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**Tragedy highlights
need for search
and rescue unit
Page 8**

**A path revealed
towards
reconciliation
Page 9**

**Land management
regime gives more
control to nations
Page 11**

Volume 29 No. 12 • March 2012

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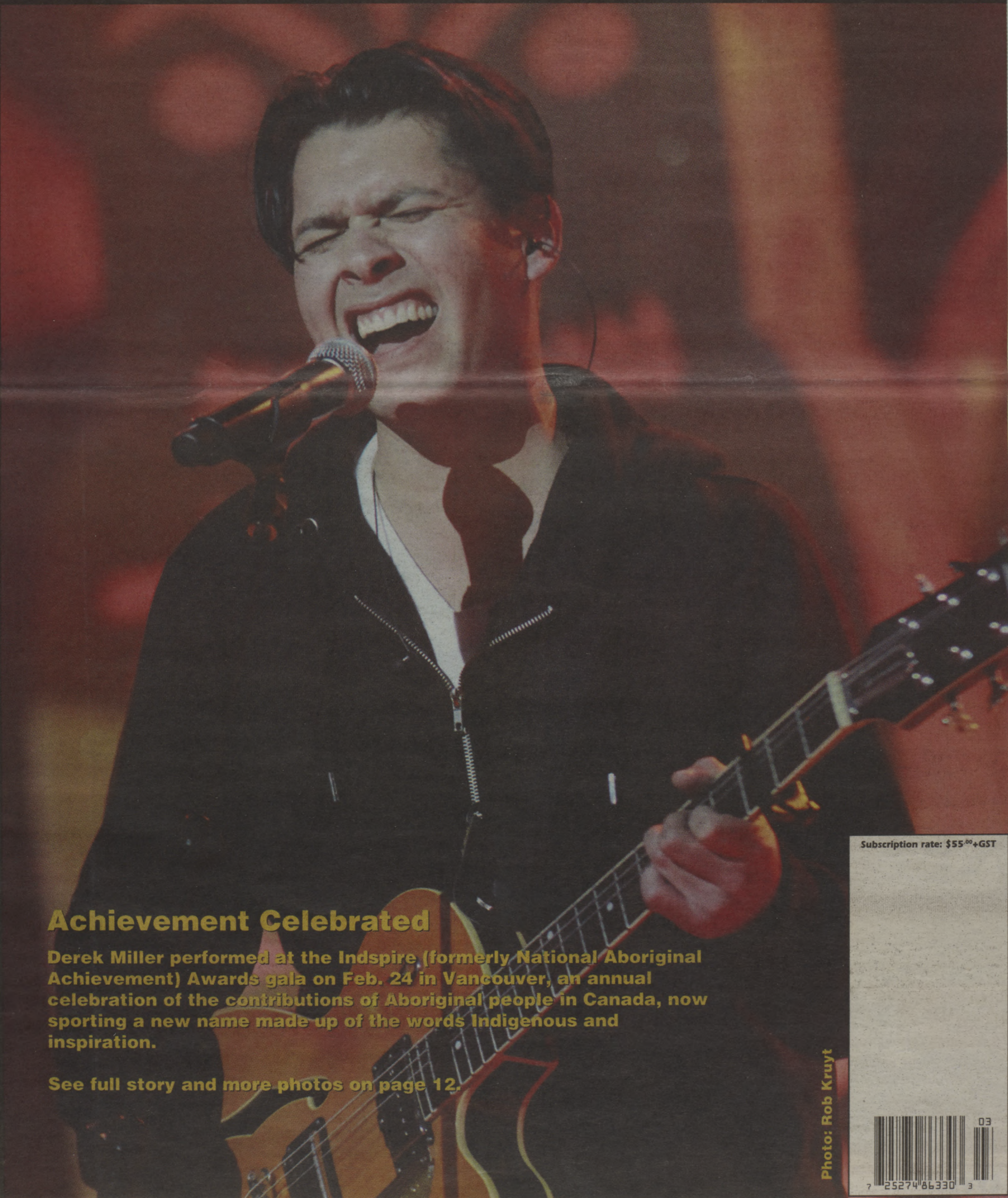
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Windspeaker • Established 1983



Achievement Celebrated

Derek Miller performed at the Indspire (formerly National Aboriginal Achievement) Awards gala on Feb. 24 in Vancouver, an annual celebration of the contributions of Aboriginal people in Canada, now sporting a new name made up of the words Indigenous and inspiration.

See full story and more photos on page 12.

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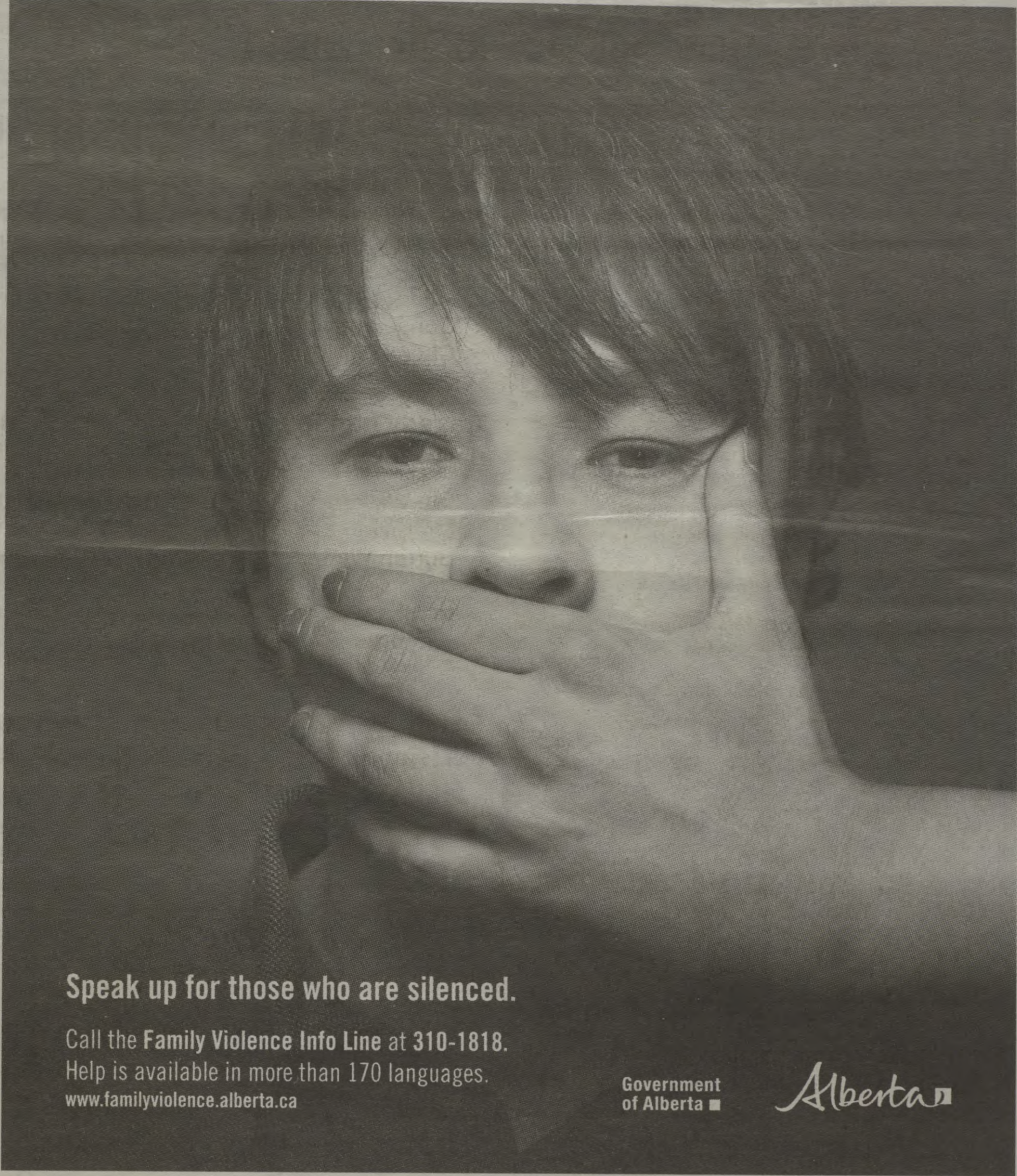


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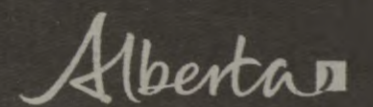
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Publisher

Bert Crowfoot

Editorial

1-780-455-2700

E-mail: windspeaker@ammsa.com

Contributing News Editor

Debora Steel

Staff Writers

Dianne Meili

Production

Judy Anonson

Advertising Sales

1-800-661-5469

E-mail: market@ammsa.com

Director of Marketing

Paul Macedo

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario,
Quebec, Maritimes and USA

Keven Kanten

BC, Yukon, Alberta, Northwest Territories

Shirley Olsen

Accounts

Carol Russ • Hermen Fernandes

Circulation

Janet White

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Windspeaker

13245 - 146 Street NW,

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General Enquiries: windspeaker@ammsa.com

Rants and Raves: letters@ammsa.com

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Canada

Features

PM says one thing, but Clarke is doing another **8**

A private member's bill that won't be introduced until May at the earliest has proven controversial already. "Somebody misspoke. It shouldn't have been put out until Mr. Clarke brought it forward," said a spokesperson in the office of Rob Clarke, Conservative MP for Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River (Saskatchewan).

Tragedy highlights need for search and rescue unit **8**

'He Walked This Far' is the name of a national campaign that has been inspired by the death of Burton Winters. The 14-year-old boy was found dead several days after the first call had gone out that he was missing in the harsh environment of a Labrador winter.

Court hears complaint against rights tribunal decision **10**

The Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, and the Canadian Human Rights Commission forced a three-day judicial review in federal court Feb. 13 to Feb. 15 to argue against a decision by Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Chair Shirish Chotalia.

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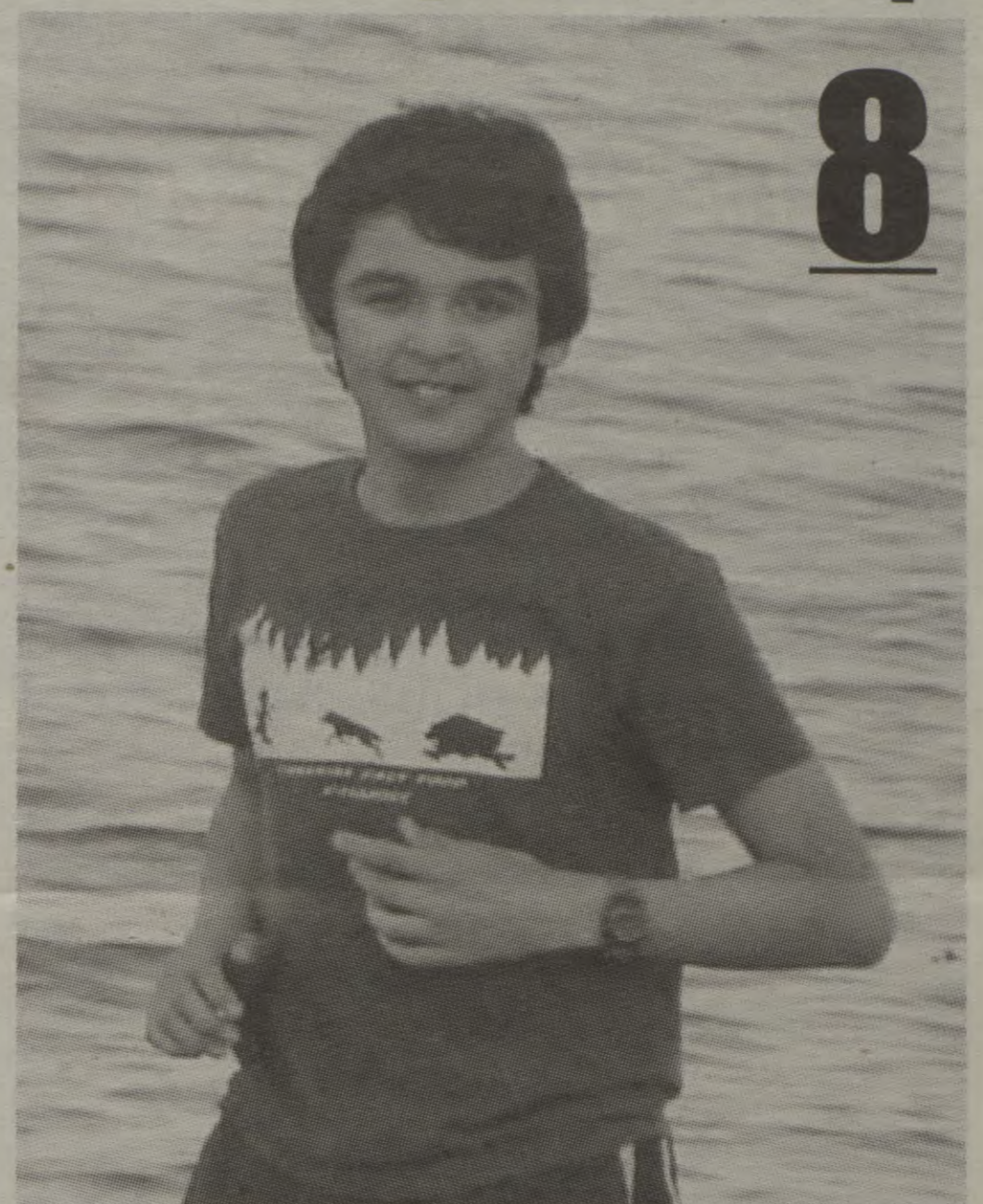
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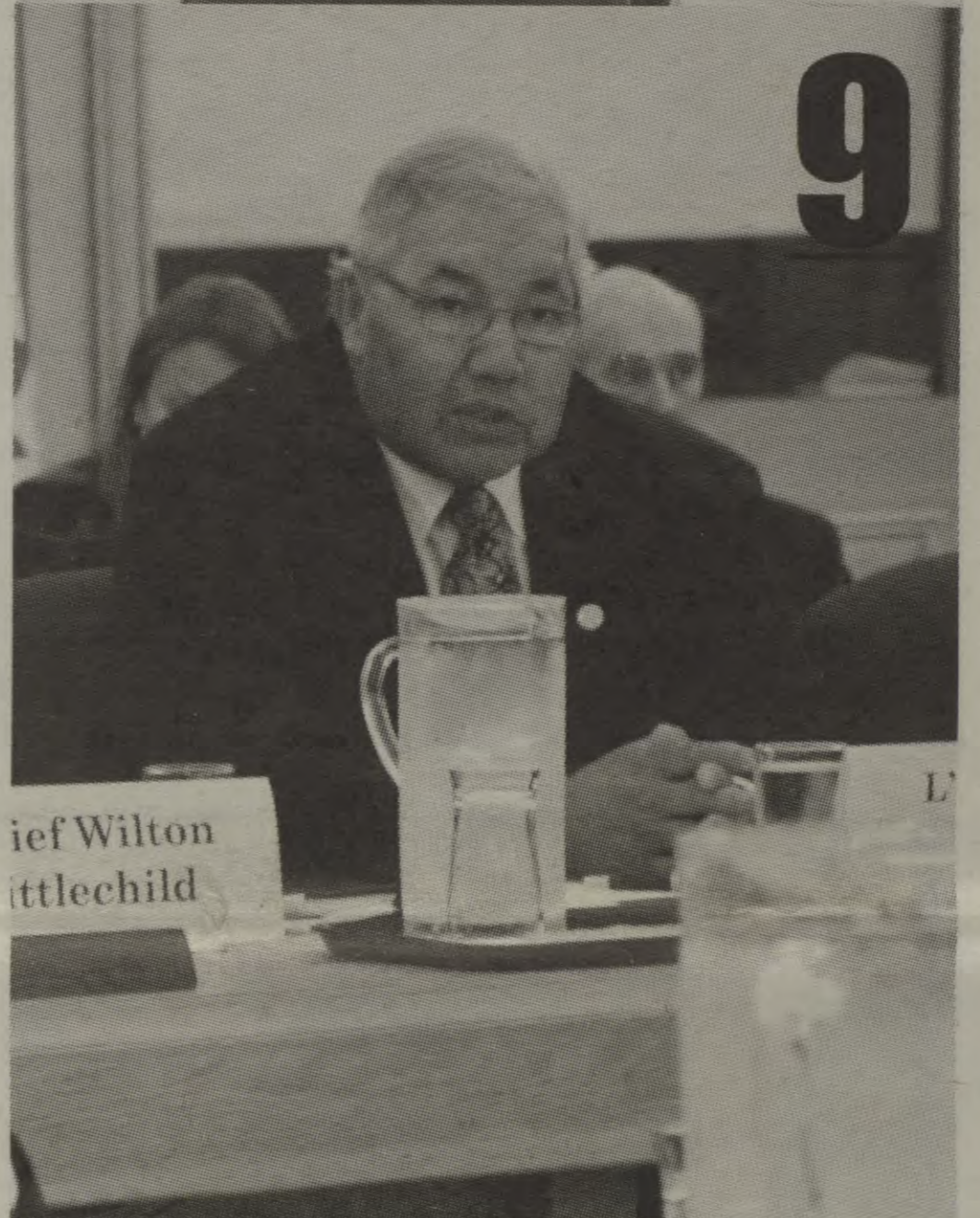
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[footprints] Madeline Skead 22

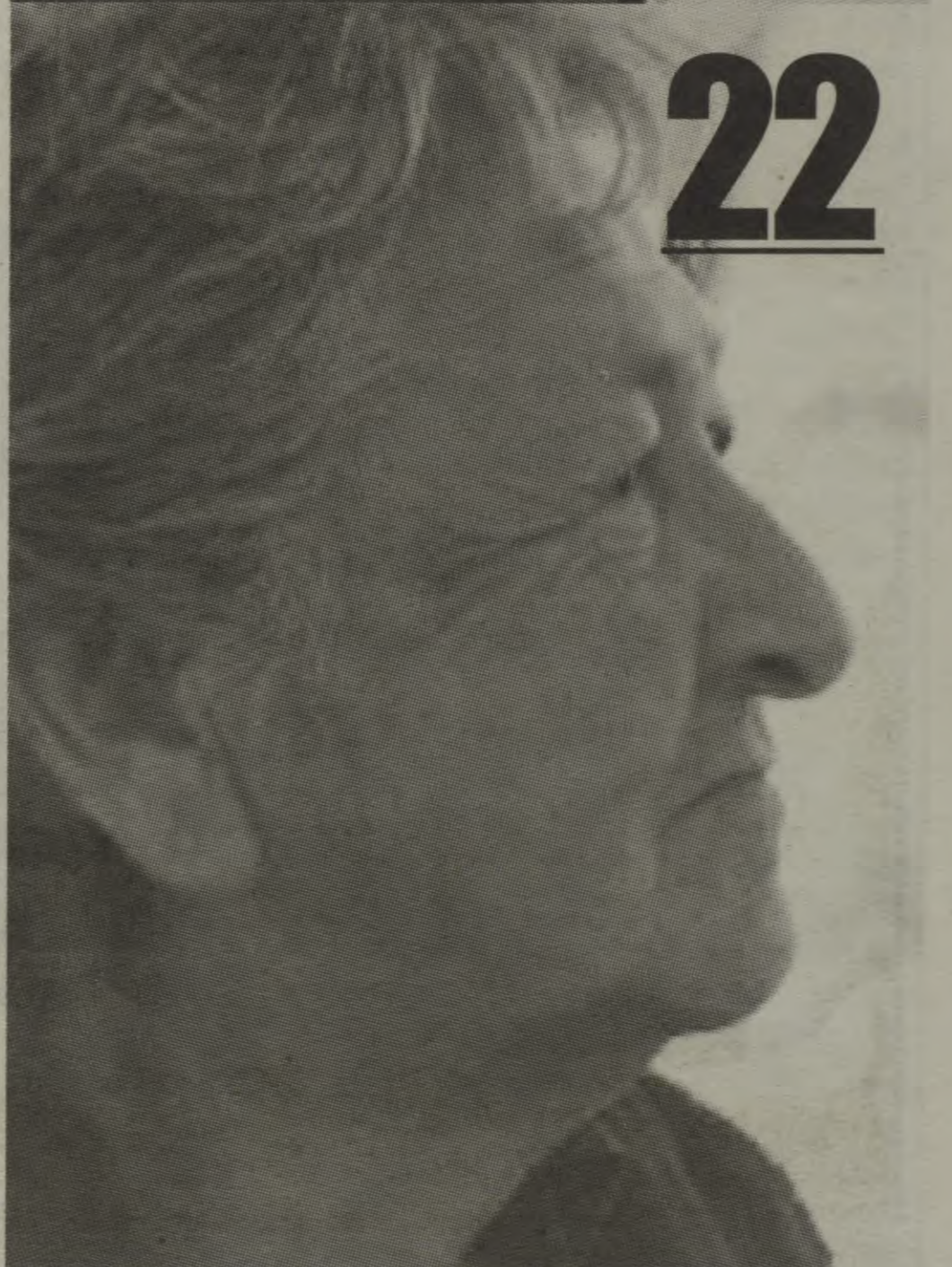
Amidst menacing officers and talk of bombings by demonstrators if their demands weren't met, a then-38-year-old Madeline Skead stepped into the 1974 Ontario Anicinabe Park crisis advocating building a "relationship" only to have a gun aimed at her chest. "'You'd better not miss' was all she said, and that shows how courageous she was," recalled daughter Eleanor Skead.



8



9



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

AMMSA's other publications include:

Alberta Sweetgrass — The Aboriginal Newspaper of Alberta

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Business Quarterly — Canada's Aboriginal Business Magazine



The Future Matters!



Aboriginal Peoples Survey


Education and Employment

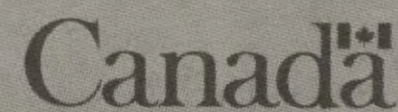
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A kettle and pot case all around

Oh no, the Prime Minister of Canada is again being distracted by party politics. You know what that means for the Aboriginal agenda? It's backburner time.

The debate in the House of Commons at the end of February was dominated by scandal. The thrust and parry of federal politics has reached an all-time new low with dirty tricks surrounding voter suppression being the main, but not the only, accusation being hurled.

Core to the complaint raised by Opposition parties is the use of so-called 'robocalls,' machines that called voters in a variety of ridings to direct them to non-existent voting stations. There were accusations of callers impersonating Elections Canada representatives that sent voters off in wrong directions, and crank calls made well after hours that were harassing and annoying.

In the House of Commons on Feb. 28 was the bizarre back and forth between the Liberal leader Bob Rae, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper trading barbs and a 'you show me yours, then I'll show you mine' call for evidence. Rae prefers the fishing expedition approach.

"The only way of finding out whether there is evidence is if the people who have the evidence actually come forward," he said. "It is the Conservative Party that has the access to the contracts. It is the Conservative Party that has the access to whomever was making the calls and when they were making the calls." Rae urged the Conservatives to open its books to Elections Canada which is investigating, at press time, at least one riding for unusual activities—Guelph.

And Harper responded with a 'did you see me steal the cookie out of the cookie jar' defense.

"It is the leader of the Liberal Party who is making these allegations. Surely, he has the evidence for the allegations he is making."

So much for transparency, right? In fact, if this is the kind of transparency being modeled by the

Conservatives, it's a wonder why the chiefs in assembly are having such a hard time embracing it.

What's at stake for the Conservatives that might be at the root of their public coyness? Only their government majority, that's all. If it's found that there was some funny-business around the 2011 election which impacted results in close ridings, by-elections are in our future, and perhaps a few jail sentences just for fun.

And someone should be held accountable for messing with election results. Just ask the Saskatchewan Métis, who had their own election fixing fiasco in 2004. We remember all the protestation around the inquiry into that event, with at least one key individual sentenced to one year for his part. We remember how appalled Canadians were with the corruption of that vote, so now they have to look to their own and wonder just what kind of assurances they have that Canadian elections are free from tampering.

Harper told the Opposition parties that they had no credibility in making the accusations and the high horse they were riding in on was called "Bluster."

And it's hard not to take that to heart. Rae had earlier apologized to Public Safety Minister Vic Toews after a Liberal parliamentary staffer launched a twitter attack against him, prompted by the issuing of legislation that would allow officials to snoop into internet activity of any person without the need for a warrant. The minister's messy divorce was the fodder that fueled the attack, and it was coming from a Liberal researcher. Why the person was researching divorce documents, we're unclear, but that's for another debate. And incidentally, just because someone lacks credibility doesn't make the accusation untrue.

(Continued on page 8.)

[rants and raves]

Page 5 Chatter

WHAT'S IN A NAME? WELL, LET'S ASK INDSPIRE.

What's that, you ask? That's the new name of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. The new identity, Indspire says, signals a new day for Indigenous education in Canada. Indspire's new tagline, says it all: "Indigenous education, Canada's future." Indspire is a combination of key concepts of Indigenous and inspiration to highlight the organization's mandate. "As the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, we were well-known for our work in recognizing Indigenous role models and achievement," said Roberta Jamieson, Indspire President and CEO and executive producer of the Indspire Awards. (The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards will now be known as the Indspire Awards.) "Yet achievement is difficult without a quality education. This compelled us to play a more active role in improving and even transforming Indigenous education from the very onset of learning." Indspire will continue its distribution of bursaries and scholarships. Since 1985, the organization has awarded more than \$42.7 million to more than 11,500 First Nations, Inuit and MÈtis students nationwide. When fully implemented, an Indspire Institute will be one of the key elements of the organization's redefined focus. The institute is a virtual, online hub dedicated to sharing and creating programs, learning and best practices in Indigenous education from K-12, with a primary goal of improving high school completion rates. It will house many of Indspire's existing programs, become a source of distinct and respectful practices and related resources for Indigenous education, and will develop and implement "on the-ground" programming in communities nationwide, a press release promises.

THE CANADIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED

that First Nations in British Columbia are having a hard time fathoming the decision by Transport Canada to approve the use of oil supertankers along BC coastal waters, ignoring safety issues including poor weather, human error, and narrow, unforgiving waterways. Transport Canada recently filed its report to the regulatory panel considering Enbridge Inc.'s \$5.5-billion Northern Gateway proposal to ship crude from Alberta to the West Coast by pipeline and export the oil to Asian markets in supertankers loaded in Kitimat. Coastal First Nations executive director Art Sterritt said Transport Canada is minimizing the risk. "It is nonsensical to say there will always be residual risk in any project. This shocking decision means a disproportionate share of risk clearly falls on the people who live within the Great Bear Rainforest." Sterritt said Transport Canada's decision is shocking because a recent study done by his group suggests a tanker spill could cost \$23 billion in economic, environmental and cultural damage. Enbridge insists the pipeline will bring jobs and economic development to northern B.C., but opponents say the risks are too high. Sterritt believes the Transport Canada decision is also another way in which the federal government is unduly influencing what has been described as a flawed Joint Review Process on the Enbridge Project. "It's abundantly clear the government isn't interested in what the public hearing process determines," Sterritt said. "Oil tankers in the Great Bear Sea are a threat to our culture and a steadily improving coastal economy. The Coastal First Nations, along with our allies, will continue to take any actions that are necessary to stop oil tankers from traversing the Great Bear Sea."

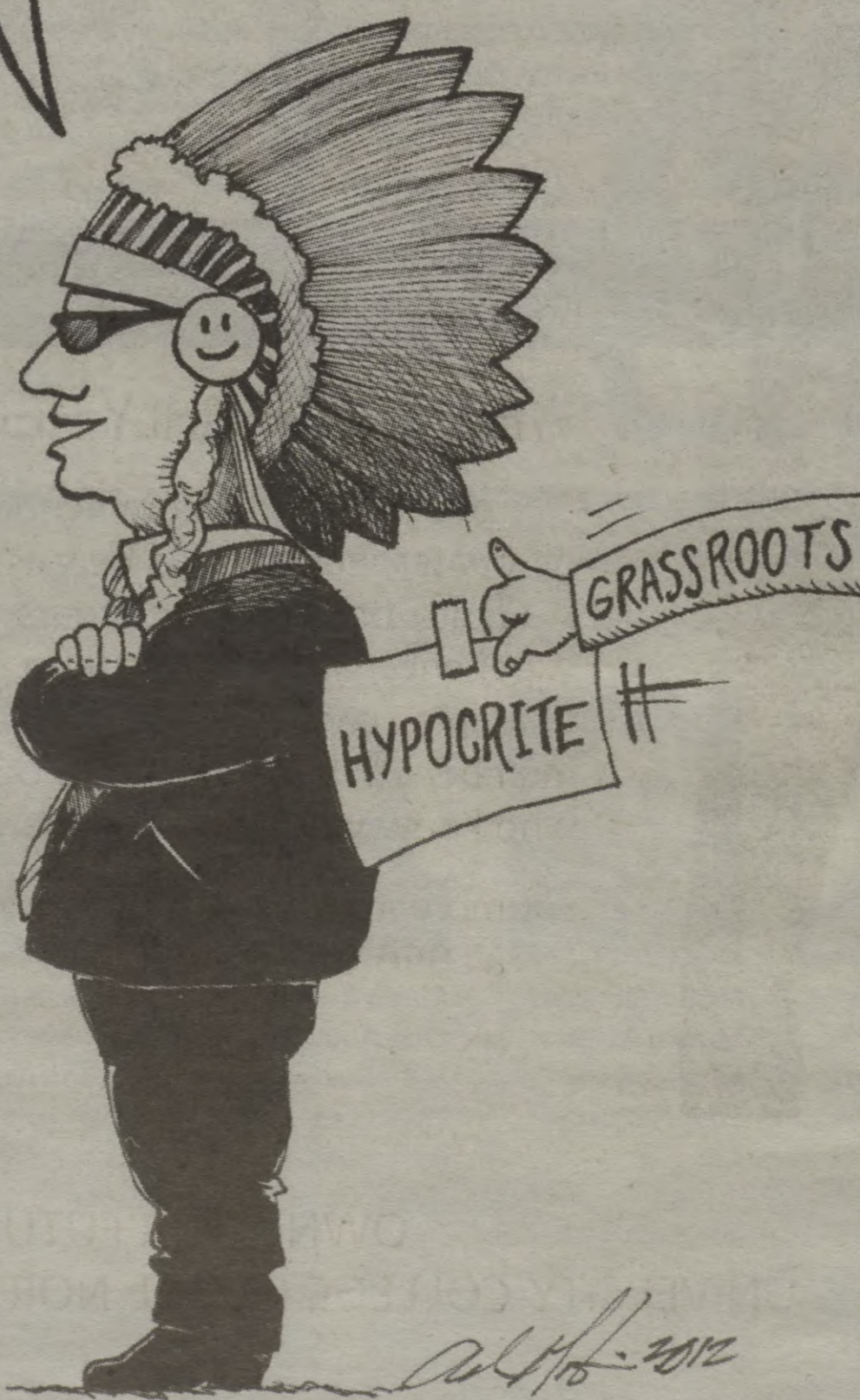
CBC HAS REVEALED THE FINDINGS OF

a new survey on police relations within Regina. It found that while the majority of people are satisfied with the city's police force, First Nations and Métis are less likely to trust the police. The University of Regina justice studies department survey shows that of the 504 people randomly surveyed by phone between Aug. 15 and Sept. 1, three-quarters ranked the quality of the Regina Police Service as very good to excellent. Most of those who said they were satisfied with Regina's police services had little to no contact with the police. "Respondents who had contact with the police tended to have less overall trust and satisfaction with the RPS, or perceived the RPS less favorably than those who did not," the survey stated. First Nations and Métis respondents were more likely to express distrust in the police and dissatisfaction with the treatment they received at the hands of the police, the survey said. "First Nations and Métis respondents expressed a much lower degree of trust and confidence for all of the five questions asking about issues such as professionalism, integrity and responsiveness to the needs of the respondent's ethnic group," according to the report. Aboriginal respondents ranked their overall satisfaction with the police service at 2.14 out of five as compared to the general city ranking of 3.94.

Rank Comix

by Adam Martin

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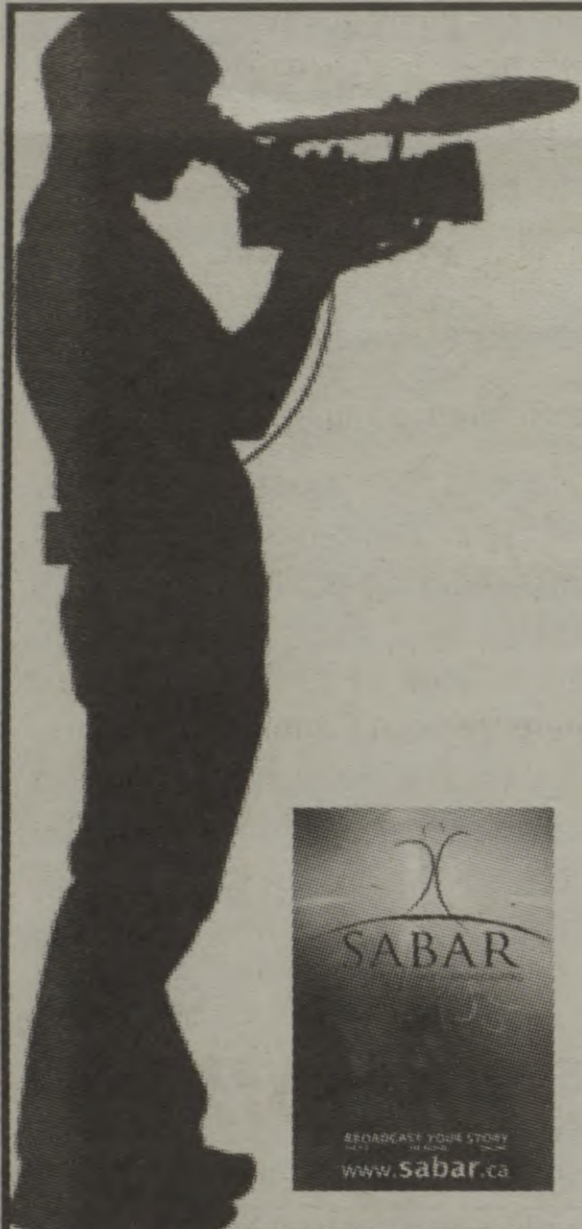
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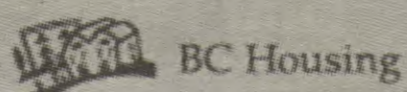


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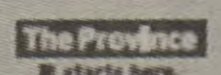
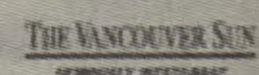
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PUBLIC NOTICE

DEVON NEC CORPORATION

PIKE 1 PROJECT

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Devon NEC Corporation (Devon) is proposing a new in-situ oil sands project in the Southern Athabasca Oil Sands region. The Project is a 50/50 joint venture with BP Canada Energy and will be operated by Devon. Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD) technologies will be used to recover bitumen resources from the McMurray Formation.

The Project will include a Central Processing Facility (CPF) consisting of multiple phases, well pads, source water and disposal well sites, pipelines, roads and power lines. The Project is expected to produce approximately 109,000 barrels per day (bpd) of bitumen. Pending regulatory approval, Pike 1 will be constructed in phases over a three to four year period with initial production from the first phase projected for 2016. The Pike 1 CPF will have a full production life of approximately 20 years.

The Project Area is approximately 25 km southeast of Conklin, AB, located primarily in Townships 74 and 75, Ranges 5 and 6, west of the 4th Meridian, in Lac La Biche County.

The Director responsible for Environmental Assessments has directed that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report be prepared for the Pike 1 Project. Devon has prepared a proposed Terms of Reference for this Environmental Impact Assessment, and through this public notice, invites the public to review this document. Any comments filed concerning the proposed Terms of Reference will be accessible to the public.

The proposed Terms of Reference and associated project information can be viewed at the following locations:

- <http://www.dvn.com/Operations/Pages/operations.aspx>
- Alberta Environment and Water's Register of Environmental Assessment, 111 Twin Atria Bldg., 4999 - 98 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Attn: Melanie Daneluk; <http://environment.alberta.ca/O2313.html>

For further information on the Pike 1 Project or copies of the proposed Terms of Reference and associated project information please contact:

Devon NEC Corporation, Attn: Amberly Dooley, P.Eng, EP
2000, 400-3rd Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 4H2
Telephone: 1-877-255-7595, Fax: 403-232-7082
Email: thermal.projects@dvn.com

Individuals wishing to provide written comments on the proposed Terms of Reference must submit them by May 3, 2012 to:

Director, Environmental Assessment, Regional Integration, Alberta Environment and Water
111 Twin Atria Bldg., 4999 - 98 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T6B 2X3
Fax: (780) 427-9102, E-mail: environmental.assessment@gov.ab.ca

Commitment Runs Deep

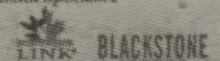
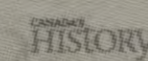
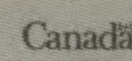
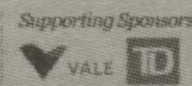
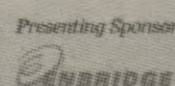
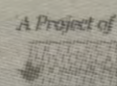


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PM says one thing, but Clarke is doing another

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

A private member's bill that won't be introduced until May at the earliest has proven controversial already.

"Somebody misspoke. It shouldn't have been put out until Mr. Clarke brought it forward," said a spokesperson in the office of Rob Clarke, Conservative MP for Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River (Saskatchewan).

The private member's bill, which has been on the order paper since Dec. 7, calls for the repeal of the *Indian Act*.

Clarke's intention was made public following the First Nations-Crown gathering on Jan. 24 and came as a surprise.

"What's important is we heard the Prime Minister say that they have no grand scheme to get rid of (the *Indian Act*)," said Assembly of First Nations

National Chief Shawn Atleo.

First Nations chiefs and one provincial Metis leader have slammed the bill.

"The *Indian Act* is a paternalistic document and I think there should be a process in which (First Nations) come up with a different scenario," said Driftpile Chief Rose Laboucan, "and not some other piece of document someone else puts together for us."

Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson expressed surprise at Clarke's action and called for him to immediately withdraw his private member's bill.

"An initiative to repeal the *Indian Act* should first be discussed with Indigenous people. It is quite distressing for our people to learn from the news media that a Member of Parliament from our own region would even contemplate such an initiative without first seeking our views," said Cook-Searson,

in a prepared statement.

Atleo supported Cook-Searson's statement, adding, "I would suggest strongly that unilateral, bringing forward of legislative initiatives is not the way forward. The way forward must be First Nations designing an approach."

Atleo said to move beyond the *Indian Act* would require putting something else in place that would uphold the relationship between First Nations and the Crown and which would address treaty obligations.

"But I also want to make it clear that if a First Nation chooses to stay within an *Indian Act* relationship, that must also be their choice. If this is truly to be led by First Nations then it cannot be imposed. I've always expressed this notion that we've got to support our autonomy, support the sovereignty of First Nations to drive their own way forward, and make sure we're not pursuing a one-size-fits-all

solution," said Atleo.

Metis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette expressed his surprise "that any Member of Parliament would present a bill for consideration ... without asking the people it would impact, without asking their opinion first. Not only that, but ask the Metis, because there is this thing called duty to consult in this country.... Anything that impacts First Nations is also impacting Metis."

Doucette also expressed surprise that Clarke would present his bill when Prime Minister Stephen Harper made it clear during the First Nations-Crown gathering that there wouldn't be changes to the *Indian Act*.

"All of a sudden this private member's bill appears out of nowhere. So it seems that people weren't talking to each other. So when you have that sort of differing opinions, especially

when it's coming from the Prime Minister, you need to know clearly what's happening," said Doucette.

Atleo said it was of little consequence that the bill to repeal the *Indian Act* is a private member's bill, most of which are defeated, or that Clarke is a member of the Muskeg Lake First Nation.

"I don't think it necessarily matters who it comes from. (It's) the principle of First Nations more broadly being partners and designing the way forward. If there's some way that this effort can be transformed into a real full engagement with First Nations and the Crown about ways in which to move beyond the *Indian Act*, perhaps then it can be constructive," said Atleo.

Clarke's spokesperson said the MP would conduct interviews only when the private member's bill was released.

Tragedy highlights need for search and rescue unit

By Rob Lackie
Windspeaker Contributor

MAKKOVIK, Labrador

'He Walked This Far' is the name of a national campaign that has been inspired by the death of Burton Winters.

The 14-year-old boy was found dead several days after the first call had gone out that he was missing in the harsh environment of a Labrador winter.

Now a whole community has rallied to encourage a search and rescue unit be established permanently in Labrador.

Burton's stepmother, Natalie Jacque, said "We need to take a stand and honour Burton's

legacy, and to ensure that more innocent lives are never taken away. A Primary Response Search and Rescue Unit must be stationed in Labrador and remain here. A SAR that is adequately staffed with leadership that allows the SAR staff to do their job properly and to save lives. In honour of Burton, we are pleading for change."

On Jan. 29 at about 1:30 p.m. Winters dropped off his cousin by snowmobile at his grandmother's house in Makkovik. Following the tracks from there it appeared that Burton then headed out towards the sea ice.

That evening when Burton hadn't returned home, the call

was made to look for the young boy. People from Postville, with the help of others from surrounding communities, started searching by foot and by snowmobile as fast as they could.

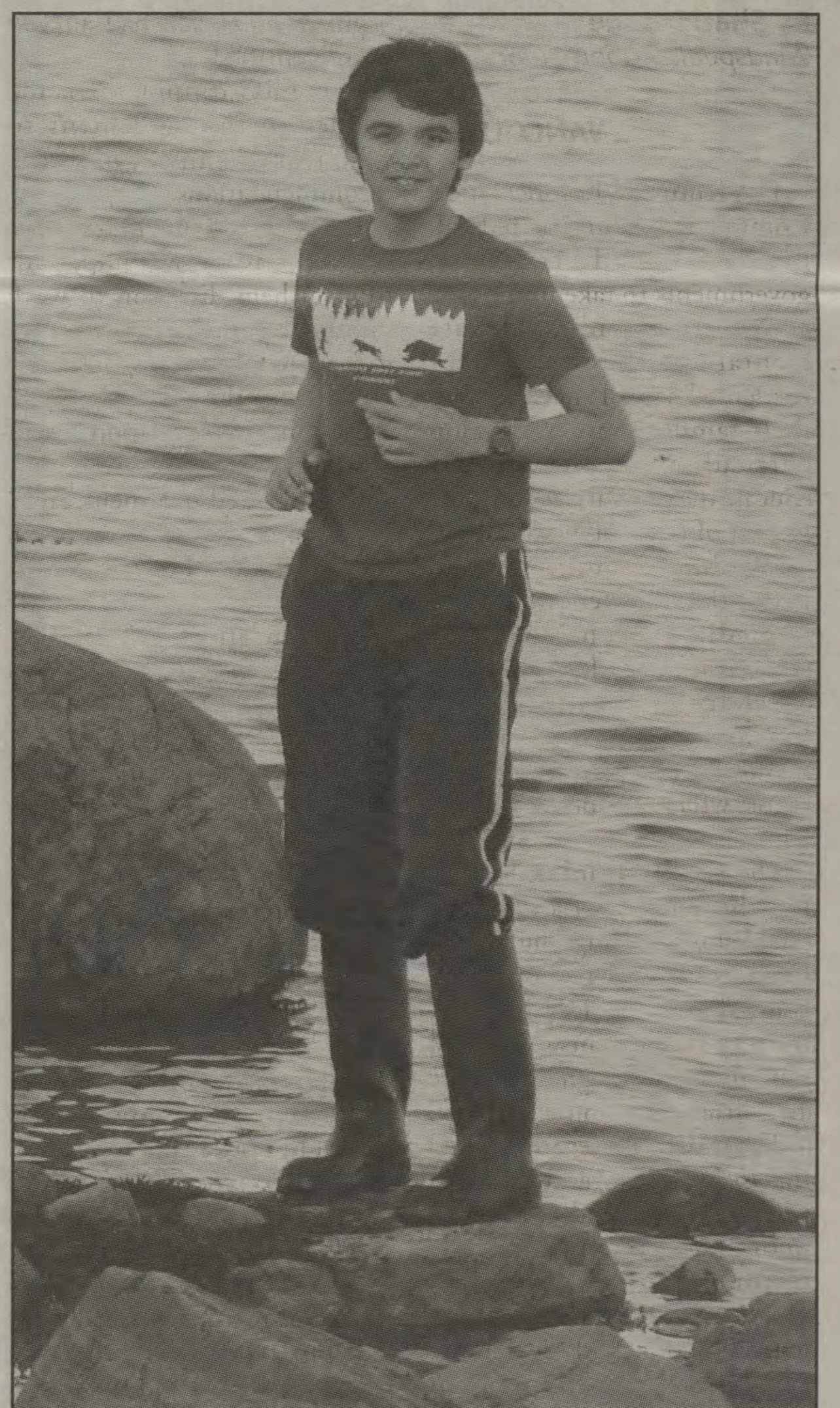
The Makkovik RCMP detachment was called at about 7:30 p.m. that night and were told that Winters hadn't come home.

It was about three hours later that RCMP Makkovik called the Canadian Armed Forces Search and Rescue team located in Gander, Nfld to provide air support to continue the search the following day.

The Department of National Defense didn't send in any aircraft earlier because of bad weather and mechanical problems with the helicopters. A private firm was contracted to complete the search, and it located the snowmobile and the body of the young boy two days later.

Many vigils were held for Burton Winters and prayers have gone out to the family.

'We stand United' is one of many thousands of comments that have appeared on a social media page called 'The Burton Winters' Rescue Center in Labrador'. It has more than 33,000 members on the page who are calling for the search and rescue centre so no other family will have to endure the pain of losing another relative like this in the future.



Burton Winters

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

It's backburner time

(Continued from page 5.)

And if you think the NDP went unscathed during the debate, think again. When Leader of the Opposition Nycole Turmel called upon the Prime Minister to provide information on the vote suppression accusations, Harper responded accusing the NDP of making a series of calls to the office of another member of the House in an attempt to shut down telephone lines in the riding of Saint-Maurice—Champlain.

Turmel's response: Well, we're not talking about that, we're talking about the Conservatives cheating.

Sounds to us like there's enough egg to go around a few times over for the faces that populate the House. Cheaters accusing cheaters of cheating. If it wasn't so serious it would be laughable. Now all we need

is a good ole' House of Commons brawl and we have all the makings of a viral Youtube video and a mention on The Daily Show, because the punch-line here is that this group of MPs are making Canada a mockery.

Here's a good one from Parliamentary Secretary Pierre Poilievre. "Mr. Speaker," he said in the House of Commons on Feb. 28 in response to NDP MP Charlie Angus, "the honourable member is talking about robocalls and is making robo-accusations without any evidence. I say to him: if he has any evidence, he should press 1; if not, he should press 2 to apologize. If he has the wrong number, he should hang up and try again."

Election fraud humour; what a joke.

Windspeaker

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A path revealed towards reconciliation



PHOTO: FILE

Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Commissioners Wilton Littlechild (left) Murray Sinclair and Marie Wilson present before a Senate Committee hearing.

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission is urging federal, provincial and territorial governments to take immediate action to provide adequate mental health supports for residential school survivors and their families and to develop curriculum in schools and educate the general public on the impact of residential schools.

"We have identified certain issues that we believe require immediate attention," said commission chair Justice Murray Sinclair. Twenty recommendations were outlined in the TRC's 30-page interim report which was delivered Feb. 24.

The TRC also outlined action for the churches, including establishing an ongoing revival fund to promote spiritual, cultural and linguistic heritage, the very components residential schools were designed to take away from their young charges.

The report also recommended that the federal government fund the TRC to the end of its 2014 mandate; that funding be restored to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, whose federal funding ends September 2012; that the concerns of students not included in the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement be addressed; and, that the Canadian government and churches produce all court-required documentation.

"At this midway (point), it gives us something to start with," said Commissioner Marie Wilson. She noted that there was no reason to wait until the TRC concluded its work for action to

begin in areas that had already been identified.

The TRC cannot force the parties to the agreement to undertake any of the recommendations.

"They agreed that the work of this commission was important to give them direction to work towards reconciliation....It's up to them to take the responsibility on to ensure the advice they have asked for is acted upon," said Sinclair.

In a prepared statement, AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo stressed the need to implement "these important recommendations."

"In this interim report, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission draws important conclusions and points to clear steps toward reconciliation," he said. "Real reconciliation, though, is achieved through action and change."

Commissioner Wilton Littlechild said he believed significant steps were being taken toward reconciliation and that this interim report was one of those steps. When the process began, he said, many residential school survivors showed little confidence that their stories would be heard and shared.

"So today, I think those people who came in front of us... I trust that our reports show that we listened carefully and the stories and pains are reflected in our report," said Littlechild.

Along with delivering the interim report, the TRC also presented an historical paper entitled, "They Came for the Children." The document, more than 100 pages, recounts the experiences of many of those children using their own words to tell their stories.

It is the TRC's intent to have the document adapted by

educators and used as part of school curriculum across the country.

"Today is an opportunity for us to move forward. Move forward on a journey for some who said, 'Now I can go on to begin to heal, now I can forgive those who hurt me,'" said Littlechild. "I think it's also a tremendous opportunity for all of us to move forward on a path of reconciliation."

Sinclair assured survivors that the TRC will continue with its work. Over 500 communities have been visited in the two years since the commission was established.

"We will continue to reveal all that we are shown and told by those who are most affected by this," he said.

Sinclair stressed that the reports presented by the TRC were not for Aboriginal people only, but for all Canadians.

"The children of the survivors and the children of the non-Aboriginal population of this country are the ones to whom we are going to give the challenge of reconciliation in the future," he said.

But Sinclair cautioned against impatience and pushed for following the process to the end.

"It took us 130 years, seven generations to get to this point in time, for all this damage to occur, for this relationship to become what it has become. It may take us that long, it may take us longer to fix this, to do what it is we must do. We must commit ourselves to fixing it....to re-establish that relationship and put it back in balance," he said.

"We must never shy away from the fact that that this is our commitment even though from time to time we may encounter hurdles as we go forward."

Windspeaker News Briefs

CANADA WAS BEFORE THE UN COMMITTEE

on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on Feb. 23 for the start of two days of questioning about the country's record on racial discrimination. The committee is a high level UN Treaty Monitoring Body and Canada is required to report every four years. Canada's report focused on what they considered to be positive benchmarks and achievements towards the elimination of racial discrimination in Canada. Alternative reports challenged Canada's record and presented a different perspective. Chief Wallace Fox of the Onion Lake Cree Nation was part of the Indigenous delegation in Geneva and stated, "It's a rosy picture that was painted for the expert members at the United Nations. Members of the Canadian delegation described such a great place to live to the expert committee that I thought, I want to move to this place that they are portraying."

Over 30 Indigenous Nations and organizations submitted alternative reports prior to the session, which was attended by more than 20 Indigenous representatives. Indigenous delegates met with CERD members individually and in small groups to provide additional information. Core concerns include Canada's attempts to extinguish Aboriginal rights and title; appropriation of lands and resources; ongoing treaty violations; failure to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; imposition of mining, Tar Sands and other development projects both in and outside Canada without the free prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples; and imposed "settlement" processes that fail to respect Aboriginal title. Inter generational impacts of Canada's residential school policies; the continued removal of large numbers of Indigenous children from their homes and communities; extreme poverty and growing economic disparities between Indigenous peoples and non Indigenous Canadian society; disproportionate rates of incarceration of Indigenous youth, men and women; failure to address the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada; and continued discrimination in education, housing and access to justice were also addressed. The CERD's final report and recommendations will be posted on the UN CERD website, <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/> by March 9. Archived webcasts of Canada's review sessions are on the UN website, <http://www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/index.asp>.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS VOTED

268 to zero in favour of a motion for equity in funding for First Nations schools as compared with provincial schools with the goal of improving the quality of on-reserve education. "Today is historic and we are halfway there," said MP Charlie Angus of the NDP. He was the member that brought the motion to Parliament. "It is up to the government to live up to the promise they made." Angus has campaigned for the past number of years for Shannen's Dream, a movement named after the late Shannen Koostachin, of Attawapiskat. Shannen not only lamented the quality of education in her community, she led a campaign to improve schooling on reserves across Canada. She died in a car accident in 2010. Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo has said that since 1996 First Nations education has fallen behind by about \$2 billion and \$300 million in capital expenditures is needed now just to catch up. He was pleased that all parties were onside with the motion. Now it's a waiting game to see if the government comes up with the cash.

THE NORTH SLAVE MÉTIS ALLIANCE HAS

filed a judicial review application against the Government of the Northwest Territories alleging discrimination against Métis hunters who were excluded from the Bathurst Caribou hunt. They say the government has given other Aboriginal groups, including the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and the Tlicho, rights to hunt the herd even though there has been a ban on hunting the herd in place since 2009. The alliance claims it has been trying for two years to get rights to hunt the herd, but have been denied. "This harvest allocation would be in fairness to the North Slave Métis people in accordance with the allocation that the GNWT has seen fit to make to our aboriginal counterparts," said Alliance President Bill Enge. "We have these Section 35 Aboriginal rights that are constitutionally protected and the GNWT needs to respect the law of the land, namely that the Métis that are members of the North Slave Métis Alliance have Aboriginal rights," he said.

ALBERT JOSEPH DELAIRE,

the former chair of the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan, was sentenced to a year in jail for defrauding the organization. He pleaded guilty to committing six counts of fraud and forgery between 2001 and 2004, including forging invoices and service contracts and authorizing payments to himself for work that was never done. Delaire was the minister of health for the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and chair of the board overseeing the addictions council. The Crown contends that Delaire stole \$400,000 from the organization, but the defense says it was between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Justice Gerry Allbright did not order Delaire to pay any of the money back, though he called the situation a "significant abuse of trust."

Court hears complaint against rights tribunal decision

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

The Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, and the Canadian Human Rights Commission forced a three-day judicial review in federal court Feb. 13 to Feb. 15 to argue against a decision by Canadian Human Rights Tribunal Chair Shirish Chotalia.

In 2011, Chotalia dismissed a claim that accused the federal government of discriminating against on-reserve people by underfunding child welfare services. Core to the argument was a comparison with the provincial funding provided for those same services offered to the off-reserve population.

The federal government argued that the comparison could not be made because the services were delivered by two different levels of government and to different clientele. Chotalia agreed.

First Nations were appalled that the tribunal review of the matter was scuttled by what amounted to a technicality.

"It really can't and should not be about technicalities that hinder, or hold back, First Nations children from being served in an equitable and fair fashion. And for there to be justice, it really must be much more than that," said AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo.

Numerous reports by former Auditor General of Canada Sheila Fraser back up claims by the AFN and Caring Society that federal

funding provided by Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada for child welfare is woefully inadequate and has resulted in poor living conditions and care of children on-reserve.

"The auditor general and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and many others have found this underfunding to be severe," said Cindy Blackstock, executive director of the Caring Society.

"The Department of Indian Affairs' own documents that we filed with the tribunal, they call the situation dire and they talk about the fact that kids are going into care because of inadequacy of prevention resources and they even go further than that and say they're worried if they don't take action, that these kids will grow up and sue them because of abuse and neglect in care."

Atleo pointed out that Fraser also claimed that federal funding for on-reserve services was "arbitrary."

"She (said that) First Nations are the only segment of the Canadian population with no statutory guaranty for long-term funding upon which any community can provide proper planning and proper foresight," said Atleo.

In 2007, the AFN and the Caring Society brought the claim of discrimination to the human rights commission which assessed and referred the matter to the tribunal for a full hearing.

The hearing on the merits of the case began in 2009. The federal government then argued that the case be dismissed because the tribunal did not have

jurisdiction to make a decision, as funding does not fall within the scope of the Canadian Human Rights Act and that the services offered by different government could not be compared.

In 2011, tribunal chair Chotalia agreed, dismissing the case on technicalities and not on merit.

"These kids don't choose to be funded by the federal government. It's an imposition by the governments themselves. They create this place where the children are underfunded by the federal government. The children shouldn't be having their rights violated and getting a lesser service because of that," said Blackstock.

The effects of that lesser service are obvious, said Atleo, who points to inadequate housing, poor schools, lack of clean drinking water, lack of access to services, poverty, and a high percentage of Aboriginal children in care.

Blackstock and Atleo said their organizations stand firm in supporting the "most vulnerable" people of society – the children.

"I personally am not going to stop until that situation is addressed and in doing so it's going to uplift our country to the values it's based on," said Blackstock.

The court must decide whether to uphold the tribunal's decision; send the case back to tribunal for a full hearing; or rule itself, based on the facts.

Justice Anne Mactavish said although the matter was urgent she could not indicate when her decision would come down.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CENOVUS FCCL LTD.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

AMENDMENT TO EXISTING OIL SANDS PROJECT

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Cenovus FCCL Ltd. has applied to Alberta Environment and Water for an amendment to an existing approval for the Cenovus Foster Creek Thermal Project to include the proposed Osprey Pilot Project.

The Cenovus Osprey Pilot Project would be located within the Cenovus Foster Creek Thermal Project, approximately 5 km southeast of the main Foster Creek plant. The Osprey Pilot Project would incorporate low pressure cyclic steam stimulation (LPCSS) technology and consist of a single well pad that includes two horizontal wells, a once-through-steam-generator, water tanks, and associated infrastructure. The produced emulsion would be transported to the main Foster Creek plant via a new aboveground pipeline. The Osprey Pilot Project is expected to operate for approximately 3 years, at a maximum oil production capacity of 100 m³/day. The facility is located in the NW 1/4 of Section 2 Township 70 Range 4 West of the 4th Meridian within the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range approximately 90 km northeast of the town of Lac La Biche.

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

Director of Northern Region
Alberta Environment and Water Regulatory Approvals Center
Main Floor, 9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6
Fax: (780) 422-0154

within 30 days of the date of this notice. Please quote Application No. 020-68492 when submitting a statement of concern in regards to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act application.

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

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

Cenovus FCCL Ltd.
Attention: Brent Mitchell
BOX 766, CALGARY AB T2P 2S5
Telephone: (403) 766-7521
Fax: (403) 766-7600

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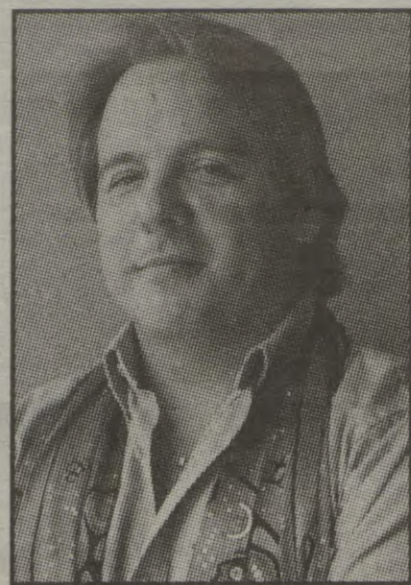
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A brief history of post-contact First Nations

Not that long ago, I was approached by the CBC to see if I could somehow encapsulate the history of Canada's First Nations, post contact, in 120 seconds or so. 'Wow,' I thought. This is why people get PhDs. This assignment was for their 8th Fire documentary Television series. Intrigued by the challenge, I decided to accept the task. To make it more interesting, I decided to approach it from the perspective of a new gospel – The Gospel of Drew.



THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

Heretics welcomed.
So here it is, and pay attention, there may be an exam later.
In the beginning, known as Time Immemorial, there was a land called Turtle Island.
It stretched from Mi'maq to Haida to Inuit territory. And it was good.
Then one day, five hundred and twenty years ago,
For reasons unknown, the Creator said 'let there be white.'

And there was. A lot of them. And our wise Elders said 'there goes the neighborhood'.

First to come were the Vikings, then John Cabot.

First to go were the Beothuks and then most of the Huron.

That was not good.

Turtle Island became Kanata, and then Canada.

Cartier and Champlain came a'knockin' in ships, and beaver fur was a'leaving in those same ships.

Explorers came and spread out

across the land,

Discovering far and exotic places like Flin Flon and MooseJaw.

Tens of thousands of people living on hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of land

Were delighted to have been 'discovered.'

They finally learned where they actually lived.

Imagine existing all those generations and not knowing you were in Saskatchewan.

Christianity, with all its love,

came with all its brutality.

Soon, civilization took its course -

As small pox begat treaty which begat Reserves which begat the Department of Indian affairs.

Poundmaker, Big Bear, Louis Riel, and Jesse Jim from The Beachcombers all became Canadian icons.

New words entered our languages – confederation.

Residential schools.

Class action suits.

Apologies.

Many of our words entered their language – Canoe, Oka, Ipperwash, Elijah Harper.

But all was not bad. Canada's First Nations people grew to appreciate many of the White Man's gifts.

Air conditioning.

Four wheel drive trucks.

Kraft dinner.

Casinos.

And the White man enjoyed many of our contributions;

Tomatoes, corn, Buffy Sainte-Marie, and tobacco.

Today there are almost a million and a half people of Aboriginal descent in Canada.

Approximately the same amount as when all this started.

It seems the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Except instead of buffalo as far as the eye can see,

There are now Tim Hortons as far as the eye can see.

A double double – one of the three great inventions by white people.

The other two being television and the baseball cap.

What will tomorrow bring... who knows?

Me - I'm predicting aliens.

No historians or cultural anthropologists were hurt during the writing of this history.

To see the filmed version, go to [CBC.ca/8th Fire](http://CBC.ca/8thFire), and open the Aboriginal 101 page.

Land management regime gives more control to nations

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

The latest signatories to the First Nations Land Management Regime have now made the program national.

"Those are very deserving communities," said Robert Louie, chief of the Westbank First Nation and chair of the First Nations Lands Advisory Board.

With the acceptance of Tsuu T'ina and Alexis Nakota Sioux in Alberta, Mashteuiatsh in Quebec, Membertou in Nova Scotia, and Miawpukek in Newfoundland, there is now at least one First Nation from each province undertaking the process of fully managing their own lands.

Eighty-three First Nations applied for the program and 18 were accepted, said Louie. That now raises the number of First Nations accepted into the land management regime to 73, with 37 operating under their own land codes.

Members of the regime can opt out of the 34 land-related sections of the *Indian Act*, allowing them to manage their land, resources and environment under their own land codes. The result is less red-tape, no federal government approval needed, and the ability for economic development to occur at a faster pace.

"We understand it's a much more cooperative process in turnaround time and what our needs are for economic development in developing our lands," said Kevin Littlelight, administrator for the Tsuu T'ina First Nation.

Tsuu T'ina's proximity to Calgary was certainly one factor Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada took into consideration when giving the Treaty 7 First Nation the nod to join the regime, said Louie. That proximity to a major centre provides for a variety of economic development opportunities.

But the success of First Nations' economies is not predicated on their closeness to

city centres. Nor is their acceptance into the land management regime.

Louie pointed to the success of the McLeod Lake Indian Band, located two hours north of Prince George in British Columbia. McLeod Lake is managing millions of dollars of resources in the form of timber.

"They wanted that land management authority. They're (a) well-run (community), well-managed and well-deserving. They've passed their land code now for quite a number of years and they keep moving positively forward, and that's a more rural community," said Louie.

Other factors ANAC takes into consideration when approving members to the regime include being financially and politically stable, well managed, and having a proven track record.

"We're a pretty high profile nation that needs to move relatively quickly; more than a lot of other people," said Littlelight. "Based on our geography, based on our history, based on our spending patterns

and our audits and, humbly, how successful we are and stable and financially stable."

Louie said studies indicate that bands that are part of the land management regime are "far more successful in the endeavours that they are doing." More jobs are available, more opportunities and more investments come to the communities, and the need for social assistance is reduced.

"If you are self-managing your own lands, then you can accommodate (new development) in a matter of weeks," said Louie.

In 2000, the Chippewas of Georgina Island, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island and the Muskody First Nation were the first three bands to have their land codes come into effect. That occurred one year after the land management regime was developed.

The other new signatories to the regime are, in British Columbia, Aitchelitz, Haisla Nation, Shuswap, Skowkale, Stz'uminus, Williams Lake Indian Band and Yakwekwioose; in Saskatchewan, One Arrow; in Manitoba, Buffalo Point and Long Plain; in Ontario, Beausoleil and Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek; and in New

Brunswick, St. Mary's.

These nations have 12 to 24 months to draft land codes, receive their community input and then hold votes on the land codes. Band members, both on and off reserve who are 18 years and older, are eligible to vote.

A minimum of 50 per cent of members must cast ballots.

For the land code to be accepted, it must be approved by 25 per cent plus one of all the registered membership and verified by ANAC.

While the federal government committed up to an additional \$20 million in the 2011 budget over the next two years for the land management regime, Louie said financial support from the federal government has not been as strong as he would have liked to have seen and he believes that has limited the number of First Nations that have been able to move into managing their own lands.

There are 65 First Nations on the waiting list right now for acceptance into land management regime.

"In the next generation, or a couple of generations, I believe that's where the future is," said Louie. "If you are making your own decisions as a First Nations government, your likelihood of success is far greater."



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[news] Awards showcase Indigenous achievement

By Shauna Lewis
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

Three thousand Indigenous people came together for the 19th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards gala held in Vancouver Feb. 24.

The evening was dedicated to outstanding individuals who have given their time and skills to transforming the health, arts, political, business and environmental spheres for Indigenous people in Canada.

Every year the awards attract hundreds of nominees who are then deliberated upon by a board comprised of 10 former Aboriginal Achievement Award recipients. From those nominations 15 recipients—I including two youth and one lifetime achievement award honoree—were selected based on merits.

“We are being welcomed here tonight by our host, the Indigenous peoples of British Columbia who have played such an important role in Canada’s history,” said National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation president, CEO and awards show executive producer, Roberta Jamieson.

During the ceremony, Jamieson unveiled a new brand for the foundation, which will now become Indspire, and the awards the *Indspire Awards*.

The *Indspire Awards* mandate is to promote self-esteem and pride for Indigenous communities.

Inspiring youth was a theme woven into the gala event, as participants stressed the importance of encouraging young Indigenous minds to reach their full potential.

“Our nations are in a profound period of transition,” said BC Regional Assembly of First Nations Chief Jody Wilson Raybould. “We are building on our success [and] implementing our hard-fought-for Aboriginal and treaty rights to improve the quality of life for our people and to ensure practicing and thriving cultures,” she said.

Addressing the recipients, Wilson acknowledged their contributions to their fellow Indigenous peoples of Canada.

“I can’t help but be inspired by what this amazing group of people have accomplished, both personally and for our nation.

Congratulations,” she said. “Your achievements demonstrate how potential can become reality through hard work, dedication and support.”

Steven Point, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, also expressed his pride in the honorees.

“They are role models, not just for Aboriginal people but for all Canadians. Awards like this are important, not just as a chance to recognize the outstanding work of our people, but to inspire others. I believe we all have a personal obligation to pass on this spirit of



PHOTO: KELVIN CLAVERIA

The 19th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards gala was held in Vancouver Feb. 24. The awards show co-hosts, actor Carmen Moore (left) and former professional hockey player, Theo Fleury, with National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation president and CEO Roberta Jamieson (right).

excellence to our children,” he concluded.

Violet Ford, 2012 Recipient of the ‘Law and Justice’ award, said she was humbled by the acknowledgement.

“I feel honored. I hope this award draws continued attention to the work that I’ve been focused on related to intellectual property rights, traditional Indigenous knowledge and where the legal challenges are in the existing intellectual property rights system,” she said.

The first woman of Aboriginal ancestry in Newfoundland and Labrador and the first Inuit woman in Canada to become a lawyer, Ford has devoted much of her life to protecting and advancing the rights of Indigenous people. As vice-president of the Inuit Circumpolar Council she was the leading legal policy advisor and negotiator on international, environmental and natural resource issues. Ford also assisted in drafting the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Other 2012 recipients include journalist Richard Wagamese [Media & Communication’ recipient/ Ojibwa Nation], Grand Chief Edward John [‘Politics’ recipient/ Tl’azt’en First Nation], Wheelchair athlete Richard Peter [‘Sports’ recipient/ Cowichan Tribes] and ‘Youth’ award recipient, Candace Sutherland, Métis.

During the evening, awards show co-hosts, actor Carmen Moore and former professional Canadian hockey player, Theo Fleury, showered the audience with the perfect amount of humor and wit.

“It was definitely different but I think we were a great team, we

had great chemistry and we had a lot of fun,” Fleury said of his first time co-hosting experience.

“I think it [the foundation and awards gala] is probably the most important fundraiser that we do as Indigenous people. It involves everybody— Inuit, Métis, everybody’s here,” added Fleury, who is Métis.

“It was such a huge thrill to be asked to do this,” he added while describing the night as ‘inspirational.’

“It was such an exciting night, I feel so, so honored to be here,” agreed Moore.

“It is important to celebrate the achievements of Indigenous people across Canada,” she said. “There isn’t anything else like this out there.”

Also, “when you do something good for your community it is important to be recognized for those accomplishments otherwise we don’t know how important we are,” she said.

Throughout the awards ceremony, award recipients and guests were treated to a bevy of musical and visual talents. From the opening performance of local First Nations coastal drumming, dance and song, to renowned national Aboriginal treasures, performers Chantelle Kreviazuk, Robbie Robertson and Derek Miller.

As well as a fresh crop of rising Indigenous artists were on hand to share their gifts.

“It’s an opportunity for anyone outside the Aboriginal community to learn about what the achievements are in our community, said local Indigenous songstress, Inez Jasper, of the awards.

“It’s also so much about the arts. It’s an opportunity for art in the Aboriginal community to move

forward, whether based in the traditional Aboriginal style of art or contemporary art,” she explained.

Inez, 30, of the Sto: lo First Nation in BC, says that Aboriginal youth can be successful in the arts if they remain open to advice and adopt the business savvy necessary for the industry.

“Be active in the community and always share your art and your talent. Always have an open mind to learn and also learn about business because in the industry it’s 10 per cent talent and 90 per cent business,” Jasper explained.

“Get all kinds of positive feedback so you can continue to grow and flourish” she added.

“I feel so close to where I want to be. I feel so connected,” said rising Cree singer Niska Napoleon at the awards after party. “Finally to be a part of the Native industry, the Native community,” she acknowledged.

The vibe was upbeat throughout the evening, as the Queen Elizabeth Theatre was bursting at the seams with people dressed to impress and anxious to party.

Before and after the awards ceremony guests dined on hors d’oeuvres of salmon and mini quiche, enjoyed oysters in the half-shell, sweetened their palate with pastries and sipped on spirits while mingling in the VIP tent adjacent to the theatre.

Calling the evening ‘astounding’, actor and singer/songwriter Andrea Menard, also expressed the importance of the event.

Menard, a Métis actor on the Gemini award-winning television series *Blackstone*, said she would never miss the opportunity to pay tribute to Aboriginal

achievement.

“I’m extremely honored to be here....I’m here with bells on,” she said at the post gala VIP party. “This is the awards show that I will always make time to clear my schedule and be here for because it honors our people who are out there making a difference,” she said.

“The recipients are people who are out in the communities, unrecognized a lot of the time, living in the shadows [and] making a difference in our communities. We have awards shows for actors and singers and musicians and we pat ourselves on the back a lot but the people in the communities are unrecognized and they’re the ones that deserve the shining light and the glory because they’re doing the work,” she said.

“People are blown away by this show. They are filled with pride,” she added.

Menard says the award ceremony truly sheds light on the many talented individuals we have in our Indigenous world.

“People are like ‘wow, wow!’ I didn’t know there was this, I didn’t know Native people did that.’ They’ve always known we’re political,” she said. “But do they know we’re political and healthy and beautiful and sexy and educated and positive and all those things?” she asked.

A 90-minute version of the Indspire Awards is produced and broadcast nationally by two select television networks, Global Television and Aboriginal Peoples Television (APTN). The 19th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards will air on Friday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. EST/ PST. For more information on the Indspire Awards and a list of 2012 recipients, visit www.indspire.ca

Métis, francophones commit to working together

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Students rally to send funding message to government

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Special section providing Aboriginal news from Saskatchewan



PHOTO: FSIN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo (middle) is presented with a blanket by Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations executive (from left) Fourth Vice Chief Simon Bird, Third Vice Chief E. Dutch Lerat, Second Vice Chief Bobby Cameron, and Interim Chief Morley Watson.

Saskatchewan chiefs continue to criticize AFN action

By SHARI NARINE
Sage Contributing Editor

WHITECAP DAKOTA SIOUX FIRST NATION

Morley Watson won't go as far as to say there is a "rift" between the chiefs of Saskatchewan and National Chief Shawn Atleo and the organization he heads, the Assembly of First Nations.

But disapproval with recent actions taken by Atleo became apparent during the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation's winter legislative assembly in mid-February.

Atleo addressed the gathering and then, during a question and answer period, was hit with some hard questions, most of which centred around the First Nations-Crown gathering in January and the action plan that resulted.

"The chiefs of Saskatchewan really let the national chief know ... the whole releasing, the authoring of the plan, really didn't meet ... what we needed here in Saskatchewan," said Watson, who serves as interim

chief for the FSIN.

Atleo was criticized for not spending enough time in the consultation process with chiefs in putting together the plan, *The 2012 First Nations Plan: Honouring our Past, Affirming our Rights and Seizing our Future*.

"We take the consultation very, very seriously. If we expect governments and agencies to consult with us, we also have to consult with ourselves," said Watson.

Despite the fact the plan is based on resolutions passed in previous AFN assemblies, Saskatchewan chiefs are displeased that the final draft of the plan wasn't presented to them for endorsement or strengthening before it was released.

"(Saskatchewan chiefs have) asked us to notify the government of Saskatchewan and the AFN to really cease and desist of the implementation on any parts of the action plan," said Watson.

This doesn't mean that the chiefs are by-passing the AFN

in taking action on behalf of Saskatchewan, he said. Instead, chiefs are serving notice, reminding the AFN that they work for chiefs across the country.

"The chiefs want to have their final stamp on documents like the action plan. They want to go through it, they want to make sure that's the message they're sending," said Watson. "What they're saying to the FSIN and AFN, anything further you're going to present on our behalf, we want to sit down and make sure that's the message we want to go forward to the different governments."

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has come forward supporting FSIN's stand and Alberta Chiefs are meeting soon and Watson expects a similar endorsement.

The day after FSIN's assembly, Atleo issued an open letter to chiefs, recapping the steps that were taken in developing the action plan and stating in part, "... We insisted on a principled approach based

on First Nations rights and including clear commitment on advancing Treaty implementation...."

FSIN's disapproval of the action plan came on the heels of a news release issued by FSIN criticizing the recommendations made by the National Education Panel. The panel was a joint effort of the federal government and the AFN. FSIN did not endorse the panel nor did it participate in the handful of Saskatchewan stops.

Both the panel's report and the action plan resulting from the First Nations-Crown gathering are light on addressing treaty rights, said Watson.

"In any document that goes out, we always have to ensure that it's strongly treaty-based. We feel our treaty right to education isn't being presented in one form or another, that's our job to ensure that we have the governments to stand up and notice it," he said.

Watson holds that the dissension between

Saskatchewan chiefs and the AFN is a matter of "differing opinions" and not a personality issue. Watson said a close race for leadership between Atleo and Little Black Bear First Nation Chief Perry Bellegarde in 2009 and the possibility of former FSIN Chief Blaine Favel challenging Atleo this July are not the cause of criticism from Saskatchewan chiefs. Watson said he has been working closely with Atleo since September and has had no issue bringing Saskatchewan chiefs concerns forwards. He also noted that the national chief has a "tremendous challenge" in dealing with over 630 First Nations chiefs.

"I think at the end of the day, organizations go through these little rough spots. I think at the end of the day when we listen to our bosses, that being the chiefs, more often than not we come forward with a good game plan and good consensus on the issues we have to prioritize and move forward on," said Watson.

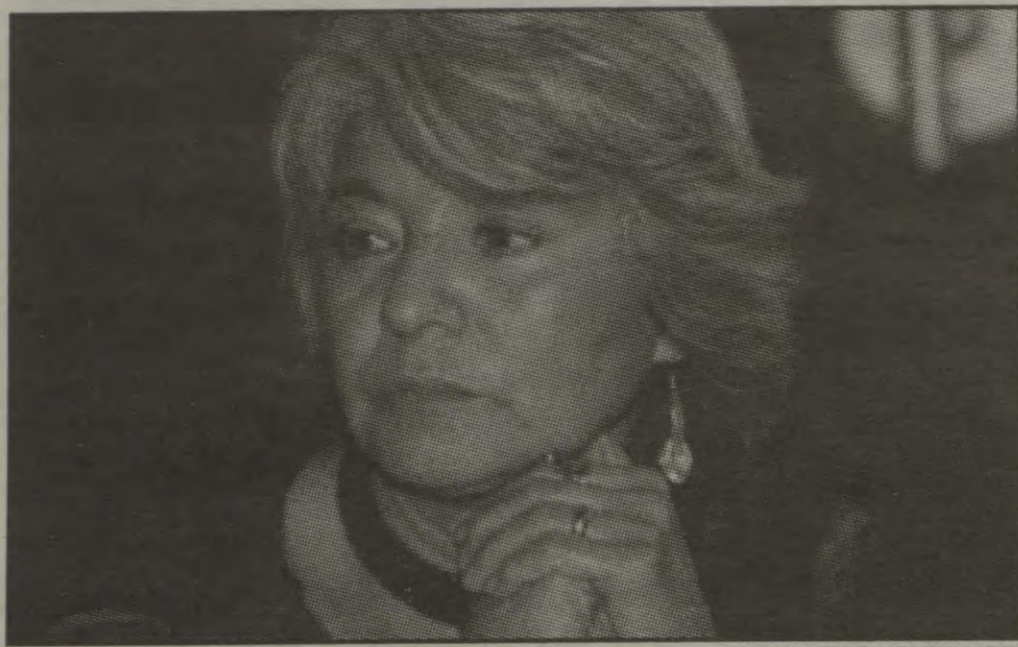


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Cree poet Louise Halfe was named Saskatchewan's second Poet Laureate.

Poet Laureate talks about Aboriginal teachings, social issues

Saskatchewan's second Poet Laureate, Cree poet Louise Halfe, spoke to a small but enthusiastic crowd at the Frances Morrison Library in February. Her appearance was part of the Saskatoon Writers' Coop's presentation. The discussion centred around poetry, Aboriginal teaching, and social issues. Halfe, whose Native name is Sky Dancer, was born in Two Hills, Alta. and raised on Saddle Lake First Nation, but has called Saskatoon home for over 20 years. Halfe was chosen as Poet Laureate in 2005 by an independent committee comprised of representatives of the province's literary, academic and government communities. Halfe's poetry was first published in 1990 in the anthology *Writing the Circle: Native Women of Western Canada*. She published her first book of poetry, *Bear Bones and Feathers*, in 1994. Her second, *Blue Marrow*, was published in 1997. Both efforts were well received. *Bear Bones and Feathers* was short-listed for the Spirit of Saskatchewan Award, the Saskatchewan First Book Award, the Gerald Lambert Award and the Pat Lowther First Book Award, and won the Milton Acorn Award. *Blue Marrow* was short-listed for the Governor General's Award and nominated in three Saskatchewan Book Awards categories—Saskatchewan Book of the Year, the Saskatoon Book Award and the Saskatchewan Poetry Award. She has had three books published.

\$21-million for claim settlement

Members of the Sakimay First Nation have voted to accept a \$21-million settlement for land that was flooded in the 1940s. A referendum vote taken on Jan. 30 had 307 of 328 ballots cast in a favour of the settlement. The claim was over a water control structure built on Crooked Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley east of Regina. The Indian Claims Commission ruled in 1998 that there was no proper authorization to build the structure or to flood reserve land. The land still remains under water. Under the settlement agreement, the band's 470 members will each receive \$1,000 and \$19 million will be invested in a bank-managed trust. Four per cent of the trust will be drawn on annually for revenue, said Chief Lynn Acoose.

Uranium pact good news for MLTC

A new uranium pact between Canada and China could have financial benefits for the Meadow Lake Tribal Council and the nine First Nations in Northern Saskatchewan, who are key stakeholders in the uranium industry. We are

encouraged that new market opportunities for Uranium sales will result in increased exploration and mining, leading to expanded employment and increased demand for the products and services offered by the businesses we own," said Tribal Chief Eric Sylvestre, in a news release. MLTC Resource Development Limited Partnership is owned by the nine First Nations of MLTC. In addition, several of the First Nations own independent companies that provide services to the mining industry. MLTC's individual First Nations members also make up a significant part of the workforce employed directly by the mining companies operating in Northern Saskatchewan.

Flooding from potash development a concern

Pasqua First Nation Chief Todd Peigan is concerned in that about Brazilian mining giant Vale's request for water could result in flooding in the Qu'Appelle Valley. Vale wants to build a 70-km water pipeline from Katepwa Lake in order to pump about 40 million litres of water a day to its proposed potash mine near Kronau. Peigan is concerned that water being drained out of the lake will affect the river that runs through the reserve. Peigan claims neither the province nor Vale have adequately consulted the band, so the band's lawyer is sending letters to both. "We will defend them breaching the river banks and flooding our lands," Peigan said to the CBC. "We will defend it legally."

Former MACSI chair sentenced to one year in jail

Albert Delaire former board chair of the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan, Inc., has been sentenced to a one-year jail term for defrauding the organization of nearly \$400,000 between 2001 and 2004. Along with multiple counts of fraud, Delaire, 55, was found guilty of breach of trust and forgery. None of the money has been repaid. Delaire's sentence would have been closer to two years if not for the severe condition of his health. Delaire was an elected official with the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and held the position of Minister of Health when he was appointed chair of the MACSI board in 2001. Delaire was fired on Feb. 18, 2004, and a forensic audit began the following month. It found that weak internal controls had contributed to the frauds, which added up to a loss of \$398,759. Criminal charges were laid in 2008.

Youth recognized for anti-NWMO walk

Five Aboriginal youth, four from northern Saskatchewan and one from Saskatoon, were awarded the 2012 Youth Global Citizen Award for their participation in last summer's 7000 Generations Wanska Walk Against Nuclear Waste Storage in northern Saskatchewan. Geron Paul, 20, and Shayna Paul, 17, from English River First Nation; Rueben Roy, 16, from Beauval; Marissa Favel, 16, from Ile-a-la-Crosse; and River Cote, 13, from Saskatoon; gave up the better part of their summer to walk 780 km from Pinehouse Lake to Regina. Geron Paul and Roy walked the entire distance and Paul gave a speech in response to NWMO's assertion that northern Saskatchewan would be the right location from the waste storage facility.

Aboriginal employment figures up

Recent employment figures show that off-reserve Aboriginal employment had a growth of 6,200 jobs or 18 per cent — the eighth consecutive monthly increase — while Aboriginal youth employment also increased year-over-year by 1,400 jobs or 17.3 per cent — the third

consecutive monthly increase. Youth employment overall increased by 4,300 jobs (5.5 per cent). The Statistics Canada figures indicate that in January 2012 compared to January 2011 there were 3,200 more people employed and 2,800 fewer people unemployed. "With strong growth in aboriginal and youth employment, Saskatchewan continues to be a great place to live and work," Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration Minister Rob Norris said in a press release.

Enhanced Internet services provided

The Government of Canada is partnering with SaskTel and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to enhance Internet services in 68 communities. The primary beneficiaries of this initiative are the over 15,000 students in 89 on-reserve schools. In addition, these First Nations will also be better placed to bridge the digital divide and to access e-services in key areas such as healthcare, learning, business development and banking. The project is part of SaskTel's larger \$300 million initiative to enhance their suite of services to rural customers throughout the province. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada will invest \$11.6 million over five years, with SaskTel contributing technical, planning and in-kind services. SaskTel anticipates construction to be completed in 2014. "This partnership will provide an equal opportunity to our First Nation schools to excel in academic success," said FSIN Chief Morley Watson, in a news release. "The project will provide the technology required for First Nation students to be prepared when they further their education and develop the skills needed to launch a career."

Star Blanket youth part of UN delegation

Collin Joseph Starblanket, 15, from the Star Blanket Cree Nation, was part of a six-member youth delegation that attended a special session of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva, Switzerland in February. The youth asked the UNCRC to pressure the Canadian Government to end the inequities in First Nations education, health, child welfare, and culture and language programs. The goal was to ensure that First Nations children get the same chance as other Canadian children to grow up safely at home, go to good schools, be healthy and proud of who they are. The youth were accompanied by Cindy Blackstock from the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada. In 2010, Starblanket was recognized with the Sasktel Aboriginal Youth Award of Excellence for Culture.

Widening gap in public schools education

The most recent Continuous Improvement Report for Regina Public Schools indicates a widening gap in 2010/2011 between Aboriginal and Métis students, and other students. "I'm deeply concerned and deeply committed to reducing the gap between our First Nations and Métis learners and those of our overall student population," Julie McRae, director of education with Regina Public Schools, told the *Regina Leader-Post*. Knowledge of treaties and First Nations cultures in the province was another area in which close to half of all students failed to reach an adequate level - something reflected across the province. McRae said staff will assess the results and design programs and interventions to bridge the gaps identified through the report.

Compiled by Shari Narine

Time for federal Métis Act, says president

By SHARI NARINE
Sage Contributing Editor

REGINA

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette is calling for a federal Métis Act.

"I think it's time now that there be a federal Métis Act that lays out the obligations and responsibilities of both parties," he said.

Two years ago when Doucette stood before the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples he called for the creation of a federal Métis Act.

As it stands now, he said, it is the *Indian Act* that drives the benefits Metis people do and do not have.

"Whatever happens in the *Indian Act* collaterally has an impact on the Métis," said Doucette.

The *Indian Act* lays out educational and health benefits for registered Indians, none of which are available for Métis people. Because of the McIvor ruling, more Métis people have the option to register under the *Indian Act* and to claim those benefits.

In January 2011, Bill C-3, *The Gender Equity in*

Indian Registration Act, amended sections of the Indian Registration rules, based on a court ruling in a discrimination case initiated by Sharon McIvor and her son. The ruling opened up the possibility of more generations being able to register under the Indian Act.

"The change to McIvor impacted Métis. People who always said they were Métis, whether a need for health or education, they opted into status. That had a direct impact on Métis community," said Doucette.

Although the last federal election saw the name of the former Indian and Northern Affairs Canada department changed to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada, the scope of the department did not change.

"I have a very good relationship with (ANAC). We've done a lot of good things over the last five years to advance a lot of issues with respect to the Métis, but there are a lot of issues that they can't deal with by the very nature of ministry," said Doucette.

Issues such as housing, health, education, and employment and training fall outside the scope of the department, he said. However, for First Nations, these

are all covered through federal legislation.

"I think it's time now that the federal government sits down with the Métis leaders in a Métis Nation leaders summit... to talk about some of the issues that are facing Métis people," said Doucette.

He noted that Saskatchewan has a Métis Act. It was signed in 2001 and came into effect the following year. The act lays out the process by which the Government of Saskatchewan and MN-S address issues.

"It's a very good process. We've got a very good premier, ministers that have engaged in a lot of good discussions and we've worked hard with each other," said Doucette.

The act sets out a bilateral process in which the two parties will work together to address such issues as capacity building, land, harvesting and governance. Discussions could lead to memorandums of understanding if deemed necessary by both parties.

"There are over one million Métis people in Canada," said Doucette. "I think it's time we engaged the discussion. We're taxpayers and I'd like to see some return on my investment."

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**Métis, francophones
commit to working
together**

By **SHARI NARINE**
Sage Contributing Editor

REGINA

A "significant step" was taken in February to heal almost 150 years of troubled relationships when the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and Assemble communautaire fransaskoise signed a solidarity pact.

"This is an important document," said MN-S President Robert Doucette. "It was a significant step in rebuilding our relationship between our communities."

"It's important that the two respective communities agree to talk and to share things, to come together on various issues," said Andre Moquin, vice president of the ACF.

The historical pact - it is the first time a Métis group and a francophone organization have signed an agreement to work together - commits the two groups to holding formal discussions annually.

The pact builds on a 2005 conference hosted by the French Institute at the University of Regina in which the Métis were invited to a dialogue with the francophones. Over the course of the next six years travelling round table discussions took place between interested Métis and francophones in Batoche, Willowbunch, and North Battleford. The next round table is planned for this fall in the Melfort area.

"The issues are very, very emotional," said Moquin, who participated in a couple of round table discussions. "At the signing of this pact, I know that my personal feelings were ... quite happy that after 130 years of going our separate ways ... now after this long hiatus we're coming together and talking as good neighbours."

The division between the two groups of people came about in 1885 when the Northwest Rebellion was crushed and leader Louis Riel hanged. While the Métis and francophone continued to live side-by-side, there was mistrust as fear and racism were prevalent.

Moquin said that through the round tables, it became clear that the two peoples shared many things in common: language, culture and minority status in the province.

"Our ancestries are really joined at one point in history. We have very common heroes. For example, Louis Riel is very much a hero as much for the Métis as for the francophones,"

he said.

The pact, said Doucette, harkens back to the time of the fur traders; when the two groups of people worked together.

"We are on our way to reconciliation, to working together, to rebuilding our family ties and that great relationship that we had," he said.

The pact adopts processes which show "genuine and mutual respect," said Doucette, and will bring about "constructive dialogue."

Marc Masson, communications officer with ACF, pointed to the knowledge that can be shared between the two groups of people.

"We're struggling right now to develop post-secondary education in French for our community. The Métis community has developed that. They've got pretty good services. They're making progress every year with the Gabriel Dumont Institute. It's very well established and it has a good reputation. And we can probably learn from them," said Masson.

On the flipside, he said, the francophones have been running their own school boards for well over a decade and this could provide expertise for the Métis to draw on.

Doucette noted that both groups shared issues: retention of languages, importance of educating children about their cultural traditions and values.

"There are a lot of similar issues, that when we need the support of each other, I can safely say, that we will be there to support each other," he said.

Masson also said the pact could lead to discussions about shared rural economic development and tourism. Already, Métis and francophones are working together in the Greater Batoche region on *Terroir*, a pilot project aimed at diversifying the crop grown in the region and providing more jobs.

Paul Heppelle, president of ACF, said in the speech he delivered on the day of the signing, that the pact "is a commitment to the future of our respective cultures, a commitment to the future of our languages, a commitment to the future of a province and of a country in which we will be called upon to partner up for the betterment of all. In today's uncertain and changing times, our promise to work together, to share ideas, to discuss issues, to share concerns truly is a step forward."

Students rally to send funding message to government

By SHARI NARINE
Sage Contributing Editor

REGINA

Two hundred strong marched on Feb. 1 from the University of Regina to the First Nations University of Canada to protest the cost of higher education and insufficient government funding. At the core of the march was the federal government's two per cent cap on the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, which funds Aboriginal students.

"It's really important that the federal government knows we stand in solidarity," said Alanna Makinson, Prairies organizer for

the Canadian Federation of Students. The CFS organized marches right across the country as a National Day of Action.

Solidarity was clear as university students were joined by members of the community and as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations endorsed the march.

"Having the support of the FSIN was incredibly powerful," said Makinson. "We, as students, as community activists, as First Nations, we need to work together in order to get anything accomplished."

In a news release issued the day of the march, FSIN Vice Chief Simon Bird said, "Last week the Prime Minister spoke about unlocking 'the enormous amount of economic potential of First Nations peoples' during his address at the Crown-First Nations gathering. In order to achieve this potential, the two per cent cap must not only be removed, but funding for First Nations education must be increased."

In 1996, the federal government capped the PSSSP at two per cent. Tuition and living costs have increased beyond that cap, said Makinson, and the federal government needs to be realistic.

According to the FSIN, insufficient funding through the



PHOTO: ROY POGORZELSKI

Students and community members ended their march in support of post-secondary education at the First Nations University of Canada.

PSSSP has resulted in 10,000 First Nations students across the country being denied access to post-secondary education. If the cap were to be lifted and all eligible students funded, an additional \$250 million annually would be required.

Makinson also noted that the rally was to bring attention to the overall need for more federal funding for post-secondary institutions so tuition fees could be reduced and more grants made available for students.

"The government needs to prioritize funding for our universities and college system

adequately," she said. "Access to education is the key to Canada's future and we need to make it a federal priority."

Makinson was pleased with the number of people who took to the streets.

"This was one of the more successful student events in the last five years," she said. "It's very clear that students are concerned about the high cost of education, the high student debt that students are forced to take on in order to come to university and college, and very concerned about First Nations access to education."

The march ended at the FNUC

where Little Black Bear First Nation Chief Perry Bellegarde addressed the crowd along with FNUC Students Association President Cadmus Delorme.

Makinson said the CFS will continue to work with the federal government to achieve its goals. Meetings are ongoing "on many different levels to communicate what students need in order to improve access to university and college education. But it was also very important to show the federal government in a very public way that students want these things as well as the community."

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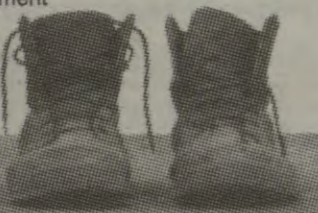
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Hobiyeer celebrated in Vancouver

(Continued from page 1.)

"It's to show our power [as First Nations people]," agreed Wesley. "The Nisga'a are our neighbours and our people celebrate Hobiyeer as well," she said. "This Hobiyeer is what Christmas is to Christians," she continued. "It's where we show our strength. Where we *show* it, not get it from."

"It's slightly different than what

we have in the villages," said Diana Smith [Aliskgum Xsaak] from Terrace, B.C.

"It's urban and it's outside of the Nass Valley but it's very spiritual still," the Elder said.

But whether the year is good or average for harvest and prosperity, participants agreed that Vancouver's Hobiyeer celebration was a breathtaking display of West

Coast culture.

"I've never seen anything like this. It's so good to see," exclaimed Rose Point, Musqueam First Nation Elder and first time Hobiyeer spectator.

"I've never seen so many babies in one place so sound asleep with so much noise," she said. "And I've never seen so many tribal groups. It made me feel so happy

that I did come."

"It's overwhelming to see such cultural display, and the way the Nisga'a people do it there is such a warm embrace," agreed Al Houston, Hobiyeer event volunteer.

Houston, who is Ojibwa but lives in Vancouver, said the drumming and singing was emotionally moving.

"When I was watching the dancers and how they would feel the music to the drum, I was in awe," he explained. "I was just stunned."

The event cost the Nisga'a Tsamiks Vancouver Society over \$40,000 to host. Expenses included the coliseum rental and security, as well as food for participants.

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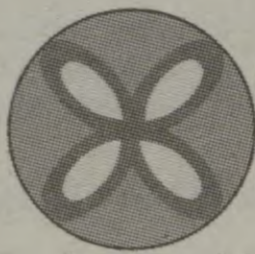
PHOTOS: SHAUNA LEWIS

The Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society hosted the Hobiye event in Vancouver on Feb. 3 and 4 - drawing about 4000 people.



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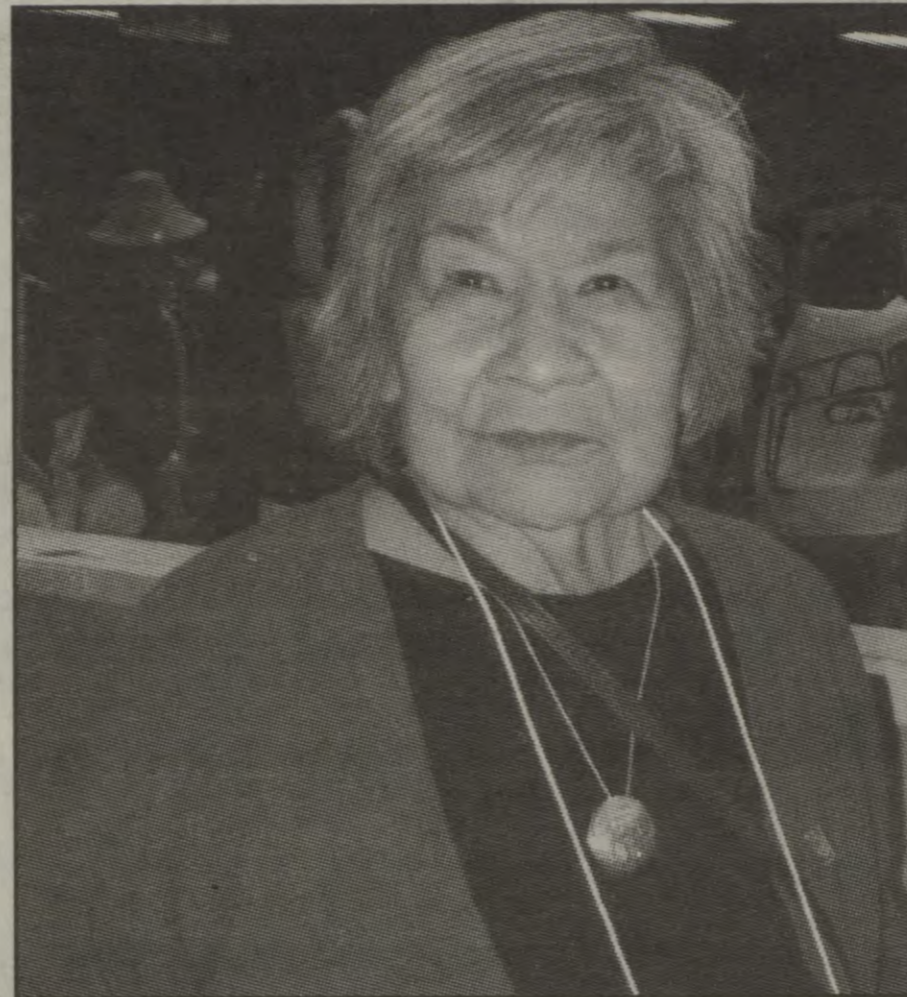
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Musqueam Nation Elder, Rose Point, enjoyed her first Hobiye celebration.



Sherry Small, Chairperson of the Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society Board of Directors, greets participants.



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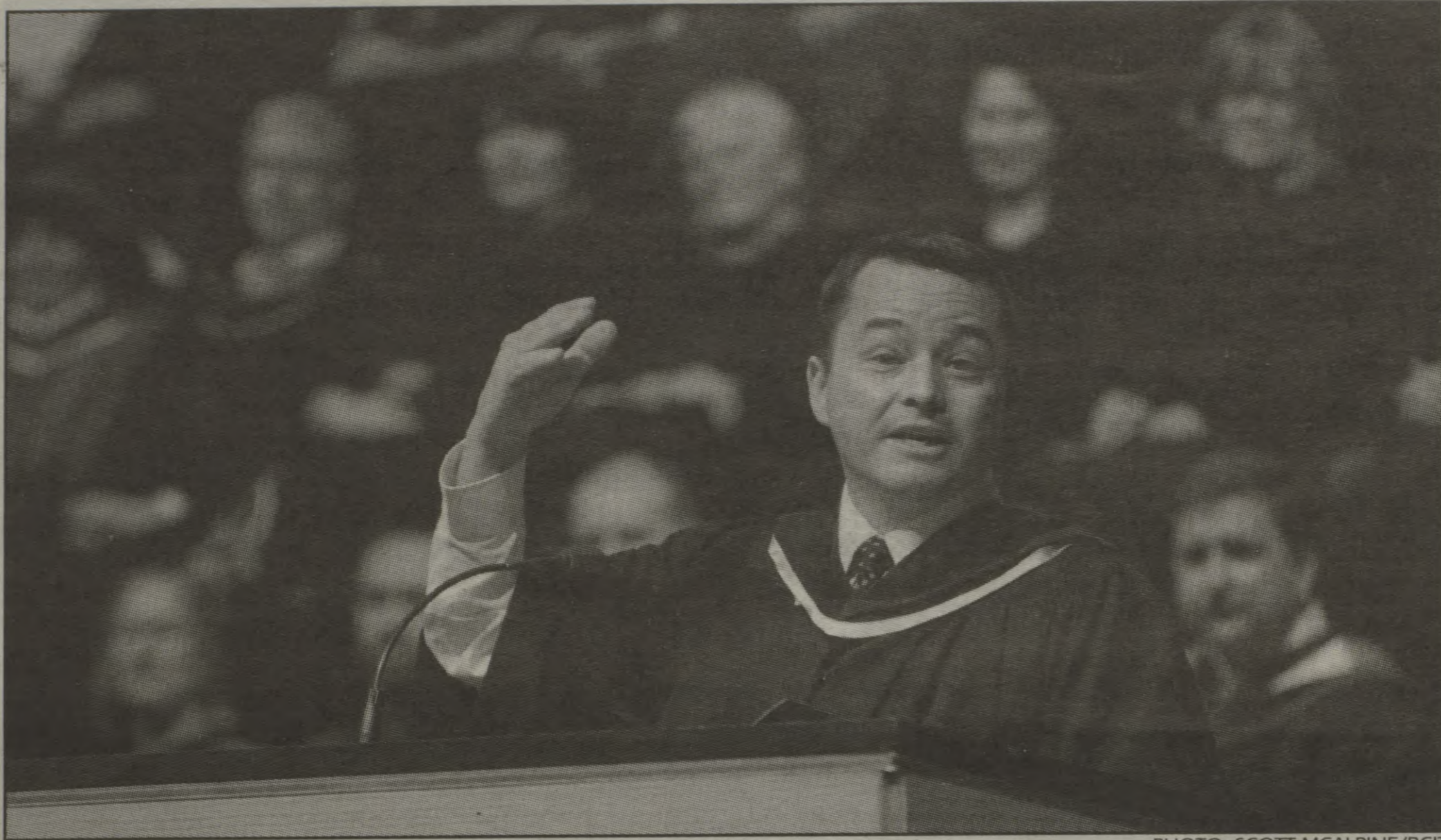


PHOTO: SCOTT MCALPINE/BCIT

Shawn Atleo, Assembly of First Nations national chief, addresses graduates at the BCIT convocation ceremony on Feb. 16.

ON FEB. 16, THE BRITISH COLUMBIA

Institute of Technology bestowed an honorary Doctorate of Technology on Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo. "BCIT is honored to be able to recognize Mr. Atleo – a person who clearly sees the value in education and the power it can have in changing lives," said Don Wright, president of BCIT. Atleo was the keynote speaker at convocation, with 300 of 400 graduates in attendance. "I am honoured to be part of the celebration of accomplishments of this year's graduates," he said. "Education is key to unlocking potential, and BCIT's efforts in making education more accessible to First Nation students helps build on our broad efforts in supporting education opportunities for First Nations – an economic imperative for the future of our peoples and all of Canada."

AN ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

justice forum in Vancouver that began Feb. 21 was used to explore the idea of a national inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered aboriginal women, said Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. Phillip has been critical of the province's missing and murdered women's inquiry, headed by former attorney general Wally Oppal. He said the focus of the BC inquiry is too narrow, and funding for marginalized groups to take part was denied, which will render the findings of the inquiry as inadequate. Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo, and other Aboriginal leaders, spoke to delegates of the forum beside a table lined with candles and photos of women that have gone missing or been murdered. Atleo said a national public inquiry has long been an objective of

the AFN. The forum also was used to announce a campaign and Web site, www.missingkids.ca, that will help families in their search for missing children, with the goal also of preventing further disappearances. "Too many of our children and youth were reported missing at a very young age, and we cannot and we will not lose another generation," Atleo said during remarks about the initiative. "It is our time to step up and together ensure that our children are supported in ways that they can be safe and confident to lead the way for this and future generations." The Web site is offered by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection with the AFN. In addition to providing step-by-step guides and tools, Missingkids.ca's trained staff will support families in their search to find their missing child. The missing children initiative is supported by the federal government through the Department of Justice Victims Fund.

TRADITIONAL SONGS SUNG BY HAIDA

First Nation members opened a milestone event Feb. 22 in the Haida Gwaii school district (SD 50) as representatives of the provincial government, school district and local bands signed their first Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. The agreements are commitments between the signatories to support Aboriginal student success and the inclusion of Aboriginal culture as well as history in classrooms. In a district where more than half of the students are Aboriginal, Haida culture and language are an integral part of the school curriculum. First Nations Elders work with teachers to instruct children in traditional weaving, food-gathering and cooking. To promote literacy, students and educators created an alphabet book, B is for Basketball, which reflects their heritage as well as their love of basketball. This published book is available throughout the province. The collaboration between the school district and the Haida Nation is already making a positive impact on Aboriginal students. Since 2006, the number of Aboriginal students completing high school in Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte has increased every year. In 2010-11, 60 per cent of the district's Aboriginal students graduated with a Dogwood diploma, compared to an average of 54 per cent of Aboriginal students in the province.

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RAVEN'S EYE

Special section providing Aboriginal news from BC & Yukon

The new moon signifies prosperity for West Coast



PHOTO: SHAUNA LEWIS

Hobiye (the Nisga'a Nation's New Year) participants, Peter Nelson and Jackie Temple share a laugh during the festivities.

By SHAUNA LEWIS
Raven's Eye Writer

Vancouver

On Feb. 3 and 4, nearly 4,000 people came together in cultural pride and celebration to recognize the Nisga'a Nation's New Year.

This year's celebration was the largest to date, said organizers with the Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society, the group that hosted the event. The society represents the 1,400 Nisga'a citizens who reside in the urban centers of greater Vancouver and on Vancouver Island.

Loosely translated, 'Tsamiks' is Nisga'a for 'the twinkling lights off the water in the bay' referring to Vancouver's urban landscape.

'Hobiye' means 'New Year' and is a celebration honoring the lunar New Year.

Nisga'a tradition states that First Nations people can predict the annual food harvest by how the moon is positioned on Hobiye.

It is said that if the crescent of the moon is concave like a deep bowl or spoon, it means the harvest of oolichans, salmon and berries will be overflowing and the year will be a bountiful one for the Nisga'a.

If the crescent of the moon is closed, it means that it will be a difficult year for the Nisga'a for harvesting food for the winter.

"From my understanding it won't be as plentiful, but it will still be pretty good," said Emily Tait (Sayt Huuhl Gaak), a member of the Vancouver Nisga'a dance group.

Her family members shared with her their Hobiye predictions for 2012.

But Brenda Wesley, a Gitksan matriarch disagreed. The Elder said she too saw the moon and claims it determined a positive outlook for the year.

"I've seen the new moon and the tips are up, she said. "That indicates that it's going to be a prosperous year for West Coast Aboriginal people," she claimed.

In the past, the Hobiye event

had been held annually at the Native Friendship Centre in East Vancouver. Last year the celebration relocated to the larger Joe Mathias Centre in North Vancouver, where organizers say they were filled to capacity.

This year, organizers decided to hold the celebration at the PNE Agrodome.

"Everything ran smoothly," said Sheldon Robinson, programs and services coordinator for the society. "It was just as though we'd done it at home."

Robinson is originally from the Nisga'a community of Greenville [Laxgalts'ap] in the Nass Valley. He said the two-day celebration boasted 600 performers from 11 different traditional dance groups throughout the province and beyond.

He said First Nations weren't the only ones to join in the celebration.

"We had the [Vancouver] Chinese community come and perform their dragon dance,"

Robinson explained. "It was just a given," that the Chinese community would be invited to the event. There is a long history and commonalities between the cultures, including sharing the lunar New Year.

"I think it's fantastic to have other First Nations come out to celebrate. It shows diversity and yet it shows our linkage as well," said Tait.

At the grand finale of the event, hundreds of First Nations gathered on the Agrodome centre stage to officially welcome the Nisga'a New Year.

Repeated chants of "Hobiye" filled the enormous coliseum as First Nations came together in power, strength and cultural reverence under the Nisga'a moon.

"It has been a real honour to be a part of the Nisga'a Ts'amiks community," said Sherry Small, chairperson of the Nisga'a Ts'amiks Vancouver Society Board of Directors, during the closing ceremony.

"I am so proud of the Nisga'a

Ts'amiks people. They have taken their ancestors' spirit of respect, love and compassion and they have taken that to walk with them for the rest of their lives," she said.

"This [Hobiye] is part of that journey," she continued. "It's the start of singing the songs and dancing the songs of our ancestors," she explained.

"Because we're living in the 'concrete jungle' it is very difficult for a lot of First Nations people to have access to such [cultural] events," said Robinson. "And with the Nisga'a people being so strong we thought it was important to share our culture with everyone in Vancouver," he said of the celebration.

The biggest reason to host Hobiye in the city is to make the Nisga'a presence known, said organizers.

"It's to show that we as First Nations people are still here and we are still strong," Robinson explained.

(Continued on page 4.)

Scott Ward — [windspeaker confidential]

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

Scott Ward: A friend who has my back when I needed them.

W: What is it that really makes you mad?

S.W.: People who constantly complain about things and don't make changes in their life.

W: When are you at your happiest?

S.W.: When clients are so happy that they had brought my hypnosis show and workshops into their community.

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

S.W.: Frustrated

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

S.W.: My Dad because he has given me our culture.

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

S.W.: Dealing with Cholera in Guyana, South America. I was dealing with it for nine months, including being unable to walk for a short period of time.

W: What is your greatest accomplishment?

S.W.: Becoming a father and then performing my Comedy Hypnotist Shows across Turtle Island!

W: What one goal remains out of reach?

S.W.: Being the first Native headliner in Las Vegas. Anybody out there have \$500,000 (US) to

sponsor my comedy hypnosis show on the Las Vegas Strip?

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

S.W.: Going back to the classroom and teaching Aboriginal students in high school.

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

S.W.: If you want to get into self-employment you need to plan for it! (Just like if you want to go on a trip to Hawaii. How are you going to make it happen?)

W: Did you take it?

S.W.: Hell ya! Seven years performing comedy hypnosis shows and haven't looked back! (I've subsequently been to Hawaii twice since performing full time.)

W: How do you hope to be remembered?

S.W.: As one of the most successful Aboriginal entertainers in Canada who has made it to mainstream!

Scott Ward and his family are Ojibway/Métis from Selkirk, Man. He and his brothers were regulars at the Selkirk Indian and Métis Friendship Centre where they would perform at various functions and powwows in and around the area of North and South Dakota and Saskatchewan. His dad played a large role in his exposure to his

Aboriginal culture. He remembers famous fiddle player Teddy Boy Houle as a part of his childhood and Teddy Boule taught him jigs and reels that he ended up performing publicly. Of this particular memory, Ward says, "I am honoured to have my great grandfather's fiddle. He is from Sandy Bay Ojibway Nation."

Ward went to the University of Alberta and when he received his Bachelor of Education, he began working as a career counselor at the government of Alberta in Red Deer. During this time he took hypnotherapy training and eventually found himself as an Aboriginal Frontline Program Teacher in the Red Deer Public schools. While building his teaching career he became a father twice over to two boys. While his children were still very young he decided to change from teaching in the public school system to performing and leading workshops using his hypnosis skill set. Of his decision to take on the risk of self-employment Ward answers, "My boys were and still are my motivation for continuing with my success in the entertainment and workshop field. I love to empower band office employees by building team work with my workshops and I love to entertain communities with my personal brand of Aboriginal hypnosis



Scott Ward

shows. Ward credits his mother with encouraging him in the healing arts and performing on stage while his sense of humor is from his father. Ward says, "My dad makes everyone laugh around him and I hope to do the same throughout my life."

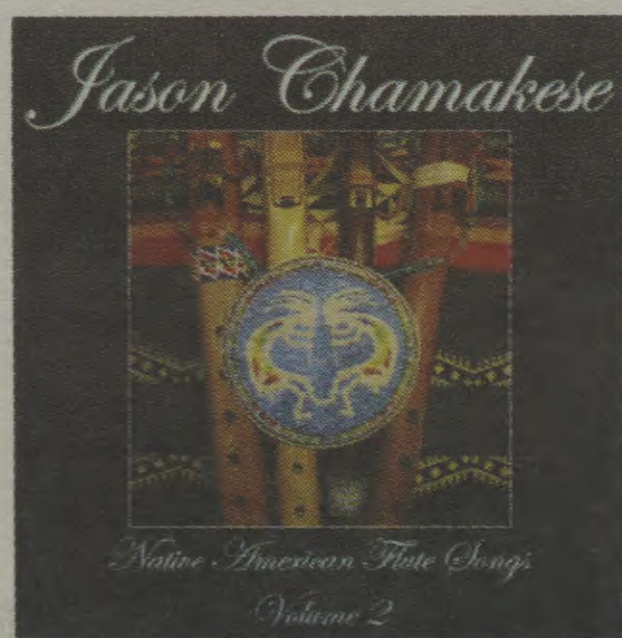
Ward has moved his family to Vancouver Island to be closer to family and give his sons a closer connection to their cousins and Mooshum. To learn more about Scott Ward and his hypnotic ways, visit his Web site at www.scottward.ca

[radio's most active]

OUR PICK

Artist—Jason Chamakese
Song—Irresistible
Album—Native American Flute Songs Volume 2 (2010)

Mainstream new age practitioners have found a meditative and spiritual connection with Native flute music. The haunting voice of a wooden Native American flute has a way of quieting the noisiest heart and mind. The lonely voice of a loon signature voicing of the wooden flute has the ability to capture attention in the largest group of people. The wooden Native American flute has a powerful voice. Melody is the flow that a listener takes with them and musically I have often found some Native flute offerings to be lacking in memorable melodies. This isn't the case with Jason Chamakese's cd, "Native American Flute Songs Volume 2".



Nine selections deliver not just memorable melodies but a more in-depth musical presentation by enlisting the vocal talents of Robert Gladue on songs like Irresistible where Native flute meets traditional Cree singing and on the cd ending rendition of this song, a little round dance drum too. The first thing I found different about this cd from others is that since each song can stand alone, I keep coming back to replay this cd where others collect dust on the shelf.

True to form, the calm and peaceful feeling Chamakese's flute gives us will still keep the new age aficionados happy. Certain images will come to mind as you listen to songs like Morning Birds – sitting outside on an early morning with a cup of tea as our feathered friends wake and announce the dawn of new day. Like a gentle caress of sound, Chamakese's even breath delivers what feels like a therapeutic massage of the mind, relieving and disconnecting us from the stress we may carry. The investment in that little bit of healing will leave you feeling better and thus truly makes this cd an irresistible acquisition to your musical day.

Review by : K. Kantan

ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Holly Vee	I Luv You	Love, Spurs and Rock n' Roll
Jonathan Todd	Where Did I Go Wrong	Single Release
Kyla Cederwall	Little Red Chevy	Single Release
Hank Horton	Oh Mama	Mama's Waiting
Ashley Robertson	Finished With You	Single Release
Leah Hunt	Need Someone To Love Me	Single Release
D'Aoust Brothers	Music Man	Single Release
Crystal Shawanda	Closer	Single Release
Murray Porter	I Feel Lucky	Songs Lived And Life Played
Wesley Hardisty	Gilbert's Barn Dance	12:12
Little Hawk	Beautiful Me	Vigilance
Art Napoleon	Long As I Can See The Light	Creeland Covers
Keith & Renee	Wildflower	The Best Day
Ali Fontaine	Say It To Me	Ali Fontaine
Yvonne St. Germaine	North Song	Single Release
Lori Cole	Caught Up In You	Single Release
Conrad Bigknife	Single Tear	Single Release
Vincent Angus	Angel	Single Release
Bob Chartrand	Let's Play Love	The Hits
Nathan Cunningham f. T. Lamouche	The Wildflower	Single Release

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

Toronto builds on the tradition to honour women



PHOTO: ROB LACKIE

The crowd swells to 400 strong outside of police headquarters in Toronto.

By Rob Lackie
Birchbark Writer

Toronto

The temperature dropped to just one degree on the morning of Feb. 14, with fine snow falling on people gathered to take part in the March for Missing and Murdered Women in Toronto.

Police pressed the crowd back

as it swelled and spilled over the sidewalk as the group rallied outside of police headquarters at 40 College Street. It was a peaceful and calm crowd who stood together to remember those many missing and murdered women who were sisters, aunts, daughters and cousins that were taken from their families through violence.

It was a sad day for so many.

People took advantage of an open microphone to tell their stories. A granddaughter introduced herself and spoke in her Native language. She talked about a loss she had suffered many years ago. She said her participation in the rally and march was for her grandmother, who she then introduced to the crowd.

A feast was served to the

women after the rally by the men. This tradition started in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside, where the original March for Missing and Murdered Women began in 1991, a response to the murder of a Coast Salish women found on Powell Street.

The feast component was picked up in downtown Toronto in recent years. The men in the community come together for

this, garnering support from many volunteers who helped set up the tables and chairs. The seven men from the Apanmowinneen Program at Sagatay were more than anxious to help with this task, as lead by the manager of the program, Randal Defant.

There were about 400 people at the rally and about 200 at the feast.

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BLANDINA MAKKIK

Blandina Makkik

Alberta Sweetgrass: Special Section providing news from Alberta

Gateway to impact traditional life

BY SHARI NARINE
Sweetgrass Contributing Editor

EDMONTON

Distrust of the process – especially after Prime Minister Stephen Harper voiced his support of the Northern Gateway project – permeated the five days of hearings held in Edmonton.

“In spite of knowing that the Prime Minister of this country is supporting this project, we still have to have hope because it’s not about us that’s sitting here, it’s about the future, our grandchildren and those children yet unborn,” said Driftpile Chief Rose Laboucan, who made her statements on the final day of the hearings hosted by the Joint Review Panel for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project.

Smith’s Landing Chief Cheyenne Paulette went further, stating, “As in my own belief I believe this process now is flawed because the outcome has already been determined, without keeping an open mind.”

“Enbridge says it has promised economic benefits and work on the pipeline to offset impacts on First Nations, but those benefits are more PR than substance, in my opinion,” said Yellowbird. “At this point, Samson Cree Nation has no reason to believe we will see anything from this project except for more environmental damage in areas where our people hunt, fish and do traditional activities.”

Laboucan pushed the need for revenue sharing if development were to happen on First Nations land.

Enoch member Leigh Ann Ward said employment for band members had to be guaranteed.

A handful of northern First Nations from Alberta, as well as the Dene Nation from the Northwest Territories, and the Métis Nation of Alberta, participated in the Edmonton hearings Jan. 24-27 and Jan. 31, focusing on how development would impact their traditional way of life.

“Oral evidence is only that information which is relevant to the matters the panel will be considering and that cannot be provided as written evidence. This will primarily be oral traditional knowledge such as that given by Aboriginal peoples,” said board chair Sheila Leggett.

Leggett was joined on the review panel by Kenneth Bateman and Hans Matthews. All three are members of the National Energy Board.

The scope of the Joint Review

Panel’s jurisdiction was brought under question repeatedly.

After recapping the environmental and health impacts the Swan Hill Treatment Plant has had along with the impact of forestry activity in the region, Swan River First Nation Chief Leon Chalifoux said, “You cannot look at this pipeline in isolation of any other existing development.”

Grand Chief Bill Erasmus of the Northwest Territories took that belief a step further. “We are being affected by the pipelines that are already built. There are thousands of miles of pipeline in Alberta.”

Erasmus invited the panel to come north and see how development in Alberta impacted those downstream.

Leggett replied, “While we understand that you’re concerned about further development of the oil sands, we will not be considering these issues in making our decisions on this project.”

Lidii Kue First Nation Chief Jim Antoine, of Fort Simpson, said he had written Enbridge president regarding the increase of pollution in Alberta rivers which flow to the Mackenzie.

Laura Estep, counsellor for Enbridge, said, “The material is of questionable relevance given that it applies to Treaty territory that is hundreds and hundreds of kilometres away from the proposed pipeline area.”

Another issue that was pushed to the forefront was that of Treaty.

“It is stated in Treaty Number 8 that any development that occurs within Treaty 8 territory will require the consent of the First Nation or the First Nation’s people that use and utilize the land where the project is going through. Clearly stated,” said Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam.

The Métis Nation of Alberta criticized Enbridge’s lack of consultation with Métis people in the region.

“We hope you appreciate that this pipeline will significantly affect our rights, interests and way of life,” said MNA President Audrey Poitras. “We do not accept that the Crown can sit idly by and not take any efforts to ensure our communities are meaningfully consulted.”

Pipeline breakage and spillage, water and air pollution, health, impact on wildlife and plant life were all noted as fears if the Northern Gateway project were to go ahead.

The last public hearings in Alberta will take place in Grande Prairie March 26-28.

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VOCALS: Youth, Adult, Duos

Registration Cutoff: Noon Sat May 19th for Jigging and Fiddling

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(780) 452-6100 ext 227
Email: florencemc@metischild.com

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First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Conference

Thursday, March 29 to Friday, March 30

Grande Prairie, Alberta

Featured Keynotes & Presenters

Russell Bishop: foundation Professor for Māori Education in the School of Education at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. In his presentation, “**Te Kotahitanga: A Model for Educational Reform**”, Russell explores a model for educational reform designed in New Zealand to improve educational outcomes for Māori students.

Sheila Pocha & Karon Schmon: “**Strengthening Our Voice: A Guide for Engaging First Nations and Métis Peoples in Public Schools**” Featuring the Saskatchewan School Boards Association’s resource guide which provides a number of ideas and strategies which can help strengthen the voice, and engagement, of First Nations and Métis peoples in their children’s education.

Jed Roberts: Jed is a retired Edmonton Eskimo Grey Cup champion. He will talk about the significant challenges he faced growing up as an aboriginal hearing impaired youth. Other local conference Facilitators & Leaders include: Mike McMann, Connie Peters, Darrell Willier, Stacy Lamoureux, Janice Chalifoux and Northland School District Team.

This conference is for any Teacher, Administrator, Liaison Worker, Elder, Parent, or Community Member with an interest in leading change within their community.

Thursday evening features a banquet and Cultural Showcase of FNMI Entertainers

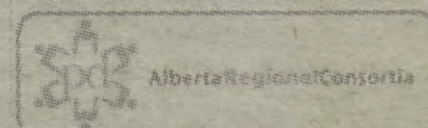
Friday will feature the “Seven Sacred Teachings” awards presentation

Conference Rates: \$275 per Individual Educator (Group Educator Rate of \$250 per individual when registered as a group of 5 or more) \$50 per Parent, Elder, or Student

Conference Location: Grande Prairie Inn (11633-100 Street) (1-800-661-6529)

Conference Host: Northwest Regional Learning Consortium Contact us 1-800-864-4140 (toll free in Alberta) (or nrlc@gppsd.ab.ca) for information on the conference. Suggested deadline for registrations is March 20, please pre-register online at www.nrlc.net

Accommodations are available at: Grande Prairie Inn, Stonebridge Inn, Ramada Inn, or Motel 6 Please book rooms asap to receive conference rates.



Government of Alberta
Education

Crisis of withdrawal looms as Oxy removed from NIHB

By Shauna Lewis
Windspeaker Contributor

THUNDER BAY, Ont.

First Nations leaders in Ontario are calling on the government for assistance in handling what they predict will be a health crisis following Health Canada's decision to cut First Nation funding for the addictive opiate painkiller OxyContin.

Purdue Pharma Canada, the maker of OxyContin, will stop manufacturing the drug in Canada at the end of the month, and, as of March 1, OxyContin will be replaced with a new formulation of oxycodone called OxyNeo, which is formulated so that it is more difficult to crush, and therefore less likely to be abused through injecting or snorting.

Health Canada confirmed that as of Feb. 15 OxyContin had been pulled off the Drug Benefit List from the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, which provides drug coverage for more than 800,000 registered First Nations and recognized Inuit. However, they say the NIHB will consider requests for long-acting oxycodone on a case-by-case basis and coverage may be granted in exceptional circumstances such as cancer or palliative pain management.

While many First Nation leaders applaud steps taken toward ending the cycle of painkiller addiction, they are also requesting government help to put support systems in place to handle the potential mass withdrawal that could ensue from sudden market elimination of the drug.

"Potential for a mass involuntary opiate withdrawal is looming," said Deputy Grand Chief Mike Metatawabin of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation in a statement Feb 16.

Metatawabin said the number of NAN First Nation community members in Ontario who are addicted to OxyContin and at risk for painful withdrawal is "staggering."

"The problems are intensified in the remote northern communities for those who are addicted to OxyContin and do not have access to drug treatment programs," he said.

"It is time for both levels of government to respond with programs and services that are urgently required to implement emergency strategies." Without OxyContin available, individuals could experience withdrawal symptoms ranging from stomach upset, muscle and bone pain, anxiety, restlessness, increased heart rate and blood pressure to depression and suicide.

The NAN Prescription Drug Abuse (PDA) Task Force, chiefs and NAN executive council say they have been applying pressure on Health Canada and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to respond to requests for assistance since the November 2009 NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly declared a State-of-Emergency regarding the drug.

This Jan. 23, Chief Matthew Keewaykapow of Cat Lake First

Nation declared a State-of-Emergency due to widespread opioid addiction affecting 70 per cent of his community members. On Feb. 6, Matawa First Nations, a tribal council of nine Northern Ontario First Nations, reported that almost 2,000 people have an Opioid addiction in their communities.

Doris Slipperjack, a member of the Eabametoong First Nation, sometimes known as Fort Hope, 350 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, claims that about 80 per cent of the community of 1,200 has an opioid addiction. What's more disturbing is that Slipperjack admits to knowing of children as young as 12 who are addicted to Oxycodin.

Slipperjack, a 23-year-old

mother of three and a recovering opiate addict, said she knows firsthand the powerful hold addiction can have on a person.

"I started off with Percocet and then Tylenol 3s and in 2006 I started doing OxyContin," she explained.

"I was so used to depending on OxyContin to function. They became the centre of my life. They were more important than my children," she said quietly.

Recently Slipperjack brought national attention to the issue of OxyContin addiction by sharing her story in a short documentary released in 2011 titled 'The Life You Want: A Young Woman's Struggle Through Addiction.'

Slipperjack admits there were days when she would easily spend

between \$50 to \$100 on 'oxy's,' getting them through street dealers in and around her community. It wasn't always easy to afford the costly fix, she said. "There were days when I didn't have money and I would go through withdrawal." She said the street value of one 80 mg OxyContin pill is as much as \$400.

While Slipperjack said she is happy the drug is now off the market, she admits her initial reaction was one of anxiety.

"The drug addict in me flipped out," she said. "I felt like a part of me was going to die. I thought 'I should be happy.'"

"I'm happy, but also I'm worried," she said, pointing to the hoard of addicts in her community and others that will be affected by

the swift removal of the drug.

First Nation leaders say more must be done to prevent potential mass narcotic withdrawal in their communities.

"The need for emergency planning to develop Withdrawal Management Strategies by First Nations, tribal councils, NAN and Health Canada staff, Ontario Ministry of Health and hospital networks is vital," said Metatawabin.

Health Canada said they have no plan to turn their back on the issue and they maintain that they will continue their support of existing addiction programs as well as provide provisions for withdrawal concerns.

See *Crisis* on page 21.



Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency

Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale



Government of Alberta
Environment and Water

**NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS
TECK RESOURCES LIMITED
FRONTIER OIL SANDS MINE PROJECT
ATHABASCA OIL SANDS AREA**

**CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD
OIL SANDS CONSERVATION ACT
APPLICATION NO. 1709793**

**ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT AND WATER
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT
APPLICATION NO. 001-00247548
WATER ACT FILE NO. 00303079**

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) has received Application No. 1709793 and Alberta Environment and Water (AEW) has received *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)* Application No. 001-00247548 and an application under the *Water Act* (File No. 00303079) from Teck Resources Limited (Teck) for approval of the proposed Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project (the Project). The Project is also subject to review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and has been referred to a review panel by the federal Minister of the Environment for assessment. The requirements of all three parties are being coordinated to the greatest extent possible.

This notice serves to

- advise interested parties that the applications are available for viewing and that the ERCB, AEW, and other provincial and federal government departments are now undertaking a review of the applications and associated environmental impact assessment (EIA) report;
- announce that AEW is accepting statements of concern under the *EPEA* and the *Water Act*; and
- announce that the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is inviting public comment on the EIA report.

Description of the Project

Teck has applied to construct, operate, and reclaim a new oil sands mine and processing plant that would be located about 100 kilometres north of Fort McMurray, Alberta. The main development area (MDA) would be located in Townships 100, 101, and 102, Range 11, West of the 4th Meridian, and the south development area (SDA) would be located in Township 98, Range 11, West of the 4th Meridian. The Project would include mine pits and associated earth structures, ore preparation plants, bitumen extraction plants, a bitumen froth treatment plant, tailings preparation and management facilities, cogeneration and heat integration facilities, steam and hot water generation facilities, support utilities, off-sites and infrastructure, and environmental management facilities.

The Project would have a disturbance area of 29 335 hectares, resulting from four development phases. Start-up of Phase 1 would occur in 2021 and by 2030 all four phases would be operational, producing about 44 100 cubic metres of partially deasphalted bitumen per calendar day. End-of-mine life would occur in 2054 for the MDA and 2057 for the SDA.

In support of the Project, Teck has prepared and submitted the following:

- Application No. 1709793 to the ERCB, pursuant to Sections 10 and 11 of the *Oil Sands Conservation Act* for approval to construct and operate an oil sands mine and processing plant.
- Application No. 001-00247548 to AEW, pursuant to Part 2, Division 2 of the *EPEA*, to construct, operate, and reclaim the Project.
- An application (File No. 00303079) to AEW, pursuant to Sections 36 and 49 of the *Water Act*, for the use of 14 200 000 cubic metres per year of surface runoff and 1 100 000 cubic metres per year of groundwater within the Project's boundaries, as well as 71 500 000 cubic metres per year from the Athabasca River at an intake structure that would be located in the northeast quarter of Section 5, Township 100, Range 9, West of the 4th Meridian. Teck has also submitted an application to obtain authorization from AEW to conduct water management activities associated with the Project.
- An EIA report associated with the above applications.

To obtain a copy of the applications, EIA report, and supporting documents, contact

Teck Resources Limited, 500, 205 – 9 Avenue SE, Calgary, Alberta T2G 0R3, Attention: Mr. Ian Mackenzie (Regulatory Manager); Telephone: 403-767-8697; Fax: 403-265-8835; E-mail: ian.mackenzie@teck.com

To view a copy of the applications, EIA, and supporting documents, contact

ERCB Information Services, Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4; Telephone: 403-297-8311 (Option 2) (toll free: 1-855-297-8311); Viewing hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
ERCB Fort McMurray Regional Office, 2nd Floor, Provincial Building, Box 15, 9915 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4; Telephone: 780-743-7214
Alberta Government Library, Great West Life Building, 6th Floor, 9920 – 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2M4; Telephone: 780-427-5828 (toll free: 780-310-0000)

The EIA report is available for viewing on the Agency's website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca under reference number 12-05-65505. The application and EIA report are available for viewing on the ERCB's website at www.ercb.ca on the Integrated Application Registry (IAR) under Application No. 1709793.

To File a Comment for Review by the Agency

The Agency is inviting the public to submit comments on the Project's EIA report. The EIA report assesses the anticipated effects of the Project on the environment. This comment period provides interested parties an opportunity to express their views to the Agency on whether the information provided is satisfactory. All comments received by the Agency will be considered public and posted on the online public registry. Comments must be submitted in either official language by **June 4, 2012**. The Agency will review comments and determine whether it will require additional information from Teck. Please submit comments to Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, Attention: Carolyn Dunn (Panel Manager), 160 Elgin Street, 22nd floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3; Telephone: 613-957-0791 or 1-866-582-1884; Fax: 613-957-0935; E-mail: Frontier.Review@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Please note that the ERCB will receive and review the comments filed with the Agency.

To File a Statement of Concern

Under Section 73 of *EPEA* and Section 109 of the *Water Act*, any person who may be directly affected by the *EPEA* application or the *Water Act* application may submit a written statement of concern. Statements of concern under the *EPEA* and *Water Act* must be submitted by **June 4, 2012**. Please quote Application No. 001-00247548 (*EPEA*) or File No. 00303079 (*Water Act*) when submitting a statement of concern. If no statements of concern are received, the *EPEA* and *Water Act* applications may be approved without further notice. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeal Board. Please submit statements of concern to Alberta Environment and Water, Attention: District Approvals Manager, Regulatory Approvals Centre, Main floor, Oxbridge Place, 9820 – 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6; Telephone: 780-427-6311; Fax: 780-422-0154

Please note that the ERCB and the Agency will receive and review statements of concern filed with AEW.

Applications for Confidentiality

Under Section 13 of the *Energy Resources Conservation Board Rules of Practice (Rules of Practice)*, Section 35(1) of the *EPEA*, and Section 15(1) of the *Water Act (Ministerial) Regulation*, all documents filed in respect of this proceeding must be placed on the public record. However, any party may apply for confidentiality of information. For objections or other submissions related to ERCB Application No. 1709793, parties may file a request for confidentiality in accordance with Section 13(2) of the *Rules of Practice* and must serve a copy of the request on Teck. For the purposes of AEW, such requests can be filed according to Section 35(4) of the *EPEA* and Section 15(4) of the *Water Act (Ministerial) Regulation*.

For information about ERCB procedures, contact

Oil Sands and Coal Branch, Oil Sands and Coal Mining Group, Attention: Amanda Black; Telephone: 780-743-7473; Fax: 780-743-7141; E-mail: amanda.black@ercb.ca

Issued at Calgary, Alberta, on March 5, 2012.

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

Sports Briefs

By Sam Laskaris

Coaches honoured

A pair of youth hockey coaches are the recipients of provincial awards.

Winnipeg's William Hudson and Kali Leary of Norway House Cree Nation are the 2011 winners of the Manitoba Aboriginal Coaching Awards. They were announced as the winners in early February.

The Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council annually recognizes a pair of coaches, one male and one female, with the awards.

Hudson coached the Norquay Knights' atom team, comprised of nine-year-olds, in the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association (WMHA). The Knights competed in the association's North End Hockey Program.

Though the Knights featured numerous individuals who had never played hockey before, Hudson coached them to a fourth-place finish in their league.

When he's not coaching hockey, Hudson is also a youth worker at Winnipeg's Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre.

Leary coached her nephew's peewee team, which also participated in the WMHA. Besides being a coach with the team, Leary, who has a Masters degree in Biomedical Technology, also served as the club's trainer.

Leary, who works for CancerCare Manitoba, was also an assistant coach for the Manitoba girls' entry that competed at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in 2011. That tournament was staged this past May in Saskatoon.

Denny returns to school

Chad Denny's hockey season could still end on an upbeat note. Denny, a Mi'kmaq from Nova Scotia's Eskasoni First Nation, is a rookie with the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds. He's currently on the disabled list as he broke his wrist in late January.

Denny, a 24-year-old defenceman, is hoping the Varsity Reds enjoy a lengthy playoff run. And if he's healthy he's hoping to play in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) tournament, which UNB will host.

The national tournament is scheduled for March 22 to March 25.

The Varsity Reds are the defending CIS champions. And they've also won three national titles in the past five years.

Denny had spent the past four seasons playing for various minor professional teams.

He was originally also hoping to play in the minors this season. But then he opted to go to school instead and enrolled at UNB. But Denny, who was selected by the Atlanta Thrashers in the 2005 National Hockey League Entry Draft, had to wait until this past November to join the Varsity Reds' roster.

That's because since he had played in the pro ranks last season—with the Utah Grizzlies of the East Coast Hockey League—he had to wait until November before he was eligible to play in the Canadian university ranks.

Denny only appeared in eight games with the Varsity Reds before breaking his wrist. He had one assist in those matches.

The Varsity Reds had a successful regular season. They posted a 20-5-3 record and finished atop the standings in their eight-team league, which is called Atlantic University Sport.

UNB earned an opening-round playoff bye. And the team was scheduled to begin a best-of-five semi-final series against the University of Prince Edward Island on Feb. 24.

Besides Utah, Denny also played for the ECHL's Gwinnett Gladiators. And he played portions of two seasons with the American Hockey League's Chicago Wolves.

Scoring leader

Byron Katapaytuk is enjoying his finest junior hockey season. The 20-year-old Cree from Ontario's Moose Factory is a member of the Fort Frances Lakers. The club competes in the Superior International Junior A Hockey League (SIJHL).

The seven-team league features four squads from northern Ontario, two from Minnesota and one from Wisconsin. With just two games remaining in the Lakers' regular season schedule, Katapaytuk was leading the SIJHL in scoring with 80 points (30 goals and 50 assists) in 50 games.

Katapaytuk, a 6-foot-3, 220-pound forward, is in his third season with the Lakers. And he's steadily improved his productivity since joining the squad. Katapaytuk had 34 points in 43 games during his rookie season in Fort Frances. And he averaged more than a point per outing during his sophomore season; he had 56 points, including 20 goals, in 54 matches.

Katapaytuk's scoring prowess is also one of the main reasons why the Lakers have enjoyed another successful campaign.

During its first 54 games Fort Frances posted a 35-12-7 record, good for 77 points. The Lakers were in second place in the league standings, behind only the defending SIJHL champion Wisconsin Wilderness, who had 95 points.

Katapaytuk and his teammates had also finished second in the SIJHL standings after regular season action last season. But they were upset in their semi-final series by the Dryden Ice Dogs.

[sports] And they said it couldn't be done

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

COBOURG, Ont.

It's a good thing that Gord McKenzie-Crowe did not listen to his critics.

It was back in 2006 that McKenzie-Crowe, an Ojibwe from Ontario's Alderville First Nation, decided to put together a pair of Aboriginal youth teams to compete in some summer hockey tournaments.

He said the idea came to him after seeing his two children, son Brenton and daughter Brooke, compete in various Little NHL tournaments, an annual spring event in Ontario that feature Aboriginal squads from across the province.

"I've seen a lot of good (Aboriginal) players," McKenzie-Crowe said. "But they weren't getting the opportunity to move on to higher calibre winter teams."

As a result he founded the Star Pathways Aboriginal Hockey Association. All of the association's teams, which only enter spring and summer tournaments, are called Team Ontario Stingrays.

And there's more than just two squads being iced now.

The association is planning to have 11 teams in various age groupings this season. Each club will compete in a minimum of four tournaments.

Events will be staged throughout Ontario and in Massachusetts.

McKenzie-Crowe felt allowing Aboriginal players to take part in some competitive events in the traditional off-season would help develop athletes to the point where they could be successful on winter clubs.

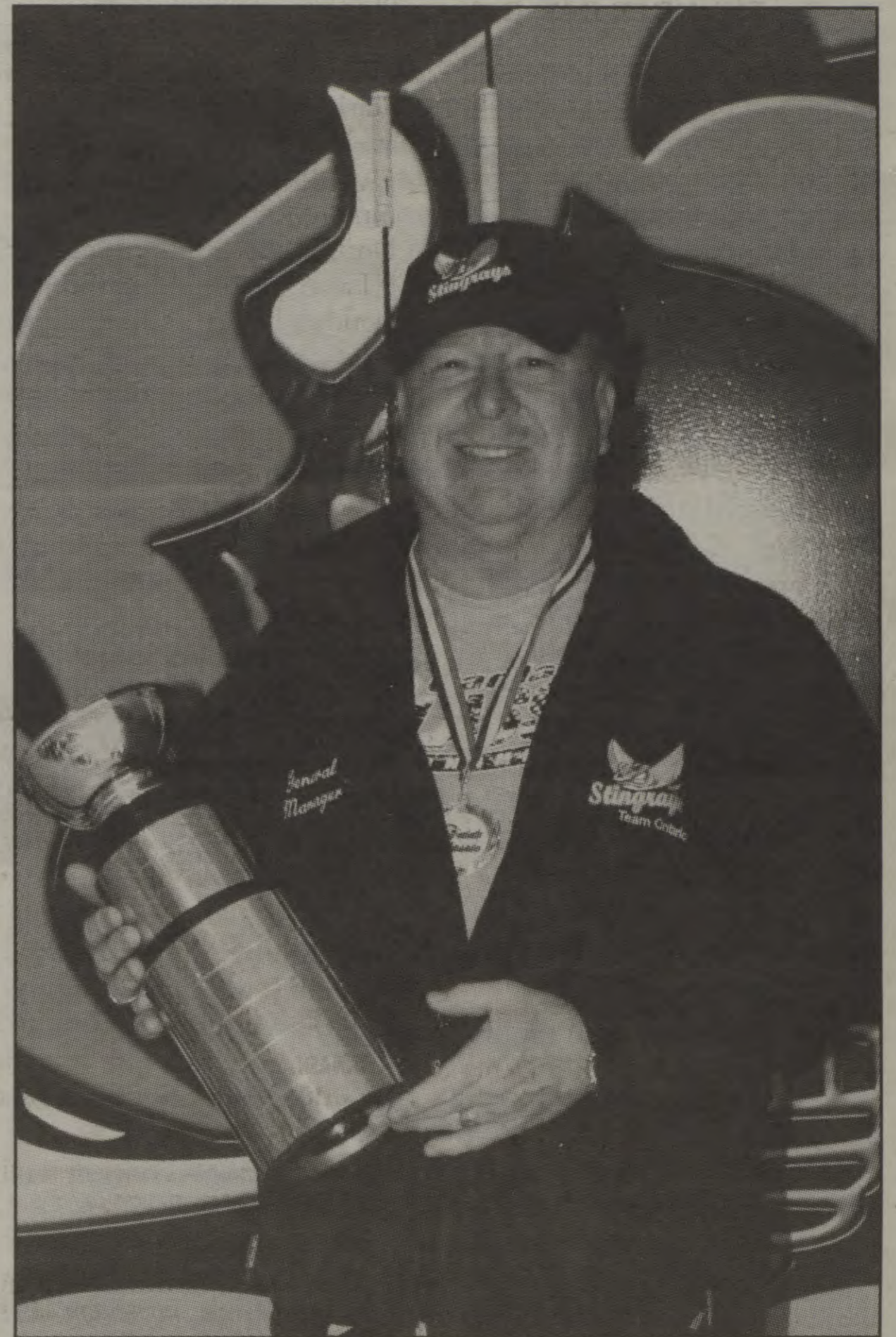
"Very truthfully, everyone at the beginning told us this would never work," McKenzie-Crowe said. "They said we would get beat up. We have taken our beatings, which is inevitable when you are starting your teams from scratch and going up against elite teams."

"But our teams are all competitive now. And some of them are more than competitive; they are in the running (for the championship) for every tournament."

Since '06, the organization has had its teams win a whopping 26 tournament championships. Not a shabby accomplishment since many felt McKenzie-Crowe was wasting his time even considering putting a couple of Aboriginal entries together.

In their first year the Stingrays had a pair of boys' teams, for those born in 1995 and '96.

In recent years the officials with the organization started allowing a few non-Aboriginal players to suit up for the Stingrays. But more than 90 per cent of the team's players are still Aboriginal.



Gordon McKenzie Crowe

"When we can fill our teams with Aboriginals we do," McKenzie-Crowe said. "We open the doors to non-Aboriginals so our kids can have a team to play on. We're not trying to be reverse racists. But when we have a non-Aboriginal and an Aboriginal kid trying out, the Aboriginal kid is going to get the spot."

This year the tryouts for all of the Stingrays' clubs will be staged over a three-day period, beginning on March 30 at the Cobourg Community Centre.

McKenzie-Crowe estimates about 300 players will participate in the tryout camp.

Each Stingrays' club will feature 17 players. Also, each squad will sign up to five affiliate players, who, if need be, would play in a tournament if one of the team's regular players could not participate.

McKenzie-Crowe believes about 220 of the 300 anticipated players from the Cobourg camp will end up representing the Stingrays this season.

There's a registration fee of \$125 per player to attend the tryouts.

"We don't want to clog up our camp with a lot of kids that aren't going to make our teams," said McKenzie-Crowe, who will also serve as the manager of the Ontario boys' entry at this year's National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, which will be held in Saskatoon in May.

One of the teams the Stingrays will have this year is a girls' entry. It will feature players born in 1996 and '97.

The Stingrays will also have a pair of Junior A boys' teams, featuring individuals born in 1993, '94 or '95.

The organization will also have two squads featuring players born in '97.

The other teams will be for players born in 1996, '98, '99, 2000, 2001 and 2002.

In previous years McKenzie-Crowe said he did most of his recruiting for the Stingrays during the annual Little NHL tournament.

But these days, because of the Stingrays' recent successes, he's noticed more and more people are approaching him to see if they can be part of the organization.

"When your team is successful, the phone rings the other way," he said. "Everybody wants to be a part of that team."

McKenzie-Crowe said some players will be making a lengthy trip just to attend the tryouts.

"Some will be flying in from Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie and some other parts of northern Ontario," he said.

Last year the Stingrays had players from 64 out of the 134 Ontario-based First Nations.

Since the Stingrays' inception, more than 200 players who have suited up for the organization have gone on to play for a AAA or Junior A club in the winter.

"Some kids it might take them three years to make it," McKenzie-Crowe said. "But this does help every single player, even if they don't make it their first year."

[education]

Panel report provides a potential blueprint for improvements

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Contributor

OTTAWA

The controversy that surrounded the work of the National Education Panel, developed jointly by the Assembly of First Nations and Aboriginal Affairs, continues to flare after the panel delivered its final report and recommendations in early February.

Organizations such as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Nishnawbe Aski Nation of Ontario, and the First Nations Education Council of Quebec, which released their own reports on education instead of participating in the panel during its cross-country review, remain critical of what has been referred to as "top heavy" recommendations.

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo has been on the hot seat over the panel since its inception.

The FSIN, which hosted its Winter Assembly in mid-February, was openly critical of Atleo, who was in attendance at the launch of the three-day event. That criticism followed an earlier news release issued by the FSIN which stated the organization

gave the AFN/INAC report titled, *Nurturing the Learning Spirit of First Nations Students* a failing grade. "The AFN does not speak on behalf of the FSIN regarding education."

Atleo said it is not his intention to impose solutions.

"My role has been to facilitate creating the space; to compel the federal government to come meaningfully to the table. And now is the time for First Nations to really receive this report, which many across their own territories gave submissions to, and for First Nations to drive this forward. That's very clear," said Atleo.

He also said that all education reports will be taken into consideration. This includes the original *Indian Control of Indian Education*, written 30 years ago and recently adapted as *First Nations Control of First Nations Education*. It was supported by a resolution at last year's Assembly of Chiefs.

The *Nurturing the Learning Spirit* report stands as a first for both the federal government and the AFN. The report was received publicly by both parties simultaneously, without either having already seen it.

"The important aspect to this, in my opinion, is it's got to be transparent because we've got

deep distrust to overcome in our dealings with the federal government, and I'm really hopeful they will make good on some of the public commitments they've made that they share education as a priority and that we're going to do the right thing by our children and by our rights," said Atleo.

He said the report is a "fairly comprehensive blue print, potentially."

But the first recommendation, the creation of a First Nation Education Act, is not welcomed by either the FSIN or Treaty 3 Grand Council, which both claim it impacts on treaty rights.

NAN, which tabled its report a day before the national panel, called for less federal government control.

Atleo said a First Nation Education Act could be an avenue to "achieve statutory guaranty" for funding.

"How do we achieve something so that you can end up with long-term sustainable funding guarantees? I think that's the question that is really at the core of our objective."

The FSIN claims only one recommendation put forward by the panel – to address inadequate and unpredictable funding – speaks to concerns in Saskatchewan.

Recommendation four calls for "ensur(ing) adequate funding to support a First Nation education system that meets the needs of First Nation learners, First Nation communities and Canada as a whole."

The panel recommended that an immediate increase in funding be received for the 2012-2013 school year. It also calls for a new funding formula that is needs-based as well as stable, predictable and sustainable.

The panel noted that "given the magnitude of barriers faced by First Nation learners, the level of resources and investment required per student will likely be substantially greater than the average level of expenditures provided in the public school system."

Presently, the per pupil funding awarded to First Nations students is significantly lower than their provincial counterparts.

Grand Council Treaty 3 of Ontario rejected all of the panel's recommendations. The panel made only one stop in that province.

Treaty 3 Grand Chief Diane Kelly said that such recommendations as the development of regional First Nation Education Organizations to provide support and services;

the creation of a National Commission for First Nation Education to support education reform and improvement; and the establishment of an accountability and reporting framework to assess improvement in First Nation Education are "top heavy" and would result in resources being taken out of the classroom and put into bureaucracy.

Atleo said the recommendations of the panel, along with the other reports put forward in the last few months and those received in the past, must now be taken into consideration by every First Nation and weighed against each community's priorities and the agreements that First Nations already have in place on a regional level for delivery of educational services.

"That's where it needs to go, with the people," he said. "Any success can only be driven by the people when it comes to this."

Atleo emphasized his position and that of the AFN in an open letter issued to chiefs on Feb. 17:† "We are a national advocacy body and our task is to create the opportunities, the momentum and the urgency for First Nations issues to be addressed. We cannot and will not design or impose any solutions."

Video explains the triage process in Cree language

By Roy Pogorzelski
Windspeaker Contributor

WETASKIWIN

A new video explaining the triage process has been created through a partnership between Maskwacis Health Services, Maskwacis Radio, Aboriginal Health Service/Aboriginal Health (Media Services) and the Wetaskiwin Hospital ER.

"The video is a culturally appropriate teaching tool that has been developed for the Cree population to help them better understand the triage process," said Tracy Lee, Aboriginal health lead with the Aboriginal Health Program through AHS.

A management steering

committee consisting of both AHS and Maskwacis Health managers was assembled to look into better serving the Aboriginal population in the region. After reviewing the ER utilization statistics, it was found that many Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal patients were heading to the ER for non-urgent care.

This left many people frustrated over waiting times and unclear about the procedures around serving patients. In that case, a video outlining the process and procedures of attending the ER was a necessary component to best serving the population.

This culturally-competent video, which provides the Cree population with information in the Cree language, is also relevant

to non-Aboriginal patients that attend the ER.

"This video is presented in the Cree language with English subtitles, which allows patients of any background a 'behind the scenes' view of triage, so that an individual can gain a better understanding of the expectations and protocol within the ER," said Lee.

The video begins with a patient walking through the ER doors and thoroughly explains the triage – how patients are prioritized for care – process. The hopes of this video are to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance of ER and the processes that are in place.

This video is the newest addition to the extensive training around

providing cultural safety to Aboriginal people when they come to utilize the services of the hospital.

"Along with the video, the hospital has had a sweetgrass guideline that has been in place for years. Also we have had a cultural awareness session in our ER orientation course for the past three years," said Elan Heinrichs, emergency department manager at the Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre.

The sweetgrass guideline allows Elders to utilize sweetgrass for ceremonies for Aboriginal patients, especially during the delivering of babies.

This new video is dedicated to the memory of Warren Ermineskin, a former evening

radio announcer at Muskawchees Radio in Hobbema, whose voice became a familiar sound to the whole community.

Ermineskin passed away on December 2010 and prior to his passing volunteered his time to both narrate and act in the video. In respect to Cree custom and protocols, the video was not used for a year, but with the blessing and support of his family, the video was released in January 2011.

This video has been playing regularly in the hospital since the end of January.

"The response from the community has been overwhelmingly supportive. Positive feedback and comments have been provided by members of the community," said Lee.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ATHABASCA OIL SANDS CORP.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACT
WATER ACT**

**NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS
NEW IN-SITU PROJECT**

In accordance with the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. has applied to Alberta Environment and Water for an approval for the construction, operation and reclamation of the Dover West Clastics Project. The central processing facility will be located in the SE 1/4 of Section 18 Township 92 Range 18 West of the 4th Meridian (approximately 90 km northwest of Fort McMurray) and will be capable of producing 1908 m³ per day (12,000 bbls/d) of bitumen.

In accordance with the Water Act, Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. has applied to Alberta Environment and Water to divert a maximum of 812,490 cubic metres per annum from well(s) completed in the Empress Formation Aquifer for industrial (steam injection and utility, drilling and completion, dust control, compaction and camp water supply) purposes. The proposed well(s) will be located in Townships 91 and 92, Ranges 18, 19 and 20, West of the 4th Meridian.

Pursuant to section 73 of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and section 109 of the Water Act, any person who is directly affected by these operations may submit a written statement of concern regarding these applications. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Appeal with the Environmental Appeals Board. Such a statement of concern must be submitted to:

Director of Northern Region
Alberta Environment and Water
Regulatory Approvals Center
Main Floor, 9820 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6
Fax: (780) 422-0154

within 45 days of the date of this notice. Please quote Application No. 001-301936 when submitting a statement of concern in regards to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act application. Please quote Application No. 00302140 when submitting a statement of concern in regards to the Water Act application.

NOTE: Any statement filed regarding these applications are public records which are accessible by the public.

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

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[book review]

One boy, a residential school, and the sport that helps save him

Review
By **Christine McFarlane**
Windspeaker Contributor

Indian Horse
By **Richard Wagamese**
Douglas & McIntyre
186 pages, \$23.00

Award-winning author Richard Wagamese weaves an emotional and endearing story together in his latest novel *Indian Horse* that confronts the legacy of residential school in a young boy's life and how the game of hockey serves as a way of coping.

Saul Indian Horse's young life is marked by tragedy. His parents are residential school survivors, and his mother is so devastated by the experience that she turns so far inward that "she ceases to exist in the outside world."

Saul's parents lose their oldest daughter to the residential school. To prevent Saul and his younger brother Benjamin from being taken, they bring the boys into the bush to live off the land with an uncle and Saul's grandmother.

The family manages to escape the authorities for a while, but Benjamin is eventually snatched by the government officials and

placed in a school in Kenora. Benjamin escapes from the residential school a few years later, and returns to his family in the bush, only to die soon after from the tuberculosis he contracted while in the school.

Saul Indian Horse's life is altered forever when his parents turn to alcohol and leave him with his grandma in the bush to take off for Northern Ontario's mining and mill towns.

Life in the bush is soon abandoned when Saul's grandmother decides to make a trip to the town of Minak where her brother Minoose lives. She says "We can stay with him through the winter if we have to," and she tells Saul that if they stay in the bush it will be where they will die.

Saul and his grandmother make the trek to Minaki, but during the final leg of their journey, the grandmother grows tired. She takes Saul in her arms and says, "We'll rest a minute."

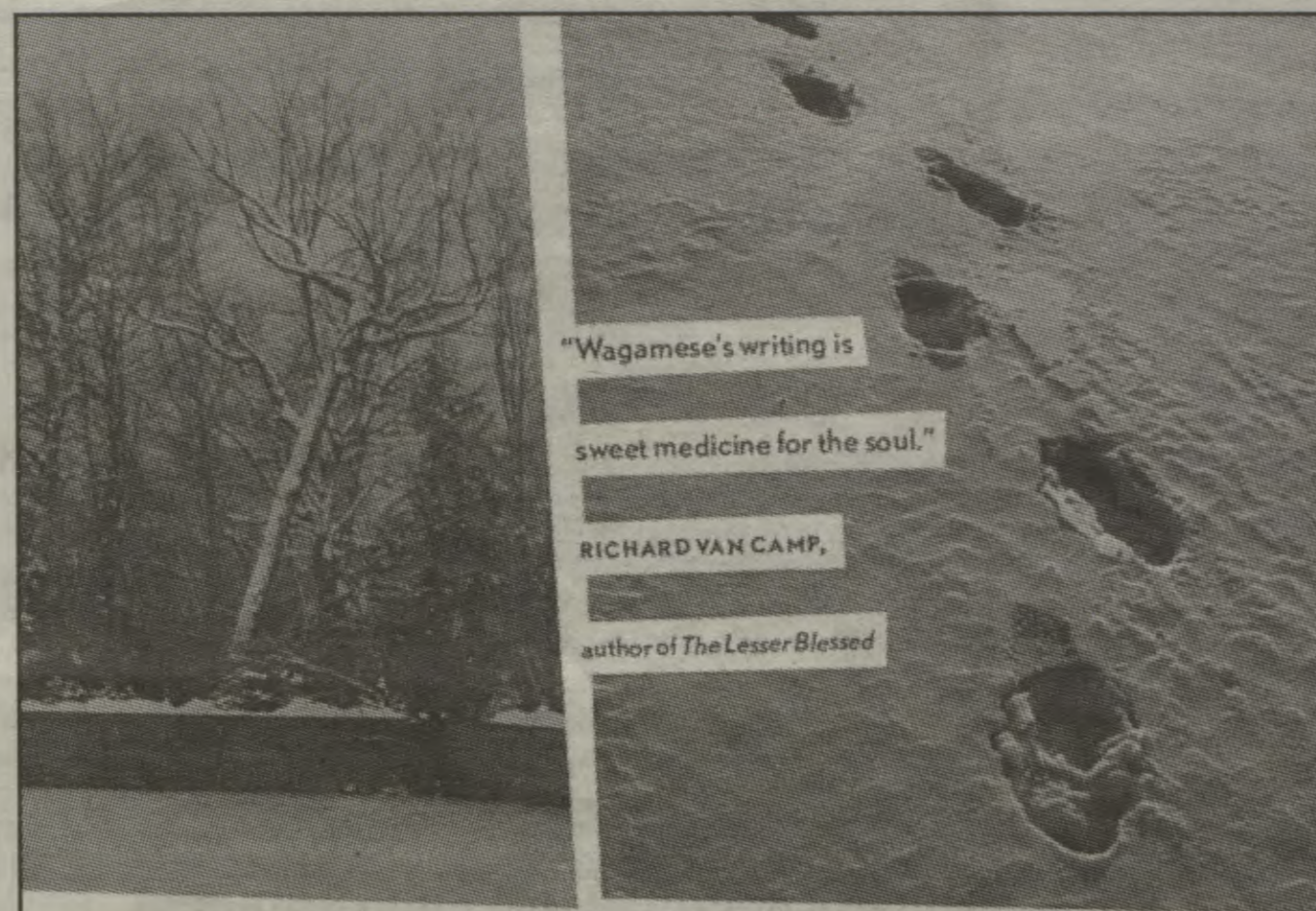
The reader's heart goes out to Saul when, while huddled in the arms of his grandmother, he feels her grow cold and her spirit leave. It is while he is lying in the arms of his deceased grandmother that he is found

and taken to the place he has worked so hard to avoid.

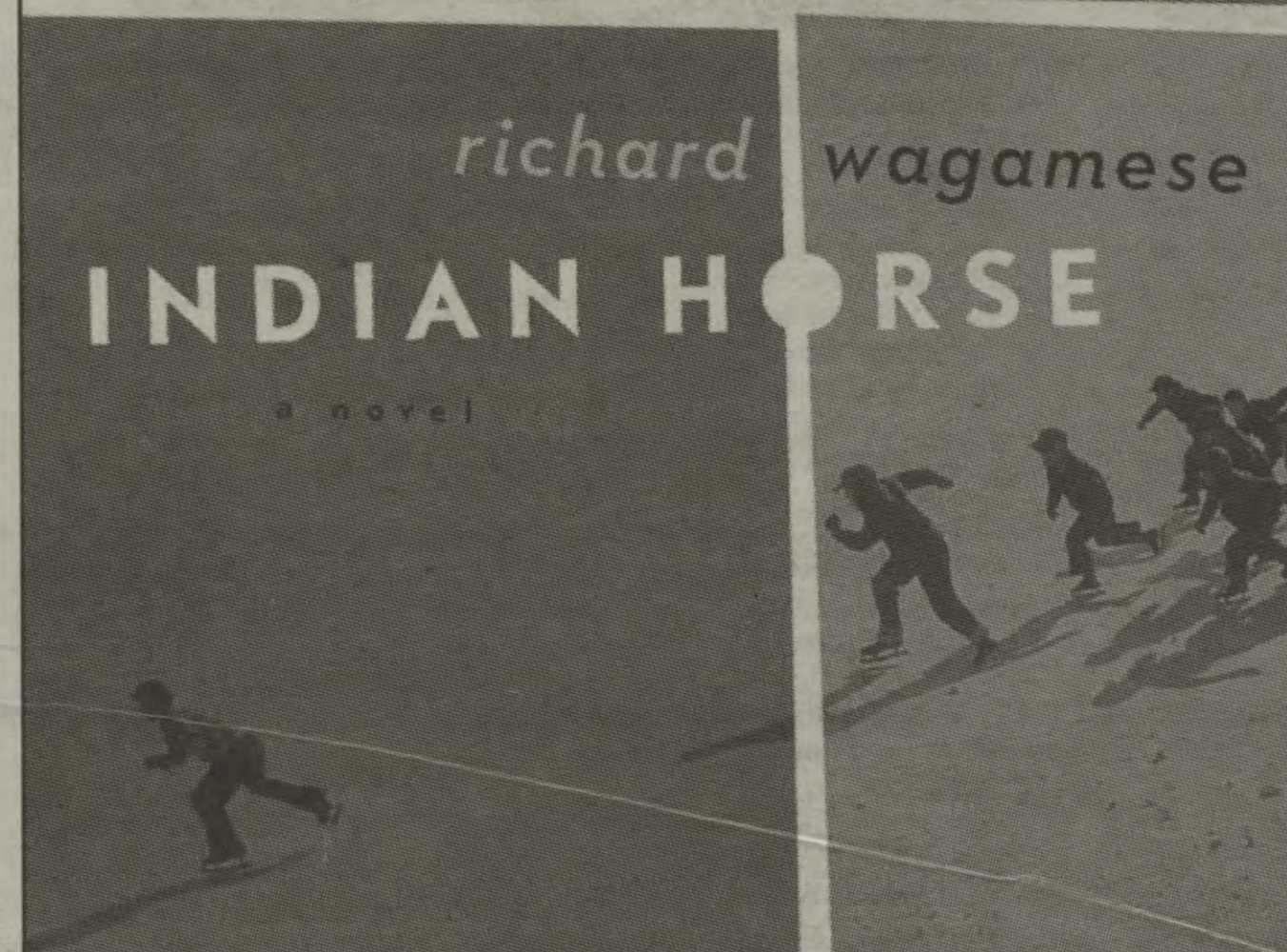
Indian Horse is a moving novel that takes readers inside residential school, and provides details of the abuses that went on there, but also talks about the hope that springs from the game of ice hockey, and how one priest takes Saul under his wing.

The reader sees how the game of hockey comes naturally to this young boy, and readers witness Saul's brutal journey through the racist ranks of minor-league hockey into an alcohol-ravaged adulthood to a place of personal endurance and recovery.

Wagamese is once again at his finest. He takes his readers on an emotional journey; a journey that exposes the horrors of Canada's residential schools, but also celebrates the triumphs of a young boy and his love for the game of hockey.



"Wagamese's writing is
sweet medicine for the soul."
RICHARD VAN CAMP,
author of *The Lesser Blessed*



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Crisis looming

(Continued from page 16.)

"Health Canada does have support available for issues of withdrawal," said Leslie Meerburg, Health Canada spokesperson.

"Health Canada will continue to work with First Nations leadership and provinces to provide appropriate primary care supports for short-term stabilization and monitoring of individuals going through opiate withdrawal," she said.

"The department will continue to fund community-based programming to address prescription drug abuse through its addictions programming (\$90M annually), which supports a network of 58 treatment centres for First Nations, as well as drug and alcohol abuse prevention services in over 550 First Nations and Inuit communities across Canada," she explained.

But leading addictions experts say withdrawal is not the only concern associated with removal of OxyContin from the market.

"In the absence of any regular treatment, a public health catastrophe is imminent, as there are thousands of addicted individuals with rapidly shrinking supplies – likely leading to massive increases in black market prices, use of other drugs, needle use/sharing, and crime," warned Dr. Benedikt Fischer, a senior scientist and director of the Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addiction at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver.

Black market drug dealing is something Health Canada said it is aware of among Ontario First Nation communities.

"NIHB data shows that NIHB is not the main supplier of OxyContin to First Nations clients in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)," said Meerburg. Fewer than 100 NAN members registered with NIHB claimed for OxyContin through the NIHB Program in 2011, she noted.

Health Canada said there is "little concern of withdrawal for clients switching therapy from OxyContin to OxyNeo when taken as prescribed by a physician."

First Nation leaders in Ontario remain vigilant in their fight to solidify more than just existing programs, however. They want specialized help to combat the potential for crisis.

"We must act now to care for these very vulnerable people," said Metatawabin. "We require funding for the PDA Task Force to implement the NAN Prescription Drug Abuse framework. We must also resolve jurisdictional issues between Ontario and Canada for Opioid Treatment programs and funding," he said. "We require medical and nursing professionals, appropriate mental health services, and aftercare programming. In addition, security and increased policing resources will be needed within NAN territory," he added.

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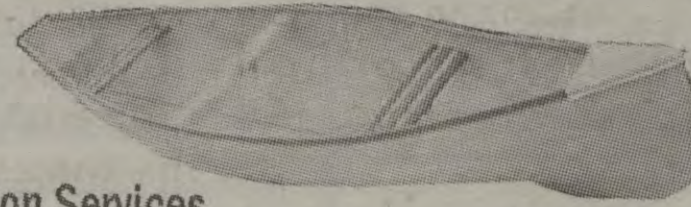
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[footprints] **Madeline Skead**
**Leader had the recipe
 for peaceful co-existence**

By Dianne Meili

Amidst menacing officers and talk of bombings by demonstrators if their demands weren't met, a then-38-year-old Madeline Skead stepped into the 1974 Ontario Anicinabe Park crisis advocating building a "relationship" only to have a gun aimed at her chest.

"You'd better not miss' was all she said, and that shows how courageous she was," recalled daughter Eleanor Skead.

Threatened by the Ojibway Warriors Society, Madeline demonstrated her will to die for her belief in grassroots Anishnabe teachings that espouse the nurturing of understanding and relationships between opposing factions.

That confrontation ended peacefully, but another stand-off years later ended in bloodshed. Despite the opinion that she was once again "siding with the enemy," Madeline sent a personal note and flowers to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) during the Ipperwash crisis after Dudley George was shot. She urged officers to stand strong, realizing the 1995 catastrophe was heartbreaking for both her people and the authorities involved.

Throughout her life, Madeline relied faithfully on her ancestors' insight into relationships to gain the required footholds for her people. She built bridges, and her close ties to the provincial police and the RCMP resulted in her mediation 10 years later at protests on the Trans-Canada highway at Kenora, and at the Separation Lake bridge in the summer of 2006.

As a trusted advisor and wisdomkeeper, she sat on many councils and committees, including the OPP Commissioner's Select Aboriginal Advisory Council for 13 years.

Condolences from numerous

officials, including former OPP commissioners Gwen Boniface and Julian Fantino, and a special tribute sent from the United Nations office in New York, were read at her recent service. An honor guard in full dress stood by as an estimated 700 mourners listened to relatives, friends and co-workers celebrate the elder's remarkable life.

Born in 1936, Onowikamigook—Centre of the Earth Woman—her traditional name, was raised on Wabigoon First Nation. She married Douglas Skead in 1952, and the home they built did double duty as the band office. For more than 30 years, Madeline served Wauzhushk Onigum as both a councillor and as chief, the first woman named to that position.

"I remember mom with a baby on her back, balancing two galvanized pails to get water in our first house," said Eleanor. "Mom and dad built their second house by themselves and she was hauling wheelbarrows of cement from a hand-mixer to form the basement. That house was made of scrap lumber but Dad put in electricity and the plumbing so we had running water by the mid-70s."

Though the couple was often misunderstood in their attempts to maintain peace, as well as law and order amongst their people, they held their ground even in threatening situations. The drama and tension around these very public events never overwhelmed the family however.

"I saw my parents as invincible, indestructible," said Eleanor. "I grew up hearing their telephone conversations and I typed their letters as they dealt with issues, so it never really bothered me."

The couple made for a good match because each was convinced culture could help

their people become healthy again.

"My dad was a good singer. He knew the traditional songs and they understood cultural protocols and how things fit together. My mother was a teacher and advisor, and sacred drum carrier."

Madeline and Douglas were founding members of the Lake of the Woods Powwow Club, established in 1972 to revive traditional knowledge and practices to promote sobriety. They observed firsthand how culture replaced what missionaries and Indian Agents had taken away.

The parents who raised nine children and made everything they needed, managed to travel to meetings and gatherings, working to preserve treaty rights and protect Anishnabe language, health, culture and education. After Douglas passed away in 1989, Madeline kept up the work, volunteering in jails, hospitals, and schools even though she didn't drive.

"She was strong, both mentally and physically," explained Eleanor. "One summer, about 30 years ago, I went fasting with her. It was my first time and by the fifth morning of not eating I was sitting by the fire, so weak I could hardly stand up. And here she was clearing away the brush from the fasting area. My Dad had to finally get her to stop."

Uncompromising in her belief that spirituality played a huge role in her people's wellbeing, Madeline became the Traditional Healing Coordinator for Lake of the Woods Hospital in 1980. She was responsible for identifying Aboriginal patients, making them feel welcome in the hospital, and making sure the services being offered were appropriate to their teachings

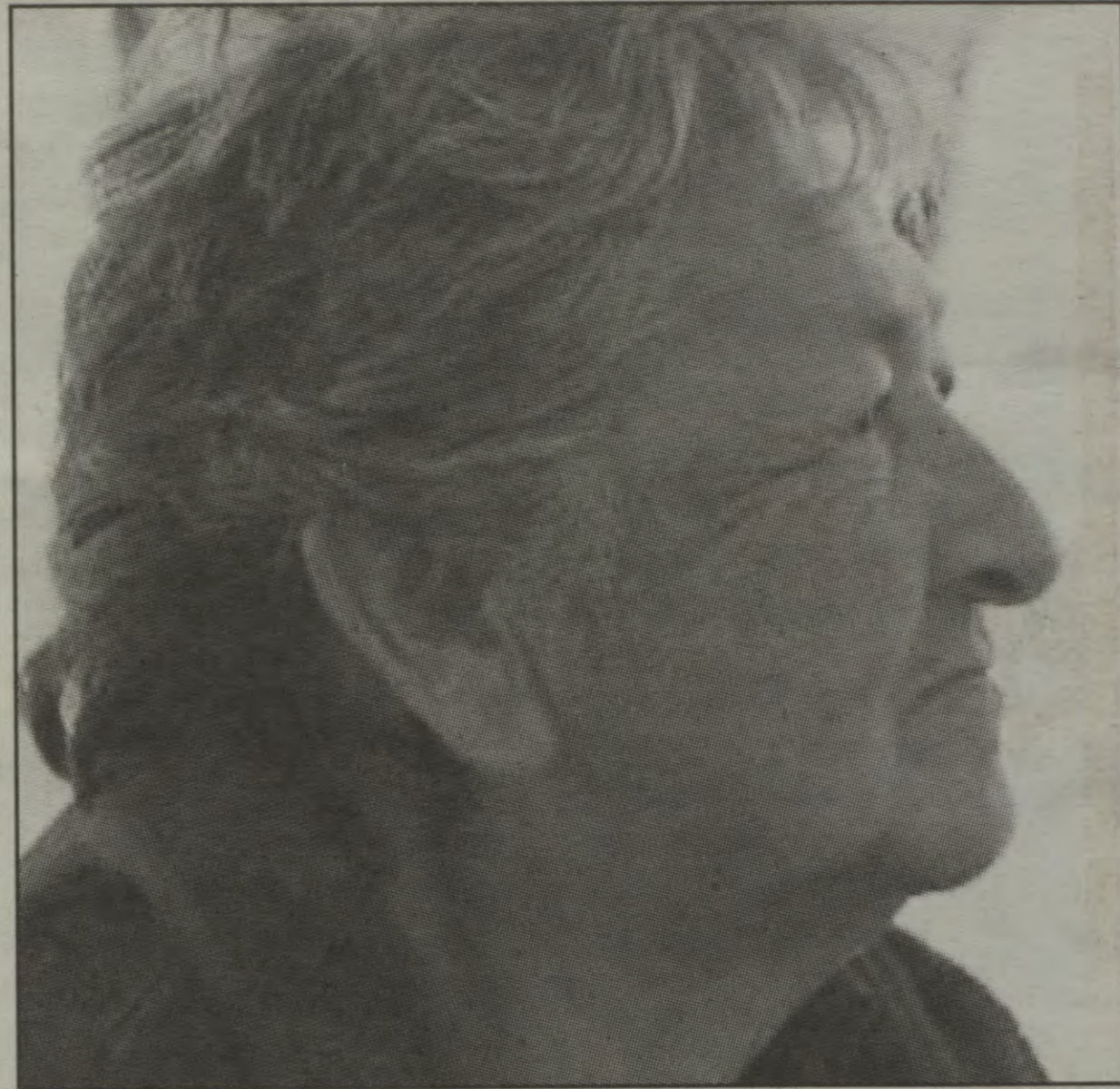


PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Madeline Skead

and culture. She found traditional healers for clients who wanted to be treated outside of the hospital, and conducted cross-cultural training for healthcare professionals and students.

The program is still going; Merv Copenace has taken over Madeline's position.

"She retired in 2001, but she would call me without fail every Monday morning to give me support or information. She really cared about this position and what it did for people, and I miss her calls. I knew I could rely on her at any hour, day or night.

"After she retired, she was here just as much, volunteering," he said.

At her funeral, OPP Kenora Inspector Commander Dave Lucas mentioned that his mentor and friend "could dress down anybody" and get her point across without disrespect.

"You couldn't argue with the common sense she employed.

Although I wore the gun and carried the badge, I felt that of the two of us, she was the one who wielded the real authority and not me."

Lucas commented both he and Madeline drew strength from The Lake of the Woods and often met beside it in a coffee shop for conversation that helped both find peace in their hectic lives, even if they "squabbled like a married couple" when they didn't agree with each other.

Eleanor summed up her mother's life: "Everyone admired my mother's courage. Other people are just as intelligent and they know how to make things better, but they don't have the courage to stand up to do it like she did."

Madeline passed away from a stomach aneurysm on Jan. 23 at the Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre at the age of 76. She had 37 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

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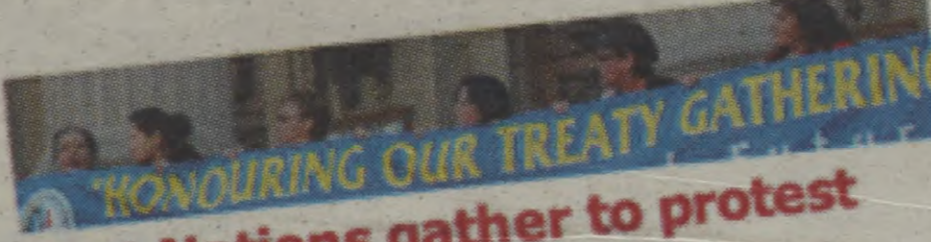
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Settlement restores some land and creates new nation

By Shari Narine Windspeaker Contributor
WABASCA, Alta.
Industry has one more First Nation to consult when looking to do work in northern Alberta. A special ceremony was held Sept. 12 that celebrated the conclusion of years of negotiation that resulted in the creation of the province's 45th First Nation...



First Nations gather to protest government treatment

By Shari Narine Sweetgrass Contributing Editor
EDMONTON
Chief Allan Adam announced in front of a loud and boisterous crowd of over 500 that the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation will be taking court action once more, this time challenging the provincial government's Public Lands Act in order to protect...



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Time and funding crunch challenges Atlantic working group

By Shari Narine Windspeaker Contributor
HALIFAX
Only one school in Atlantic Canada is recognized under the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA), but those students are not the only ones impacted by the trauma of being torn away from their families. "We have the least number of..."



Assu takes a fresh look at West Coast art

By Shauna Lewis Raven's Eye Writer Vancouver
Contemporary artist Sonny Assu has a knack for infusing the politics of modern pop culture with traditional First Nations style, and his latest works are no exception. In his exhibit entitled 'Longing,' Assu, a member of the Laidiwiltach First Nation...

Maggie Black Kettle [footprints]

By Dianne Meili
Blackfoot Elder overcame fear to pass on traditional ways To walk into Maggie Black Kettle's tipi from the bustling grounds of the Calgary Stampede was to enter the peaceful eye of a pounding, frenetic storm. The muted light, the prairie sage...

U of A Hospital gallery showcases diverse talent

By Dianne Meili Sweetgrass Writer EDMONTON
In a quiet recess of the frenetic University of Alberta Hospital is an artistic showing of diverse Aboriginal talent. Shifting Patterns, curated by Edmonton's Aaron Paquette, features paintings, claywork and photography by established and emerging artists.



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By Shari Narine Sweetgrass Contributing Editor
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