the *Real Housewives of the Sto:lo Nation*, running a youth group, children's choir and making babies.

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

I.J.: Don't work harder; work smarter.

W: Did you take it?

I.J.: Yep!

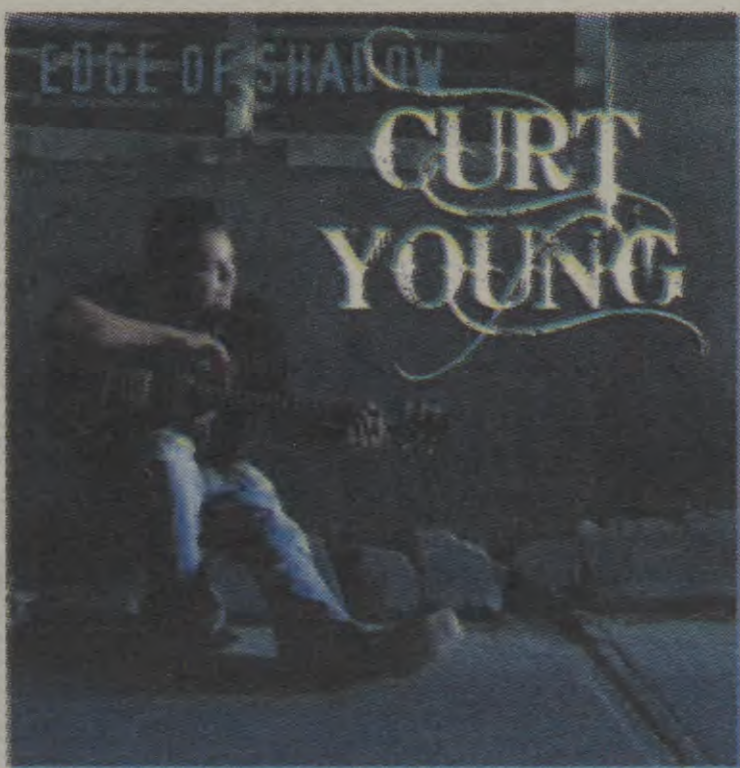
W: How do you hope to be remembered?

I.J.: Inez Jasper. She helped to

OUR PICK

Artist—Curt Young
Song—You're so Crazy
Album—Edge of Shadow
Label—Independent

Curt Young starts this CD by establishing his Aboriginal content very early on. In fact, it appears Curt is not afraid to write songs about whatever is on his mind, even if it's political. But just being Aboriginal often qualifies you on some political issues automatically. Listen to the words as Curt says what's on his mind in "Native Man". Singing about what you know keeps it real, and Curt shows he's been out on the Pow Wow trail when he sings "Pretty Dancer". The song "Bannock" is about relationships with subject matter most native people can identify with. Musically, Curt Young's songs are guitar based. This establishes his form of rock, with the hint of a country flavor and a healthy mix of the blues. Curt carries this album in good form on every song. Though Curt has some grit, he can deliver a sweet ballad too, as "You're So Crazy" demonstrates. It should be no time at all before you will find that Curt Young is no longer hanging out at the edges of any shadows. Curt Young will become a well known, in demand performer throughout Indian Country while standing in the spot light.



Reviewed by K. Kanten

[radio's most active]

ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Eagle & Hawk	What If We Could	The Great Unknown
Don Amero	Right Where I Wanna Be	The Long Way Home
Gabby Taylor	It Spells Love	Single Release
Segweh	Open Eye	Segweh
Night Switch	Indian Princess	Single Release
Tommy J. Mueller	Changes Everything	Changes Everything
Samantha Crain	Santa Fe	You (Understood)
Crystal Shawanda	Fight For Me	Fight For Me
Fargo Arizona	My Last Ride	Single Release
Direction Four	10th Regiment	Direction Four
Black Rain	One More Time	Under The Gun
Chrome 204	Meant To Be	Single Release
Genevieve Fisher	Keep On	No Borders
Wayne Lavallee	Big Country	Trail Of Tears
Richard McKay	Now You Know	Single Release
Angus Jourdain	Waiting	Single Release
Anita Issaluk	Healing Through Song	Arctic Wind
Art Napoleon	Wild Flowers	Creeland Covers
Kinnie Starr	A Different Day	A Different Day
Lucie Idlout	Lovely Irene	Swagger

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



[business] Using the natural world to develop business in remote locations

Susan Sullivan, Newfoundland and Labrador's minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, and Patty Pottle, minister of Aboriginal Affairs, announced Feb. 23 that the provincial government is committing \$115,248 towards the exploration of business opportunities focused on maximizing the economic potential of the Torngat Mountains National Park and the Torngâsok Cultural Centre in Nain.

"Today's event marks two exciting ventures for the Nunatsiavut Government as it looks to develop and market Canada's newest national park to the globe and develop a cultural centre in Nain," said Sullivan. "The provincial government is pleased to partner with the Nunatsiavut Government to maximize the area's potential by having the necessary infrastructure to target international travellers seeking a unique visitor experience. We believe that these two initiatives hold tremendous potential and have the capacity to provide new employment opportunities for Aboriginal men and women."

Established in December 2005 with the signing of the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement,

the Torngat Mountains National Park is known for its natural beauty and remoteness. It is a unique place in North America. The provincial government, Nunatsiavut Government, and Parks Canada recognized the importance of the Inuit cultural experience and how this tourism product is highly marketable.

"The Nunatsiavut Government and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador are embarking on a partnership that seeks to foster the appreciation of the Torngat Mountains National Park and the richness of Inuit culture through the Torngâsok Cultural Centre," said Pottle. She said the funding "will explore opportunities for the greater appreciation of our natural wonders and cultural richness, and showcase them for the appreciation of visitors who come to Labrador for a natural and cultural experience like no other."

Currently, infrastructure at the base camp is modest with limited capacity for the adventure traveller. Through this initiative, the base camp will be expanded to allow for increased tourism potential, as well as the identification of possible private enterprise opportunities.

Upgrades will additionally serve as an important economic stimulus largely through using qualified Inuit businesses for a range of activities such as construction and transportation.

Of the total \$115,248 investment, \$15,249 is being directed towards geotechnical investigative work on establishing the Torngâsok Cultural Centre in Nain. As part of the initiative, a feasibility study and five-year business plan for the centre will be completed.

"We are extremely pleased to share in this announcement today," said Johannes Lampe, minister of Culture, Recreation and Tourism with the Nunatsiavut Government. "This funding will ensure the base camp at KANGIDLUSUK is able to compete on an international scale by providing top quality amenities to tourists from all over the world while, at the same time, affording the opportunity for visitors to fully appreciate what our beautiful homeland has to offer. It will also help carry out a feasibility study and business plan for the Torngâsok Cultural Centre, which will help the Nunatsiavut Government showcase the unique Labrador Inuit culture and heritage."

Business Briefs

THE GLOBE AND MAIL ANNOUNCED

this year's list of Canada's Best Diversity Employers. The 45 companies named were chosen from a short list of 300 and that number came from a list of more than 2,700. Companies are judged by their diversity and inclusiveness programs for five major employee groups: women; members of visible minorities; people with disabilities; Aboriginal peoples; and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered/transsexual people. New criteria included a clearly defined strategy to achieve goals; strategy review and updating; and initiatives relating to recruitment, retention, development, training and education, employee resources, affinity groups, leadership and management accountability, customer and market diversity, vendor and supplier diversity, and community partnerships. Employers are also expected to have tracking measures in place. Among the top diversity employers is Cameco. "This award acknowledges our role as Canada's leading industrial employer of First Nations and Métis people," said Kaylynn Schroeder, Cameco's vice-president of human resources. "It also compliments Cameco's recent recognition as one of the '10 Best Companies To Work For' in Canada." The Saskatoon-based Uranium-radium-vanadium ore mining company has about 2,800 employees.

Nexen Inc. a crude petroleum and natural gas extraction company was also listed, and recognized for establishing a formal Aboriginal partnerships strategy to increase Aboriginal representation within the workforce. Nexen also created a new position dedicated to Aboriginal recruitment.

SASKATCHEWAN FIRST NATIONS ARE

pressing First Nations and Métis Relations Minister Ken Cheveldayoff for a natural resource revenue sharing agreement very like the one offered to municipalities. "We need to share because poverty is the issue plaguing our communities," said Little Black Bear First Nation Chief Perry Bellegarde. "We need to be part of the economy. We need better lives for the people in our communities." Bellegarde said treaties didn't cede First Nations subsurface mineral rights. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations argues that the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement of 1930 is invalid. The agreement transferred mineral rights from the federal government to the province. Bellegarde said a resource revenue sharing agreement would lead to economic prosperity for First Nations and that could improve housing and education.

THE TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATION

has made a \$2-million equity investment in Surrey-based wind energy manufacturer Endurance Wind Power. As part of the partnership, TWN Wind Power Inc. will become the distributor of Endurance Wind Power's 5kW and 50kW community-based wind turbines to First Nations and Indigenous groups in Canada and the United States. As the first partnership of its kind in Canada, TWN Wind Power Inc. is stepping to the forefront of a shift in thinking for First Nation communities across the country, while expanding the Tsleil-Waututh Nation's economic development ventures into the growing renewable energy sector. Tsleil-Waututh is establishing itself as a leader in the effort to help First Nation communities generate a reliable, renewable supply of energy that will reduce their overall energy costs, and enable them to invest in other economic and social development priorities. In launching this new partnership with successful, locally-owned and operated Endurance Wind Power, Tsleil-Waututh plans to create jobs, grow the community-based wind industry and provide renewable energy for First Nations for generations to come.

THE ABORIGINAL FINANCIAL OFFICERS

Association of Canada has announced that Terry Goodtrack, Chief Operating Officer of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation located in Ottawa, and Alana Dixon, Band Administrator of the Canim Lake Band in British Columbia, are the 2011 recipients of the AFOA/Xerox Excellence in Aboriginal Leadership Award. Dixon receives the award in the community/regional category for her many years of dedication and leadership. Providing leadership and direction to several managers who oversee more than 100 programs and services, Dixon has built a strong team within the administration who take pride in preparing quality, timely and detailed reports to support contribution agreement requirements. The national category award is presented to Goodtrack for his commitment, leadership and support in leading financial, management and governance initiatives that span the country over many years. A well-known and respected senior manager, Goodtrack joined the Aboriginal Healing Foundation in 2004. The establishment of effective practices and standards in relation to financial accountability, efficiency and transparency is a direct result of his considerable financial and management leadership.

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Government of Alberta

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

Artists remember the past, but forge a new future

By **Shauna Lewis**
Raven's Eye Contributor

Vancouver

Traditional and modern artistry merged and exploded on to the stage as a line-up of talented Aboriginal artists gathered to kick off the 10th Annual Talking Stick Festival during the opening gala on Feb. 1.

Nearly 200 people packed Vancouver's Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre to launch the two-week city-wide festival honouring First Nations and Métis art and artists.

"It's a beautiful resurgence of culture," said Squamish Chief Ian Campbell of the festival.

Campbell, who hosted the gala, commended Aboriginal artists for their dedication to culture and legacy. "There are many great people here who are certainly keeping our culture alive," he told the audience. "[Talking Stick] showcases the richness and talent of our people for the past 10 years," he said.

"We're going to have a fabulous festival," said festival creator and artistic director, Margo Kane. "We're building up to taking over the whole month of February," she joked.

The gala, which brought together a variety of Aboriginal talent, also attracted political dignitaries.

Lieutenant Governor Steven Point of the St̓ú:lo Nation attended the gala, making a poignant and humble speech about the important role art plays in First Nations history.

"I'm here not as the lieutenant governor," he said. "But as a brother to my Native brothers and sisters."

"Music has always been a part of our lives as Aboriginal People, long before the arrival of newcomers to our country," Point added. "We made these [artistic] expressions on drums and rattles and sometimes at all-night lahals," he explained.

Throughout the history of Aboriginal art and culture First Nations people have left an "Aboriginal footprint that is entirely North American,



PHOTO: SHAUNA LEWIS

The Git Hayetsk Dancers kicked off the two-week Talking Stick festival at a gala in Vancouver on Feb. 1.



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Jeannie Cranmer

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Phone: 604 623 4401

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National Energy Board

Office national de l'énergie

**National Energy Board
Notice of Public Hearing and Information Session
KM LNG Operating General Partnership
Kitimat LNG Export Licence**

The National Energy Board (NEB or Board) has scheduled an oral public hearing on an application from KM LNG Operating General Partnership (KM LNG) under the *National Energy Board Act* (NEB Act) requesting a long-term (20-year) licence to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Canada.

The 20-year export licence would allow KM LNG to export up to 13,300,000 10³m³/year (468 Bcf/year) of LNG from the proposed Kitimat LNG Terminal located at Bish Cove near the Port of Kitimat, BC. Copies of the application are available for viewing on the Board's Internet site at www.neb-one.gc.ca (click on "Regulatory Documents" then "Quick Links" and scroll down to the application), at KM LNG's office at Suite 1000, 700-9th Avenue SW, the Board's library (1st floor, 444 Seventh Avenue SW, Calgary) and the Kitimat Public Library (940 Wakashan Avenue, Kitimat).

Oral Public Hearing

The oral hearing will start at **9:00 a.m. local time, 7 June 2011** at a location to be announced at a later date. The hearing will obtain the evidence and views of interested persons on the application. Any person interested in participating in the oral hearing should consult the Board's Hearing Order GH-1-2011 for further background and instructions.

Information Session

For the benefit of those who may be unfamiliar with the Board's processes, Board staff will be holding an information session at

Riverlodge Recreation Centre
654 Columbia Avenue West, Kitimat, BC
Tuesday, 1 March 2011
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Participants will learn about the Board's hearing process, how to participate in it and will have an opportunity to ask questions. Board staff is only able to discuss the Board's hearing process and options for participation. Staff cannot speak to the substance of the application. Those matters will be considered during the public hearing process. For further information regarding this information session, please contact Carrie Randall, Regulatory Officer at 403-299-3714 or the toll free number at 1-800-899-1265.

Information for Intervenor and Government Participants

Any person wishing to intervene or become a Government participant in the hearing must file an application to intervene or declare its intention by **noon, Calgary time, 8 March 2011** with the Secretary of the Board and serve a copy on KM LNG and its counsel at the following addresses

Ms. Janice Kowch
c/o KM LNG Operating General Partnership
Suite 1000, 700-9th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3V4
Facsimile 403-261-1214

Mr. Gordon M. Nettleton
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP
Suite 2500, 450-1st Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1
Facsimile 403-260-7024

You may use a form on the Board's Internet site to file an application to intervene. Go to www.neb-one.gc.ca and under the "Regulatory Documents" heading, click "Submit" – click "Submit documents electronically" – then click "Application for Intervenor Status". KM LNG will serve a copy of the application and related documentation on each Intervenor.

Letters of Comment and Oral Statements

Any person wishing only to comment on the application should file a Letter of Comment to the Secretary of the Board and send a copy to KM LNG and its counsel by **noon, Calgary time, 26 April 2011**. The Board will also set aside time, at the commencement of the hearing, to hear Oral Statements on the application. Anyone wishing to make an Oral Statement must file a letter with the Board and send a copy to KM LNG and its counsel by **noon, Calgary time, 26 April 2011**. You may use forms on the Board's Internet site to file your Letter of Comment or request to make an Oral Statement. Go to www.neb-one.gc.ca. Under the "Regulatory Documents" heading, click "Submit" – click "Submit documents electronically" – then click "Letter of Comment" or "Request to Make an Oral Statement."

Information on Hearing Procedures

You may access the Hearing Order through the Board's Internet site at www.neb-one.gc.ca (click on "Regulatory Documents" then "Quick Links", scroll down to KM LNG application, then click on "Hearing Order" at the top of the screen). You may obtain information on the procedures for this hearing or on the *National Energy Board Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1995*, as amended, (Rules of Practice and Procedure) governing all hearings (available in English and French) by writing to the Secretary of the Board, contacting Carrie Randall, Regulatory Officer at 403-299-3714 or at 1 800 899-1265. You may also go to the Board's Internet site and click on "Acts and Regulations" to access the Board's Rules of Practice and Procedure and other legislation.

Secretary of the Board
National Energy Board
444 Seventh Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8
Facsimile 403-292-5503



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

Talking Stick Festival



PHOTO: SHAUNA LEWIS

Chief Ian Campbell of the Squamish Nation opens the Talking Stick Festival.

(Continued from page 16.)
entirely Canadian," he continued.

"Now, even today, we have spread awareness [of First Nations art] throughout the country by using our language."

"It makes me so proud to see the young people doing what they're doing," Point said of young Aboriginal artists. "They're not afraid to be Indian in a modern world," he concluded.

"Talking Stick brings together so many people from diverse nations and you've included us and we are so thankful," Miquel Askren of the Git Hayetsk Dancers told Kane before presenting her with a painting created by artist Mike Dangel.

"As 20th century Aboriginal people, not only can we honor the past, but we can forge on into the future," said Dangel, who also leads the dance group. "This awareness of what is traditional and contemporary is really not our argument," he continued.

"We were really heavy with our down today to show you how happy our hearts are," he added, after the group unleashing clouds of feather down into the theatre.

Throughout the evening contemporary art flourished alongside traditional ceremony, as gala participants were fed the powerfully political expressions of Mohawk poet Janet Rogers and the razor-tongued styles of lyrical prophet Zaccheus Jackson.

Gala participants were also treated to the haunting sounds and graceful movements of half-Cree classically-trained cellist, Cris Derksen and fancy-dancer Shyama-Priya Singh.

Vancouver blues guru, Murray Porter, and musical groups Sister Says and Digawolf also shared their talents with the crowd.

Kane said the annual festival costs an average of \$300,000 to host, with funds generated through fundraising, private donations, grants and in-kind contributions.

"I'm doing the best I can with what I have, but we need people to support us. People with passion for the arts" said Kane.

Kane said she hopes next year more Aboriginal people will get involved in the festival, adding that administrators, event organizers and curators would be welcomed by the non-profit organization.

"We really need more of our own people to be part of the arts community," she urged. "We need to get more of our own people engaged."

Kane said the festival she founded a decade ago is a labor of love.

"It gave me a sense of wellness that I could unleash creativity in my community," she said when asked why she got involved in the arts. "Expressing yourself is really important. [And] expressing one's creativity is one of the keys to health."

Since its beginning years ago, Talking Stick has evolved from a one-day event to a two-week artistic showcase. The festival hosts arts events throughout the city and in the past two years the festival has expanded to venues in Vancouver's Eastside, where Kane says a majority of the city's Aboriginal families live.

Kane said her organization, Full Circle: First Nations Performance, has also developed a program in which Aboriginal artists go in to schools to share their craft.

"It's a way for us to support artists in the community," she said.

"I'm very positive. It's been hard-going, but I'm very excited about this year," said Kane, when asked how she feels about the festival. "It's my life, working in the arts," she added.

Future plans for the Talking Stick include creating a travelling festival where emerging and established Aboriginal artists can showcase their talents throughout the province.

Women die as government ignores their specific needs

By Shauna Lewis
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

The rate of fatal drug overdose among First Nations people, especially women, in British Columbia is two to three times higher than that of the province's non-Aboriginal population, according to a recent report released by the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in Vancouver.

The report, released in January and published in the journal *Addiction*, found that while Aboriginal people make up four per cent of B.C.'s population, they accounted for 12 per cent of the province's illicit drug overdose deaths between 2001 and 2005.

Findings collected through provincial coroner files determined that out of the 900 overdose fatalities documented, 104 were identified as Aboriginal.

"I think it's really concerning. Too many of these deaths involve people of First Nations ancestry," said Dr. Thomas Kerr, co-author of the study and co-director of the centre's Urban Health Research Initiative. "This is just reflective of the issues we see in First Nations communities," he explained.

Kerr said drug overdoses and high rates of HIV infection are common in some First Nations communities, due to issues of poverty, substandard access to housing and education and a legacy of residential school abuse.

"As long as the government fails to take action and work with Aboriginal communities to provide better access to employment and housing, effectively we are going to continue to see these effects," he said.

The report also states that Aboriginal women represented the most number of fatal overdose cases during the study.

"That is a finding we don't quite understand," Kerr said of the high number of women dying.

"Aboriginal women in [Vancouver's] Downtown Eastside face many, many challenges, which include sex-trade work, which with it faces the disintegration of family

support and community support" he said of the reasons why many Aboriginal women turn to drug use.

"They [women] are in the back alleys shooting up," added Lorna Bird, president of the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society [WAHRS], and a volunteer with Vancouver Network of Drug Users [VANDU].

Bird explained that some women have smaller veins and are more likely to need assistance injecting their drugs. But she claims safe injection facilities won't allow assisted injections, leaving some women to do their drugs on the street and in alleys where they have no medical supervision and are consequently more susceptible to being beaten, robbed and having a fatal drug overdose.

Bird, a long-time drug user and proponent for the decriminalization of street drugs, said Vancouver should consider opening supervised assisted safe injections sites.

"Abstinence doesn't work for everyone" said Bird. "That's what Elders want, but it's not happening so we have to show people how to use safely," she insisted.

Mona Woodward, executive director of the Aboriginal Front Door Society, agrees. She said supervised injection sites like Insite, located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, are crucial for lowering the city's overdose fatality rates, but she said a safe injection facility designated specifically for women is also needed.

Woodward suspects that Aboriginal women are often more likely to use drugs in the street rather than a medically-supervised clinic out of fear that if identified as a drug addict their children will be apprehended by the ministry.

Woodward's voice lowers when asked what could be done to decrease the overdose death rate of Aboriginal women in B.C.

"I wish there was a simple answer," she said. "Unfortunately, the issue is multi-layered and there are a lot of complexities when it comes to [issues facing] Aboriginal women."

"The rates of high overdose deaths in Aboriginal people are

due to social and economic factors that are derived from colonization, the impact of residential schools and having experienced the loss of their children through the ministry," she explained. "These factors increase the use of substance [by First Nations people] to mask the pain," she said.

"We need to have community consultation on the ground level with grassroots organizations in the Downtown Eastside," Woodward suggested.

"The Aboriginal community has to be central in taking action on these situations and developing strategies that are going to work," agreed Kerr.

"I think a lot of things are failing and we're not doing enough for these women," he added. "It's good that the Vancouver Police Department is taking action on pimps and sex-trade predators, but it's not enough."

Kerr calls the findings of the report "very, very disturbing," and in light of the data, he urged the government and First Nations communities across the province to work together to find solutions that will put an end to this tragic trend.

"These are real deaths," he said. "It's a really hard reality and something needs to be done."



PHOTO: SHAUNA LEWIS

Lorna Bird, president of the Western Aboriginal Harm Reduction Society and member of Vancouver Network of Drug Users [VANDU].



PHOTO: SHAUNA LEWIS

Mona Woodward is the executive director of the Aboriginal Front Door Society.



National Energy Board

Office national de l'énergie

KM LNG Export Licence Application — Information Session

The National Energy Board (NEB) will be holding an Information Session to provide the public and Aboriginal groups with the opportunity to learn about its upcoming hearing process and how to participate effectively.

NEB staff will explain the hearing process the methods for participation. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the process that will be used to consider the KM LNG Operating General Partnership (KM LNG) application.

The application submitted by KM LNG is for a 20-year licence to export natural gas in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the proposed Kitimat LNG Terminal in Bish Cove near the port of Kitimat, British Columbia.

NEB staff will be holding the Information Session on:

Tuesday, 1 March 2011
Presentation and question period from 7 pm to 9 pm
Riverlodge Recreation Centre
654 Columbia Avenue West
Kitimat, British Columbia

NEB staff will not be discussing the specific content of the KM LNG application during the information session and will focus on process matters only. Issues regarding the content of KM LNG's application will only be considered by NEB Panel Members during the hearing process. The oral hearing is scheduled to start on Tuesday, 7 June 2011 in a location to be determined at a later date.

The NEB is an independent federal agency that regulates several parts of Canada's energy industry.

For more information, please contact Carole Léger-Kubeczek, Communications Officer, at 1-800-899-1265 and specifying the KM LNG application, or visit our website at www.neb-one.gc.ca.

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Windspeaker sports briefs

By Sam Laskaris

Nationals move

Curt Styres has expanded his sports empire and now owns three professional sports franchises. The Six Nations businessman is now the sole owner of the Hamilton Nationals, a men's field lacrosse team. The Nationals, who compete in the Major League Lacrosse (MLL), had spent the past two years playing out of Toronto. The team officially announced its relocation to Hamilton in early February. Styres was previously a part owner of the club. But now he owns the franchise exclusively. Styres also owns the American Hockey League's Rochester Americans and the Rochester Knighthawks, a box lacrosse squad that participates in the National Lacrosse League. The Nationals are one of six clubs that compete in the MLL. And they are the only Canadian entry in the league. Other squads that compete in the circuit are the Boston Cannons, Chesapeake Bayhawks, Denver Outlaws, Long Island Lizards and Rochester Rattlers. All teams play a 12-game regular season schedule, which runs from May through to August. The top four regular season finishers then advance to the playoffs. This year the MLL championship weekend will be staged Aug. 27 and 28 in Annapolis, Maryland. The Nationals will play their home contests at Ron Joyce Stadium, located at McMaster University. A year ago the Nationals' roster included several Aboriginal players. Such is expected to be the case once again this season. The team has also a new coach with some Native connections. Regy Thorpe, whose ancestors were believed to be Mohawk, was introduced as the team's new head coach this off-season. Thorpe is no stranger to Styres. From 2007 to 2009, he coached the Six Nations Junior A box lacrosse team that Styres has overseen.

Outdoor rink built

Little Buffalo, a small Aboriginal community in northern Alberta, can now boast about having its own outdoor hockey rink. Little Buffalo, which is located 100 kilometres northeast of Peace River, has about 500 Cree residents. The construction of the rink was made possible thanks to the efforts of the Alberta Federation of Labour, whose unions, including the Health Services Association of Alberta, helped raised \$97,000. The unions are part of the National Union of Public and General Employees, which is one of the country's largest labour organizations. It has more than 340,000 members. The groups involved came together to work on a project that would improve the lives of the oft-forgotten Aboriginal community.

Lacrosse summit

About 300 people from across North America converged in Six Nations in late January to take part in the Native American Youth Lacrosse Summit. The two-day event was staged at the Iroquois Lacrosse Arena on Jan. 28 and Jan. 29. Organizers billed the summit as the first time lacrosse players and officials could come together and discuss the state of the sport, of not only where it is but also where it is heading. This was believed to be the first time such a summit had been held for the Aboriginal lacrosse community. Representatives from various associations from across Canada and the United States were among those who took part in the summit. Besides discussions, the summit also included social events and an opportunity to see lacrosse players in action for those who were new or relatively newcomers to the sport.

Cowboys win tournament

British Columbia's Ashcroft Cowboys took top honors at a long-running Aboriginal hockey tournament. The Cowboys edged a squad from Alberta's Sarcee Nation 5-4 in the championship final of the 42nd annual Invitational Moccasin Hockey Tournament. The three-day event, which concluded on Feb. 13, was staged at the Nicola Valley Memorial Arena in Merritt, B.C. This year's tournament attracted 12 entrants from across B.C. and Alberta.

Saskatoon hosts nationals

The country's top Aboriginal curlers will be coming to Saskatoon this April to decide national bragging rights. The 2011 National Aboriginal Curling Championships will be staged at the Granite Curling Club. The event runs from April 1 to April 3. Those looking to take part must register before March 25. Four divisions will be contested at the nationals, two for adults and two for youth. A maximum of 32 teams will be accepted into the men's division. And there's a 16-team limit in the mixed category, which features rinks with two female and two male players. The two youth categories are for those aged 16 and under. There will be both female and male divisions. Each grouping will have a maximum of eight teams. More information is available by emailing Louis Gardiner at l.gardiner@sasktel.net. or by calling him at (306) 833-2007.

[sports]

Unique program helps build coaching skills

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

ESKASONI FIRST NATION, N.S.

Though he's been coaching hockey for 15 years, Levi Denny believes he'll be a much better coach now thanks to a recent pilot project in which he participated.

The 38-year-old Mi'kmaq, who lives on Nova Scotia's Eskasoni First Nation, was one of nine individuals from across the country who took part in the Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program.

This program allowed those taking part to be part of the coaching staff for the Canada Winter Games, which were held in Halifax from Feb. 11 to Feb. 27.

Denny was an associate coach for the Nova Scotia boys' entry. The boys' hockey tournament was staged during the first week of the Halifax games.

The Nova Scotia team played seven games and won two of them. The club was eliminated from further action after it was blanked 5-0 by Team Ontario in the quarter-final match.

Denny, though, summed up the event as follows: "It was a wonderful experience," he said.

The Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program is a joint venture between the Aboriginal Sport Circle, the Canada Games Council and the Coaching Association of Canada.

The program goal is to provide participants with exposure at a multi-sport competition. Also, coaches in the program will undoubtedly receive some valuable tips and advice from their fellow coaches.

Denny worked with three other coaches on the Nova Scotia squad.

The team's head coach was Chris Donnelly, who is the associate coach of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Halifax Mooseheads.

The two other coaches on staff were Troy Ryan and Aaron Rice. Ryan is the head coach of the Metro Marauders, a club based in Dartmouth, N.S. which competes in the Maritime Junior A Hockey League. And Rice is the head coach of the Cape Breton Tradesmen, a major midget squad.

Denny said working with this trio provided him with invaluable experience.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Levi Denny

"Some of the coaching things I learned would have taken me years to learn on my own," he said. "It really helped me learn how to develop hockey players."

Denny said the Nova Scotia coaching staff frequently utilized videos as coaching tools, something he had never done previously. And there was tons of information he learned himself about on- and off-ice training and proper nutrition.

"It was pro level coaching every day," Denny said of his 10-day stint at the Halifax games.

Besides working with others during the games themselves, Denny said he was able to benefit from several other moments he also spent with the coaching staff, dating back to last year.

He was with the Nova Scotia team during its spring camp last April. And he also took part in summer camps in June and July, a tournament in October and a final camp in December.

Denny has been coaching for the past 15 years with the Eskasoni Minor Hockey Association. He's also served as the association's president for the past eight years.

He finds the time to coach teams that are not on his First Nation as well. For the past six years, he's been a bench boss in the Cape Breton County Minor Hockey Association.

This season he's the head coach for that association's minor peewee AAA club. This team, comprised of 11- and 12-year-

olds, includes Denny's son, who is also named Levi. The younger Denny is a goalie with the club.

Thanks to his experiences with the Nova Scotia squad, the elder Denny is keen to continue advancing his coaching career.

"I've gotten a little taste of (coaching elite players) now and I'd like to see how far I can go with it," he said. "I'd love to coach at the pro level."

Denny is well acquainted with at least one pro player. His cousin—and next door neighbour growing up—is Chad Denny, who has played for teams in the American Hockey League and East Coast Hockey League since turning pro four years ago.

Levi was the only Nova Scotia resident who was part of the Aboriginal Apprentice Coach Program.

Manitoba and the Yukon were the only two province or territory that had two of its residents in the program.

Omar Constant, an archery coach, and hockey coach Stacey Corfield, represented Manitoba. Yukon's reps were Katrina Couch and Carolyn Coombs, who worked with snowboarding and cross-country skiing teams, respectively.

Others in the program were Robert Lewis of Prince Edward Island in judo; Alisha Isaac of New Brunswick in synchronized swimming; Tiffany Smith of Saskatchewan in synchronized swimming; and Lee Tange from Alberta in boxing.

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[education] Students chime in on challenges in education

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

NANAIMO, BC

More funding—with less strings attached—and transitional support are what First Nations students across the country said were required for them to not only complete their post-secondary education but to consider pursuing further education.

"We face great challenges in the full spectrum of education," said Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chief Shawn Atleo.

Atleo hosted the AFN's first virtual summit on education on Jan. 27. The event took place at Vancouver Island University on the Nanaimo campus. Atleo is chancellor at VIU.

First Nations students from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick west to the Prairie provinces and Vancouver Island shared their points of view on six questions offered prior to the summit. Those questions were:

1. What do you require to successfully complete your post-secondary education;
2. What is your greatest challenge in accessing post-secondary education;

3. What is the place to help your success, both at your post-secondary institution and in your community;

4. What are your challenges and opportunities in accessing funding;

5. How do you maintain connection to your home community;

6. And, what will make things better for you.

Atleo said the answers for the questions overlapped in a number of areas.

Taking both feedback from those in attendance and emails from those who connected virtually, Atleo said it was important to hear from those who were directly impacted.

"We know the realities in our communities. We know the challenges our people face," he said.

Only four per cent of people on reserves have university degrees, Atleo said.

Challenges were numerous, with funding topping the concerns. Funding issues included restricted access to dollars, not enough money available, and students living off-reserve being cut off from band funding. Having to take a full course load in order to get

funding, while juggling raising children and upgrading marks, was noted.

"Right now there are limitations on post-secondary funding. If you want to pursue more than four years, you aren't funded," said one student. "You wonder why there aren't more graduates? It's because of this obstacle."

One woman said her student loan was \$10,000 to \$20,000 because of lack of band funding.

"That's an important reality check as far as the issue of funding and how students are accessing their funding... The challenges are very real as we are hearing, as well as taking on big student debt loads," said Atleo.

Help on the academic front was raised as a concern, with funding for laptops, Internet access at accommodations, technical support, tutoring help, and an academic support worker needed.

Off-campus trials also factored in as a major stumbling block.

Affordable accommodation with Internet access and more childcare, in particular after-hour care, were two points repeatedly raised.

One father said he had to live in a shelter for his first two

months attending university until he could find safe and affordable housing in order to bring his children to come live with him.

"I almost considered giving up, heading home," he said.

Transition from home to the university setting was a huge challenge and many respondents called for transitional support workers, counseling services, Elder support, and financial help for semi-regular visits back home.

"We need to wrap learners around with a circle of support to ensure they get over those tough early times," said Atleo.

How post-secondary institutions responded to First Nations students was also a factor.

One student noted that his university offered a bridging program which made the transition easier, and another pointed out that making use of the universities "gathering place" fostered support and strength. But another student talked about being isolated in the classroom and the professor mocking First Nations governance.

"How do we challenge these teachers to think outside of their typical Eurocentric thinking, to

acknowledge Indigenous students so people like me can feel proud to be there and teach the other students about First Nations culture? Without acknowledgement, I feel drained, ashamed," said the student.

One student pointed out that Aboriginal people received much attention during the time of residential schooling. He said that same attention should be put on Aboriginal education today but with the community used to guide the process.

The work that Indigenous post-secondary institutions are carrying out should not be forgotten, said Atleo.

"(They) are playing a really important role and are very focused on responding to... the challenges that have been raised here today... and have an important role to play in the education of our peoples," said Atleo.

Atleo said the two-hour virtual summit, which saw 450 people connect on-line, provided only a "snapshot" of the challenges facing First Nations students.

"It's part of a broad conversation about this country asking itself about its relationship with Indigenous people," he said.

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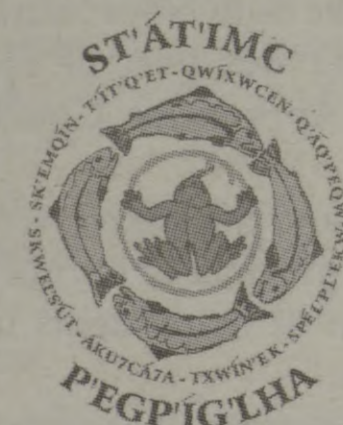
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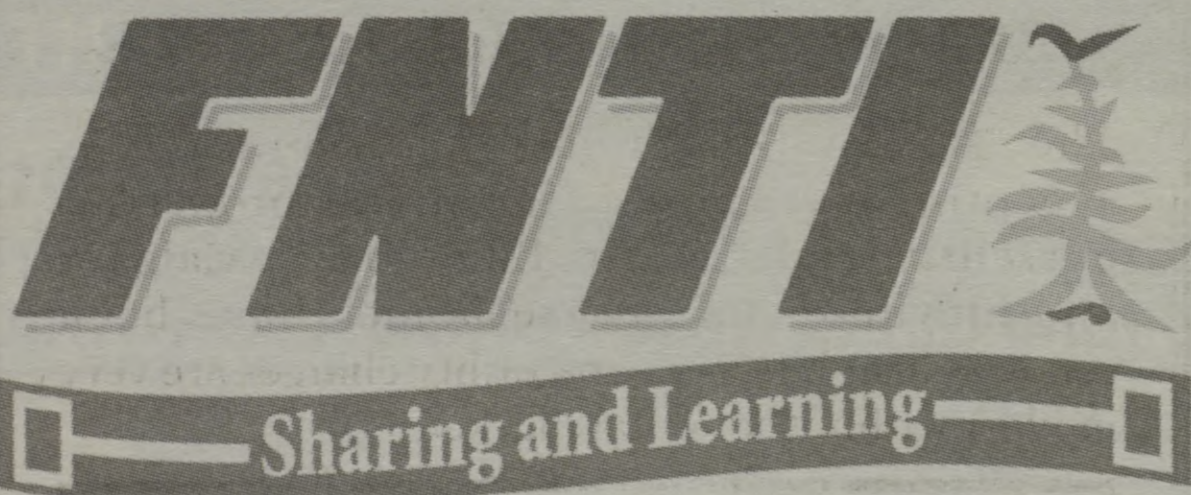
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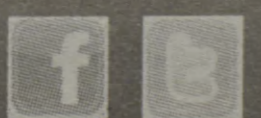
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A 60-year life packed with accomplishment

By Dianne Meili, with files from Whit Fraser

Pouring Sweet and Low into his cup of tea, Jose Amaujaq Kusugak stopped to laugh at himself.

"What the hell am I doing with this stuff? How can real sugar hurt me now?"

Despite the fact he'd lost weight and his hair had turned snow white, aggressive cancer failed to eradicate the leader's sense of humor. He died on the morning of Jan. 19 at his home in Rankin Inlet, after refusing further hospital treatment in Winnipeg.

"He died as he had lived, candidly, publically, and, above all, with courage and control," said Whit Fraser, a long-time friend who worked with Jose at the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. Jose was president from 2000 to 2006.

Fraser and current Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami leader Mary Simon visited Jose shortly before he passed away to say goodbye, thank him for his life's work, tell him they loved him, and subsequently observe his indomitable spirit.

Last spring, Jose told his friend, CBC interviewer William Tagoona, about his cancer diagnosis. On the radio he urged his fellow Inuit to take advantage of medical facilities available to them and to go to the nursing station when they are feeling ill.

"I wasn't surprised at his approach. Jose has always been open about everything," Tagoona said in an article in the Nunatsiak News. The two continued to talk publically as the cancer progressed.

As with his personal challenges, Jose was never afraid to defend the rights of Inuit people, nor was he timid about making federal politicians aware that his people are different from First Nations.

An oft-told story about Jose germinated during one of his many meetings with former Prime Minister Paul Martin, whose government was pursuing a "one-size fits all" policy in 2000, meaning Inuit issues were being addressed under a broad First Nations umbrella. Jose asked the

leader why Canada claimed to be a great multi-cultural society while insisting on a melting pot for Aboriginal Canadians.

"Inuit are not Indians," he claimed.

Martin was flabbergasted, but not defensive. He promised change and within weeks "Inuit specific" became a familiar and acceptable term in the public service.

"He gave the Inuit a new identity in Canada ... one that was very badly needed," said Fraser.

Jose was most recently the president of the Kivalliq Inuit Association, a regional Inuit group based in Rankin Inlet. In his career he held many titles, including president of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the organization that pushed the historic Inuit land claim that created Nunavut.

"In a way, Nunavut was the story of his life," said Fraser. "He wasn't alone in this endeavour, and he'd be embarrassed by some of the media coverage that suggested he was."

The actual land claim was initiated by Tagak Curley, now a Nunavut Government minister, in the early 1970s. Tagak hired Jose as the land claims co-ordinator and communicator to explain it to people in the regions and communities. Jose bought in right from the start, and to ensure the process and issues were well understood, he went to work at CBC Radio for a decade to spread the message.

The Nunavut land claim struggle was uncharted waters and Jose knew he could rectify a major obstacle regarding the lack of understanding of the political issues of the day among Inuit.

Former northern service director for CBC, Doug Ward, recruited Jose.

"He had done remarkable work regarding Inuit culture and language and we needed his ideas and his energy," Ward said.

Jose received the CBC president's award in 1998 for remarkable achievement in raising the standard of Inuktitut broadcasting.

In 1997, at the critical stage of negotiations between the land claim organization, Nunavut Tunngavik, the federal government and the Northwest Territories, Jose answered a leadership crisis call and became president of Nunavut Tunngavik, presiding over the final negotiations leading up to the proclamation on April 1, 1999.

"He told me this was his greatest achievement," said Fraser.

Before becoming politically involved, Jose devoted himself to the preservation of his Inuktitut language. While working as a cultural and language advisor at the Churchill Vocational Institute, he hit upon the goal of creating a common Inuktitut writing system.

Jose recognized both Roman orthography from the Catholics, and syllabics from the Anglicans, were imposed writing systems. Also, many structures and sounds were being used by Inuit in different regions.

"Jose was successful in creating a new dual-orthography writing system, where a new syllabary ran parallel to a new Roman system, but in the end a standardized Inuktitut language and writing system remained an unfulfilled dream," explained Fraser.

Born in 1950 at Repulse Bay, the second child in a family of 12, early on in life Jose came to see education as the key to Inuit cultural survival. Unlike many of his peers, he found the experience of residential school to be rewarding and productive.

"He was a smart guy and he understood what teamwork was," said Fraser, acknowledging his friend's personality and ability as a communicator and educator were additional attributes he used to accomplish life goals.

These skills were put to use



Jose Amaujaq Kusugak

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

when he crafted a famous phrase to define Inuit within Canada and impress his people's position in the Canadian consciousness "First Canadians – Canadians First."

Using these four words at a meeting with the premiers of Canada's provinces and territories, he received immediate and resounding approval, especially from Newfoundland's Danny Williams. "Mr. Kusugak, those words – Canadians First – really moved me," he said. It was an outstanding endorsement, considering Premier Williams was once so entrenched in a dispute with the federal government that he removed the Canadian flag from provincial buildings.

Jose raised the national Inuit profile even higher by changing the name of the national organization to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, meaning 'Inuit are united in Canada' and adopting a new logo showing the four Inuit

regions represented by joined hands embracing the maple leaf.

A devoted family man, Jose said he loved his wife of 35 years, Nellie, from the moment he first laid eyes on her. Together, they had four children: Pujjuut, Alaana, Aliisa and Special.

He was also passionate about music and sports, but it was his sense of humor that sustained him. He always found the funny side of everything and once said 'we owe it to our soul and spirit to laugh and see the sunny side of life.'

Concludes Fraser: "I know he was sometimes frustrated in his political life, though he never showed it publicly. He had great patience, determination and perseverance. He would say, 'Well, if it doesn't happen now, that doesn't mean it won't happen someday. We'll just wait for another and a better opportunity.'"

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FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

- Chronic Disease Among Aboriginal People – Results and Lessons Learned
- Innovative Programming in Diabetes Prevention
- Mental Health and Related Social Issues
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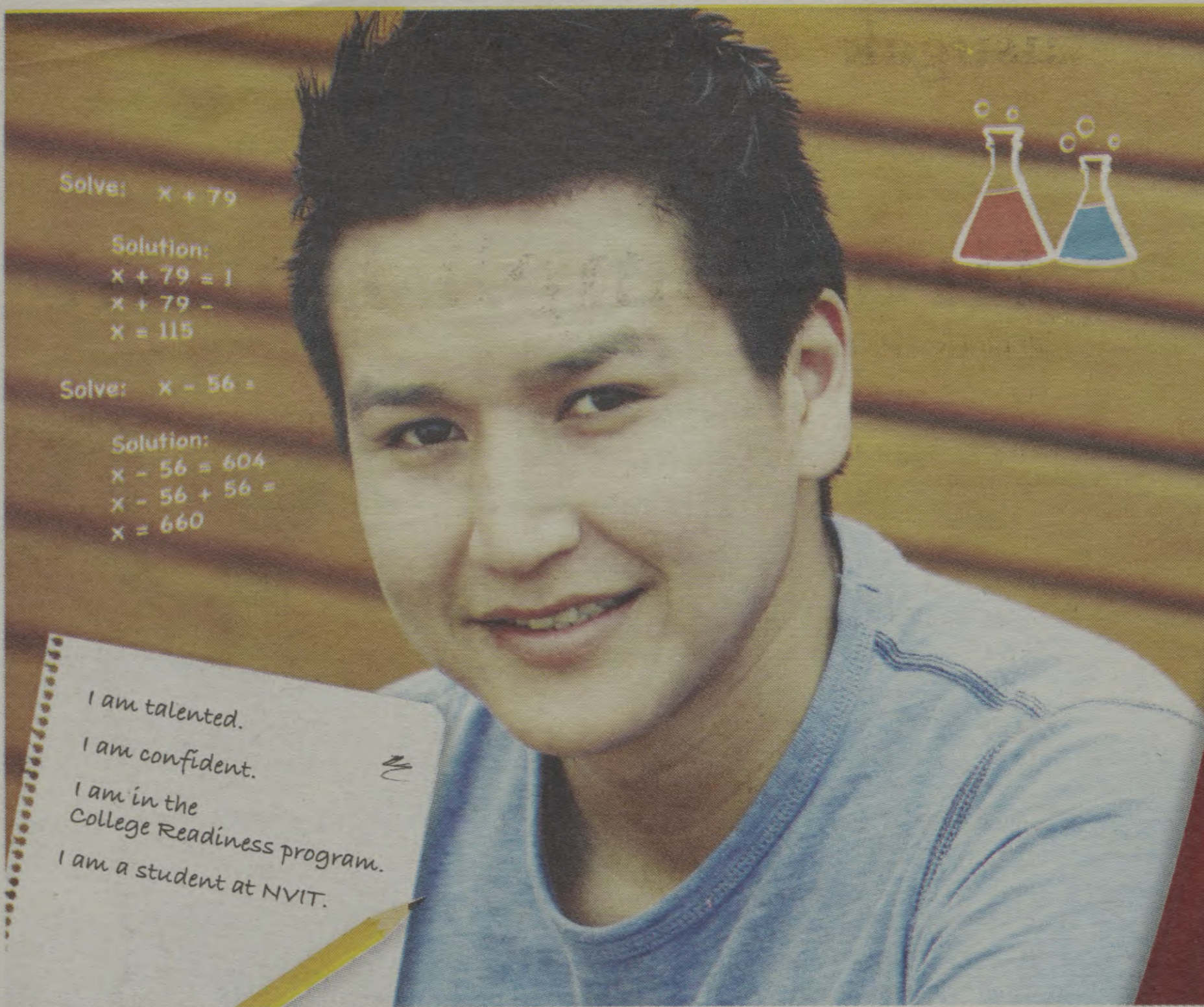
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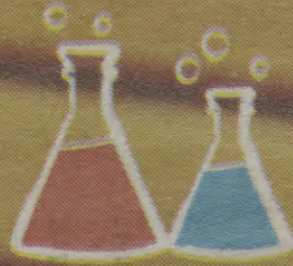


Solve: $x + 79 = 1$

Solution:
 $x + 79 = 1$
 $x + 79 - 79 = 1 - 79$
 $x = -78$

Solve: $x - 56 = 604$

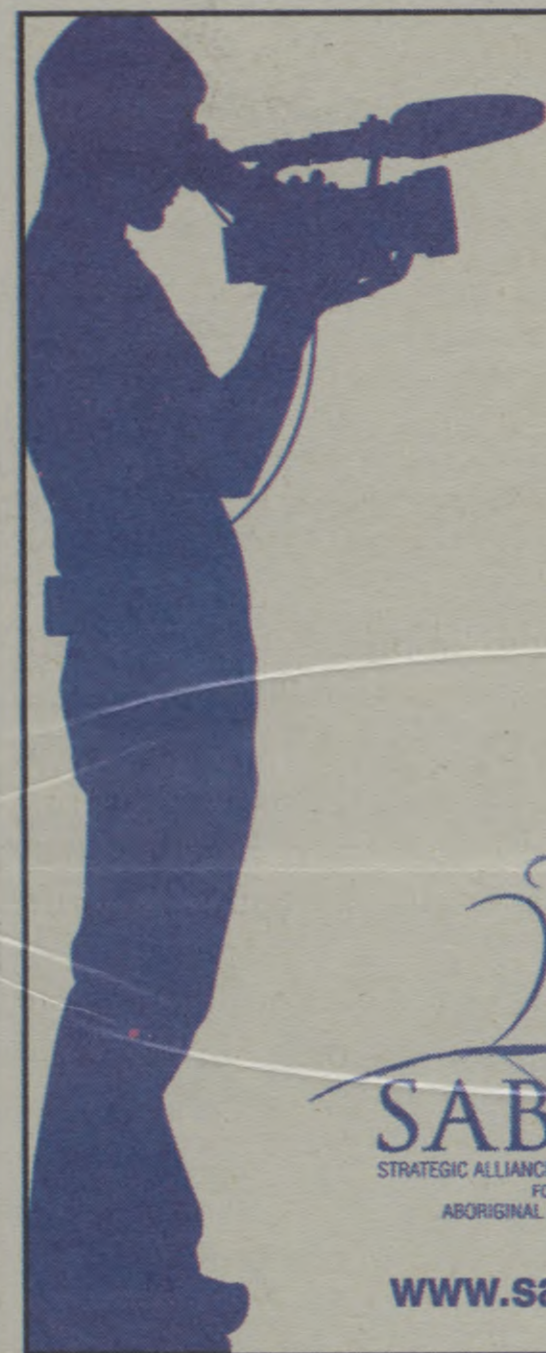
Solution:
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