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**Election for AFN
National Chief
Pages 8-10**

**Official Aboriginal
Language for Nunavut
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**Habitat volunteers
prove their worth
Page 12**

Volume 27 No. 5 • August 2009

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Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

Publications Mail Reg. No. 40063755

ISSN 0834 - 177X

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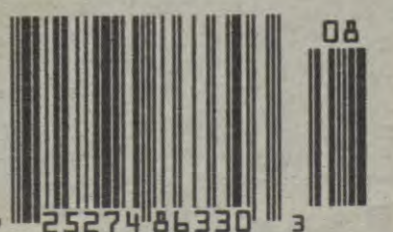
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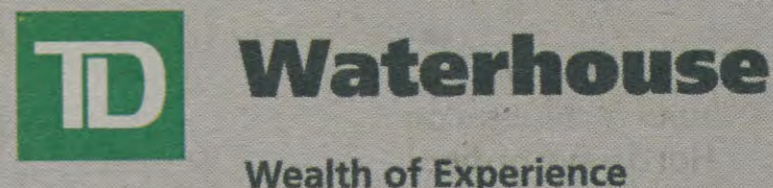
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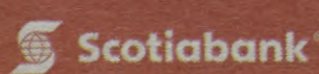


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Monthly Circulation: 24,000
Windspeaker 1-year subscription: \$55.00+GST
Published since 1983, *Windspeaker* is politically and financially independent.

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Letters to the editor and all undeliverable Canadian addressed copies can be sent to:

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We acknowledge the assistance of the Government of Canada through the Publications Assistance Program toward our mailing costs.

Canada

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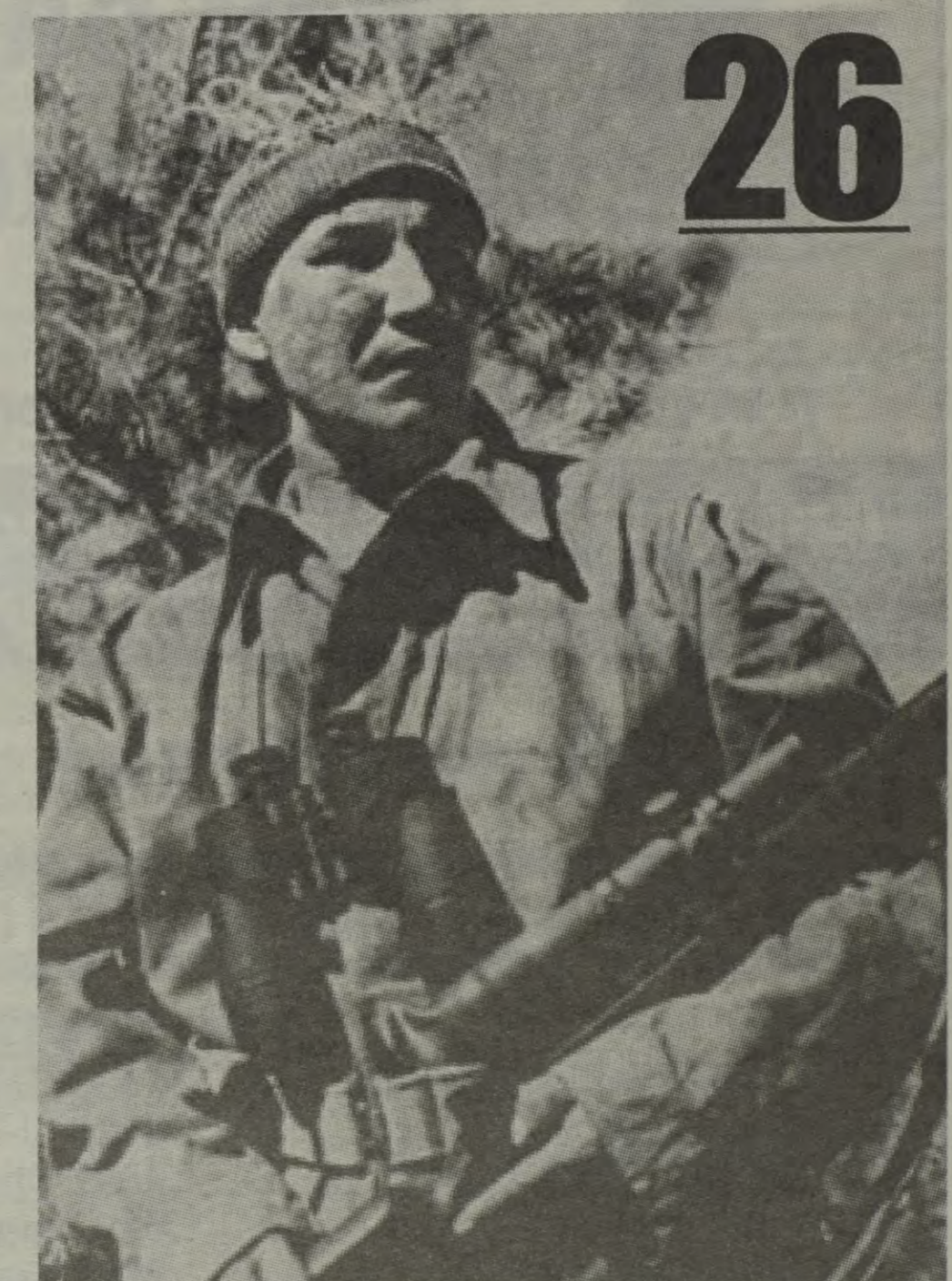
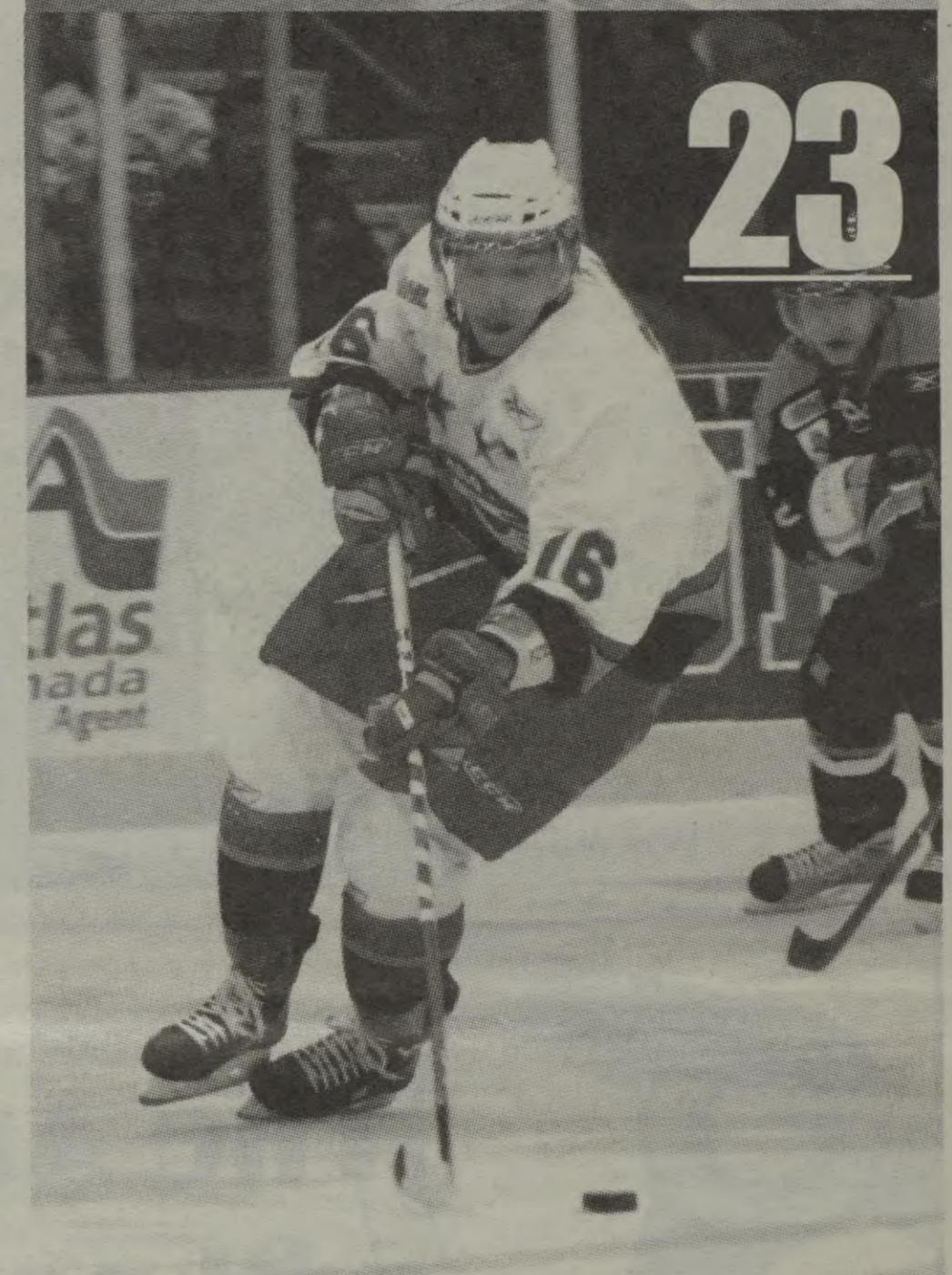
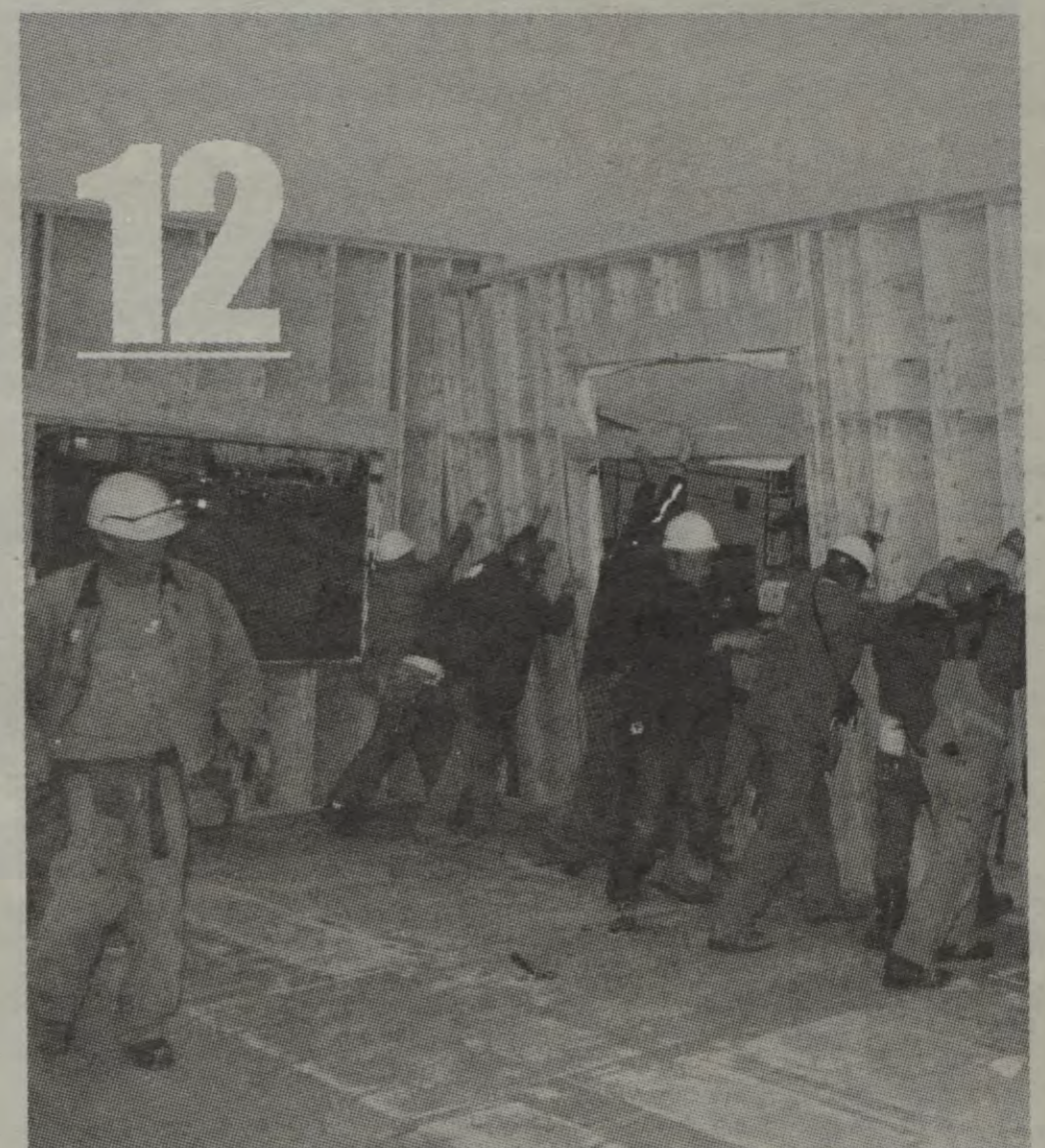
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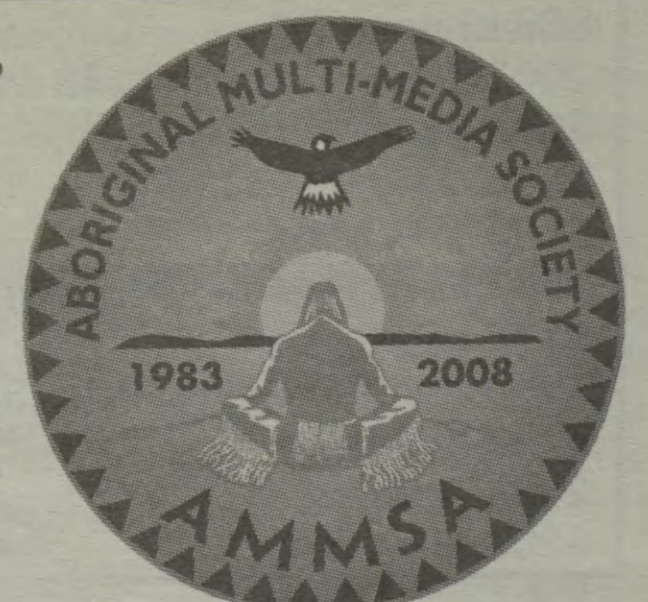
If the decorated war hero Thomas George Prince, pride of the Saulteaux Brokenhead Band of Scanterbury, Man., had kept a diary, it might have read like the above. He was so silent and stealthy, the opposition began to think of him as an evil spirit employed by the allied forces.



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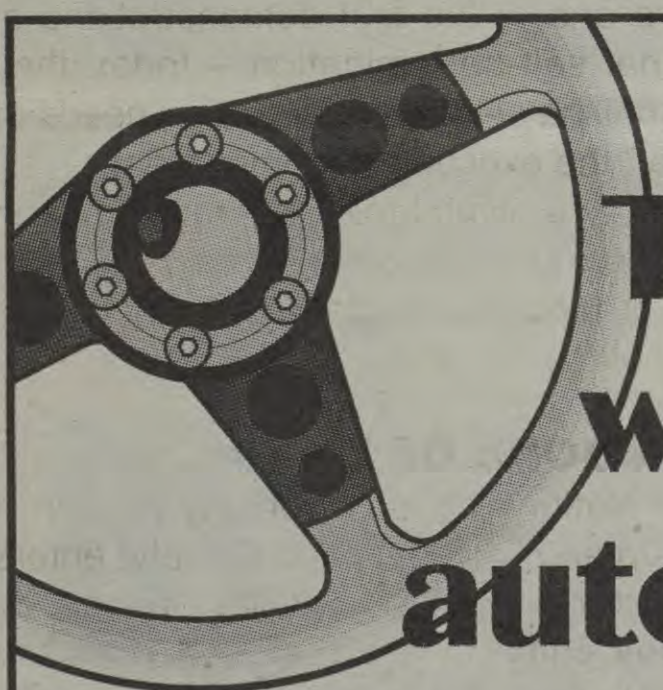
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CANADA WIDE

Canada's wilful blindness in the face of flu threat

Not that we're looking ahead to Autumn. In fact, we're kind of dreading it, as should most First Nations in Canada if they are lacking confidence in the pandemic planning of the federal government when it comes to Aboriginal communities. You see, while the H1N1 outbreak has been relatively mild leading up to the summer months, the cold weather promises to bring with it another outbreak and that could wallop our populations.

While Canadian media was concentrating on the sexy story of Grandfather Canada doing what it could to protect the addicted Indians from getting their paws on the hand sanitizer that could help slow the spread of the swine flu, they were ignoring the very conditions that contribute to it taking hold in an area. Overcrowded housing, poor economic conditions, poor nutrition, weakened immune systems, sub-standard healthcare—this is what years of Ottawa's neglect has given us, and that's what's eventually going to lead to the devastation of our peoples if the swine flu comes back for another visit.

Avoid contact with people is the advice given to our people. How do you avoid the eight or nine or 12 people who must live together in a crowded 900-square foot rotting house on reserve because there are no other options? Wash your hands regularly they tell us, when the water that runs from the taps is more dangerous to us than the germs being passed around the building?

Witness also the slow response to the recent outbreaks in Manitoba and Ontario where medical supplies were delayed. The highest number of cases in a single community was at one time during June seen in Sandy Lake, Ont. H1N1 was in North Spirit Lake, Bearskin Lake, Deer Lake, Keewaywin, and Pikangikum First Nations as well.

It took up to two weeks to confirm cases of H1N1. It took the federal and provincial governments longer to react, to send health care practitioners to the affected areas to help.

"Even though there has been a lot of work done over the past two years on pandemic planning, we're finding out now that there are pieces missing," said Alvin Fiddler, deputy chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. "There are holes in the plan." What an understatement that is.

That's six nations! Imagine that on a nationwide scale? Where are we all going to be then? If they can't handle the outbreaks in these communities, what will they do when we're all clamouring for help?

Chief Angus Toulouse is the regional chief of the Assembly of First Nations responsible for health. He's called for an investment in a document called Annex B. What is this Annex? It is the portion of the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan that addresses outbreaks in First Nations. He says Canada has invested about \$1 billion in the plan for mainstream people, but there has been no investment in the guidelines that would show how the federal, provincial and territorial governments

should handle outbreaks in First Nations communities.

This is wilful blindness to their responsibilities to our peoples, and, very probably, if a pandemic strikes, Canada's neglectful past will be compounded by its current and some would argue criminal neglect and hundreds, maybe thousands could perish. It would one day make an expensive claim to settle, but would be sorry compensation for those that would watch loved ones suffer and succumb.

"Conditions in many of our communities are akin to those of the developing world. This has placed our communities at the highest level of risk in Canada. Clearly, if there is no improvement in planning and services, the worsening of this virus could have tragic consequences in the fall," Toulouse warned.

New Democrat MP Niki Ashton (Churchill, Man.) insulted the minister responsible by calling on the federal government to heed First Nations' demands for greater action and recognition of the state of emergency on reserves.

"When I raised the need for an urgent federal response for disproportionately impacted First Nations, the minister said she was insulted," said Ashton. "The fact that First Nations have been hard hit during the first round of the H1N1 is a wake-up call for the federal government."

We personally don't give a TamiFlu shot if the minister's feelings are hurt. Rather hurt feelings now, then hundreds of people suffering a few months from now.

A report released by UNICEF, entitled *Aboriginal Children's Health: Leaving No Child Behind—the Canadian Supplement to State of the World's Children 2009*, examined inequities in Canada's health system that perpetuate health disparities between First Nations and other Canadian children. First Nations health services have not mirrored population growth, the report found, and services provided to other Canadians are under-funded or denied First Nations people. Inequities persist, including higher infant mortality rates, lower child immunization rates, poorer nutritional status and endemic rates of obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases, the report finds. These inequities, compounded by the poor social conditions found in too many of our communities, contributes to our poorer health status even in the best of times, said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine.

"This is why First Nations are particularly vulnerable to H1N1. The World Health Organization already has pointed out that there is a link between the severity of H1N1 cases and poor living conditions, over-crowded housing, poor-quality drinking water, pre-existing chronic diseases and sub-standard healthcare. It is time for action to improve the conditions that make us the most vulnerable segment of the population."

How much more evidence is needed? None. If Canada fails to react, it's a sign that those responsible care not.

[rants and raves]

Page 5 Chatter

THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE MOVEMENT

was once a powerful force in Indigenous urban communities, but over the four decades since they were established across the country, friendship centres have had to endure severe cuts to the services they provide because of underfunding. The centres are not less valuable today than they were, say, even a decade ago. In fact, as more and more Indigenous people flock to the city centres, and the economic global woes press down like a heavy weight on communities, the friendship centre is perhaps more important now than it was in the past. That's why the National Association of Friendship Centres, in partnership with the department of Canadian Heritage, has released a Business Case for the Long-Term Sustainability of Friendship Centres. You can find it at www.nafc-aboriginal.com

We all know that Aboriginal people represent the fastest growing population in Canada, but did you know that the number of urban Aboriginal people is the fastest growing. More than 70 per cent of Aboriginal people do not live on reserves. In 2007/08, friendship centres across Canada delivered more than 1,300 programs and services worth more than \$93 million to over 1.3 million participants on a status blind basis. The entire Friendship Centre Movement, consisting of 118 friendship centres, delivered almost \$109 million in programs and services to Canada's increasing urban Aboriginal population. With the \$16.1 million in support for core operations from Canadian Heritage's Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program (AFCP), friendship centres delivered over \$37 million for federal departments; over \$39 million for provincial/territorial governments; \$4.5 million for municipal governments; and \$4 million for non-governmental and other Aboriginal organizations.

The friendship centres however are calling for an examination of the funding levels. They say funding needs to be enhanced given the pressing realities of today. And the fact that the funding levels have remained unchanged for over a decade seems to suggest that the time is upon the government to pry open the treasury purse.

The report says that urban Aboriginals experience lower education levels, higher unemployment rates and lower income levels than the rest of the urban population. "Friendship centres are one of the first demonstrations of contemporary Aboriginal self-determination — today they continue to be at the frontline serving the pressing needs of urban Aboriginal people," the executive summary reads.

Friendship centres play a pivotal role in community and economic development by providing employment opportunities and training, facilitating social development, and building human and resource capacity.

CHIEF ARTHUR MOORE OF THE

Constance Lake First Nations says "If for any reason a representative [of the Ontario Children's Aid Society] enters onto Constance Lake territory, they will be treated as trespassers, and if any children are removed from the community it will be considered a kidnapping." The chief announced on July 9 that the Children's Aid workers are being prohibited from entering the community by band council resolution banning all members of the Ministry of Children and Youth Services from their territory.

First Nations culture and rights have not been taken into consideration when Children's Aid societies deal with Aboriginal child welfare matters, said Moore. He said he has been working closely with Kunwaniamano, a child and family services organization, to ensure the delivery of a program that would fulfill the needs of First Nations. However, the agency has still not received designation as a Children's Aid Society by the province, and as a result, is unable to provide the services for Constance Lake First Nation.

At a meeting back in March, Chief Moore said "the Jeanne Sauvé Children's Aid Society agreed for the Kunwaniamano agency to look after my community's child welfare services under Anishnaabe Abinooji Family Services, who does have the specific designation. The agreement included a transition phase to transfer services by June 1."

To date, the Jeanne Sauvé organization has not transferred the services, and is now resistant to do so. In 2008, statistics show 2,300 First Nation children from reserves were put into care.

"It is time for First Nation communities to take control of their governance and their child welfare," Moore said. Moore takes great issue with workers who come into our communities and take children without consultation.

"We are capable of looking after our own children."

The chiefs of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation passed a resolution in March of 2006 in support of Kunwaniamano being mandated as a Children's Aid Society. Chief Moore said that until Minister Deb Matthews designates Kunwaniamano as a Children's Aid Society, Ontario CAS workers will remain prohibited from Constance Lake First Nation.

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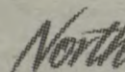
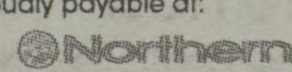
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Constitutional changes in the mix for candidate

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Writer

John Beaucage, candidate for national chief for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), serves as grand council chief for the First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation and is one of five hopefuls to replace outgoing National Chief Phil Fontaine.

There are numerous issues facing First Nations, said Beaucage. His priorities centre around poverty, education and health.

Without self-determination and self-reliance, First Nations will have a difficult time fighting their way out of poverty, he tells Windspeaker. Youth must have a good education, and then jobs in First Nations communities to bring their skills home. And home should be a safe place, free of addictions, and with potable water for consumption.

"Working out a way to have our communities self-determined and self-reliant, away from dependence on the federal government, is necessary," he said.

But Beaucage is adamant that for First Nations to address those priorities, the Canadian Constitution must be revisited with powers, authorities and jurisdiction divided, not only between the provincial and federal governments, but also First Nation governance.

"With that governance in mind, I think it's time we had another constitutional

conference, specifically on First Nation governance and possibly entrenching the rights of First Nation governance within the Constitution," he said.

"Self reliance and self determination are keys to this whole thing because we cannot carry on over the next 100 years depending on government for our every need. We have to be independent in many respects in order to be truly self-determined and self-governed."

Beaucage is calling for the establishment of a Blue Ribbon committee to address economic needs. The committee, which would consist of First Nations people as well as representatives from larger corporations who have worked with First Nations, would make recommendations and set up a strategic plan for building economies for First Nations. A sub-committee would also be established to look specifically at the economic needs and challenges facing the more remote communities.

"I don't think it's going to be an easy task, but just because it's not easy doesn't mean we can't tackle it, we can't work on it. Some of the more challenging communities, it may take them 25, 30 years to be part of the overall economy, but we've got to start somewhere," said Beaucage.

Changes to the way the AFN operates are also high on Beaucage's priority list.

He would like to see the AFN move toward a nationhood model, which would drop

membership from the 633 First Nation communities presently represented to 58 or 60 First Nations. Representatives to AFN then would no longer be the chiefs for each community but instead the grand chiefs for the First Nations.

This is not a new idea, said Beaucage, who pointed out that the 2005 AFN renewal document, approved by the chiefs of the time, called for the nationhood model. But Beaucage assured he would not go ahead with the change until further consultation was carried out at the community level and the chiefs approved the new model. He noted that support of the new model from chiefs he has spoken to has been split.

"Right now I don't think the AFN truly represents all of the First Nation members across the country, that we don't look after all our citizens and in particular the 60 per cent of our citizenship that lives off the reserve. They feel disenfranchised. I think with a nationhood model we could bring everybody back into the fold and feel truly represented, truly a part of the process, truly that the AFN belongs to everybody," said Beaucage.

Beaucage believes that he would take inclusiveness a step further by allowing a universal vote, as part of the process within the nationhood model, for the selection of the national chief. The vote would include citizens both on and off reserves. However, it would still be the



John Beaucage

chiefs that would establish the agenda and budget for the year and move that agenda forward for the AFN.

Beaucage brings with him a proven track record and experience. He was first elected as grand council chief to the 42-member First Nations of the Anishinabek Nation in 2004 and then re-elected by acclamation in 2006. A graduate of the University of Western Ontario with a combined English and Economics degree, Beaucage is a successful businessman.

If Beaucage becomes the new national chief, he said he would establish an advisory committee that can keep him abreast of the issues facing the First Nations communities.

"It's a big country. There are 633 communities out there and each one of them has their own special concerns, each of them has their own special interests and they're all different. And it would be an amazing task for any one person to understand all of it, so you need to have a very capable group of advisors to make sure we don't leave anything out," said Beaucage.

Meeting with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and having the AFN executive meet with the provincial government counterparts would also be among Beaucage's first moves.

"With my track record and experience, I think I could ably do the job of national chief," said Beaucage.

Go beyond the duty to consult, says candidate

By Isha Thompson
Staff Writer

Windspeaker

Perry Bellegarde's philosophy is action speaks louder than words. The Saskatchewan-born candidate for the position of national chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) says he not only has a plan for this new leadership position, but he is confident that First Nations across Canada will see results from his efforts.

"Wherever I have been, there have been results, concrete results. I'm all about action," said Bellegarde.

With an extensive resume that includes serving as grand chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and the regional vice chief of the AFN in 1998, Bellegarde said he consistently strives for positive changes.

He referred to his role in the creation of the multi-million dollar All Nations Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., where he served 12 years as the elected representative of the Touchwood-File Hills-Qu'Appelle Tribal Council beginning in the 1980s.

Bellegarde is also proud of the work he did with the National

First Nations Veterans Association. In December 1998 they began their three-year negotiation for a national compensation package for First Nations veterans, whom he refers to as "ultimate warriors" for their mistreatment after returning from serving in the Canadian military.

The current councillor for the Little Black Bear First Nation said pushing the Canadian government to keep First Nations issues on their agenda is not something he shies away from. He specifically has made it a mission to push the Conservative government beyond Prime Minister Stephen Harper's 2008 apology to the former students of Indian residential schools.

"Words are words. Where is the action? Words are empty unless there is action," said Bellegarde, who admits that he won't be satisfied with Harper's apology until he sees major changes.

Bellegarde said he subscribes to a philosophy of open communication with First Nations communities across Canada and wants to give a voice to the serious issues that many reserves are forced to deal with.

The substandard water conditions on many reserves are specific crises that he said need to be addressed immediately.

"A lot of our communities are living in Third World conditions, which is not acceptable for such a rich country as Canada," said Bellegarde.

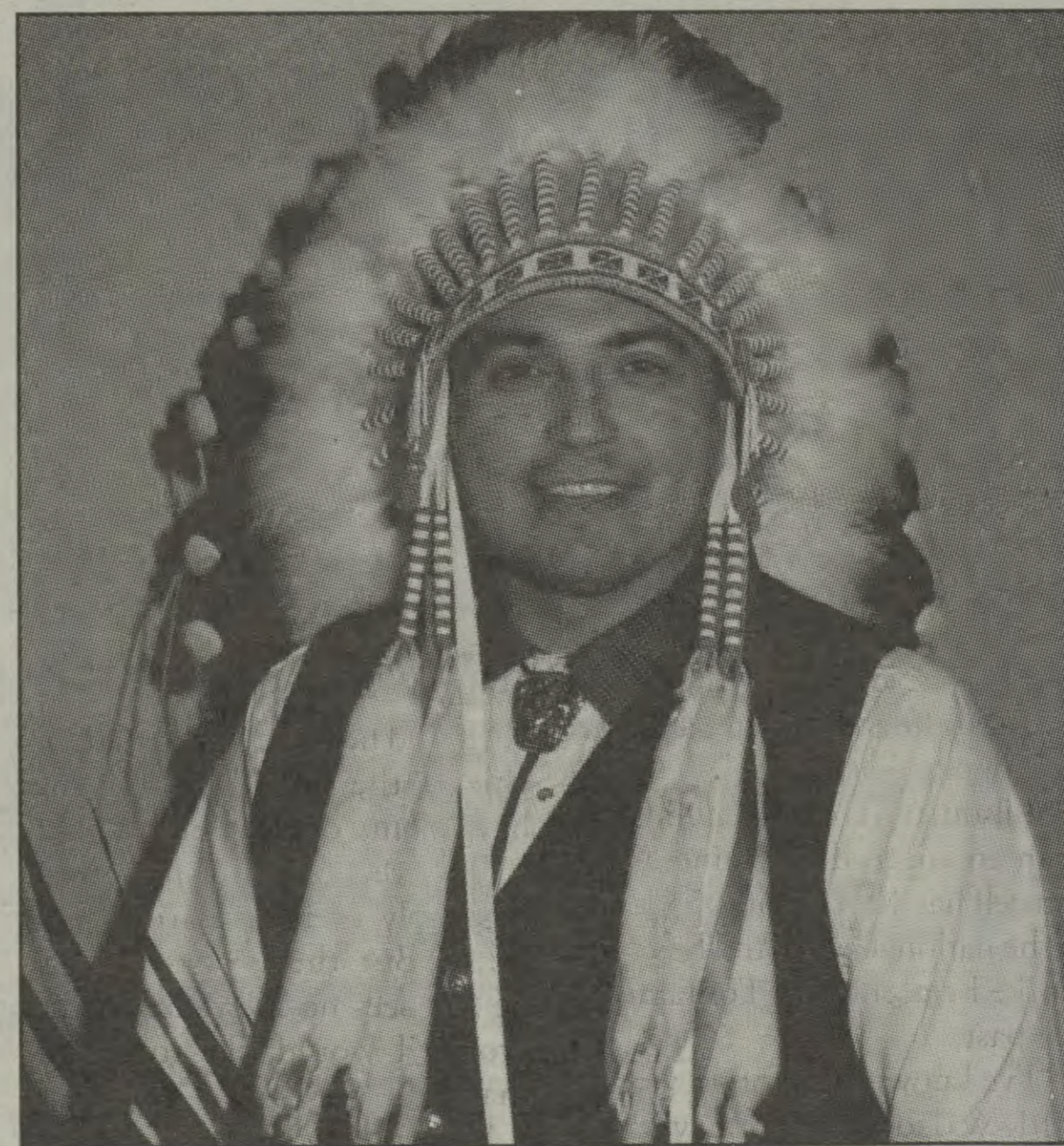
Self-sufficiency for reserves is a demand that, according to Bellegarde, isn't unreasonable. The graduate of the University of Regina's business administration program said the land and resources of First Nations people must be respected by industries that look to profit from their territory.

"Everybody is focusing on the duty to consult. My position is, let's go beyond duty to consult," said Bellegarde, who stressed that First Nations have the right to prior and informed consent from governments and interested industries when developments are proposed.

He believes that something must be done to stop the pattern of reserves not being treated fairly when it comes to corporations using their land to create a profit.

"We want to look after ourselves, but unless we have our own resource base we're going to always be dependent on government, and that's not acceptable."

Traveling to every region of Canada is a big part of Bellegarde's campaign. He said First Nation communities have told him they



Perry Bellegarde

want a "relevant and responsive" AFN.

Listening to the concerns of band chiefs across the country is one of his strategies to stay relevant and continually serve the needs of the entire community. Bellegarde describes his leadership style as a "servant of the people."

Bellegarde is confident that his energy and commitment to First

Nations people, along with his 20 years experience working in various Aboriginal communities and associations has prepared him for a role that carries big responsibilities.

"I have worked for and worked with First Nations people all my life. You can't beat that," said Bellegarde.

Finding the balance, finding the unity

By Chris Phalen
Windspeaker Contributor

Shawn Atleo wants change and he wants it now.

After completing his traditional protocol in his home village of Ahousaht on B.C.'s West Coast, where he asked permission from his community to seek the nomination to run as a candidate in the upcoming election for Assembly of First Nations national chief, Atleo finds himself full bore into the campaign.

A-in-chut, Atleo's traditional name, means 'everyone depends on you.' He has long been revered as a rising national political star, and is known for his non-confrontational negotiation talents, which stem from his traditional teachings.

The job he is seeking involves challenging federal and provincial governments to recognize the rights of First Nations people, and battling to repair the injury left by the residential school system and oppressive legislation of the Indian Act.

He clearly defines the role.

"I think the office of national chief is as a core advocate and a facilitator. I do not see the position as the head of First Nations government. I see the job of national chief to support those chiefs (all Canadian Nations) in their efforts."

He says First Nations policy, when it comes to rights, will

always be about balance.

Atleo believes that balance will provide for coexistence between First Nations traditional governance and contemporary political processes, and that will lead to healthier communities.

But bridging traditional ideals and a modern political system that was designed to keep First Nations divided and completely unrecognized as national partners is a major hurdle for the First Nations movement.

"This country will begin to realize its full potential when our people begin to implement our treaties, when we continue to practice our spirituality and our ceremonies, when we lead the way back to sustainable economies, an economy that considers the balance and health of Mother Earth," Atleo said.

The federal government still has an undignified, disrespectful, dismissive, core legal perspective that works against First Nations and pervades all policies in Ottawa, Atleo said.

First Nations will only begin to claw out from under government oppression if they challenge and conquer legislation and come together as nations.

"Until negotiations become a joint venture among nations and jointly pursue core policy changes in Ottawa, I'm afraid it's going to be very difficult to overcome them, he said of government policy.

"Our people need confidence that we can walk in both worlds and not lose our identity, but create jobs, pursue education and still be who we are as First Nations people."

Atleo said the rate and pace of positive change and policy must escalate, and it must change in a sustainable way rather than by conflict on the ground, like at Oka or with such protests as the Caledonia conflict.

"We can't lurch from conflict to conflict, and expect that's what's going to bring about the sustainable long-term change everyone desires," he said.

"I think the task at hand is really about uniting across the entire First Nations country and overcoming our internal divisions."

Atleo said it all starts with a national economic development action plan that is not only about relating to government programs and services, but seeks to create interregional First Nations trade, as well fostering the growing Aboriginal entrepreneurial spirit in our country.

"We need to overcome the two per cent funding cap that chiefs have been subjected to," Atleo said, calling it a very divisive piece of legislature.

"No other level of government has had to deal with the kinds of funding restrictions as First Nation chiefs and councils have had, and no other level of



Shawn Atleo

government has had to deal with the kind of non-recognition of jurisdiction that chiefs have had."

According to Atleo these same issues bridge into First Nations education and economic sustainability, which are still challenged by externally imposed legislation.

Atleo said First Nations education is not being supported to the extent that it must for First Nations to achieve fluency in traditional language and to be re-connected with culture, ceremony and family.

"If residential schools were something that under the guise of education hurt and separated and divided our people, then education must today be a tool that mends, that brings together, that heals, that makes sure we

have language and culture," he said.

Atleo challenges Canadians to share the issues facing First Nations people, and urges the Prime Minister to follow through on the apology that was given last year in the House of Commons to residential school survivors for the flawed residential school system.

Atleo is meeting new and existing political challenges between the AFN and the federal government head on, as his name suggests, and would welcome the role as AFN national chief.

"For me, A-in-chut, it's about we have to care about ourselves and make sure that we are in balance, and that we carry out our responsibility in a respectful manner," Atleo said.

Experience will serve candidate well if elected

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Staff Writer

Chief Bill Wilson believes his experience makes him the logical choice to become the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

"Someone needs to be there to fill the huge shoes that Phil Fontaine will leave for us," said Wilson, the chief of the Kwawkwewlth-Musgamagw nation from northern Vancouver Island.

"We have a huge job to fill. And I do know I have the proven experience. Together the other four candidates don't have the experience that I have."

Wilson, 65, is confident he's the man to succeed Fontaine as he himself has 40 years of experience at the national level. And he's even worked closely with Fontaine in the past.

"I've known him for 45 years," said Wilson, who served as Fontaine's special political advisor on British Columbia's Aboriginal issues from 1997 through 2000.

Wilson believes he also has another advantage over the other four candidates.

"They have qualities and characteristics," he said, "but not one of them has been at the constitutional table arguing our rights."

A highlight of Wilson's career occurred back in March of 1983 in Ottawa. He was a negotiator

at the First Constitutional Conference on Aboriginal Issues. He was among those that helped to draft and successfully negotiate the first and only amendment to the country's Constitution.

This amendment became the foundation of recent court victories and helped to change both federal and provincial laws and policies and the approaches of Aboriginal people.

Wilson is no stranger to the AFN, having previously held a pair of posts. He was the AFN's vice-chief from 1990 to 1991 and its political secretary from 1991 to 1992.

Should he be chosen as national chief of the AFN, Wilson would have plenty of work on his plate.

"I have no criticisms of the Assembly of First Nations," he said. "But the average Indian person sees no relevance in that group. I would like to change that."

Wilson believes his eloquence will engage others.

"I'm a very, very good speaker," he said. "If you can't get a message across, nobody will be listening and they won't remember it."

Wilson said he's realized the importance of having solid public speaking skills ever since a Grade 6 speech that he fumbled his way through. He now considers his oratorical skills one of his greatest strengths.

Wilson credits Fontaine for raising awareness of Aboriginal

issues in recent years. And he's confident he can continue to do so.

"I have those connections to raise our profile," said Wilson, who boasts of his negotiation and mediation skills at the local, provincial and national levels.

Wilson has a plethora of contacts with various business leaders, labour groups, industries, churches and other segments of Canadian society.

If chosen to head up the AFN, there are plenty of issues that Wilson plans to focus on. Two issues he would concentrate his efforts on are poverty and education.

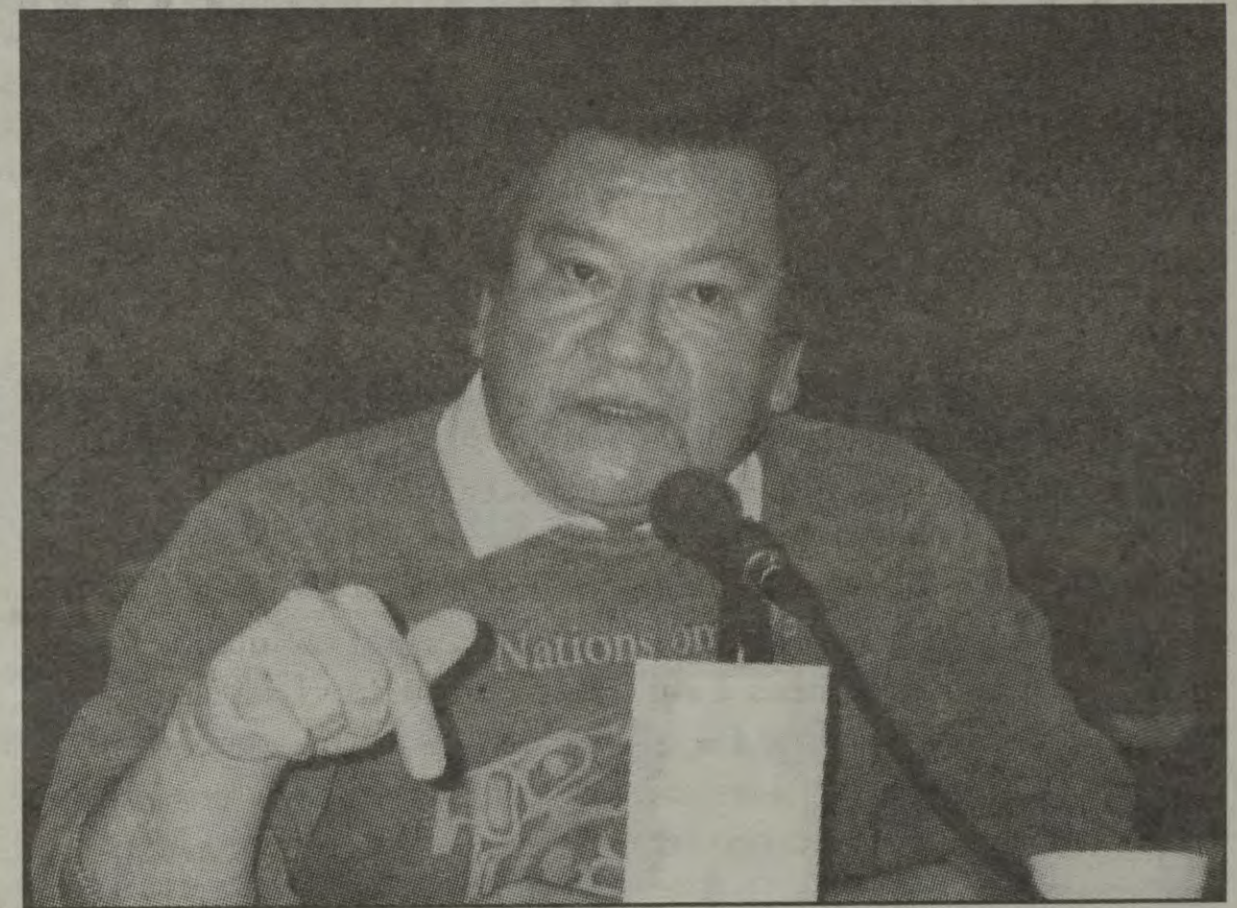
"I know we have to deal with the basic poverty and the basic lack of opportunity to succeed," he said. "We have to encourage our people to be the best of the best."

Wilson finds it appalling that even today there are numerous First Nations across Canada that do not have proper water facilities or power.

"It's 2009, for heaven's sake," he said.

Wilson believes numerous programs have to be put in place to train Aboriginal people for various jobs. If elected, he said he would, in part, do so by forming coalitions with labour groups.

Wilson added he's understood the importance of a strong work ethic ever since the age of nine when he ran a fish camp for his



Chief Bill Wilson

father.

Wilson said one of the reasons he's been successful is because he's well educated; he has a pair of university degrees. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in political science and English, from the University of Victoria. He also has a law degree from the University of British Columbia.

Wilson believes his years of experience will also be a plus when it comes to dealing with the federal government.

"I think sadly it is strained," he said of the relationship between First Nations and Canadian leaders, adding at times one's political affiliations seem to be a distraction from dealing with the real issues at hand.

Wilson added he's a big believer all people should be treated as equals. He said as a Native person, he's never felt inferior to other Canadians. And he would do his utmost to ensure other Aboriginals adopt this line of thinking.

And under his everyone-should-be-treated-equal stance, Wilson said an AFN run by him would continue to concentrate on women's issues, as the group has done in recent years.

"We have to co-operate with women's groups and ensure their rights are maintained," he said.

Wilson added he's a big supporter of rights for all gays, lesbians, transgender people and other minorities.

[AFN election]

Candidate seeks foreign investment to liberate First Nations

If you go to the Web site of Chief Terrance Nelson, candidate for national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, you might think he may need some classes in geography.

On the home page is a map of what would be Canada, except where the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut would be, there is an American flag.

Nope, Nelson doesn't need more schooling. He's already got two degrees. What he's hoping for is that the chiefs in assembly buy into his economic plan to seek out the investment dollars of the United States, China, Korea and Japan so that those resources in the north can be developed by the Indigenous people there.

"The resources belong to the Indigenous people. The problem is the immigrants have taken everything."

He said he's looking to develop a \$100-billion foreign investment fund and one of his top priorities if he wins in Calgary on July 22 would be to meet with the Chinese, the Americans and the ambassadors of any nation with deep pockets and a desire to access the rich resources found within Canada's borders.

"The Chinese have a very consistent message that they want to work with the Indigenous peoples," Nelson said. "They have mapped out the resources in Canada and they have been denied any access to those resources."

Nelson said the chiefs have to decide if they want to think out of the box and get away from their reliance on the program treadmill they're all running on.

"What I'm talking about is foreign investment for First Nations to develop the resource base themselves."

He said Canada hadn't done enough for First Nations in the good times, and now with an economic grey cloud hanging over the country, the chiefs can expect Canada to do less.

He said Canada was keen to bail out the auto industry to the tune of billions of dollars, but "we have a million First Nations people and they have a huge amount of problems trying to get the \$5 billion Kelowna Accord going. The Kelowna Accord was to stretch over five years, so to hell

with the Kelowna Accord. We can do it 20 times better than that."

There are a lot of lawyers working at the AFN, said Nelson, but he has stated publicly that an AFN under his stewardship would put the economists to work.

"When we ask the question, how are we going to deal with the education issue, the post-secondary cap that been there for 14, 15 years, all I hear from them is 'Well, we could sue the government in their own court...' We could pay for our own education system, we could pay for our own housing, we could pay for our own schools, we could pay for our own health system, and the thing we have to do is develop our own resources and do the extracting ourselves."

He said First Nations could stop the oil from flowing south to the United States. A plan has been mapped out to the chiefs to do just that, he said. But why stop the oil when they should be able to benefit from it?

He said he understands where the chiefs are coming from, describing them as a frustrated and angry bunch who have to sit in front of their contacts with Indian Affairs and listen to them ask for reports and audits and cluck about accountability and transparency.

"We're the ones financing Ottawa," he said of the resources found in and under First Nations territory.

He said Ottawa says there has been \$100 billion spent on First Nations in the past 10 years.

"Well, I've got news for you. Seven trillion dollars came from the resource base and the availability of the resource base in the last 10 years.... That's what I'll be telling the chiefs. Chiefs, do you want to continue going down the road of the last twenty, thirty forty years that you've been on, on government dependency? Or do you want to get off and sell your own resources and develop it yourselves?"

Nelson started out late in the campaign. It wasn't until he heard from the other four candidates that he decided to enter. That's because he didn't hear what he wanted to hear from them. They were talking only of maintaining the status quo, he said, and that

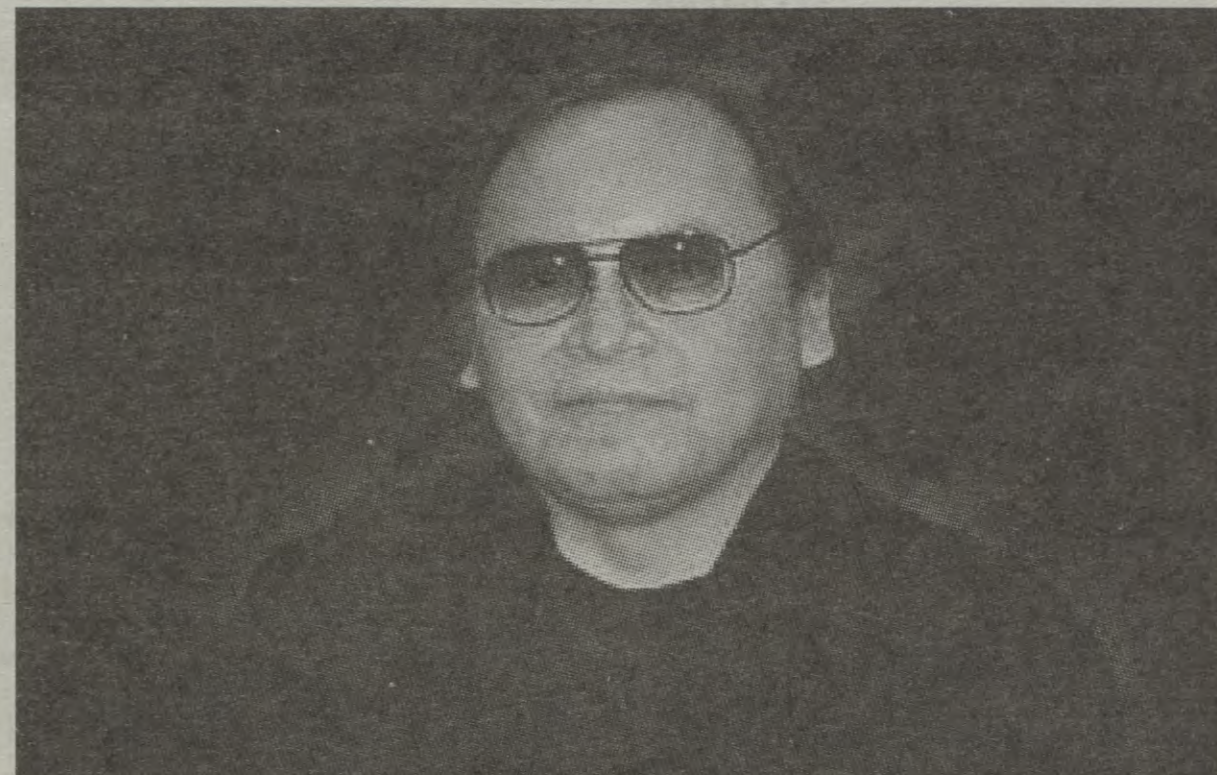
wasn't good enough for Nelson.

He said a lot of people were just talking about the problems, and weren't offering solutions.

Nelson also believes that not only should the First Nations get away from their dependency on programs and the like, so should their national organization.

"Part of the problem today is that the AFN is totally funded by the government and for any First Nations that try and change government policy when the AFN is paid to implement government policy, it's hard for any national chief to get out of the box."

He used as an example former national chief Matthew Coon Come, who spoke out against Canada's treatment of the Indigenous population while on the international stage. The embarrassment caused to Canada was responded to swiftly, said Nelson. The Liberals slashed the AFN budget from \$19 million to



Terrance Nelson

\$6 million.

"The AFN is quickly punished when they try and change government policies."

He said it's no different today in Ottawa. He said outgoing National Chief Phil Fontaine was told by the chiefs to invite Hugo Chavez, the controversial president of Venezuela, to address

the assembly. When he did that, Nelson said the Minister of Indian Affairs contacted Fontaine and said "What in the hell were you thinking, Phil?" So Phil backed away from that.

"There is no question that the AFN needs to get away from being financed by the government," Nelson said.

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It's official: Aboriginal languages of Nunavut, that is

By Isha Thompson
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

A Canadian senator is hopeful that the passing of the new Nunavut Official Languages Act is only the beginning of progressing the recognition of Aboriginal languages throughout Canada.

Senator Serge Joyal said the unanimous endorsement of acknowledging English, French and the Inuit languages as Nunavut's official languages will open discussions about Bill S-237, the Aboriginal Languages Act of Canada.

Bill S-237, which had its first Senate reading on May 28, requests support to increase the use and access to learn Aboriginal languages. One of the demands is that Aboriginal language be incorporated into the curriculum of elementary and secondary schools, similar to the lengthy list of foreign languages that are currently offered to Canada's student population.

"We wanted to go first with the Official Languages Act of Nunavut and then that bill will more or less have a better base for discussion and support in the senate and House of Commons," said Joyal.

Joyal explained that protecting and supporting all Aboriginal languages is incredibly important.

One of the main concerns from senators before the Nunavut Official Languages Act was passed on June 11 was that it would put speakers of other Aboriginal languages at a disadvantage.

Hence, one of the recommendations from the Senate that accompanied the passing of Nunavut's new language act. Statistics Canada must monitor and report on the use of the five languages that are not considered official languages in Nunavut—Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, Gwich'in, and North and South Slavey.

"We would be interested to know what is the Aboriginal composition in the North in

order to be able to support and enhance the use of other Aboriginal languages," said Joyal, who stressed that the other languages should not be dropped from the radar.

Dr. Patricia Shaw, the founder and current director of the First Nations Languages Program (FNLG) at the University of British Columbia, supports Senator Joyal's initiative to introduce the Aboriginal Languages Act of Canada.

The professor, who has extensively studied numerous Aboriginal languages, said it is a "huge issue" that there is a lack of importance placed on the languages of Canada's First Peoples.

"It is such a colonial artifact that French and English are the official languages of Canada and the first people who were here for millennia, before the colonizers, aren't officially recognized in terms of their linguistic heritage," said Shaw.

FNLG was created in 1997. The program offers students the opportunity to earn university

credit in courses that teach a variety of First Nation languages, such as Algonquian and Wakashan.

However, Shaw believes that Aboriginal languages need to be more accessible to the general population. She hopes that they will be available in schools so Aboriginal children, in particular, will have the opportunity to grow up bilingual and be familiar with the language of their ancestors.

Both Joyal and Shaw said now is the perfect time to pass this new act that will give formal recognition to all Aboriginal languages. It will come on the heels of the June 2008 apology given by Prime Minister Stephen Harper when he acknowledged the profound effect that Indian residential schools had on Aboriginal culture in Canada.

Involved in Canadian politics for more than 30 years, advocating for language rights is far from new for Joyal. The francophone senator said he first raised the issue of supporting

Aboriginal languages while he was the secretary of state for Canada from 1982 to 1984.

"I am very concerned that the disappearance of Aboriginal languages is a loss for all of Canada," said Joyal. "It is a loss of their basic identity."

Recognizing the relationship between the identity of the people of Nunavut and their languages is one of the most important results from the Nunavut's Languages Act, said Alexina Kublu, the languages commissioner of Nunavut.

Kublu pointed to the majority of Inuit in Nunavut as a reason for the federal government to finally give Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun equal status to Canada's official languages of English and French in the territory.

In 2006, 90 per cent of the population in Nunavut that identified as Aboriginal had knowledge of an Aboriginal language. Moreover, 82.3 per cent of the population said their mother tongue is an Aboriginal language.

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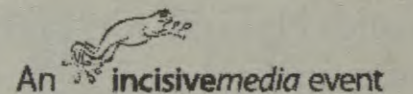
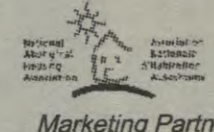
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- Business Development Managers
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- The Ontario Green Energy Act (GEA) - implications for First Nation communities
- Home inspection - ensuring health and safety
- Supportive housing for Elders - options and successful models
- Energy efficiency: moving \$\$ from shelter costs to new construction or home retrofits
- Building and delivering safe drinking water services to provide communities with a solid foundation for healthy living
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Ask About Our Referral Program

[strictly speaking]

Hopefully they won't take my status card away

There is a good chance that I will be going to the Aboriginal equivalent of Hell, for I have argued with an Elder. Quite forcefully too. And for that, if I have fully understood traditional teachings, the Creator will banish me to some mid-level civil service position with the department of Indian Affairs, probably ordering stationary and shredding the minister's speeches. I am truly dammed.

It all happened in Edmonton. Hardly one's image of the portal to First Nations' damnation. I was at the Dreamspeakers Film Festival, a yearly celebration of Aboriginal film and video arts.

This year, a made-for-TV movie I wrote called *In a World Created By a Drunken God* was opening the festival. I was honored, flattered and delighted. It's based on a play I wrote of the same name that was nominated for a Governor General's Award.

Basically, it's about a Native guy (actually half-native, of a single parent) who is surprised to find a half-brother from the States, entirely Caucasian, knocking at his door announcing that their



THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

father is dying and needs a kidney. Essentially, your standard drama.

At the opening night party I was summoned quite briskly to a table where I sat chatting with several women of varying ages. It was a pleasant enough conversation until the very end. As I got up to leave, the woman sitting beside me, an older woman, wouldn't let me leave. She told me to sit down and then she proceeded to chew me out, quite animatedly, for the film. There is a section in the film where a Native woman enters into sexual relationship with a white guy (thus the reason for the central character being mixed blood. Standard biology, I believe) on a camping trip.

This Elder took great umbrage with that portrayal. She said, and I am admittedly paraphrasing

her, that she had dedicated her life to presenting positive and constructive portrayals of Native women, and trying to instil a sense of pride and confidence in them. And how dare I show these two people getting personal under an overturned boat. I should be ashamed of myself and she strongly urged me to do what I could to destroy, eliminate or bury the film. During most of the interchange, she literally glared at me.

I was extremely shocked. Not necessarily by her comments; all writers, artists and performers are used to being assessed and critiqued. It's part of the job and everybody has an opinion, but not so intensely or personally.

I tried to explain, very respectfully, that in my experience, sex between Native people and White people did

occasionally happen. I have it on reasonably good authority that it's not unknown. I should mention I have blue eyes, and more importantly, it was loosely based on a true story.

"Then keep it to yourself. Don't inflict it on other people," she said.

By now, I was beginning to get a little angry. And I said to her, literally, "Are you trying to censor me and what I write?" Without hesitation and staring me straight in the eye, she said "Yes." To most writers, that's like waving a red flag in front of a bull.

I feel it should be pointed out most people familiar with my work know I do not make a regular habit of writing negative portrayals of women. In fact, I have publicly stated many times that I refuse to write work that shows women as hookers or victims of sexual abuse. Too many Native writers revel in that kind of writing. I've always preferred the more positive approach: *Witness my Someday/Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth/400 Kilometres* trilogy.

The conversation/argument

went on for about 20 minutes. It went back and forth, with me, again respectfully with no raising of voice or nasty words, asking if I told her to do something too, like to stop telling other people what she thought they should do, would she do it? Eventually the Elder's ride was leaving and I was spared any further writer bashing. She left, giving me a stern look and returning an unconvincing handshake that I initiated.

On one hand, I felt justified on standing up for my rights as a writer. The scene I wrote wasn't exploitive or over the top, and as an individual, my agenda has never been to trash Native women, just the opposite. Plus, I always thought Elders were supposed to have a softer, more supportive and constructive approach. But I had argued with an Elder, and worse, sent her away angry.

I could feel the ground trembling beneath my feet, threatening to open up beneath me. I wonder what kind of cubicle the DIA will give me. And I must remember to buy a tie.

Habitat volunteers prove their worth under Midnight Sun

On June 20, Habitat for Humanity Iqaluit's first Midnight Sun Build was launched to help address housing needs in the North.

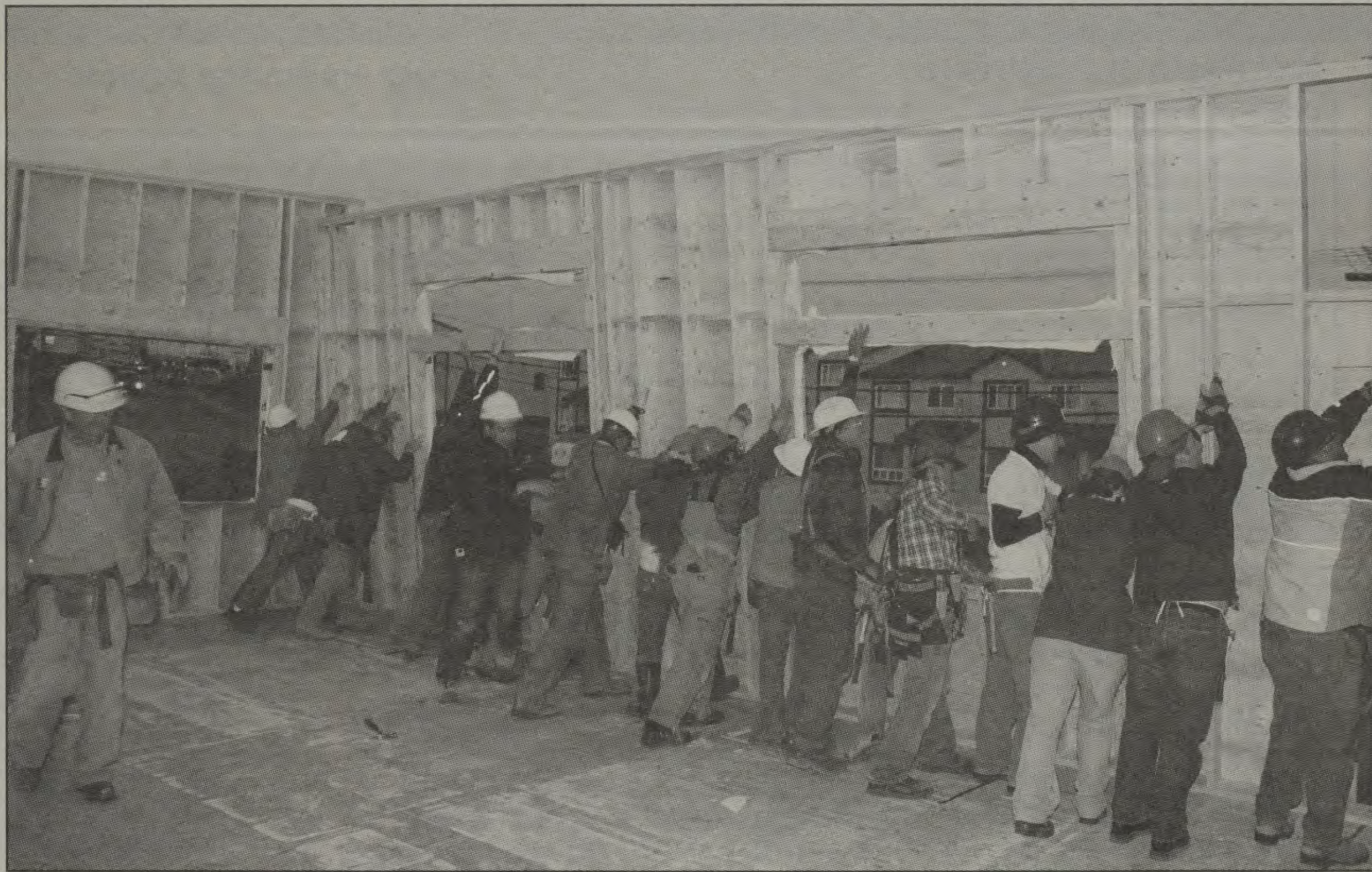
Volunteers from across Canada took advantage of the longest day of the year and worked 24 hours to build a home for a local family in need. The Midnight Sun Build coincided with National Aboriginal Day on June 21.

"The Midnight Sun Build marks the construction of the second Habitat for Humanity home in Iqaluit," said Glenn Cousins, chair of the Habitat for Humanity Iqaluit board of directors. "We believe that Habitat for Humanity is part of the solution to the housing crisis in Iqaluit." He said he was pleased to help another Iqaluit family in need.

The Iqaluit build works to reduce the barriers between families and home ownership, and was designed to raise awareness of the importance of affordable housing in making Canadian communities better places to live, work and grow.

"Just as adequate housing is not a reality for more than half of the Nunavut population, four million Canadians across the nation do not have access to a decent affordable place to live," said Stewart Hardacre, president and chief operating officer of Habitat for Humanity Canada. "This problem will not solve itself. We need the support of volunteers and donors, like we have seen for the Midnight Sun Build, in order to continue to move closer to a solution."

The government of Canada, through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC),



PHOTOS: PAULO SALOMAO

Volunteers from across the country helped an Iqaluit family construct their own home over a 24-hour period during the Midnight Sun Build held June 20.

is a gold sponsor for Habitat for Humanity Canada and the lead national sponsor for the Habitat for Humanity Aboriginal Housing Program.

"I would like to congratulate Habitat Iqaluit on the 2009 Habitat for Humanity Midnight Sun Build," said Leona Aglukkaq, minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Nunavut, on behalf of Diane Finley, minister of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and

Minister Responsible for CMHC.

"Affordable housing is an important part of our government's commitment to build stronger, healthier and more sustainable communities. We are dedicated to working in partnership with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to address housing needs in Iqaluit and across the country."

Habitat for Humanity Canada is a national, non-profit, faith-based organization working

towards the goal of everyone having a safe and decent place to live. The mission of the organization is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting homeownership as a means to break the cycle of poverty. Habitat for Humanity Canada was founded in 1985 and consists of more than 50,000 volunteers and 72 affiliate organizations from coast to coast. The organization is also a member of

Habitat for Humanity International, which includes 93 countries, has built over 300,000 homes and is now building a new home every 10 minutes.

Habitat for Humanity Iqaluit was founded in 2005 and is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity Canada and the international organization. It engages sponsors and volunteers to provide an affordable housing option for eligible families willing to participate in building their own home.

Nathaniel Bosum — [windspeaker confidential]

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

Nathaniel Bosum: One quality that I really admire is the fact that my friend can sense when I am not feeling normal and when there is a problem I'm experiencing.

W: What is it that really makes you mad?

N.B.: One thing that makes me really mad is when I know I did not try my best and when I could have done more.

W: When are you at your happiest?

N.B.: I'm the happiest when I am with my family and we're in the bush.

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

N.B.: Anger

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

N.B.: There are two. The two people I admire the most are my parents because they were the ones who pushed me into being the best in this sport. They made many sacrifices to help me get to where I am today.

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

N.B.: It was when I had to bury my grandmother because we were close and she loved the fact that I was doing this sport and encouraged me to be the best.

W: What is your greatest accomplishment?

N.B.: My greatest accomplishment would be when I turned pro for the first year. I

raced at the Montreal Olympic Stadium in 2004 and placed 12th in the pros when I was only 15 years of age.

W: What one goal remains out of reach?

N.B.: To be the best Canadian motocross racer. I'm still training hard to get there.

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

N.B.: I would be finishing college and probably be working for my dad.

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

N.B.: To never give up and to always move on and try harder; to give it all I've got at every race and never regret anything.

W: Did you take it?

N.B.: Yes, I did, and it works every time.

W: How do you hope to be remembered?

N.B.: As long as I am remembered, that would be good enough for me, but I would like best of all to be remembered as a good role model.

Talk about commitment to his sport! This athlete rises at 5:30 a.m. every morning with a long distance run or biking, followed by weight training at the gym, and then he goes back to the gym after supper for another hour – three hours a day, three days a week.

Nathaniel Bosum mirrors the determination of his father Abel. Chief Abel pushed, cajoled and shamed the government into giving his village a permanent home after years of being moved

as the mining industry continually found deposits under their settlement. The last eviction found them living on resource road shoulders and living in tarpaper shacks without electricity or running water.

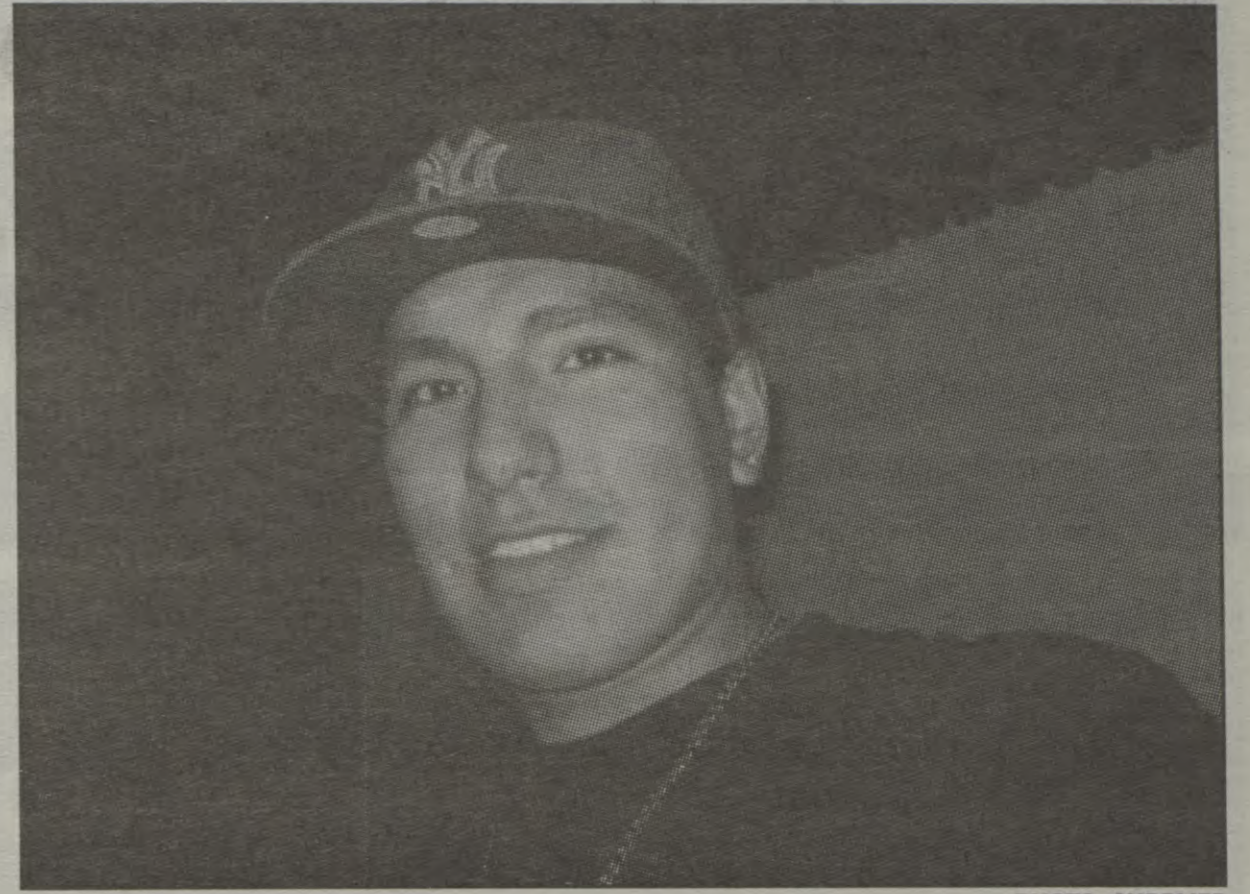
Nathaniel is from the famous Ouje-Bougoumou in the James Bay region of northern Quebec. His people, who number about 800, now live in a brand new village built in the 1990s on virgin wilderness soil in their traditional hunting territory.

The new Ouje-Bougoumou was completed in 1994, the same year Nathaniel, five, was given his first motorbike, a Suzuki 50 cc. One year later, when he was only six, he won his first championship in the Quebec Provincial series when he placed first in the PeeWee class of 50 cc riders.

Nathaniel naturally knew how hard he would have to work to be the best, and he knew how to work, too. He spends at least nine hours each week practicing moves on his bike on the ground and in the air, and, along with his physical routine, works with a nutritionist in Montreal, and a mental trainer, since he realizes sport competition is often the ultimate head game.

As he began winning more and more, a highlight came when he was promoted to the professional category and finished in 14th place against the big boys with big names in motocross racing. He continues to dominate in his class.

Nathaniel also competes in snow-cross racing in the winter.



Nathaniel Bosum

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

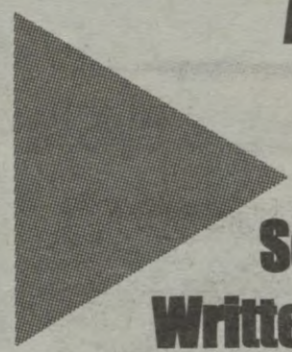
In 2004, he registered in the Semi-Pro class in his first year of snow-cross. By the end of the season he was ranked second in the Open 800cc class and third in the Stock 440cc class. That year he won the "Rookie of the Year" award.

Nathaniel has signed a contract with Ski-Doo, FXR Industries and Spy Optics. He was also promoted to the Pro class level for 2006. The 2006 season was a big step from Semi Pro to Pro level in the Provincial series. Being the youngest in this category he demonstrated that he was fast enough to compete at this level by winning the first Stock race. Nathaniel ended his season finishing third in the Stock 440cc class and second in the Open 600cc, a remarkable accomplishment for the 16-year-

old. Now 20, Nathaniel wants to "reach the highest level of competition which the sport has to offer. That means competing at the CMRC Canadian Nationals in the 250 (MX1) class, in the AMA National classes in USA and in the WPSA National series across Canada and USA. I want to make a career of racing until I feel that I have reached my utmost potential. I obviously would want to win some championships or have important victories, and I also want to secure financial contracts with the motocross factories. As long as I am racing I want to be a role model for Aboriginal youth and an ambassador for the Aboriginal peoples of Canada and the U.S. And, of course, I want to continue my education through college and on to university."

[radio's most active]

OUR PICK



Artist—Jodie Leslie
Album—Resonant Frequency
Song—Dys'fun'ction
Written by—Jodie Leslie, Wes Caswell, Andrew Gingrich
Label—JoBug Records

Dys'fun'ction an upbeat song

We can take life by the roots at hand and embrace all that it is and learn from our faults and let downs or we can let it tear us apart and weaken us from the inside out. Jodie Leslie has grabbed all the emotions and experiences that come with life and love and has created a beautiful song. Dys'fun'ction is an 'upbeat song about a humorous look at the games we play' quoted from the album "Resonant Frequency" by Alberta songstress Jodie Leslie, Wes Caswell and Andrew Gingrich.

The upbeat and catchy strums of the guitar reassure the listener that it's ok to have fun while learning about all that life has to offer. The bass guitar, cello and shaker bring it all together and blend perfectly with Jodie's beautiful voice.

For more information on Jodie and to purchase her album go to: www.jodieleslie.com

Review by Angela Pearson

ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Mike Gouchie	I Don't Miss Missin' You	Shattered Glass
McKinley Matters	Prairie Winds	Seventh Day
Tommy J Mueller	You	Changes Everything
JJ Lavallee	No More Reason To Hide	Carry On
Inez f. Jason Burnstick	Sto:lo Strong	Sing Soul Girl
Pura Fe	Follow Your Heart's Desire	Follow Your Heart's Desire
Mitch Daigneault	I'll Never Forget (What's Her Name)	Driving All Night
Digging Roots	We Are	We Are
Jacques & The Shakey Boys	God And The Devil	Lines Bumps And Rails
Eric & Winston Wuttunee	I've Got A Girl	Family Songs And Memories
Cheryl Powder	Crazy Together	Can't Wait To Fly
Teagan Littlechief	One Woman	Single Release
Lucien Spence	No More	Single Release
Diezel	We're All Here	Single Release
Indigenous	Make A Change	Broken Lands
Billy Joe Green	Los Sin Dios (Those Without God)	First Law Of The Land, If Borken Return...
Chris Barker Band	Six String Highway	Six String Highway
John Dietrich	Another Place, Another Time	John Dietrich
Mark Jacob f. Ashley Maclsaac	Long Journey Home	Vindictive
Art Napoleon	Creejun Stomp	Siskabush Tales

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National Energy Board



Office national de l'énergie

Appendix III

National Energy Board

Notice of Public Hearing on the NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL) - Groundbirch Pipeline Project

The National Energy Board (the Board) has scheduled an oral public hearing on an application from NGTL under the *National Energy Board Act* to construct and operate the proposed Groundbirch Pipeline Project. The proceeding will also consider matters required by the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. Copies of the application are available for viewing on the Board's Internet site at www.neb-one.gc.ca (click on "Regulatory Documents" then "Quick Links" and scroll down to the application), at NGTL's office (450 1st S.W., Calgary); the Board's library (1st floor, 444 Seventh Ave. S.W., Calgary); City of Grande Prairie (City Hall, 10205 – 98 Street, Grande Prairie); Grande Prairie Public Library (9910 – 99 Avenue, Grande Prairie); Dawson Creek City Hall (10105 – 12A Street, Dawson Creek, B.C.); and Dawson Creek Public Library (1001 McKellar Avenue, Dawson Creek, B.C.).

Project Details

The Groundbirch Pipeline is a proposed extension of the TransCanada Alberta System that will connect sweet natural gas mainly from the Montney formation in northeast British Columbia (about 37 kilometres (km) west-northwest of Dawson Creek) to an interconnection on the Gordondale Lateral near the downstream side of the existing Gordondale Meter station in northwest Alberta (approximately 11 km east of Bay Tree, Alberta). The proposed Groundbirch Pipeline is designed to be approximately 77 km in length, have an outside diameter of 914 millimetres (NPS 36 inch) and to transport approximately 46.9 10⁶m³ (1656 million cubic feet) per day.

The Groundbirch Pipeline Project would also include related physical works including meter stations and other associated and miscellaneous works. Approximately 7.5 km of the proposed pipeline is projected to be contiguous with existing pipeline rights-of-way (ROW) and approximately 69.5 km would require new non-contiguous ROW.

Some temporary infrastructure would be required for construction and some new access roads would be needed for pipeline operations. In addition, the Groundbirch Pipeline Project would require several water course crossings. Construction is proposed to begin in July 2010.

Oral Public Hearing

The oral hearing will start at 9:00 a.m., local time, 17 November 2009 at a location to be determined. The hearing will obtain the evidence and views of interested persons on the application. Any person interested in participating in the oral hearing should consult the Board's Hearing Order GH-1-2009 for further background and instructions. The deadline for filing applications to intervene is 13 July 2009 and for providing comments on the application is 9 September 2009. Federal or provincial government authorities may participate by filing a letter of comment, providing an oral statement, seeking intervenor status or by filing a declaration that they will be a Government Participant by 13 July 2009. Further details can be found in the Hearing Order.

Information for Intervenor

Any person wishing to intervene in the hearing must file an application to intervene by noon, Calgary time, 13 July 2009 with the Secretary of the Board and serve a copy on NGTL and its counsel at each of the following addresses:

Mr. Mark Manning
TransCanada PipeLines Limited
450 1st Street S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1
Facsimile 403-920-2347

Mr. Joel Forrest
TransCanada PipeLines Limited
450 1st Street S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1
Facsimile 403-920-2354

Mr. Shawn H.T. Denstedt
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt
Suite 2500, TransCanada Tower
450 1st Street S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1
Facsimile 403-260-6924

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

Letters of Comment and Oral Statements

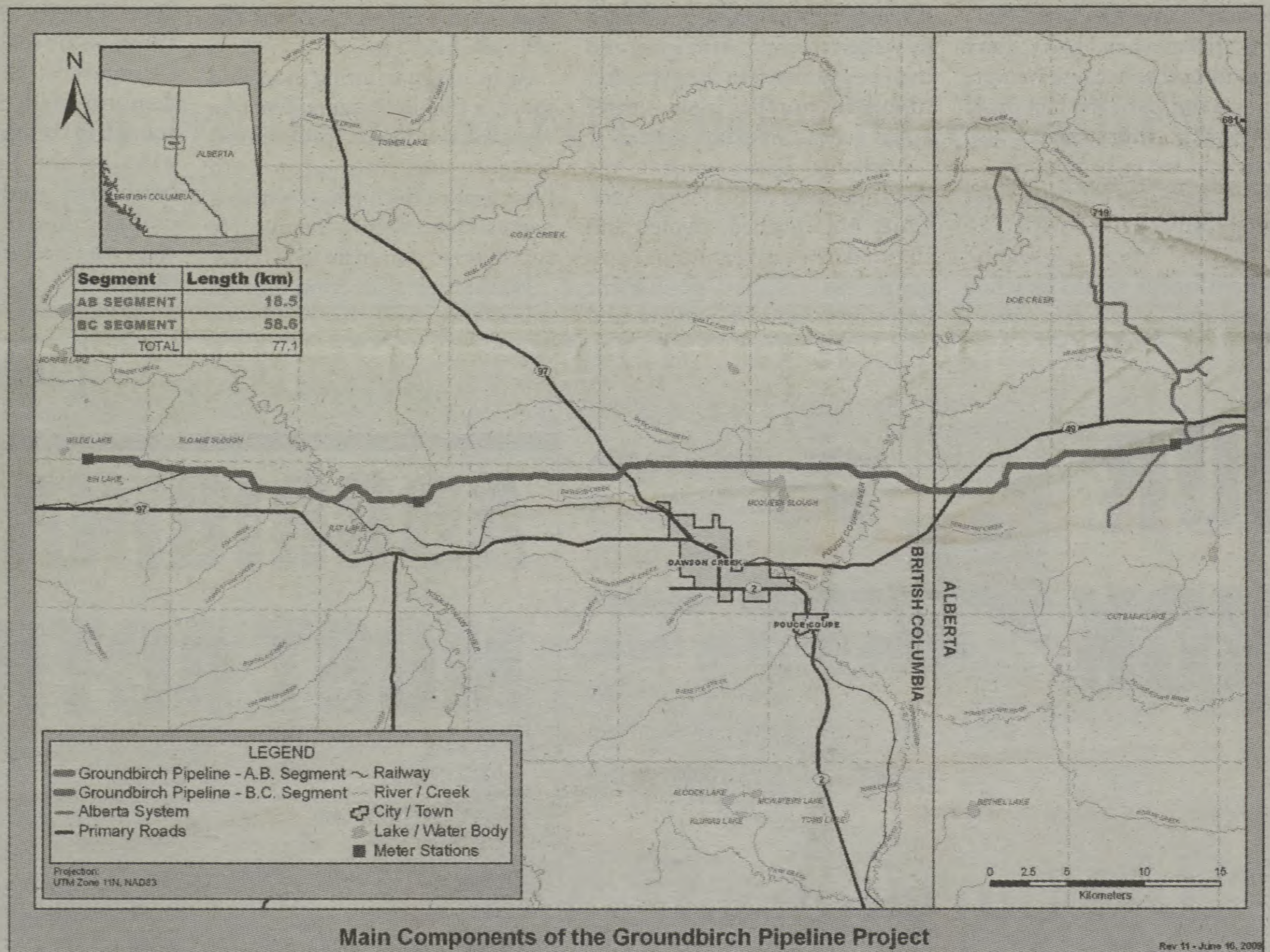
Any person wishing only to comment on the application should file a letter of comment with the Secretary of the Board and send a copy to NGTL and its counsel by noon, Calgary time 9 September 2009.

The Board will also set aside time, at the commencement of the hearing, to hear comments on the application. Anyone wishing to make an oral statement must file a letter with the Board requesting the opportunity to make an oral statement and send a copy to NGTL and its counsel by noon, Calgary time, 9 September 2009. You may use forms on the Board's Internet site to file your letter of comment or request to make an oral statement. Go to www.neb-one.gc.ca. Under the "Regulatory Documents" heading, click "Submit Documents Electronically" – then "Letter of Comment" or "Request to Make an Oral Statement."

Information on Hearing Procedures

You may access the Hearing Order through the Board's Internet site at www.neb-one.gc.ca (click on "Regulatory Documents" then "Quick Links", scroll down to the Groundbirch Pipeline application, then "Hearing Order" at the top of the screen). You may obtain information on the procedures for this hearing or on the *National Energy Board Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1995*, as amended (Rules), governing all hearings (available in English and French) by writing to the Secretary of the Board, or by contacting Louise Niro, Regulatory Officer, at 403-299-3987 or at 1-800-899-1265. You may also go to the Board's Internet site and click on "Acts and Regulations" to access the Board's Rules and other legislation.

Claudine Dutil-Berry
Secretary of the Board
National Energy Board
444 Seventh Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8
Facsimile 403-292-5503



Main Components of the Groundbirch Pipeline Project

aptn

National News

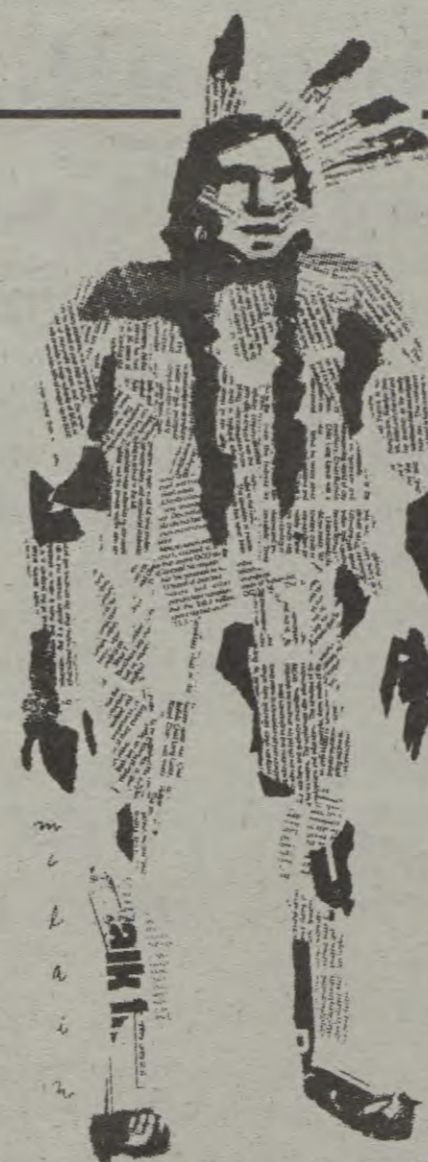
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Send your entry by October 2nd, 2009 to:
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ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

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

WEBSITE <http://www.ammsa.com/snap>

Submissions deadline: October 2nd, 2009

"Double-dipping" allowed in Alberta with court decision

By Shari Narine
Windspeaker Writer

The Alberta Court of Appeal has struck two sections from the Métis Settlements Act (MSA) effectively allowing Métis who are registered under the Indian Act to maintain their membership in their settlement. But the decision could have farther reaching consequences.

On June 26, the Alberta Court of Appeal ruled in *Cunningham v. Alberta* (Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development) that sections 75 and 90 of the province's MSA were unconstitutional. Sect. 75 prohibits anyone with Indian status from obtaining Métis settlement membership, while Sect. 90 calls for the removal of membership from the settlement of individuals who have voluntarily registered as Indians under the Indian Act.

The appeal was heard on March 4. It was the result of a 2007 ruling by the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta that upheld the claim of the Registrar of Métis Settlements that Barbara Cunningham, John Kenneth Cunningham, Lawrent Cunningham, Ralph Cunningham, Lynn Noskey, Gordon Cunningham, Roger Cunningham and Ray Stuart,

who had all been removed from the Peavine Métis Settlement's membership roll in May 2001 under Sect. 90, could not be reinstated because of Sect. 75. The Cunningham family had gained Indian status under the Indian Act in March 2001.

The ruling presents a number of issues, said lawyer Jean Teillet, who writes an annual Métis law summary.

Striking out Sect. 75 means that an individual registered under the Indian Act would be eligible to apply for Métis settlement membership, while striking out Sect. 90 prevents the automatic termination of membership upon voluntary registration for Indian status under the Indian Act.

More specifically, the ruling reinstates the Cunningham family to the Peavine membership list as well as provides them with Métis settlement membership benefits retroactive to the date they lost their standing.

Gerald Cunningham, president of the Métis Settlements General Council, said the council's legal department was studying the decision and would brief the council and present options at the council's assembly meeting in late July.

Alberta is the only province in which Métis have a land base and

the MSCG is the only legislated Métis government in Canada. There are eight settlements, and benefits vary between settlements and may include free housing and education training programs.

"The biggest benefit is that we have a land base with a lot of good hunting and fishing in our communities," said Cunningham.

The Peavine Cunningham members applied for Indian status in order to receive health care benefits.

"If benefits were the same for all across the board then people would register according to their cultural affiliation and not where they would get the best benefits at any given time," pointed out Teillet. She noted that "double-dipping" could take place now with both registered Indian status and Métis settlement membership allowed.

But on a general level, the decision "is a bit problematic," said Teillet. "The decision is based on the court's analysis of what it means to be Métis."

Teillet said the court ruling is putting emphasis on blood quotient and not culture.

"The court is saying that in order to be Métis you have to prove your Indian roots contrary to what many Métis organizations say. Métis

organizations say members have to have Métis roots not Indian roots," said Teillet.

Being Métis is usually more a reference to culture and people who are descendants of settlers and Indian women. Métis doesn't normally refer to the Cree woman, who married a non-Indian in 1985, lost her status, and has children by him.

"This is a Cree kid, not a Métis kid because there is culture that goes along with Métis and that is not being recognized if you are only looking at blood quotient," said Teillet.

Patricia Valladao, spokesperson for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, said, "The Indian Act criteria has not changed as a result of the Peavine decision."

However, the Supreme Court of Canada is in the process of making a decision on whether to hear amendments to the Indian Act. Sharon McIvor applied for leave to appeal a decision rendered by the British Columbia Court of Appeal in May. McIvor is challenging what she views as the discriminatory treatment of the descendants of Indian women who marry non-Indian men.

"It's too early to tell if the ruling in Alberta will have an effect on the (McIvor) case," said Valladao.

The ruling could have an impact on Métis associations

across the country, many of which will not provide membership to individuals who are registered under the Indian Act.

Greg Taylor, director of communications with the Métis National Council, said the council was studying the decision and was not prepared to comment at this time.

"Specifically right now it only really affects the settlements because it hasn't really gone any further (than Alberta)," said Taylor.

The provincial government has 60 days from the date of the decision to file a leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

"We'll be doing a thorough review of the judgment itself and rationale and then considering our options," said Marie Iwanow, spokesperson for Alberta's Aboriginal Relations. She said the Métis Settlements General Council will be consulted.

The Alberta Court of Appeal decision also allows a person registered as an Inuk for the purposes of a land claims settlement to apply for Métis settlement membership, and a person registered as an Inuk for the purpose of a land claims agreement cannot be automatically stricken from Métis settlement membership.

Location announced for the 2010 Aboriginal Achievement Awards

By Andrew Matte
Windspeaker Contributor

REGINA

The polished statues and national recognition must mean a lot to the recipients of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, but when an Aboriginal actor, hockey star, doctor or entrepreneur is acknowledged by the Aboriginal community with this award, it's the young people who remain the most important beneficiaries.

To some spectators, the gala show might be just one special evening featuring television cameras, applause and fancy clothes, but to young Métis, Inuit and First Nations people, the award show provides an introduction to a world free of unhealthy choices, organizers say.

"For one magnificent evening, the awards focus a spotlight on Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis achievement," said Roberta Jamieson, the CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. "And that light glows and reverberates throughout the year."

The foundation held a special gala at Hotel Saskatchewan recently to announce the location for next year's awards show and the opening of the nomination period for the award recipients.

The awards night will be broadcast on Global Television and APTN, and will be held at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina on March 26, 2010.

Now in its 17th year, the foundation awards those people who have excelled in one of a variety of categories and who demonstrate leadership in the communities. Most importantly, Jamieson said, they encourage others to follow in their award-worthy footsteps.

The awards are especially important at a time when the Aboriginal communities are growing and Indigenous people are now the fastest-growing demographic in Canada.

"Seeing our people just blossom and seeing what that means to our economies and seeing what that means to our country ... it allows Canada to blossom," Jamieson said.

She added that the foundation picked Regina to host the awards because of the province's large Aboriginal population and its reputation as a fine host to events that have nationwide interest.

CIBC Vice-President, Robert Bennett, said the bank's role as lead sponsor is important to the communities it serves.

"A lot of times we fail to recognize those who have done something for our community and our people," he told the

crowd. "Our challenge as Canadians is to allow all Canadians and youth to reach their full potential... These awards not only celebrate excellence within the Aboriginal community, they also encourage it."

Jamieson said the event kick-started a number of jobs at the foundation, including designing the set for the gala evening, organizing teams of past winners to help serve as judges, and encouraging nominations.

Nominations are open to anyone of any age of First Nations, Inuit or Métis heritage who demonstrates "outstanding career achievement." Nominees must also be Canadian or Canadian-born.

There are a number of categories, but the most high-profile are the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Special Youth Award for those aged 15 to 24. The youth award comes with a \$10,000 bursary.

There are also categories for the arts, business and commerce, culture, heritage and spirituality, education, environment and natural resources, health, law and justice, media and communications, politics, public service, sports and technology and trades.

Past recipients include artist Norval Morrisseau, singer-songwriters Robbie Robertson,



PHOTO: ANDREW MATTE

Roberta Jamieson, the CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, addresses an audience during the launch of the 2010 National Aboriginal Awards in Regina. The awards will be held March 2010 in the Saskatchewan capital.

Susan Aglukark and Buffy Sainte-Marie, NHL'er Jordin Tootoo, former NHL player Bryan Trottier, NHL coach Ted Nolan, former Assembly of First Nations Chief Georges Erasmus and actors Tom Jackson and Graham Greene.

Unique accommodation a stone's throw from Quebec City



The Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations features unique decor and furniture.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED

By Katherine McIntyre
Windspeaker Contributor

Wendake, Que.

A hotel shaped like an Iroquois longhouse with four star amenities isn't your standard country hotel. But just 15 minutes from downtown Quebec City, the Hôtel-Musée Premières Nations, the latest success story of the Huron-Wendat Nation, has recently opened.

"We started with plans for a museum to record our culture," explained 77-year-old Chief Max Gros Louis. "Then the idea grew to combine a hotel-museum for tourists, but being so close to Quebec City it had to be higher end to attract visitors."

The hotel is an astonishing site. The windowless exterior on the north side looks forbidding, but it is windowless for a reason. It was designed to resemble an Iroquois longhouse and a solid north side keeps out the cold in these days of energy conservation. †The longhouse symbolizes an important component of Huron-Wendat cultural history when families lived together under one roof.

It's a hotel that cannot be classified by tourist board ratings. Light fills the long entrance hall from cathedral sized south facing windows. Pale walls and a honey oak staircase accented with trendy metal trim adds to its clean airy feeling.

An over-sized dreamcatcher is suspended along the stairwell. Two paintings by Norval Morrisseau, Canada's famous Ojibway artist, and loaned by Chief Max Gros Louis to the establishment, hang at the entrance.

A winding hallway displays artefacts and paintings done by talented local artists. The 55 rooms each have a floor to ceiling window and a small balcony

overlooking the natural woodland setting of the St. Charles River. Rooms are decorated in forest colors and come with a cosy three-point Hudson Bay blanket on the bed. They contain a writing desk, small refrigerator and coffee maker, free high-speed Internet, comfortable chairs, a flat-screen plasma TV, and plenty of big towels in the bathroom. Dressing gowns come only in the suites, however.

Animal rights activists might be startled by a beaver skin cushion on the bed, but the fur trade was part of the history of the Huron-Wendat Nation.

In the light and airy dining room, tables are set with white tablecloths and upscale cutlery. Chef Martin Gagne, formerly of the Manoir St-Castin, translates 'products of the farm, hunt and fish, flavoured with herbs of the northern forests' into top of the line cuisine.

Hunt might include bison, rabbit or deer. Herbs can be as familiar as fennel, sorrel, or unfamiliar as the labrador, black plum or lycoper uniflower.

Breakfast is either from a set menu that includes buckwheat crepes, cheese and fennel mousse, and eggs any style, or from a cold buffet featuring three kinds of granola, homemade muffins, fruit and a variety of exceptional local Quebec cheeses.

"The natural environment, the medicine garden and the hiking, biking and cross-country skiing trails around the hotel are part of the experience," said tourist consultant Jacques Drapeau. A two-minute walk takes guests past brightly painted houses with their distinctive curved roofs and winding outdoor staircases to the Village of Wendake.

Since 1697, the Huron-Wendat Nation has owned and lived in this Quebecois village, now a national Historic Site of

Canada. Notre-Dame-de-Lorette Chapel is located in the village and dates back to the time when Wendake was a French mission.

Tsawenhohi House was built for Grand Chief Nicolas Vincent in 1820 and is dedicated to preserving and teaching traditional crafts, and is another must see. If you need deer skin moccasins or a fringed jacket, a beaver fur hat or ash and leather handcrafted snowshoes, shops on the main street specialize in local crafts.

For a plunge into Aboriginal culture, a five-minute taxi drive takes you to Onhoua Cheteke, a re-created traditional Huron village with its own long house, Native cuisine and demonstration of Huron dances.

Guests of the hotel, however, should not miss the accompanying museum. Designed to resemble a Huron smokehouse, it houses treasures hidden for generations in the villagers' cupboards and attics. They create an accurate history of the Huron-Wendat tribe, since their time on the shores of Lake Huron, to their 17th century migration to the village of Wendake.

Displays include everything from bone sewing needles, wampum beads to tools of the hunt, a birchbark canoe and finely beaded moccasins. Overhead a very sophisticated interactive video portrays four seasons on the land.

"With 65 businesses on the reserve, the Hotel-Musée will be the king pin of our tourist development," said Chief Gros Louis. "It is unique, four star and the only combined hotel museum in Canada; maybe in the world."

Hôtel-Musée Premières First Nations is located at 5, place de la Rencontre, Wendake Québec. Call 1-866-551-9222 for information.

Windspeaker news briefs

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

received a \$1 million donation from TD Bank Financial Group July 4 to create an endowment that will provide a lasting legacy in business education for Aboriginal students. The gift will improve access and support for Aboriginal students pursuing a business education. The donation is the largest gift received in support of Aboriginal education at UBC.

The gift will be divided equally between two programs: The TD Bank Aboriginal Student Award will establish an endowment to create financial awards for Aboriginal students across UBC Vancouver and UBC Okanagan who are enrolled in business education or majoring in economics. The Ch'nook Business Education Initiative will provide funding for Aboriginal students who are enrolled in the Ch'nook Scholars and Advanced Management programs. It will also provide mentorship opportunities for TD employees as a means of supporting these students in their pursuit of business education.

"With our annual endowment, we'll be able to assist hundreds of students over the years by removing barriers to Aboriginal education," says Raymond Chun, senior vice president TD Canada Trust. "We support UBC's vision to help develop tomorrow's Aboriginal business leaders and hope our contribution will inspire future generations to realize their hopes and dreams."

The gift will help further the goals set out in UBC's Aboriginal Strategic Plan, which has identified the university's commitment to Aboriginal education, respect for Aboriginal knowledge and cultures, and a resolve to build upon the strengths of the university to more fully address the needs of Aboriginal and Indigenous communities.

TEN FORMER RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS

have been appointed as advisers to the federal government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl unveiled the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee on July 15 in Ottawa. The survivors are to provide "advice and guidance" and to help gather the stories about the residential school experience

Members of the advisory group come from seven First Nations. Two are Inuit and one is Métis. They are Barney Williams Jr., an elder from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in Meares Island, B.C.; Doris Young, an educator of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation in The Pas, Man.; Eugene Arcand of the Muskeg Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan; Gordon Williams, a member of the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba; John Banksland, an Inuit elder living in Inuvik, N.W.T.; John Morrisseau, a Métis leader from Grand Rapids, Man.; Lottie May Johnson, a Mi'kmaw healer from Eskasoni, N.S.; Raymond Arcand, former chief of the Alexander First Nation in Alberta; Rebekah Uqi Williams, an Inuk and former Nunavut politician living in Iqaluit; Terri Brown, former president of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

THE FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

Indian Nations says it has "serious concerns" about Saskatchewan new law entitled, The Trespass to Property Act. "There is no indication that any attempt was made to consult directly with the First Nations of Saskatchewan," said Vice-chief Delbert Wapass. "The courts have stated repeatedly that the Crown has a fiduciary obligation and a legal duty to consult with and accommodate First Nations on any matters that may have the potential to adversely affect our treaty rights."

While the legislation reads that it will not apply to persons engaged in lawful hunting, fishing and trapping activities, access issues related to First Nations exercising those rights remain. In addition, the First Nations' rights to gather medicines and access to sacred and other sites of significance have the potential to be impacted. There are additional concerns that the legislation will have far reaching effects on access rights to Crown lands that will be sold and/or leased, as well as to individual rights to expression and assembly. Under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, all citizens have the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly which encompasses the right to petition and demonstrate.

"This is troubling for First Nations, especially since resource projects continually occur within First Nations' territories without proper and meaningful consultation," said Wapass. "Many times First Nations have no recourse other than public protests which could result in penalties under the Act."

Island park receives a royal name

An agreement was reached July 13 between British Columbia and the Che:k'tles7et'h' Nation to rename Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park, providing it with a dual name that celebrates the historic ownership of the land by the Che:k'tles7et'h' people.

"This agreement is intended to foster a strong foundation for the collaborative management of all of the parks and protected areas within the traditional territories of the Che:k'tles7et'h' peoples," said B.C.'s Environment Minister Barry Penner. "It provides certainty, acknowledgement, and recognition of the local First Nation and the connection they have to these special areas."

It is hoped that the official recognition of the Che:k'tles7et'h' will lead to greater involvement in the planning for park use and their potential to create economic wealth from within the park borders.

The new park name is Muqin/Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park. The word Muqin means "The Queen" in the Nuuchah-

nulth language, and was the name of the current Che:k'tles7et'h' head chief's mother. The renaming ceremony fell on the date of her birthday.

New park signs incorporating the language and cultural symbols of the Che:k'tles7et'h' Nation will be displayed within the park. The park also falls within the boundaries of the Quatsino First Nation, who supported the renaming plan.

This area is spiritually significant to the First Nations, and has long served as the traditional hunting and fishing grounds for the Che:k'tles7et'h' peoples.

"We are pleased to announce that today we have completed 15 years of protocol development with the province of British Columbia," said Che:k'tles7et'h' Tyee (head hereditary chief) Francis Gillette. "Since the park was created, the hereditary leadership of the Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nation has been attempting to reconcile the honor of the Crown with the Che:k'tles7et'h' Peoples."

"The Maa-nulth treaty

between B.C., Canada and First Nations, including the Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations, recognizes the important role that they play in continuing their culture and connection to the land," said Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister George Abbott. "This agreement exemplifies the provisions of the treaty for parks management and planning - working cooperatively regarding management of areas that are important to all British Columbians."

Muqin/Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park is the second-largest protected area on Vancouver Island. The park has one of the most unique landscapes on Vancouver Island as it largely escaped the impacts of the last ice age, offering everything from inter-tidal marine life to a sub-alpine mountain environment. It is home to a variety of rare plant species and unique geologic formations, providing unparalleled opportunities for scientific study.

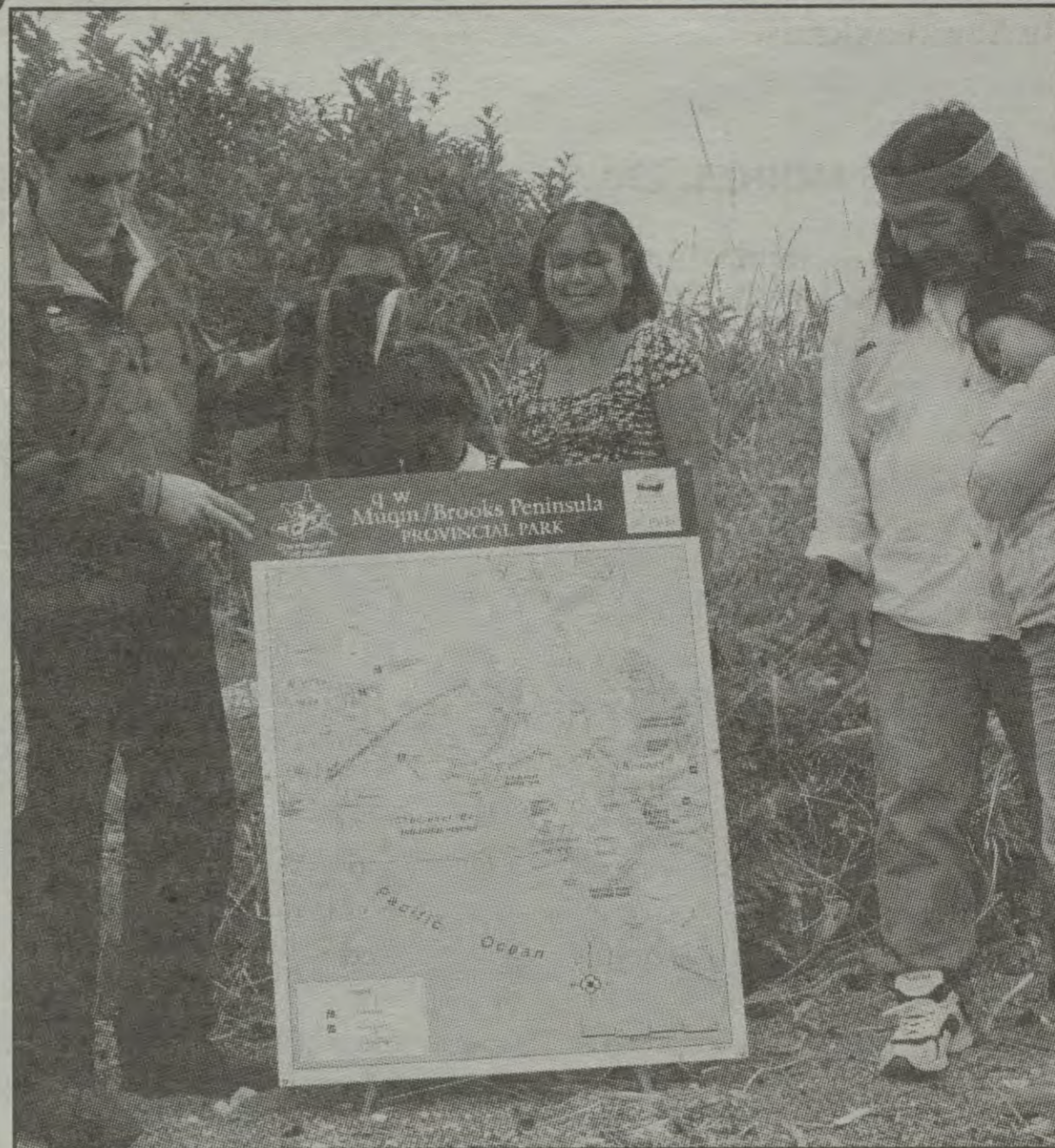


PHOTO: HA-SHILTH-SA NEWSPAPER

B.C. Environment Minister Barry Penner (left) flew to a quiet bay in the heart of the newly named Muqin/Brooks Peninsula Provincial Park to unveil signage and join the Che:k'tles7et'h' in their celebration of the official recognition of their historic ownership of the territory. Tyee Ha'wilt Francis Gillette (in the cedar headband) looks on.



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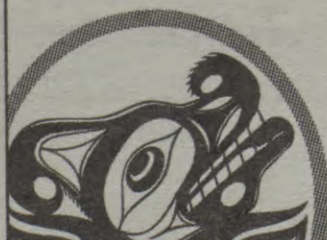
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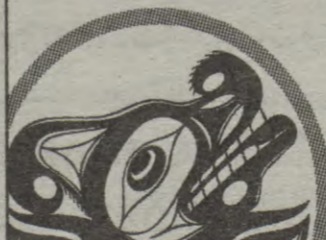


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 FOR GENERATIONS

Summer break rejuvenates passion for the game

By Sam Laskaris
Raven's Eye Writer

DES MOINES, IOWA

A year ago it seemed nothing was going right for Vince Perkins. But this season, the 27-year-old Victoria native has his baseball career back on track. And if he keeps performing like he has of late, it might not be long before Perkins, who has Ojibway ancestry from his mother's side, is toiling in the major leagues.

Perkins is currently starring at the Triple A level with the Iowa Cubs. The Iowa squad is the top affiliate for the Chicago Cubs.

Perkins, a 6-foot-5, 240-pound relief pitcher, had appeared in 23 games for the Iowa squad as of July 12. He had a perfect 5-0 record in those matches and an impressive 2.49 earned-run average.

Perkins has primarily been called upon to enter games in either the sixth, seventh or eighth inning with the Iowa squad, which competes in the 16-team Pacific Coast League.

"That's a spot that if you're doing your job you can pick up some wins," Perkins said.

But he admits to being somewhat surprised he has an undefeated record.

"I guess I'm a little surprised," he said. "You'd think over the course of a season you'd lose once or twice."

A year ago Perkins, who has been playing minor pro ball since 2001, lost his desire to play for awhile.

Perkins attended a major league spring training camp with the Chicago White Sox in March of 2008, but he did not fare well there, in part because he was still struggling after having had elbow surgery in 2006.

Shortly after he was given his release by the White Sox, Perkins ended up suiting up for the New Jersey-based Camden Riversharks of the independent Atlantic League. But he spent less than a month there with that franchise.

"I just wasn't feeling well," he said. "I'm not sure if I wanted to keep playing. And I decided I had had enough and wanted to take the summer off."

Perkins said he was aware that his decision to leave the sport could prove costly.

(Please see Majors on page 25)



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE IOWA CUBS

Vince Perkins has been impressing management with the Chicago Cubs' top affiliate the Iowa Cubs and hopes to take a step up to the majors in the near future.



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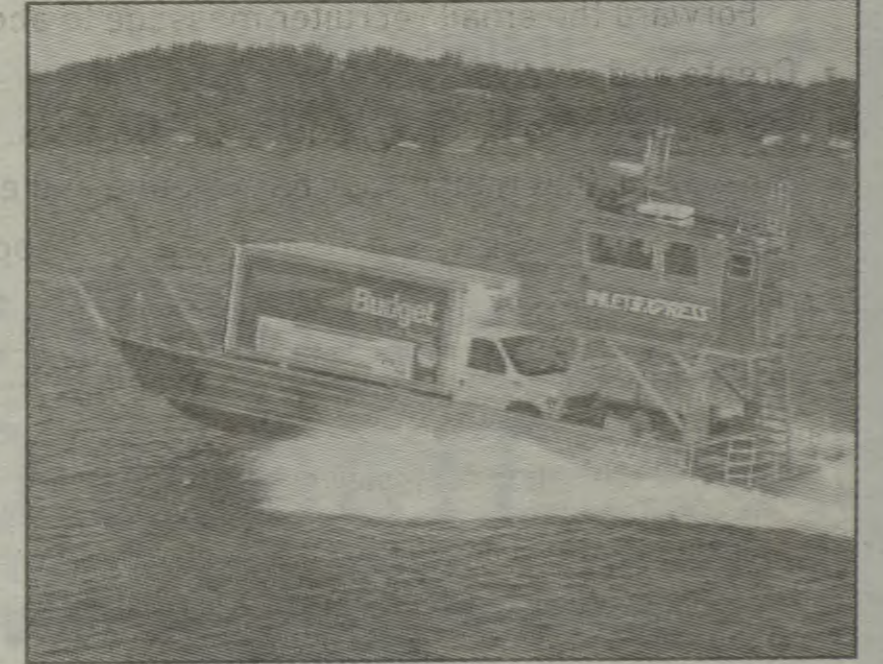
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Social issues complicate health care access

By Isha Thompson
Raven's Eye Writer

Aboriginal people in B.C. need access to information about HIV and AIDS, and they need the basics of food, water and shelter in order to reduce the rate that they are contracting the fatal disease.

Dr. Perry Kendall, the B.C. provincial health officer, released a report in June, entitled *Pathways to Health and Healing: 2nd Report of Health and Well-being of Aboriginal People in British Columbia*. It revealed an increase in the number of Aboriginal people afflicted with HIV and AIDS, up from the previous 2001 numbers.

In 2002, the rate of HIV/AIDS in Aboriginal people was 1.5 per 10,000 people. The rate for non-Aboriginals was 0.2 per 10,000.

In 2007, the rate for Aboriginals increased to 1.9 in 10,000 and the rate for non-Aboriginals remained at 0.2 per 10,000.

Local experts in the field of HIV and AIDS are convinced that because the basic needs of Aboriginal people are not being met, it enables the virus to spread within the community.

Michelle George is the executive director of Healing

Our Spirit: BC Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Society. She said HIV and AIDS within the Aboriginal community is very complex and that there are currently not enough resources to address all of the issues contributing to higher rates of infection.

"There are large pockets of people who are marginalized [and] who aren't getting the information soon enough," said George, who has worked in the HIV/AIDS field for 14 years.

George said leaders in B.C. must be compassionate to the barriers that many Aboriginal people face on a daily basis. She said many Aboriginals in B.C. live in secluded communities, which can make getting information more difficult.

"If you have ever lived in a small First Nations community, it is your grandma or your aunty who works in the health centre. How do you tell your grandmother or your aunt that you need condoms or you want information about HIV?" said George. She explained that there are layers of challenges that must be dealt with in order for the spread of HIV and AIDS to slow down.

Healing Our Spirit is located in Vancouver. The centre facilitates many programs that help mentor Aboriginal people

who may be at risk of contracting HIV, and educates community members on preventative steps to protect themselves from the virus that attacks the immune system.

According to the government of British Columbia's Web site, there were 198 bands counted as of September 2006. George said that there is currently not enough staff to reach such a large population spread out across the province.

George is hopeful that Kendall's report will produce some positive results in helping to raise awareness around the issue.

Kendall said Aboriginal health is an area that will be evaluated every five years.

"Aboriginal people are a group with special status in Canada, and they are a group facing very specific health challenges."

Kendall said the report is beneficial because it profiles best practices, plus highlights where there are opportunities for improvement.

Irene Day is the director of operations at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and she has a few suggestions on improvements that she feels must be made in order to help those who are infected take care of themselves

and decrease that chance of infecting others.

Day explained that antiretroviral medication is available for people living with HIV/AIDS, but there are a variety of other factors that keep some from taking their medication on a regular basis.

"If I am a drug addict and I can't think of anything else than getting my next fix, why would I think about taking my antiretroviral medications? It wouldn't be my priority," said Day. Addiction is but one reason why the virus continues to spread, she said. There are others.

She used the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, one of the poorest postal codes in Canada, as an example. With so many people dealing with other threatening conditions like no housing and no food, it is an incredible challenge for those infected with HIV to make their health a priority.

"For some medications you have to take food with it. Well, if you don't have any food or if you have to take medication on a regular timeframe and you have no place to live, it makes it difficult," explained Day.

"We know that there are people that don't have housing. We know there are people who

are addicted. We know there are people who aren't getting regular meals, so all of these factors play a role in being able to address your HIV status," she said.

Day works alongside Dr. Julio Montaner who is the director of the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. Montaner has more than 20 years experience in HIV/AIDS research and was a part of the medical team that discovered the effectiveness of combining antiretroviral drugs, a therapy called Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART).

One of the missions of the centre is to increase access to HAART. Day said this is something they can't do alone.

Both Day and George agree that there is a stigma attached to HIV/AIDS that is slowing down the progress to significantly reduce the fatalities of HIV/AIDS.

"If we work in collaboration to address issues such as homelessness, mental illness, and addiction, people who medically need to be on HAART will be able to access HAART, and we can significantly reduce the incidents of HIV," said Day. "We could change the way the disease impacts people."

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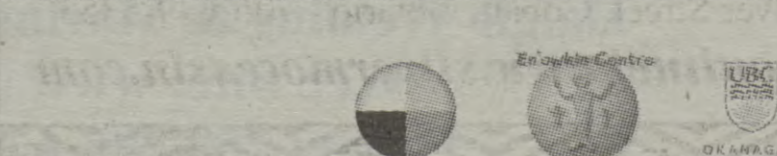
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Phone: 250.807.8639
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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

Exchange program builds skills and esteem

By Jennifer Hansford
Birchbark Writer

Aboriginal youth in Ontario are gaining new skills and great work experience as they participate in a summer employment program offered by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

The Aboriginal Youth Work Exchange Program began in 2006 as a pilot program and is now in its fourth year, said Karen Boulton, communications officer for the MNR's youth programs. The program began with 20 positions and "It was such a success that it was expanded to 60 positions," said Boulton.

The program gives the participants the opportunity to gain a variety of skills, which may differ depending on what position they occupy (fire assistants, Ontario Parks, forestry) and location they are in, and include technical skills, customer service, office skills, and radio operation.

Boulton said the youth are assisted in gaining career development skills, resume writing, leadership and communication skills, natural resource management skills, and team-work skills.

Currently there are more than 35 Aboriginal communities involved with the program, but it is also available to youth who live off-reserve.

The program is for eight weeks and spans three consecutive summers. This allows the youth to complete two placements with the MNR and one within an Aboriginal community or organization.

"That is why it's called an exchange," said Boulton. "So they can gain certain skills at the MNR and share those skills with their own communities or organizations. Additionally, the skills that they acquire in their own communities or with an Aboriginal organization can then be brought back to the MNR."

This allows them to have a well-rounded experience over the course of the three years.

The MNR does get a chance to hear what the program has done for the youth, who are or have been involved in it.

"We get a lot of feedback from the youth and their communities," said Boulton. Positive statements offered by the participants such as "It's a good start for anyone looking to get into this field of work; Fish and Wildlife, Conservation Officer, that kind of thing," and "I think my grandpa would have been proud of me," are small testaments to the impact this kind of program has on the youth.

The program accepts young people who are between the ages 15 and 24 (up to 29 for persons with a disability.) They have to be able to legally work in Ontario



PHOTO: KAREN BOULTON

The Aboriginal Youth Work Exchange Program began in 2006 as pilot program and is now in its fourth year.

and they have to be able to self-identify as being Aboriginal.

The application and hiring process for the program is often a partnership between an

Aboriginal community and the MNR, so youth who are interested in becoming involved in the program should speak with officials within their own

communities, who will in turn speak with the local MNR office. Those who are not part of an Aboriginal community can speak with their local MNR office.

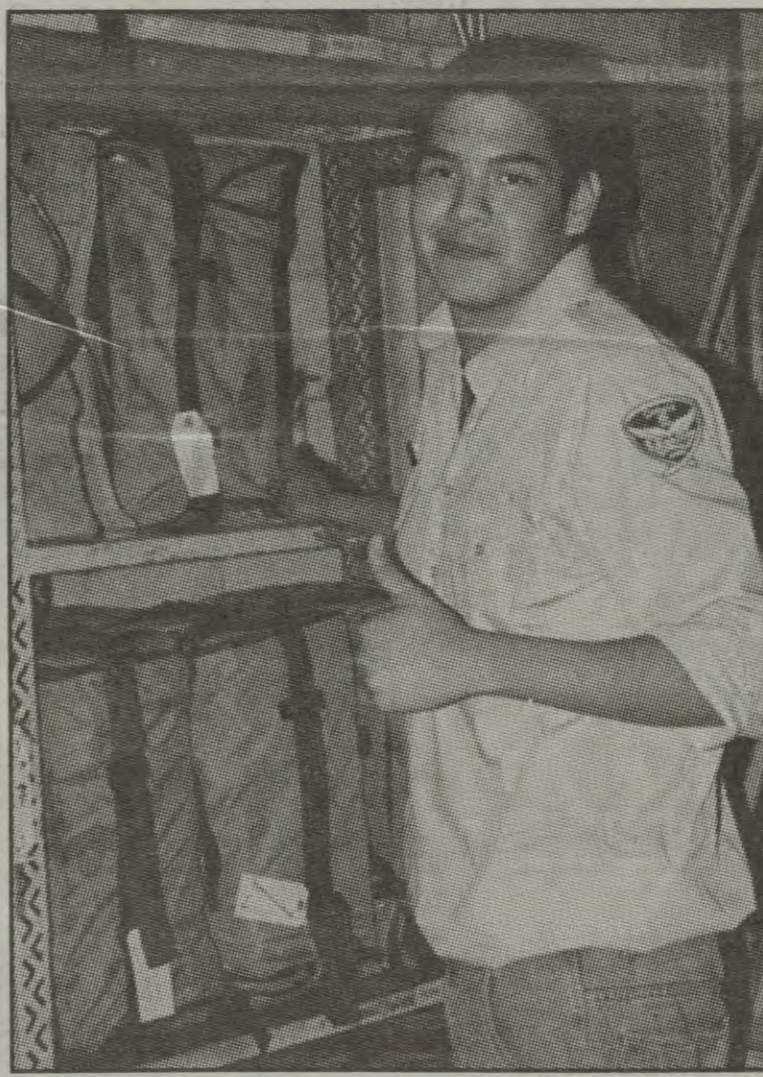


PHOTO: KAREN BOULTON

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Years of collaboration blossom into MOU

By Jennifer Ashawasegai
Windspeaker Writer

SARNIA

Walpole Island First Nation announced the establishment of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the University of Western Ontario on June 25 making its five-year research relationship formal.

Years of collaborative health research initiated by the community has been a positive experience for all, and it began with concerns about the effects of pollutants in the St. Clair River.

Walpole Island is situated at the mouth of the river, downstream from Sarnia. The area around the city has been dubbed 'chemical valley' because of pollution released from 62 industrial facilities operating in the area. Just a few of those include Ontario Power Generation's Lambton Generating Station, Imperial Oil's Sarnia Refinery and Shell Canada's Sarnia Manufacturing Centre. Those facilities made it on the list of top 10 worst air polluters in Ontario in 2005.

Across the river on the American side are more polluters, including two large coal-fired power plants.

Dean Jacobs is the director of the Walpole Island First Nation's Heritage Centre. He said the industries have been in the area for the past 60 years, and understandably, community

members were worried about the pollution effects because they drink the water and swim in it, as well as eat the fish.

Jacobs said the community approached Professor Jack Bend at the University of Western Ontario (department of Pathology) in 2004 to carry out a feasibility study for epidemiological assessment of the impact of toxic pollutants, specifically mercury.

He said Walpole Island citizens wanted a health study to find the causes of cancer in the community.

But a full-blown assessment could not be carried out because such a study requires a population of about 20,000 to be statistically significant. So the community partnered up with Attawapiskat in northern Ontario to round out the numbers required for the three-part study.

Jacobs said the first phase of the study required "blood sample collections from community volunteer participants and they were tested for consistent contaminants of organic pollutants."

Unfortunately, past relationships with health researchers working in Aboriginal communities has provided reason for caution and concern.

Often it wasn't known what was done with collected samples, or even if the data collected from First Nations people would be used for the intended study.

For instance, research went awry on the West Coast in the early 1980s, when a researcher collected blood samples from the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples for an arthritis study. The blood was later taken south of the border to the U.S. and then to Britain where the researcher built a reputation for the genetic research he did on the blood. The community never benefited from any research conducted on the blood, and never received results from the original arthritis story.

But that is not the case for residents of Walpole Island First Nation. The data collected in collaboration with the University of Western Ontario is owned by the community.

The property of data collection is covered under the community and university's ethical research guidelines.

"It's important that research is community driven," Jacobs said. "We are the principal investigators, not just the subjects."

Research proposals go through both the community and university. The approvals process is a fairly stringent one. Jacobs insists the community is always kept in the loop about research findings and data collection.

"We have been able to comfort our First Nation that raw data stays in the community, plus they have a say in how it's published."

Data is saved for 10 years, with participants' permission.

"The data is saved for that length of time in case there are new science techniques that we can use to test for the same original purpose," said Jacobs.

Professor Bend has assurances of his own. He does acknowledge there has been unethical research conducted in the country's past, and that it's against the law. There are guidelines that govern the use of secondary data.

"Information from one study cannot be used for another," he said. "There are very rigorous standards." Western has a Research Ethics Board with strict guidelines.

There are also now similar community research guidelines for Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations as a result of their experience with unethical study practises.

And on Manitoulin Island in Ontario, that nation established their Guidelines for Ethical Aboriginal Research (GEAR), which has been in place for the past four years.

Program Support Worker Lenore Manitowabi said the First Nations on Manitoulin Island wanted protocols in place to ensure community ownership over data collection, plus review of the studies. And they must be told how the studies will be used.

"We've always been researched," said Manitowabi, "but it can be very valuable, and research can be done in a way that is beneficial to the community."

She admits the committee for

GEAR can be a little tougher for researchers to pitch their proposals to, because community members sitting on the committee are closer to the issues. So far, the committee has approved several research proposals in areas such as health, traditional medicine practices and youth.

Jacobs agrees communities can benefit from research. For Walpole Island, the Heritage Centre director said the tables have been turned, and they make sure research benefits the community.

"Research should be celebrated and we will find ways to incorporate knowledge into the classroom. We protect our research, but it is to be shared and cheered."

As for their pollution testing at Walpole Island, the blood tests scanned for mercury, and out of the 50 participants, none were at risk, Jacobs said.

Hair samples were also collected.

"The hair samples measured cortisol over the past three months [and] revealed a significantly higher level [for Walpole residents] than a community near London."

Participants will be re-tested in a few more months "since cortisol indicates stress, and our community suffers from 'chemophobia.' We don't know if the higher cortisol levels are because we're stressed about the chemicals from the pollution or the economic downturn."

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Windspeaker sports briefs

By Sam Laskaris

Americans hire Nolan

He's back.

Ted Nolan, an Ojibway from the Garden River First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., has returned to the professional hockey ranks, and this time around his departure from the pros was nowhere near as long as before.

Nolan, a former National Hockey League player and coach, was hired by the American Hockey League's Rochester Americans on July 1 to be their vice-president of hockey operations.

Nolan will be working for another Aboriginal in Rochester. The Americans are owned by Curt Styres, a successful businessman from Six Nations, Ont.

Nolan was not allowed to work for another pro hockey organization this past year. After serving two out of the three years of his head coaching contract, Nolan was fired by the NHL's New York Islanders in the summer of '08. But a clause in his contract prevented him from signing with another organization until July 1 of this year, the same day his deal with the Rochester franchise was announced.

The Americans are the top affiliate club of the NHL's Florida Panthers.

Nolan is undoubtedly thrilled he didn't have to wait for years for another pro hockey job, like he had done earlier in his career.

After spending one season as an assistant coach for the NHL's Hartford Whalers during the 1994-95 season, Nolan was hired to be the head coach of the Buffalo Sabres.

He spent the following two seasons with the Sabres and captured the Jack Adams Award, annually presented to the NHL's top coach, following the '96-97 campaign.

Nolan left the Sabres' organization that off-season after a dispute with management.

He didn't return to the NHL until 2006 when he was hired by the Islanders.

In his new position, Nolan has plenty of work to do. Though the Americans are one of the AHL's most storied franchises, they are coming off a disappointing campaign.

Rochester had a 29-43-0-8 season, the second worst mark in the 29-team league.

Former Olympian dies

Roseanne Allen, a former Aboriginal Olympian, died on June 20 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. She was 55.

Allen, a cross-country skier, was one of the first Aboriginal women to represent Canada at the Winter Olympics.

She represented the country at the 1972 Winter Olympics in Sapporo, Japan. Her teammates included two other Aboriginal skiers, sisters Shirley and Sharon Firth.

They were believed to be the first Aboriginals to represent Canada in the Winter Olympics. Allen, who was born in Aklavik, N.W.T., had been living in Sault Ste. Marie since 1988.

During the '72 Olympics, Allen, who was a member of the Gwich'in First Nation, helped the Canadian women's team to a 10th place finish in its three-person five-kilometre race.

Allen had also made history four years earlier in 1968. When she was just 13, she became the youngest person to win a gold medal in the five-kilometre race at the Canadian junior championships.

Aboriginal team at worlds

An Aboriginal women's lacrosse squad had some impressive showings at its world debut.

The Iroquois Confederacy club, which was dubbed Haudenosaunee, competed at the women's World Cup tournament.

The event, which ran June 17 to 27, was staged in Prague, Czech Republic.

This marked the eighth time a women's World Cup championship had been staged. A tournament high of 16 squads participated in this year's event.

But since this was the first time they had competed in the championship, the Haudenosaunee team, comprised of players from Canada and the United States, did not get to face traditional powers in the sport.

The Haudenosaunee club was not able to see how it stacks up against teams from Canada, the United States or Australia.

Instead, for its round-robin matches the Haudenosaunee team was placed in a pool with Austria and Denmark, two other nations that were making their World Cup debut.

The Haudenosaunee side blanked Austria 20-0 in its contest and also handily downed Denmark 16-2.

The Haudenosaunee team then played four playoff games at the tournament. It ended up with an official 11th-place finish after beating New Zealand 18-6 in its final match.

In an earlier playoff match, the Haudenosaunee club downed Netherlands 16-2.

As for its two playoff losses, the Haudenosaunee team was beaten 12-6 by Ireland and 12-7 by the host Czech Republic entry.

The U.S. won the gold medal, edging Australia 8-7 in the championship match. Canada also returned home with a medal, beating England 14-9 in the bronze battle.

[sports]

NHL shines the spotlight on next Nolan



PHOTO: JAMES EGAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Jordan Nolan has matured over the last two years and is putting his heart and soul into his hockey career.

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Writer

SAULT STE. MARIE

Yet another member of the Nolan family is hoping to make it to the National Hockey League.

Jordan Nolan, the son of former NHL hockey player and coach Ted Nolan, turned 20 on June 23, and received a spectacular belated birthday gift four days later when he was selected by the Los Angeles Kings in the NHL Entry Draft.

Nolan, an Ojibway from the Garden River First Nation near Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., was chosen in the seventh round and was the 186th pick over-all.

Nolan had been eligible to be chosen in each of the previous two NHL drafts as well, but did not get selected. And since there was no guarantee he'd be taken this year either, he opted not to attend the draft, which was staged in Montreal.

Instead, he found out the Kings had selected him by following the draft online.

"I was pretty thrilled when I saw my name pop up," he said.

Nolan said his game improved significantly this past season and he realizes he had not done enough to get drafted the past two years.

"I just matured over the last couple of years," he said. "And I realized how serious I have to take hockey."

Nolan is now hoping to become the third member of his family to graduate to the NHL.

His father Ted appeared in 78 NHL games during his seven-year pro playing career, which concluded in 1986.

Ted Nolan, however, is better known for being an NHL coach. In fact, he was awarded the Jack

Adams Award for being the league's best coach during the 1996-97 season when he was with the Buffalo Sabres.

The elder Nolan also had NHL coaching stints with the Hartford Whalers and New York Islanders.

Nolan's oldest son Brandon, who is now 26, also became a pro hockey player. He spent the majority of his first five pro years in the minors. But he played six games in the NHL with the Carolina Hurricanes during the 2007-08 season.

Brandon Nolan's playing days now appear to be over. It's unlikely he will return to the sport as he sat out this past season, still suffering the effects from a serious concussion he received a year earlier.

As for Jordan Nolan, he spent this past year with the Ontario Hockey League's Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

The club had a disappointing 19-45-2-2 mark and finished dead last in the 20-team league.

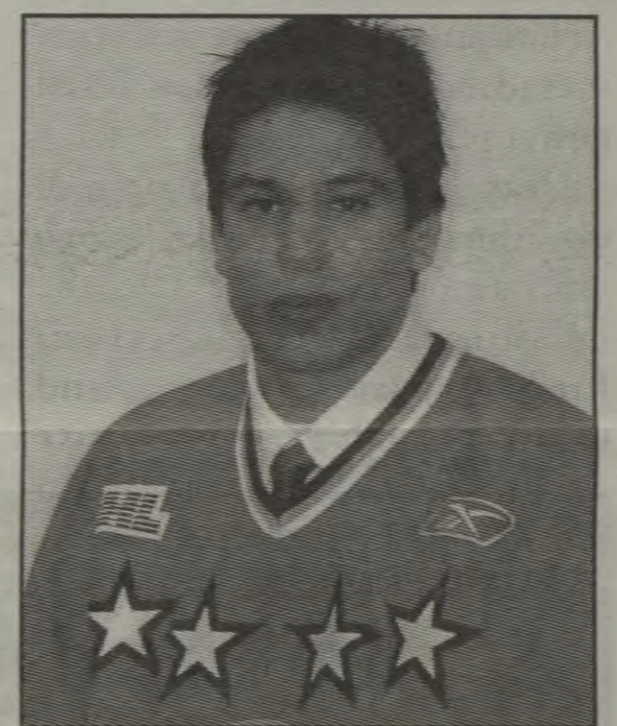
But Nolan really started to make a name for himself with the Greyhounds. He led the team in scoring with 43 points (16 goals, 27 assists) in 64 games. And he was an intimidating force as well, leading the Greyhounds in penalty minutes with 158.

"This year as a 19-year-old he started to show his talent," said Greyhounds' general manager Dave Torrie.

For Jordan Nolan, this past season was his fourth in the OHL, but first with Sault Ste. Marie. He toiled for the Pennsylvania-based Erie Otters during his rookie season. And he was a member of the Windsor Spitfires the next two years.

Torrie believes there are pros and cons in having a famous father.

"That might be part of the



Jordan Nolan drafted by the Los Angeles Kings

reason it's taken Jordan this long to establish himself," Torrie said, adding having a former NHL player and coach for a father has possibly opened up some doors for the younger Nolan. "In some ways you're under a bit more scrutiny."

Though he's been drafted by the Kings, Jordan Nolan is still uncertain what the coming season will bring.

If he really turns some heads at Los Angeles' training camp this September, he could conceivably play in the NHL.

But if the Kings do indeed offer him a contract, it's more likely he'll suit up for their American Hockey League affiliate, the New Hampshire-based Manchester Monarchs.

The younger Nolan is also eligible to return to the Greyhounds and suit up as an overage player.

"Time will tell," Torrie said. "That is certainly one of the options."

Torrie added he's had various discussions with Mike Futa, the Kings' co-director of amateur scouting, about their possible plans for Nolan.

"I don't think any decisions will be made until Jordan attends their fall camp," Torrie said.

Food, glorious (Aboriginal) food

By Isha Thompson
Raven's Eye Writer

VANCOUVER

Don't be surprised if you walk past a well-known college in B.C. and notice the aromas of fresh bannock, braised bison and smoked trout coming from the campus.

Vancouver Community College's (VCC) culinary program with a focus in Aboriginal cuisine is taking off into its second year, and local First Nations chefs say it is a big step towards keeping the tradition of Aboriginal cooking alive.

"My dream is that 10 years from now, nobody will need to ask what Aboriginal cuisine is," said Chef Ben Genaille, the instructor for the VCC Aboriginal culinary program.

With more than 28 years experience as a chef in Vancouver, Genaille explained that the 12-month program is meant to provide students with all of the essential skills of a professional chef, but with the unique knowledge of creating gourmet Aboriginal meals.

The program, which will begin its second year in August 2009, provides students with instruction on how to prepare traditional Aboriginal dishes, but with a modern flare.

"We used to cook our food over fires and we had no refrigeration," said Genaille about the circumstances of preparing meals long ago. The recipes today are

inspirations from typical ingredients Canadian Aboriginals once used, such as dandelion leaves, wild berries and bison.

Students spend the first eight months in the classroom and in the remaining four months, they put their new skills to the test in the Wild Salmon Restaurant on the VCC campus. Students cook and serve their meals to the public, as a type of practicum before they graduate and find employment.

Genaille said the immediate feedback from customers is the ideal way for students to learn.

Watching students learn to cook the food of their ancestors is one of the best parts of teaching, said Marlene Hale, a.k.a. Chef Maluh, who runs a catering business in Vancouver and offers cooking classes for all ages.

Originally born at Smithers, B.C. and part of the Wetsuweten First Nation, Hale is supportive of the Aboriginal culinary program at VCC and said it is a similar concept to the private classes she has recently offered Aboriginal youth who are typically not familiar with the food of their culture.

"They know foods of today like spaghetti, but they don't know Aboriginal food," said Hale. "I teach them and they are so happy they know what Aboriginal food is all about."

Many of Hale's dishes incorporate wild beans, salmon and wild game, foods she considers as signature ingredients

for Aboriginal cuisine.

One of her recipes that receives the most animated response from her young students is Indian ice cream, which is made with an assortment of berries.

"Oh my God, you should see their faces," said Hale, who thrives on the excitement of the Aboriginal youth she said are eager to learn how to make their own food.

Hale makes a point to always tell her young students to pass on the recipes they learn from her to future generations. She said this is the only way for the traditional food to carry on.

Former restaurateur Dolly (Watts) McRae has not only passed on her knowledge of Aboriginal cooking to her daughter, the mother-daughter team has created a brand.

McRae and her daughter Annie Watts ran Liliget Feast House, a gourmet First Nations restaurant, in Vancouver for 12 years. The eatery closed its doors in December 2006.

The two went on to compile a cookbook of their best recipes in *Where People Feast: An Indigenous People's Cookbook*, which was published in 2007.

After spending more than a decade in the restaurant industry, McRae is confident that students who graduate from the Aboriginal culinary program at VCC won't have a problem finding a job.

"When [staff] quit my restaurant they were immediately hired by another because they wanted to know our secrets," said



Students and staff of the Wild Salmon Restaurant get immediate response to the cuisine that comes from aspiring First Nations chefs.

McRae. She recalled that mainstream restaurants were hungry for new techniques and dishes that were unique to Aboriginal cooking.

McRae said she is now retired and rarely cooks professionally. However her fans often ask when she will open a new restaurant.

Genaille agrees that there is a demand for Aboriginal components within the food industry in B.C. He is hopeful many of his students will go on to work in the Aboriginal Pavilion for the Vancouver 2010 winter Olympics. He added some students could go on to become their own boss and create a new catering business or Aboriginal restaurant to fill the void.



Marlene Hale, a.k.a. Chef Maluh, serves up some fabulous food inspired by Indigenous traditional cooking.

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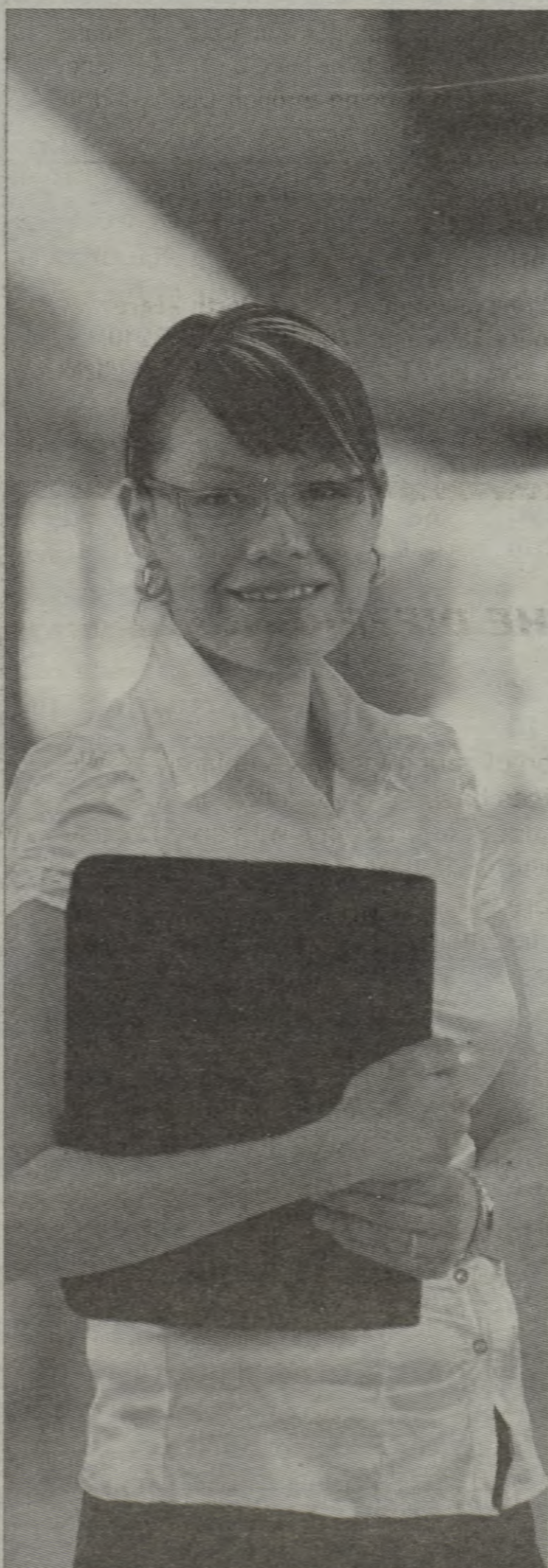
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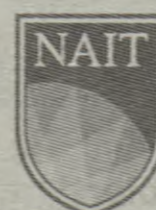
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CORPORATE AND INTERNATIONAL TRAINING



Major league hopeful almost ready to make jump

(Continued from Page 19)

"I knew one of the consequences might be I wouldn't get back," he said. "But I wanted to take the summer off. I just wasn't having a good time with it."

Perkins did take some time off. He drove with his wife from their home in Fort Myers, Florida to visit his family in Victoria.

But by later in the summer, Perkins had the urge to pitch once again. And he did so, joining the Illinois-based Joliet JackHammers, another independent franchise that competes in the Northern League.

Perkins' career started to go on the upswing again this past October when he was signed by the Chicago Cubs' organization. He started to turn some heads with some solid performances playing winter ball in the Dominican Republic.

He was also called upon to represent Canada at the World Baseball Classic in March. The Canadians were eliminated from further play after losing their first two opening-round matches.

"It was a lot of fun," said Perkins, who had also donned a national team uniform at the 2006 World Baseball Classic.

"Obviously the tournament didn't go as well as everybody wanted it to. But just to play with the best players from the country was a lot of fun."

Perkins returned to the Cubs' spring training after his national team stint. He impressed sufficiently and thought he'd be starting the season in Iowa.

But instead he was assigned to the Cubs' Double A affiliate in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Perkins stayed there for less than a month before he was promoted

to Iowa.

This marks the first season Perkins has participated in the Triple A ranks, which is just one step below the major leagues.

"The game is the same and hopefully it will be when I move up to the next level," he said.

Perkins would obviously love to get summoned to the major leagues, preferably as soon as possible.

"I haven't directly heard anything," he said, adding his agent has informed him Cubs' officials have been impressed with his '09 performances. "But I know they like my arm and I'm throwing the ball well."

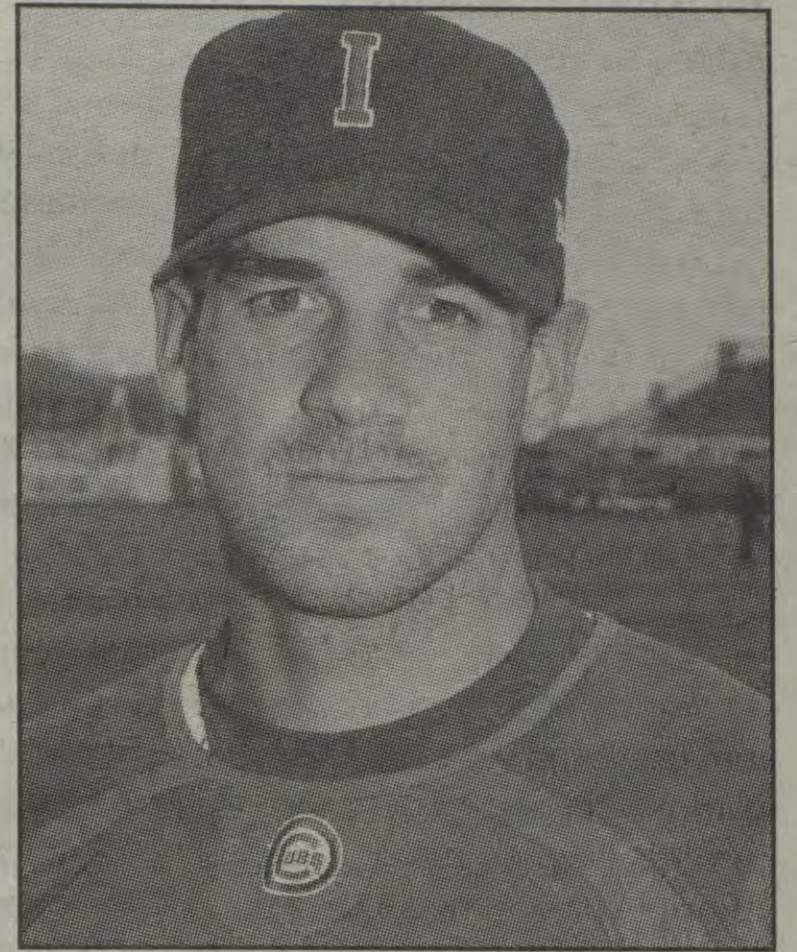
One day before the league's all-star break in mid-July, the Iowa Cubs were sporting a record of 46-43, good for second place in their four-squad American North division.

"We're doing alright but the team changes every week," Perkins said. "Guys are always getting called up, guys are always getting brought in and guys are always getting sent down. Triple A is tough as the team is always changing."

Perkins has been a pro ball player since 2001 when he signed with the Toronto Blue Jays' organization. He spent five seasons in the Jays' fold but never advanced past the Double A ranks.

"I like the Blue Jays,

always have," Perkins said. "I wouldn't mind one day getting back and playing with them. I'd love to play with them some day.



Vince Perkins

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE IOWA CUBS

But at the same time there's 29 other teams in the major leagues and I wouldn't mind playing for any of them."

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As the Associate Director for the Centre for Excellence for Aboriginal Learning you will:

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[footprints] Tommy Prince

Tommy Prince born and bred for War

By Dianne Meili

*Diary entry, February 2, 1944
Anzio, Italy*

"Well past dusk I awoke as I always did, clear-headed and ready to move. Everything was quiet, even the shelling stopped. I reached into my kit bag and felt the familiar bumps of the beads my mother had sewn onto the uppers of my moccasins — such beautiful footwear to do such ugly work.

"I tied the moosehide laces tightly, blackened my face with mud and slipped outside. † Almost trotting on the soft earth, I silently crossed the enemy line. Taking a deep breath, I chose the first tent on my right, and side-stepped inside.

"There they lay — three German soldiers — arms and legs sprawled as though they had dropped dead on the spot. But the rising and falling of their chests told me they would live another day to kill more of our guys if I didn't do something about them.

"I slit each of their throats before any of them knew what was happening. Tonight I decided to leave a bleached cow vertebrae I'd found in the field near the head of the youngest — my calling card. I slipped back outside, smiling to myself as I imagined the look on the faces of the enemy as they tried to puzzle this one out."

If the decorated war hero Thomas George Prince, pride of the Saulteaux Brokenhead Band of Scantbury, Man., had kept a diary, it might have read like the above. He was so silent and stealthy, the opposition began to think of him as an evil spirit employed by the allied forces.

When he wasn't slipping out on his own and spreading fear among the enemy, demoralizing their ranks, commanders sent Tommy on reconnaissance missions. They recognized his fieldcraft was unequalled as a

natural hunter who had grown up soundlessly tracking moose and deer with his father. They charged him with sneaking behind enemy lines to listen to the Germans and estimate their numbers.

As one of his peers, known as "Anonymous Alf", said of Tommy, "it's as if he was born and bred for one great task (to fight in the war). He was a quiet, ordinary man who had greatness thrust upon him by the force of one of the greatest conflicts in the history of Western civilization. He was a true son of his people and a great warrior."

From the start, Tommy had good genes. He was the great-great-grandson of the famous Chief Peguis, the Saulteaux chief who led his people to the southwestern shore of Lake Winnipeg in the late 1790s. The traveled from Ontario and Peguis looked after them like a father. Tommy was born in a canvas tent on a cold October day in 1915 and when he was only five his family moved to the Brokenhead Reservation.

† Along with his necessary hunting marksmanship, his skills were honed as a teenaged army cadet, where he perfected his ability to blast five bullets through a playing card-sized target at 100 metres.

At 24, Prince volunteered with the Royal Canadian Engineers when war broke out in Europe in 1939. By the next year he was training to be a paratrooper, and was one of nine out of a hundred men to pass the rigorous parachute school.

Another of his anonymous peers commented "it wasn't his ability to 'jump' that made him a good paratrooper. Prince had a natural instinct for the 'ground.' He would land, creep forward on his belly with the speed and agility of a snake and take advantage of small depressions in an otherwise flat field to conceal himself from view. He was a crack shot with a rifle and crafty as a wolf in the field."

Tommy's wolf-in-sheep's

clothing sense was at its best when he cool-headedly posed as an Italian farmer to repair a broken communications line. After he single-handedly ran a radio wire 1,500 metres into enemy territory to an abandoned farmhouse where he was relaying exact locations of the Germans, he realized the line had been cut when communication halted. Without pausing to think, he stripped off his uniform, dressed in farmer's clothes abandoned in the house, and emerged as an angry civilian, shaking his fists and brandishing his hoe. In plain view of the enemy line, he feigned working in his field and followed the radio line to where the break had occurred. Pretending to tie his shoe, he secretly spliced the line and continued to "work" in the field until finally returning to the house to relay further enemy positions — information that allowed allied forces to advance and force the enemy to withdraw.

More stories of Tommy's prowess and skill abound, including the time he and a fellow private opened fire on a group of Germans, killing many, and causing an observing French squadron leader to believe "at least 50 of you" must have pulled off the ambush.

Though Tommy earned 10 war medals, he told relatives he was never prouder than when King George VI pinned the Military Medal and the Silver Star on him, on behalf of President Roosevelt, and chatted with him about his wartime experiences. He was one of only three Canadians awarded the King George Military Medal.

After the war ended and Tommy took off his uniform, he returned to Brokenhead reserve to find his people struggling with another kind of war. Poor and dispirited, they were beaten down in the wake of government oppression, and Tommy knew if he didn't leave he would also succumb to despair.

In Winnipeg, he developed a successful cleaning service with a half-ton panel truck, only to leave



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Tommy Prince

the city when his people wanted him to lobby the government and even speak to King George, his old friend, about their plight. He left his business in the care of friends and took on a new role as Manitoba Indian Association chairman.

Sadly, he found the government slow to hear his complaints, even if he was a war hero, and he became frustrated at the lack of help offered his people. To make matters worse, he discovered his friends had ruined his truck when he returned to head up his cleaning business, and he was reduced to working in lumber camps and a concrete factory.

Drinking assuaged his broken dreams and soothed the pain in his knees; his lower joints were

ruined by warfield crawling, and later, the climbing of impossibly steep terrain during return-duty to Korea.

Estranged from his wife and family due to alcohol, Tommy finally ended his days alcohol-free in the Salvation Army Social Service Centre in Winnipeg.

Over 500 people listened to the "Death of a Warrior" lament that five Brokenhead Reservation men chanted for their hero. They watched as an officer hand the folded Canadian Flag from Tommy's coffin to Beverly, one of five of his children who were fostered out but managed to find their famous father after many years of searching.

Aboriginal Health Care Conference

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- Suicide Prevention Strategies
- Closing Keynote Speaker: **Tom Jackson**, singer, songwriter, producer, actor (star *North of 60*), recipient of various humanitarian awards

The conference will feature Exhibitor Booths and a Poster Display showcasing innovation and best practices in Aboriginal Health. For more information contact Joanne Murphy at 1-800-598-8002 ext. 1341 or jmurphy@oha.com or visit www.oha.com/conferences

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16th Annual
CANDO
National Conference
& Annual General Meeting

2009

16th ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM

"Controlling Our Destiny"

Enoch, Alberta • October 5 - 8, 2009

VISIT www.edo.ca FOR ALL CONFERENCE INFO & UPDATES

1-800-463-9300 • (780) 990-0303

HOST ORGANIZATION: ENOCH CREE NATION



CANDO 16th Annual National Conference, AGM & Tradeshow October 5 - 8, 2009 Marriott at River Cree Resort, Enoch, Alberta

NIEEF Golf Tournament

Co-Hosted by Mechet Charities Limited

Indian Lakes Golf Club

October 5, 2009



NIEEF
National Indigenous
Economic Education Fund

Icebreaker Reception

In conjunction with Peace Hills Trust

27th Annual Native Art Award Ceremony

October 6, 2009



CANDO
Council for the Advancement
of Native Development Officers

5th Annual National Youth Panel

October 7, 2009



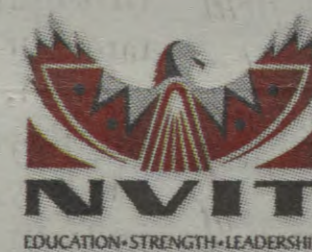
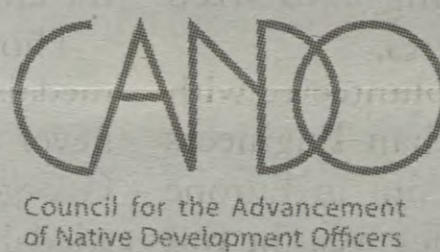
Economic Developer of the Year Awards

October 8, 2009



The purpose of the conference is to provide tools and resources to Economic Development Officers, members, stakeholders, Aboriginal business owners, government, academic, national corporations, investors, potential business partners and Aboriginal youth to explore new aspects in the growing profession of Aboriginal community economic development. The Conference will feature a variety of Keynote Speakers, Workshops, Short Snapper presentations, 5th National Youth Panel, Making a Difference Panel; and recognize CANDO's Economic Developer of the Year Award winners and TAED & PAED Certification Graduates.

In conjunction with the 2009 conference, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology (NVIT) and CANDO will be offering an accredited course to be taught in a hybrid model using both online and face to face instruction. ACED 180 – Project Management will examine project management from a First Nations perspective, using models based on First Nations community projects.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION / INFORMATION

Svitlana Konoval

Phone: 780-990-0303

Toll Free: 1-800-463-9300

Fax: 780-429-7487

E-mail: skonoval@edo.ca

Conference Information: www.edo.ca/conference/2009

CONFERENCE FEES

Early Bird Member Registration: \$525

CANDO Member Registration: \$595

Non-Member Registration: \$695

Education Stream: \$300

Students & Elders: \$150

Trade Show Exhibitor: \$1,250



Council for the Advancement
of Native Development Officers

BECOME A CERTIFIED ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The most powerful drivers of change are education and economic development. CANDO's Certified Economic Development Officers are the key motivators of change.

CANDO's Certification Opens Doors

CANDO's certification provides candidates with a broad understanding of economic development, community economic development, and the unique legal and cultural issues of Aboriginal economic development. This learning can be applied to a wide range of employment (or self employment) opportunities and provides recognition of the skills and abilities of those who complete the Process and earn the designation. Employers, post-secondary institutions, government, corporate Canada and Aboriginal leadership recognize it. Certification assures employers of expertise in the field of Aboriginal community economic development.

Take the Step to Your Future

CANDO's Certification is designed to meet the needs of EDO's working across Canada. It provides a knowledge base and skill set for all individuals currently working or wishing to work in the field of Aboriginal community economic development.

The Certification Process includes 2 levels of Certification

1. Technician Aboriginal Economic Developer (TAED)

- Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

- Transcript Review

2. Professional Aboriginal Economic Developer (PAED)



Join us at the upcoming 16th Annual CANDO National Conference & AGM to be held at the Marriott River Cree in Enoch, Alberta (west of Edmonton) as CANDO honors the 2009 TAED and PAED Graduates. For more information visit www.edo.ca

For more information and to obtain a copy of the application for the Certified Aboriginal Economic Developer Process, contact:

CANDO

9635-45 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 5Z8

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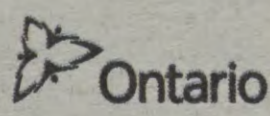


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Planet IndigenUs Mentorship Circle Project



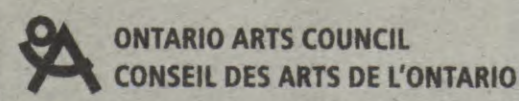
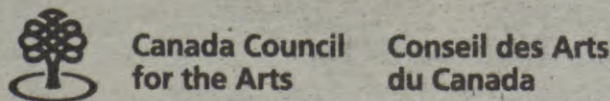
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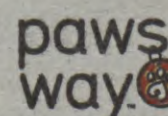
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