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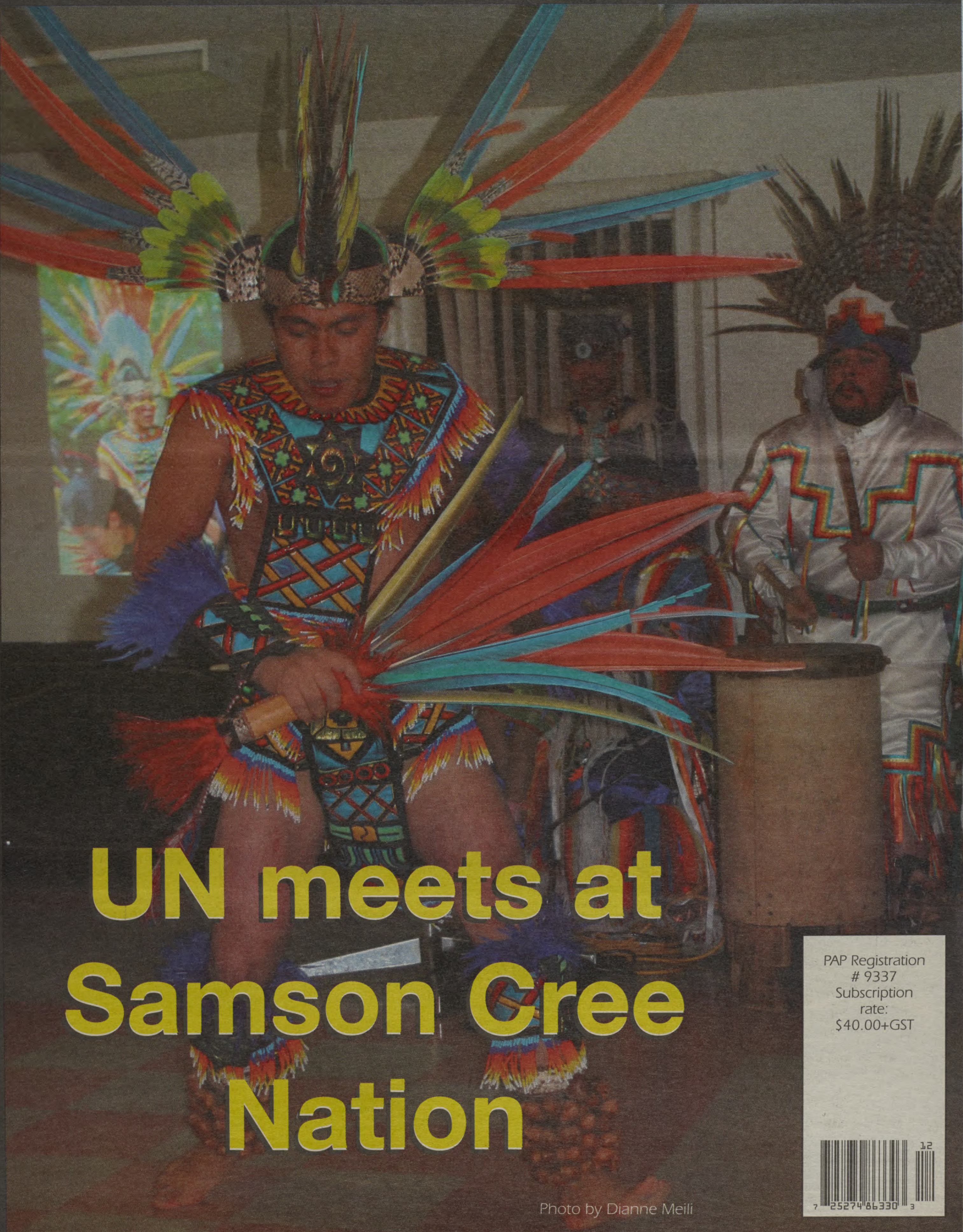
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Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

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Windspeaker • Established 1983

[celebration]

Inaugural Manito Ahbee festival a hit

Photos by Keven Kanten



Tracy Bone gives her award a kiss after winning Best Album Cover Design honors at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards in Winnipeg.



Traditional dancers took part in the grand finale of the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards, held Nov. 2 and 3 in Winnipeg. The awards were part of the Manito Ahbee festival, a new event held in the Manitoba capital on Nov. 2 to 5 to celebrate Aboriginal music and culture.



Hank Horton was one of the winners at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards, receiving Best Songwriter and Best Country CD honors.



Now or Never by REDDNATION was named best Rap/Hip Hop CD at the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards held in Winnipeg Nov. 2 and 3. On hand to receive the award were JR Saddleback, Ian Russel, Darren Brule and Keith Laboucan.



Sierra Noble (left) and Keith Secola (right) perform with Eagle & Hawk during the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards. Noble and Secola went home with one award each while Eagle & Hawk won two.

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Season's Greetings!

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and AFN Regional Chiefs, I hope you enjoy a happy and festive holiday season.

Please remember those less fortunate by taking the time to sign our online petition, *Make Poverty History: The First Nations Plan for Creating Opportunity*, at www.afn.ca.

May the Creator keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy throughout the New Year.

Phil Fontaine
National Chief

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Canada

Features

Brazeau: "too many chiefs" 8

The leader of one of the five federally-recognized national Aboriginal organizations has launched a campaign to scrap the Indian Act and get rid of some 500 chiefs. Patrick Brazeau, leader of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), made national headlines in November when he told the *Globe and Mail* there are "too many chiefs."

Return of the First Nations governance act? 8

Remember when former Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault decided to change the Indian Act in 2002, with the launch of the First Nations governance act (FNGA)? Ready or not, something similar to the FNGA will soon appear on the horizon and that's not the only thing that has, or soon will, anger First Nation leaders.

AMMSA announces some changes 10

Canada's largest and most respected publisher of Aboriginal news and information is heading in a new editorial direction. After 13 years, Debora Steel is stepping down at the Edmonton-based Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA).

Yellowbird scores big with first CD 12

Alberta's own Shane Yellowbird blasted onto the country music scene earlier this year with his debut CD, *Life is calling my name*, revealing his effortless singing abilities to the world and earning him three Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards during the Manito Ahbee festival held in Winnipeg.

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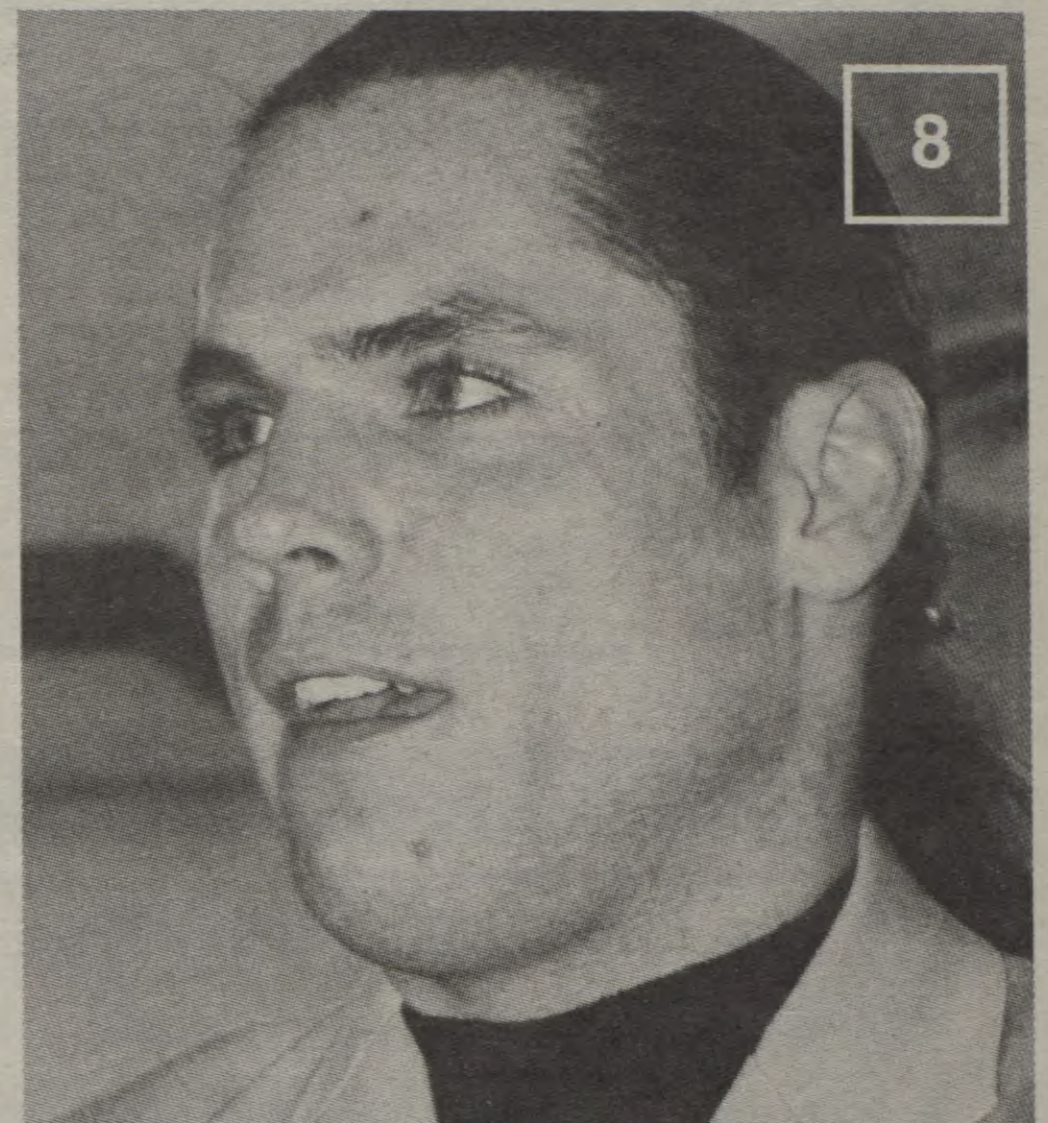
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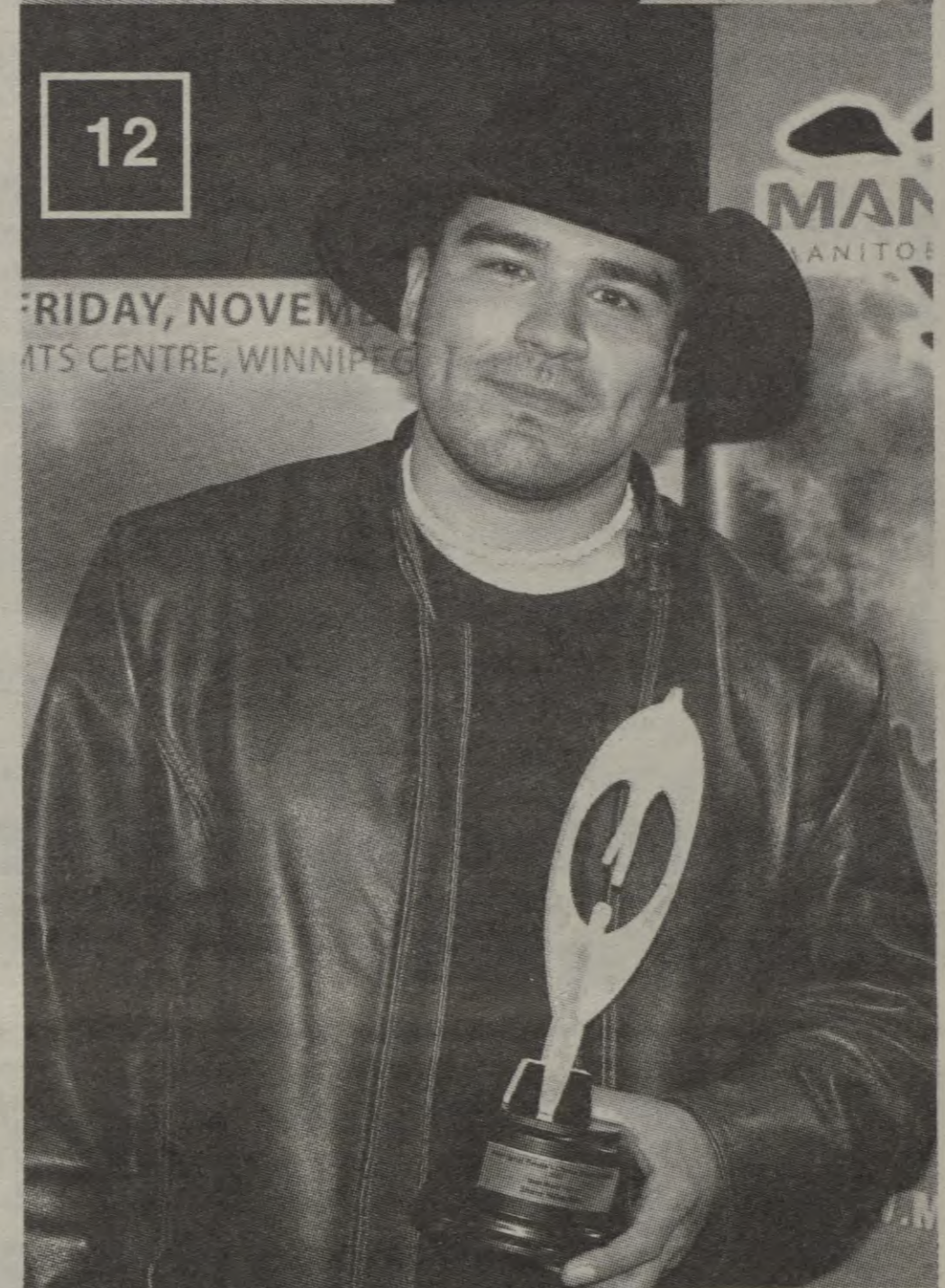
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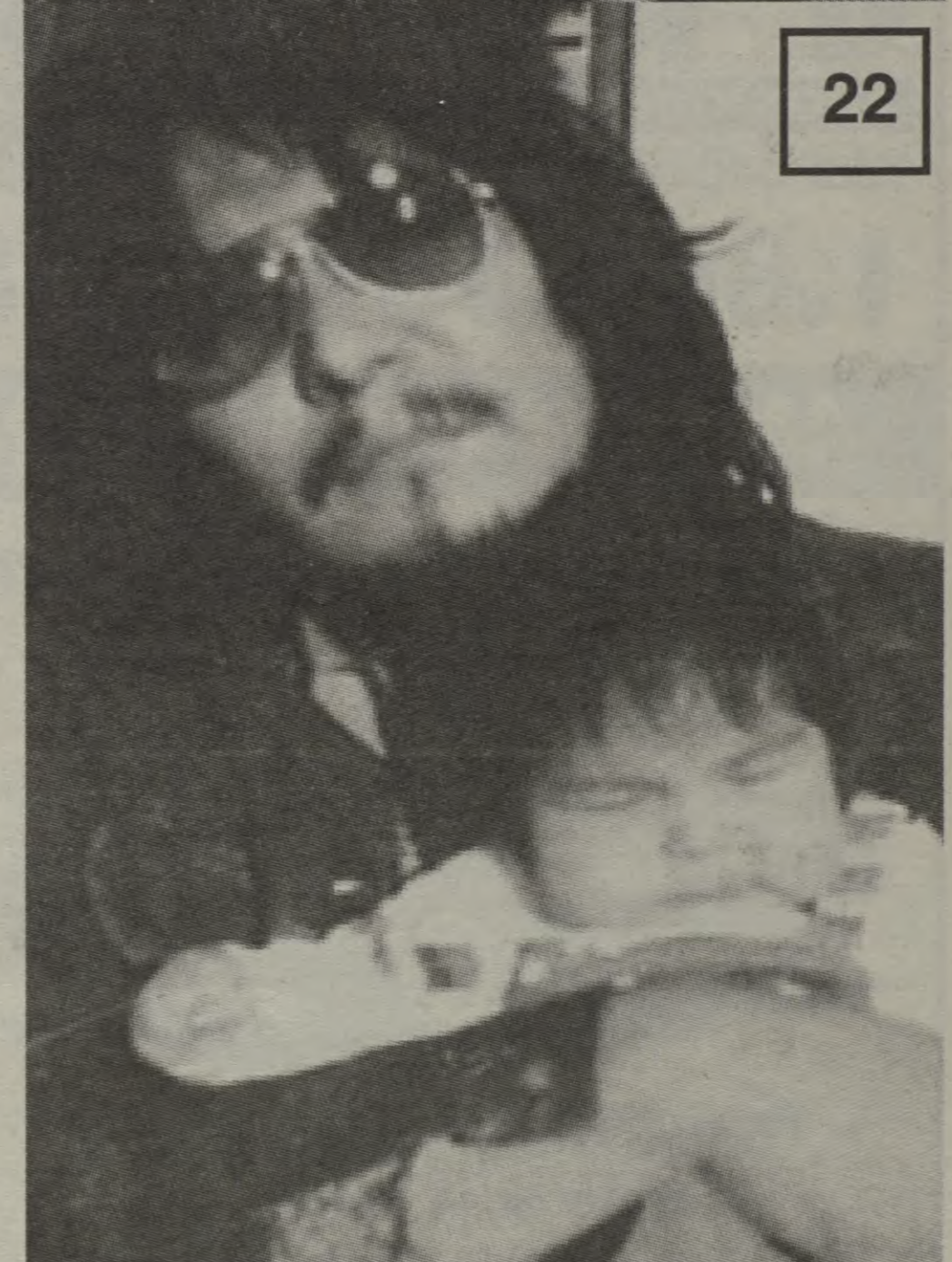
The passing of Ben Michel this past summer at the age of 53 has left a void in the leadership of the Innu Nation. For approximately 30 years, Michel advocated for Innu rights so his people could have control over their lives and their land.



8



12



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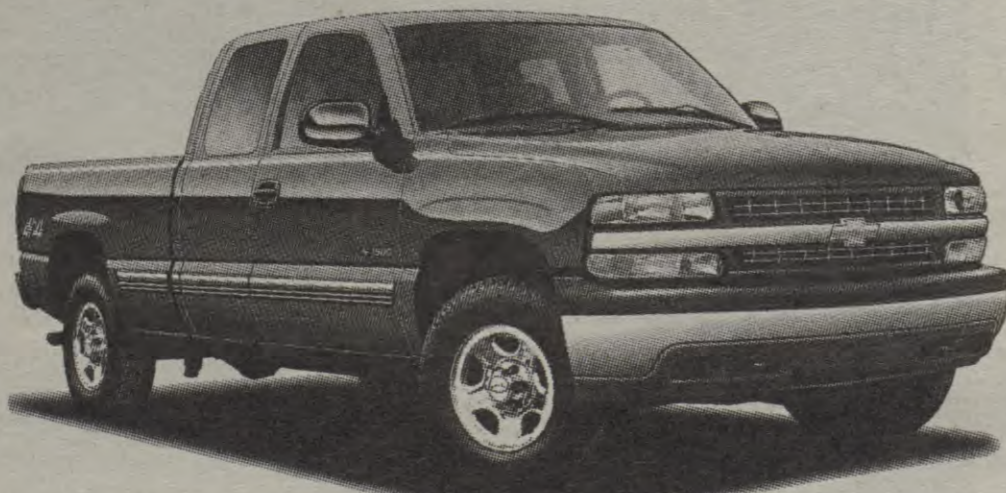


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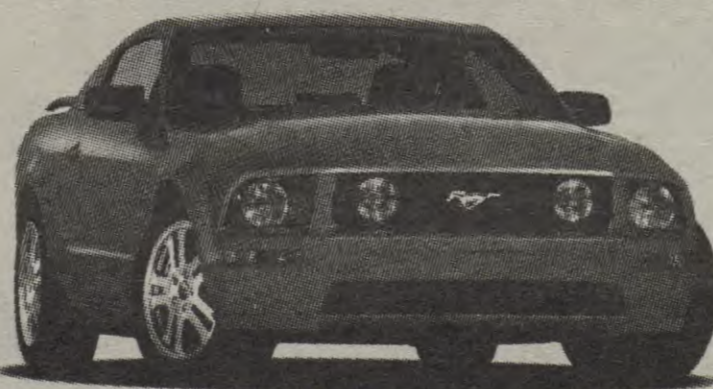
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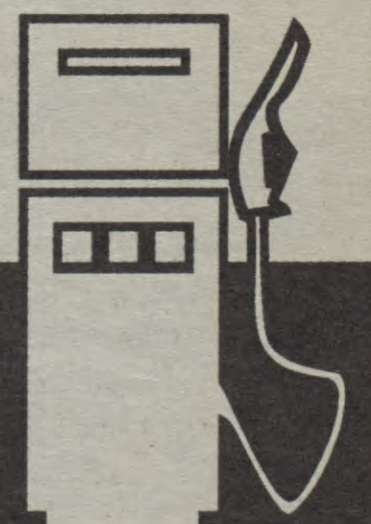
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Some fair questions

Patrick Brazeau, the leader of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), touched off a war of words this month that might not de-escalate any time soon.

"There's too many chiefs," he told the *Globe and Mail*, starting a somewhat disrespectful expression that ends "and not enough Indians."

We guess Brazeau can get away with that, because he's Aboriginal. And considering that First Nation chiefs and others have stunted debate on occasion by invoking the charge of racism against those who disagree with them, it's useful to have an Aboriginal person lead the charge against those chiefs.

But useful to whom?

Brazeau believes there's no need for the 600-plus well paid chiefs travelling the country and running up significant expenses each year. He said we could get it down to less than 100 and still get the job done. Maybe some of the money used to maintain more than 600 band councils could actually get to the people, he concluded. He might be right, but we wondered if Brazeau's appearance on the scene at this time wasn't just a little too convenient, what with a federal government in place that has a history of anti-Aboriginal attitudes and policies. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples endorsed the Conservative Party of Canada, led by former Reform Party member Stephen Harper, in the last election campaign. And CAP has since managed to secure a 20 per cent jump in its federal funding despite some very serious flaws in its organizational structure—and very serious financial corruption allegations in some of its provincial affiliates.

So it seemed fair to ask if his comments are part of a government strategy to undermine the chiefs and lay the groundwork for a new round of First Nations governance initiatives.

Not at all, he said. The ideas are all his. He's a young leader, who lives off reserve, and was a non-status Indian before getting his status back. He can speak for at least part of the grassroots population.

He said First Nation leaders have had more than a century to get something done about the poverty and misery of their communities and have clearly exhausted the patience of the grassroots. Many chiefs have ignored their off-reserve population, allowed discriminatory practices against women, and resisted transparency in their financial affairs, Brazeau said. Some might say they've brought trouble on themselves.

However, there is the argument that the government has had a role to play in maintaining that very destructive status quo. If the CAP leader could also turn his attention to the government's role in all of this, we'd let down our guard, but Brazeau seems to concentrate only on the share of the blame he assigns to the chiefs.

The response from the chiefs has been instructive. John Beaucage, the Union of Ontario Indians grand chief, normally a thoughtful, reasonable, high-road-taking leader, sent out a press release calling Brazeau "Minister Prentice's tame Indian."

Wow!

Chief Beaucage obviously believes Brazeau is launching the artillery attack that is intended to soften up the chiefs before the government infantry moves in. There is a long history of Aboriginal leaders being manipulated into doing things that benefit themselves in the short term, but in the long term are detrimental to their people. Some of those leaders were even chiefs. So he's right to be vigilant.

But it's interesting that we received the statement from Beaucage after we inquired if Assembly of First Nation (AFN) National Chief Phil Fontaine would have anything to say in reply to Brazeau's remarks. It looks to us like Fontaine delegated that one. We didn't get an explanation as to why that decision was made. We suspect there was a very carefully calculated political reason for it.

It may simply be that Chief Fontaine was preparing for his appearance before the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

Just days after Brazeau began his media blitz, Fontaine was scheduled to make the AFN case for the Kelowna initiative with the committee, rendered more influential and a possible ally as a result of the Harper government's minority status.

But Brazeau said the Kelowna agreement was just a plan to throw more money into a broken and malfunctioning system. We must note that his suggestion fits perfectly with the federal government's apparent plan to cut back on spending. It fits a little too perfectly, in our opinion.

—Windspeaker

Chief Lookinghorse speaks to the world

Dear Editor:

I, Chief Arvol Looking Horse, of the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nation, ask you to understand an Indigenous perspective on what has happened in America, what we call "Turtle Island."

My words seek to unite the global community through a message from our sacred ceremonies to unite spiritually, each in our own ways of beliefs in the Creator. We have been warned from ancient prophecies of these times we live in today, but have also been given a very important message about a solution to turn these terrible times around. To understand the depth of this message you must recognize the importance of sacred sites and realize the interconnectedness of what is happening today, in reflection of the continued massacres that are occurring on other lands and our own Americas. I have been learning about these important issues since the age of 12, upon receiving the sacred white buffalo calf pipe bundle and its teachings. Our people have striven to protect sacred sites from the beginning of time. These places have been violated for centuries and have brought us to the predicament that we are in at the global level. Look around you. Our mother earth is very ill from these violations, and we are on the brink of destroying the possibility of a healthy and nurturing survival for generations to come, our children's children. Our ancestors have been trying to protect our sacred site called the Sacred Black Hills in South Dakota, "heart of everything that is," from continued violations. Our ancestors never saw a satellite view of this site, but now that those pictures are available, we see that it is in the shape of a heart and, when fast-forwarded, it looks like a heart pumping. The Dine have been protecting Big Mountain, calling it the liver, and we are suffering and going to suffer more from the extraction of the coal from there and the poison processes used in doing so. The Aborigines have warned of the contaminating effects of global warming on the coral reefs, which they see as Mother Earth's blood purifier. The Indigenous people of the rainforest relay that the rainforest are the lungs of the planet and need protection. The Gwich'in Nation has had to face oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain, also known to the Gwich'in as "where life begins!" The coastal plain is the birthplace of many life forms of the animal nations. The death of these animal nations will destroy Indigenous nations in this territory. As these destructive developments continue all over the world, we will witness many more extinct animal, plant, and human nations, because of mankind's misuse of power and their lack of understanding of the "balance of life." The Indigenous people warn that these destructive developments will cause havoc globally. We need to understand the types of minds that are continuing to destroy the spirit of our whole global community. Unless we do this, the powers of destruction will overwhelm us. Our Ancestors foretold that water would someday be for sale. Back then, this was hard to believe, since the water was so plentiful, so pure, and so full of energy, nutrition, and spirit. Today we have to buy pure water, and even then instead of the source of life itself. Each of us is put here in this time and this place to personally decide the future of humankind. Did you think the Creator would create unnecessary people in a time of such terrible danger? Know that you yourself are essential to this world. Believe that! Understand both the blessing and the burden of that. You yourself are desperately needed to save the soul of this world. Did you think you were put here for something less? In a sacred hoop of life, there is no beginning and no ending!

— Chief Arvol Looking Horse

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[rants and raves]

Land essential

Dear Editor:

At a Mi'kmaq Economic Development Forum held in Stephenville on May 24, several guest speakers highlighted the importance of land to economic development for the Mi'kmaq population in the Bay St. George area.

Since its establishment in 2002, the Ktaqamkuk Mi'kmaq Alliance (KMA) has always maintained the position that land is essential to the Mi'kmaq people. Some people become fearful when an Aboriginal person mentions the word land. Therefore, it is important to define land more specifically. There are basically two categories of land. The first type is land that is set aside by government for the establishment of reserves as defined by the Indian Act. Reserves can be established in a relatively short period of time simply by a decision to do so by the federal government and willingness by the provincial government to transfer land for that purpose. The Miawpukek Reserve at Conne River was established in this manner.

The second type of land, defined as traditional land by Aboriginal people, differs from reserve land because the reestablishment of traditional Aboriginal land rights can take many years and is usually granted as a result of a lengthy court process. The KMA does not intend to ever give up its right to pursue the reestablishment of Mi'kmaq rights to traditional territory in Newfoundland and Labrador. Yet, the Mi'kmaq people continue to be ignored in the planning, development, utilization and management of traditional Mi'kmaq territory. It is unfortunate that the only progress Aboriginal people make in Canada seems to be through either the court process or through public demonstrations and protest.

Governments have shown little regard for the interests of Mi'kmaq people in this province and with that a total lack of respect as well. Similarly, mining, oil, paper, hydro companies, and others, who seek only to use our lands for profit and leave a legacy of destruction and pollution on Mother Earth should be aware that the Mi'kmaq people were here long before European contact and that we are here to stay.

We must be included in the planning and decision making process. Consequently, the KMA will continue to pursue its own economic development and other initiatives designed to improve the lives of its members and their communities. We seek only equality with Conne River and other First Nations communities therefore we have chosen not to participate in any joint venture or association with anyone or any type of organization whose objective is anything less than equality for our people. At a time when every other minority group in Canada seems to have the ear of and response from federal and provincial governments, we, as Mi'kmaq people, surely seek justice as well. To pursue anything less would be a sellout of our people, and that's something the KMA is not prepared to do.

— Bert Alexander

Chief, Ktaqamkuk Mi'kmaq Alliance

Prentice was listening

Vancouver Sun journalist Paul O'Neil reports Minister [Jim] Prentice saying: Because the Fraser River salmon is a resource "under pressure," it has evolved from an "opportunity fishery" to one where different user groups are given a quota. He added: "It's not realistic that the First Nations would not participate in that process. Nothing I've said or the prime minister has said ever suggested that." He said the fishing openings for Aboriginal bands may occur at the same time as openings for non-Aboriginal fishermen, and stressed that both groups will be subjected to tougher enforcement and the same rules regime.

Minister Prentice's court-forced acknowledgement that Aboriginals can participate in fisheries — as an ethnic community — is a shift in policy. Prime Minister Harper was the originator of the argument that commercial fishing allocations to Aboriginals are not constitutional. Harper's argumentation flamed the fishing dispute, which led to violence on the Fraser River. The courts ruled that Harper's Conservatives were wrong.

Significantly, the Conservative policy change does not address treaty disputes. Canadian courts have stated that treaty claims extend to the economic use of resources. In contrast, the Harper government does not believe Aboriginals have treaty claims to economic resources. The Conservative government is merely acknowledging, under force of law, ethnic communities can operate economically in Canada.

— Eugene Parks

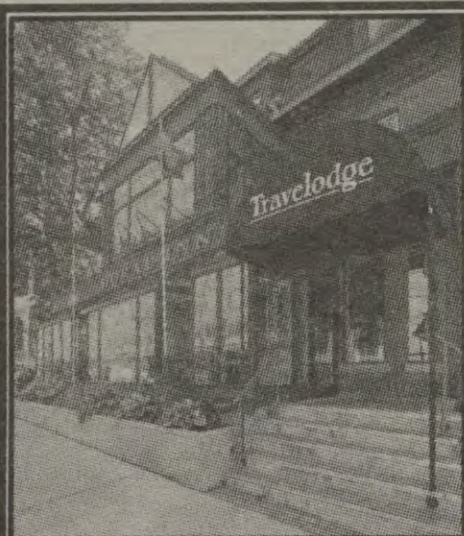
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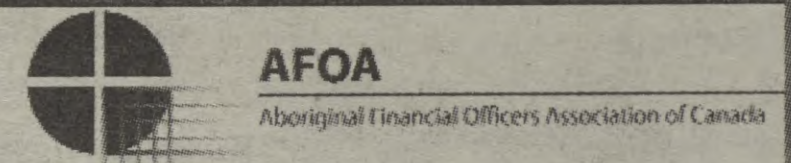
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New relationship already in progress?

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

When former Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault decided to change the Indian Act in 2002, the launch of the First Nations governance act (FNGA) in a school auditorium on the Siksika First Nation territory in southern Alberta was a nationally-televised event.

"I am the most important person in your life," Nault told the audience of First Nation students and teachers that day.

Nault later said he meant that he intended to change that intolerable situation by fundamentally changing the relationship between First Nations people and the federal government. But those words were used to portray him as an arrogant "great white father" as the bill proceeded through the legislative process. After a bitter fight mounted against it by First Nation leaders in the committee rooms of the House of Commons and in the media, the FNGA was eventually shelved.

In January, newly-elected Prime Minister Stephen Harper wrote to the leader of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples stating the

FNGA "was a strong pillar to advance the important reforms and we strongly support this bill."

Ready or not, something similar to the FNGA will soon appear on the horizon and that's not the only thing that has, or soon will, anger First Nation leaders.

When the Indian Affairs department recently released its plans and priorities for 2006-2007, it listed as a top priority "strengthened First Nations and Inuit governance and capacity through legislative, policy and programming initiatives."

Add up all the recent cuts to Aboriginal programs and you'll get the impression that Canada's new federal government just might have some controversial opinions when it comes to Aboriginal peoples. But, since nobody within the government is saying exactly what kind of thinking motivates these decisions, it all remains guesswork.

But the list of cuts is long and apparently getting longer.

A \$160-million cut to funding for programming aimed at preserving Aboriginal languages and cultures was announced in early November.

Ottawa sources say the SchoolNet program may be shifted from Industry Canada to Indian Affairs, but no budget will follow the program that allows remote

schools to access quality instruction via the Internet.

And Metis federal government employee Randy Way points out that Treasury Board president John Baird has refused to sign off on an employment equity plan that would benefit women and Aboriginal people who want to work in the civil service.

"What concerns me is that Mr. Baird has withheld his signature from this program that was created by his own department," Way wrote in an e-mail message obtained by *Windspeaker* and used with his permission. "The Harper government's lack of support for this program is consistent with the unilateral approach that it has taken towards Aboriginals and visible minorities from the beginning. The government has killed the women's equity program (Status of Women Canada), killed adult literacy programs (ironic, given the proven link between crime and poor literacy and the government's supposed commitment to law and order) and is killing employment equity. How can the government stand here today and claim to represent all people of Canada?"

An analysis of the Indian Affairs department's spending estimates over the next two fiscal years shows that departmental funding will

drop by close to \$500 million.

Add to that a couple of controversial comments by the Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice in November and observers are starting to wonder just what is going on.

Prentice refused to meet with Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Ramsay on the issues surrounding the Caledonia occupation of Douglas Creek Estates on Oct. 31, leaving the Ontario minister sitting in his office. When asked about the snub, Prentice said he skipped the meeting because Ramsay and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty had been "grandstanding" on the issue of who was responsible for the costs incurred during the protest.

Then Prentice suggested that, because the land grant that was at the centre of the dispute in Caledonia happened before Confederation, it was a provincial responsibility. That comment left a lot of people shaking their heads.

Tony Penikett, a former premier of the Yukon and an experienced provincial land claim negotiator, recently wrote *Reconciliation, First Nations Treaty Making in British Columbia*, a book on his experiences at the negotiating table that has been widely praised as a balanced and detailed look at

Aboriginal relations.

Penikett was asked about the sparks between Prentice and the Ontario minister.

"On any matter money, or what politicians would call matters of high principle, which usually means money," he said, chuckling, "there's always a fight. Even with rich provinces like Ontario and the federal government, especially when they're of two different political stripes, you have disputes—buck passing is one way of describing it—especially on complex questions like the situation that's going on in Caledonia. The fact of the matter is that the federal government does have the principle responsibility constitutionally for Indians and Indian lands, Section 91-24 responsibilities."

Penikett sees the Conservatives going in a very different direction.

"There's no doubt the federal government is changing its approach. The rejection of the financial commitments in Kelowna was a pretty clear signal that they were going to pursue a different path. My reading of the situation is not black and white. I suspect that the direction of the federal Conservative government on questions of Aboriginal policy is much undecided," he said.

(See *Relationship* page 20.)

Brazeau targets chiefs and Indian Act

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

The leader of one of the five federally-recognized national Aboriginal organizations has launched a campaign to scrap the Indian Act and get rid of some 500 chiefs.

Patrick Brazeau, leader of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), made national headlines in November when he told the *Globe and Mail* there are "too many chiefs."

He followed that up with an appearance on the popular CBC Radio One public affairs show *The Current*, but there was no chief on the panel to debate Brazeau.

"The *Current* phoned the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), as well as a number of individual Native chiefs to invite them to be on the program. The AFN told us they were interested in the discussion and wanted to be on the program, but were unable to provide anyone because of scheduling conflicts," said the show's Gord Westmacott, in response to our inquiries.

Brazeau's comments triggered a variety of opinion pieces and editorials in various newspapers across the country and he has clearly started a public discussion on the future of the Indian Act system and its 633 chiefs.

Pro-assimilation commentators such as the *National Post's* Jon Kay and University of Calgary

professor Thomas Flanagan were suddenly back in the news, along with others.

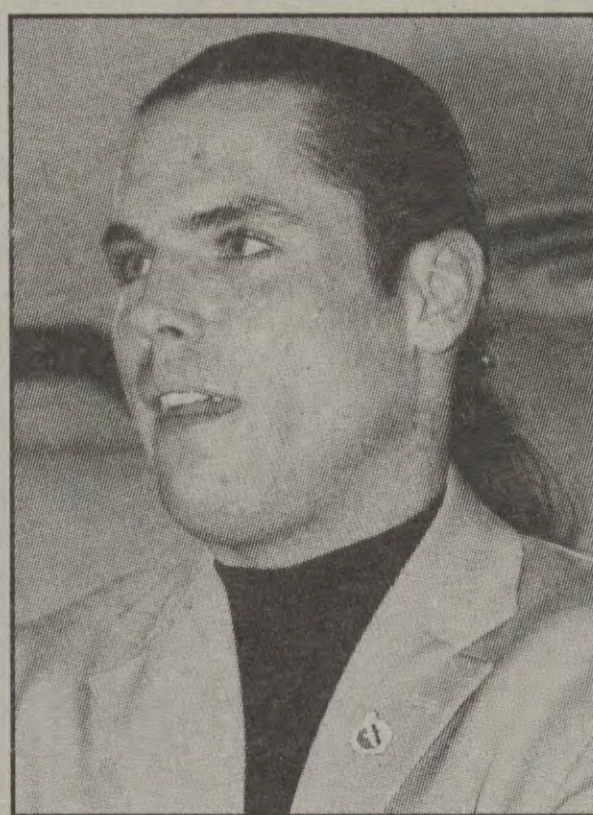
Brazeau told *Windspeaker* the Indian Act chiefs have no connection with traditional governments but they won't get out of the way and let real Indigenous governments be reformed.

"It's the same people who also hide behind [the Indian Act] because that's where they get their power, control. The power to spend the money the way they please. They don't have to be accountable to their citizens," he said.

"[The report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples] recommended instead of having 633 reserves you'd have between 60 and 80 true historical First Nations."

And that would mean only 60 to 80 chiefs. When the AFN, the group that represents the chiefs, was contacted for comment on Brazeau's remarks, a release quoting Union of Ontario Indians Grand Council Chief John Beaucage was issued.

"Since colonial times, all colonialist governments have had their domesticated, tame Indians who speak in favor of the government and their assimilationist policies. Patrick Brazeau is Minister Prentice's tame Indian. The federal government is lining this organization's pockets in order to deliver messages which heavily favor assimilationist and paternalistic values they share with



Patrick Brazeau, leader of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

right-wing Conservatives. I challenge the legitimacy of the so-called "national chief" Brazeau who has himself never been elected by our people and whose organization itself is wrought with corruption."

The Chiefs of Ontario and the chief of Brazeau's home First Nation, Kitigan Zibi (Quebec), also issued critical letters.

CAP has had its problems in establishing a clear constituency. It's also seen its share of problems in its financial dealings and of a legal nature recently in some of its provincial affiliates. But CAP now seems to have the favor of the federal government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Brazeau said his relationship with Minister Prentice was tough at first, because of the problems some of CAP's provincial groups have been experiencing, but now

he and the minister are working through the problems.

"The relationship is a good one and hopefully we can elaborate on that. I have met him about four or five times since the election and I've spoke with him on several occasions, got to meet with the prime minister last month alongside with Minister Prentice," Brazeau said. "It was basically part of an outreach campaign that we're doing. We're also meeting with Members of Parliament of all stripes to try and sell this idea and give our position with respect to where Aboriginal issues, programs and services and a rights-based agenda should go."

But there were only 120 people at the most recent CAP assembly held from Nov. 2 to 4 in Ottawa, and only one of the three regions where CAP has no provincial affiliate—Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan—has been sorted out. A new organization in Saskatchewan, the Aboriginal Affairs Coalition of Saskatchewan, joined the fold at the assembly.

Brazeau said the new federal government has said it approved of the First Nations governance act, brought forward by Chretien-era Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault in 2002, but it intends to take a different approach in getting the job done.

"Now we all know that this Conservative government is going in a different direction. But at the same time, I think they're being very cautious because again it's the old problem about

consulting the chiefs.

"I mean, if we go out and consult the people, that would bring about a different spin, and probably a different result than just consulting the chiefs," the CAP leader said. "That was the mistake with respect to the First Nations governance act, and it's a system that provides too much power to the chiefs who basically control the people in their communities. That's what we have to get rid of. Let's consult the people and never mind the chiefs."

Brazeau noted that the AFN renewal commission report recommended giving grassroots citizens the vote for national chief, but the chiefs beat that initiative down. He doesn't expect the AFN to provide any assistance in getting back to Indigenous nations because it means more than 500 of its members would lose their positions of authority.

"I don't think the AFN will do anything about this. We know that this organization is an organization that represents the chiefs and therefore not the people," he said. "But I think at the end of the day, if we were successful in launching something to have this outright debate, I think that the grassroots people across this country, both on and off reserve, would support it. Who knows? Maybe they'll start demanding from their chiefs, put them in a corner to a spot where they have no choice but to start talking with one another."

(See *Brazeau* page 21.)

Fallen soldier was dedicated to military

By Laura Stevens
Windspeaker Staff Writer

FREDERICTON

Michael Todd Seeley was only 27-years-old when his life came to an end on foreign soil, some 5,000 miles from his home in Fredericton.

Seeley was serving with the United States Army in Iraq when he was killed on Oct. 30 by a n explosive device that detonated near his vehicle. At the time of the incident, Seeley, a member of Bravo Company of the 28th Infantry Unit based in Fort Hood, Texas, was showing replacement troops which roads to patrol. He was originally scheduled to be back in Texas on Oct. 28, but his stay in Iraq was extended until Nov. 5.

Seeley was aware of the risks of his job. "He felt it was something he had to do," said Barry Labillois, Seeley's uncle.

"He was the type of lad, like any young person, you are in danger but you almost feel like you're invincible," said Labillois. "With Michael, it was to the point that the last trip he made over there, he knew he wasn't invincible because there were so many soldiers around him that were dying. So it was his way of saying they haven't got me yet, but it can happen."

After graduating from Fredericton high school in June of 1998, Seeley joined the Canadian

Forces and then enlisted with the U.S. Marines Corp. the following year. He spent four years as a Marine, serving in Japan, South America, Africa and Iraq before receiving an honorable discharge. Then he signed up for the U.S. Army.

"When he was with the Canadian army, it wasn't good enough," said Labillois. "The equipment that they had wasn't adequate enough compared to what the States had. It was always a comparison. Back and forth, and it came to the point where he said I have to try this and do this."

Labillois said that, during his first tour in Iraq, Seeley didn't really see the danger but knew it was there.

"With all of the bombings and killings we did fear for him and pray for him but he was pretty much always taught everything so you didn't have to worry about him because you knew he was going to be right front and centre of everything," said Labillois. "He looked after himself and the rest of the those around him. He was well trained."

Labillois described his nephew as a sports enthusiast with a special interest in mountain biking.

"Michael and his brothers liked to do a lot of biking. They were always competitive on their bikes."

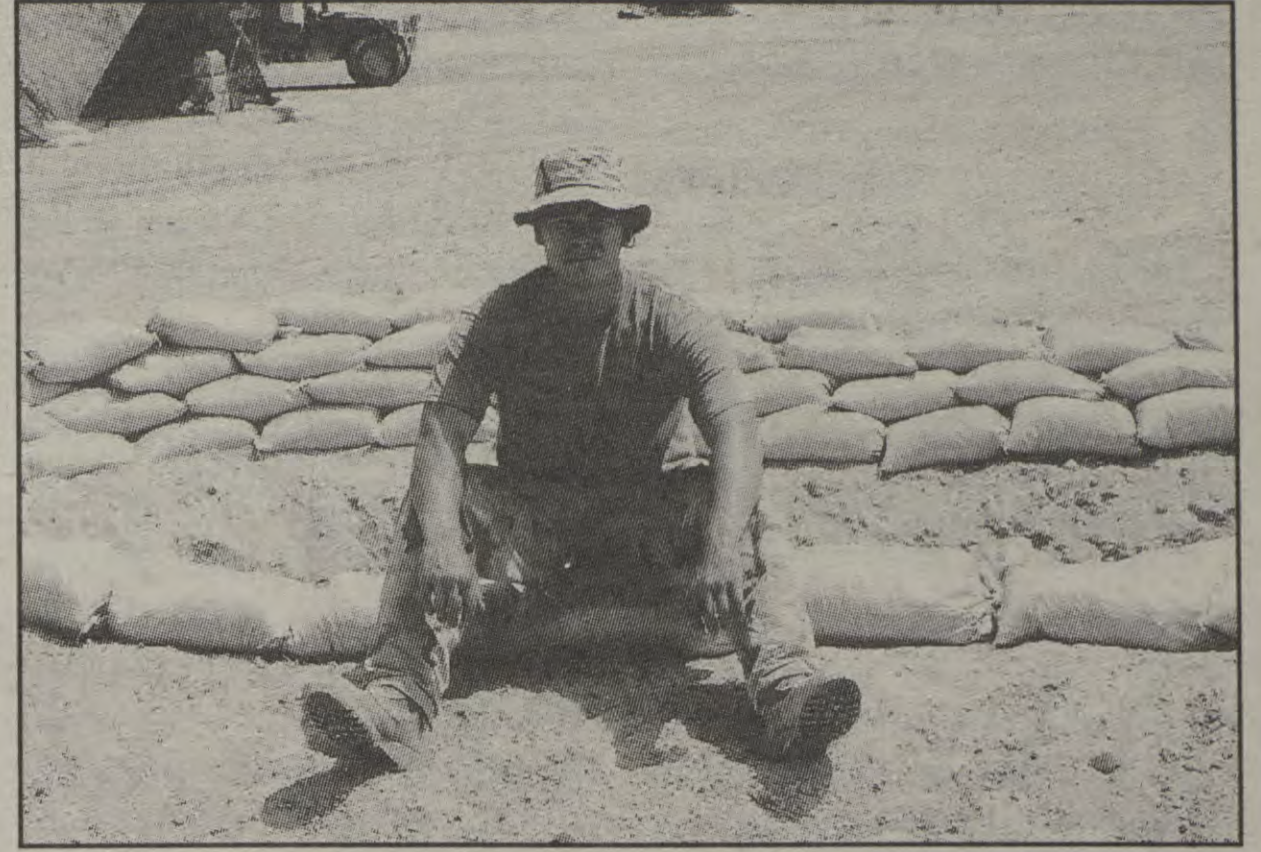
Labillois recounted one of the stories Seeley had shared with him about his experience in the military when he was among a group of soldiers who had to put on their gear and go for a 10-mile walk around the lake.

"They had to do it in a certain amount of time and when they got back, Michael said, 'Well I didn't see no lake. We were supposed to go for a run around a lake. Well, where's the lake?' So, the drill sergeant said, 'OK, everybody up. We're going around the lake again.' Well, the soldiers weren't too happy with Mike, so he never questioned about the lake after that," said Labillois. "But that was the type of person Mike was. He was just himself."

The news of Seeley's death was a shock to his family, but it was made even more difficult because it came on the heels of another loss. Just a month-and-a-half before, Seeley's grandfather, who suffered from Alzheimer's and dementia, also passed away.

"When his grandfather passed away it was hard on the family but we knew it was coming so we knew it was just a matter of time," said Labillois. "If anything, when he did pass away it was kind of a blessing for us because he wasn't suffering anymore because he was in such pain for a while. But with Mike, it was, bang, you heard the news."

What made Seeley's death even



Michael Seeley, a Mi'kmaq soldier serving with the U.S. Army was killed while on duty in Iraq on Oct. 30.

more difficult was the week of waiting for his body to be returned home to his family.

"It seemed to get harder and harder to grasp, wondering when his body would arrive," said Labillois. "It took long because of the time to get things prepared over there and then he had to be shipped back to the States for an autopsy and then shipped to Canada."

Seeley was loved by his family and community and will be forever remembered for his bravery and commitment to both the countries he called home.

The New Brunswick Peoples Council issued a press release upon learning of Seeley's death.

"Cpl. Seeley was a proud member of the Armed Forces and

was committed to his task and firmly believed in what he was doing to protect not only the U.S.A, Canada, the public in general and his extended Aboriginal community," said Chief Betty Ann Lavallee of the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council.

The premier of New Brunswick, Shawn Graham, also issued a statement honoring Seeley's memory and his sacrifice. Calling Seeley a proud member of the Mi'kmaq community, Graham said the fallen soldier "is being remembered by those who knew him best as a devoted and selfless soldier ... His sacrifice will not be forgotten and he will be dearly missed by all who knew and served with him."

UN comes to Hobbema

By Dianne Meili
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HOBHEMA, Alta

Delegates from as far away as New Zealand, Africa and Latin America met in Hobbema, Alta. Nov. 14 to 17 to discuss processes for making treaties with Indigenous peoples. It was the first United Nations seminar of its kind held outside of a UN venue and the first on treaty land.

The UN Expert Seminar on Treaties, Agreements and Other Constructive Arrangements between States and Indigenous Peoples, held at Samson Cree Nation, was the second in a series of three such meetings arranged by the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

"Basically, we're meeting to keep momentum going regarding work that's been done on the recommendations made in the 1999 report by United Nations Human Rights Commission Special Rapporteur Miguel Alfonso Martinez," explained Ron Lameman, bilateral process worker for the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, which hosted the conference. "We checked the report card regarding what nation states have done with the recommendations regarding the implementation of treaties, international agreements and human rights legislation.

Unfortunately, they failed miserably."

International delegates, many from countries that have treaty arrangements with the state that are similar to Canada's, shared information on their people's treaty experiences. Hone Harawira, a member of the Maori Party, and first representative of his people to sit in New Zealand's House of Parliament, said his people face "rampant acquisition of Maori lands and resources."

"At meetings like this we need to build a new international nation to take a common stand against the threat to our lands. We must teach that the land is a treasure, not a commodity," he said. "We teach our children to understand they are part of a global community. Their stake in protecting the land as Indigenous people is critical to every world citizen, or we won't have a world."

Lameman said the seminar



DIANNE MEILI

served to emphasize that treaties are not just historical papers but are legitimate legal documents. It also allowed the public the opportunity to witness the kind of proceedings that take place at the United Nations level.

Since Canada voted against the United Nations draft declaration on Indigenous rights last August, Lameman said the call for such meetings has intensified.

"After working on this draft declaration for 16 or so years, with the co-operation of Canada, our government's negative vote is indeed a step back."

Feds announce funds for NAIG

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

DUNCAN, B.C.

The federal government is doing its share to ensure the 2008 North American Indigenous Games are a success.

Canada's Minister for Sport Michael Chong announced on Nov. 3 the government is pledging \$3.5 million to the event.

This support represents slightly more than one-third of the anticipated \$10 million that will be required to run the games that will be held in British Columbia's Cowichan Valley.

Chong made the announcement during a celebration in Duncan, B.C. That was the site where the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) council was staging its annual meeting.

Chong made the same announcement earlier in the day at a sports leadership conference in Vancouver. He is thrilled to see the support his government is pledging to the NAIG.

"The Aboriginal community has had a long proven tradition in sports," he said. "And our country's official summer sport, lacrosse, came from Aboriginals."

The Cowichan Valley NAIG will be held Aug. 2 to 10, 2008.

The 2006 NAIG were held in Colorado amid various organizational fiascos.

Chong said it was important for his government to display its support of the 2008 NAIG well in advance of the competition.

"We fully support these games and that's why we wanted to make our announcement so early."

Chong said he is pleased to see his government supporting Aboriginal athletes.

The \$3.5 million federal pledge matches the \$3.5 million the B.C. provincial government had previously announced that it would be providing in support.

The host Cowichan Tribes will be responsible for the remainder of the budget, which they will obtain partly through corporate sponsorships and registration fees.

The 2008 NAIG are expected to attract about 5,000 athletes ranging in age from 13 to 19. An estimated 1,000 senior athletes (ages 20 and up) will also take part. They will compete in 16 different sports.

The 2008 NAIG are also expected to feature about 2,000 cultural performers. In total, more than 20,000 participants and spectators are expected to attend the games.

Play tackles problem of meth addiction

By Laura Stevens
Windspeaker Staff Writer

VANCOUVER

Headlines Theatre in Vancouver has just launched its latest project, an interactive theatre piece that involves the audience in an examination of methamphetamine addiction.

"This interactive forum is about the root causes of addiction," said Jen Cressy, publicist for the theatre company. "So, basically we're using meth addictions as a starting point and a lens, if you will, through which to look at addiction in general."

For 25 years, Headlines Theatre has been engaging people around the world in hundreds of workshops and performances like the Meth project. The cast of Meth includes people who have struggled and overcome addiction to meth, a chemical stimulant that is highly addictive and highly destructive. The drug can make the people who use it irritable, paranoid or aggressive and can cause irreparable damage to the brain, cardiovascular problems and even death.

Director David Diamond describes the production as a way to focus on meth and a way to talk about addiction. He said the

idea for this production evolved out of a meeting a year ago hosted by the Stolo Nation. The meeting was held to talk about meth in the community and how it has become "the new plague" on reserves.

Headlines was asked if they could do a production on meth similar to a project they did in 1992 called Out of the Silence, which focused on family violence.

"Out of the Silence really opened up the issue of family violence in a way that let communities really talk about it in a really deep level," said Diamond.

Diamond was surprised at the meeting by the impact the 1992 production still had.

"The conversations there really made the hair on the back of my neck really stand up because people in communities all over the province, like Elders, still talk about Out of the Silence and how it was a pivot point," said Diamond. "So, we took this invitation very seriously."

Diamond and the Headlines team traveled back to their Vancouver office and began talking to different people all over the province to see if this was a good idea. "Well, the response was overwhelmingly positive so we started raising money and here

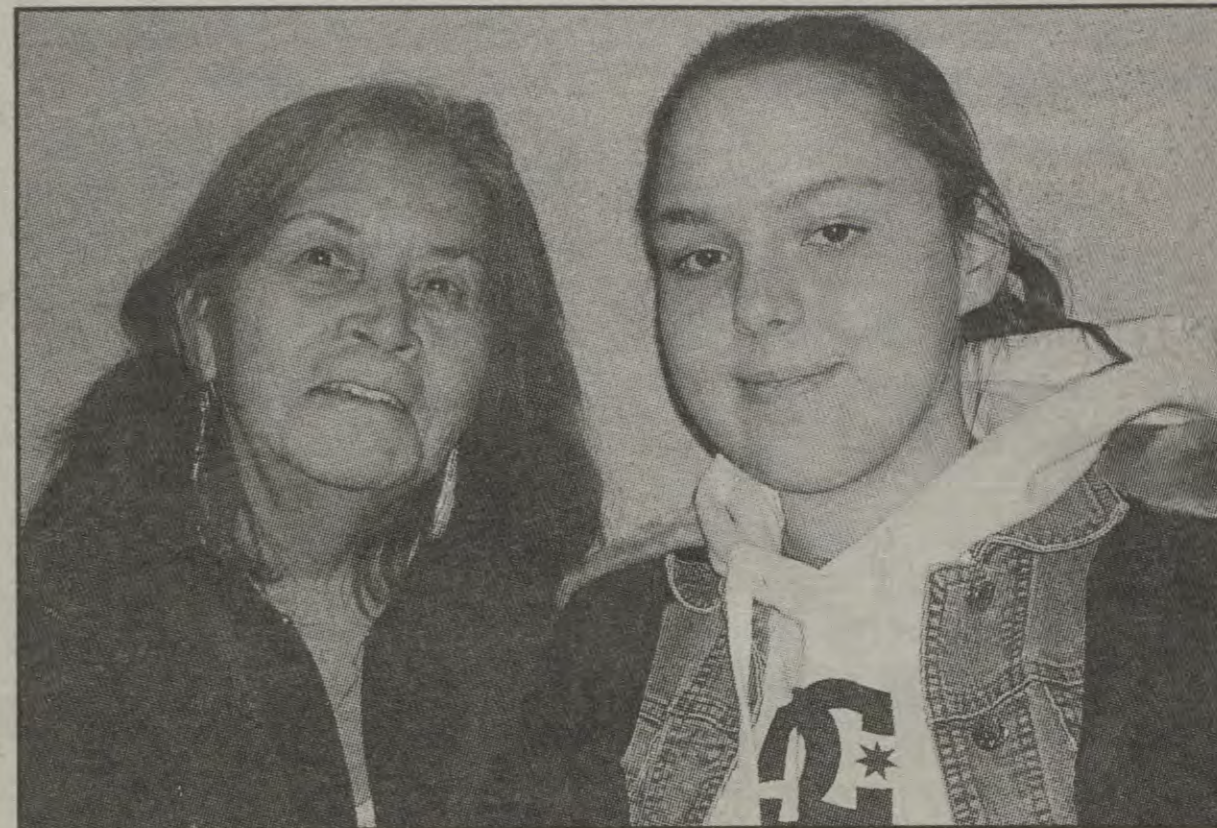
we are," he said.

Meth is a short play, approximately 20 minutes long, that builds to a crisis and then turns to the audience as if to say, "Well, what would you do?" It is then performed a second time during which the audience can actually stop the action of the play, replace one of the cast of six characters on stage and try out ideas.

"Part of that interaction is understanding the struggle of the individual characters," said Cressy.

All of the cast members of Meth have either been directly involved with the drug or have relatives who are or have been affected by the drug. The cast includes Kayla Cardinal, Jordan Fields, Cody Gray, Betsy Ludwig, Sophie Merasty and Herb Varley.

Through much research, Headlines has found that meth is currently a very serious problem. "It's reached into a lot of urban and rural areas very quickly," Cressy said. "The best thing to do is to look at why people are predisposed to addiction and to really take aim and to be proactive about it. With this project, it's a look at how communities can actually have some kind of input to empower people and to look at the human dynamics that lead



Cast members Betsy Ludwig (left) and Kayla Cardinal are helping to get people thinking about the problem of Meth addiction.

to addiction and create predispositions for addiction. So, this is really getting to the nitty gritty of it and also to see what roles we all play in the lives of people who become addicted."

Cressy admits that the call from the First Nation communities got the ball in motion, but meth isn't a problem just limited to reserves.

"Part of the impetus for the project was not only to look at the issue but to bring communities out of isolation from one another across the province," said Cressy. "This is happening on reserves but it's also happening in small towns. We hear it's happening in Prince

Rupert, Prince George and Kamloops. So, bringing these communities together, the reserve community and the town community, and saying, "Look, we're all going through the same thing. Why don't we meet under one roof and use this play as a means of dealing with it?"

Headlines launched Meth at the Japanese Hall in Vancouver on Nov. 30, where it will run until Dec. 10. It will then tour throughout B.C. from Jan. 15 to Mar. 4, 2007.

For more information about Meth, call (604) 871-0508 or visit the theatre Web site at www.headlinestheatre.com.



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The times they are a-changing at AMMSA

By Heather Andrews
Miller

Canada's largest and most respected publisher of Aboriginal news and information is heading in a new editorial direction. After 13 years, Debora Steel is stepping down at the Edmonton-based Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA).

"Deb has been a great asset to our organization and she really helped to shape the direction we have taken over the past years. We're losing a valuable employee and a wonderful editor," said Paul Macedo, director of marketing for AMMSA. "We are excited for her though, because she is pursuing a life-long dream to live on Vancouver Island near Ucluelet, where she will be working with the Nuu-chal-nulth First Nation, and where she'll be closer to family."

With Steel's exit, the non-profit organization is being restructured. "We have a plan in place and we're optimistic that we'll be able to move in new directions. We've created a new position called director of print, similar to an associate publisher, which I'll be assuming, and our

staff will take on more of the editorial and assignment responsibilities," he explained, adding that he'll now be overseeing the production, marketing and editorial departments to ensure they are all working together as a unit.

Macedo has been with AMMSA since 1991 and has seen huge growth in that time. AMMSA's first paper, *Windspeaker*, rolled off the presses in 1983, and was one of the few Aboriginal papers to survive following a cut in government funding. The paper's founder and AMMSA's chief executive officer Bert Crowfoot had been working on a five-year sufficiency plan for the society and was able to not only survive, but expand by gaining advertising dollars from many of the bigger corporations. "Of the 11 organizations which were being funded at the time, only two are still in place," said Macedo. "We survived that crunch by identifying the need for a national voice for Aboriginal people." In 1993, in conjunction with its 10th anniversary, *Windspeaker* went national. Freelancers were engaged throughout the

country to ensure news from every corner of the land was included in the monthly publication. Debora Steel became editor soon after and had a crucial role in developments through the transitional time.

Alberta Sweetgrass was launched later in the year to cover local Alberta events and community news. *Saskatchewan Sage* followed in 1996, *Raven's Eye* began publishing in British Columbia and Yukon in 1997 and *Ontario Birchbark* was launched in 2002. "And the growth continues, as we're also now producing a quarterly business magazine. We feel that we are evolving to meet the needs of our evolving audience," said Macedo.

AMMSA also established radio station CFWE in 1987. Today the broadcasts reaches 75-plus communities in northern Alberta through a satellite network and can be heard throughout North America by satellite. The 24-hour-a-day station offers diversified programming, including news with an Aboriginal perspective, music, ethnic programs and a very lively twice-weekly bingo game. "That's another success story. CFWE has gone from a small

station located at Lac La Biche with an audience of 2,000 or 3,000 to an Alberta-wide network in 75 communities and an audience of over 100,000," he says. "Plans are to come into Edmonton with the signal next year and we expect another 100,000 listeners to be added." In the more remote areas of the province the station truly is the centre of the community, with friends and family gathering to play radio bingo as a social event, and listeners learning about local events and news from around Indian country.

These are exciting times, said Macedo. "We have many plans for the future. Even after 23 years of existence and growth, there's still so much that we haven't tapped into. For example, the urbanization of Aboriginal people, as more move into the larger centres, has created new challenges as we seek to maintain contact with them. There's the potential for them to get lost in the huge numbers of the urban communities and we want to ensure we can keep them connected to their home community through the radio station and the publications," he said. AMMSA recognizes its vital role of communicating services

and programs to its readers and listeners and knows that it needs to continue to reach out to the rural areas as well as the growing audience in the cities. "We need to strike a balance because Aboriginal people are getting much more sophisticated and diverse in their interests. The communications industry needs to address these issues."

The staff is excited about continuing the work that was begun while Steel was editor, concluded Macedo. Popular investigative reporter Paul Barnsley will be taking on the role of national news editor while continuing his political coverage. Long-time employee Cheryl Petten, currently the editor of *Saskatchewan Sage*, will add features editor for *Windspeaker* to her duties, while Dianne Meile joins the staff as editor for *Alberta Sweetgrass* and staff writer Laura Stevens assumes editorial responsibility for *Raven's Eye* and *Birchbark*.

"We're reallocating responsibilities to ensure the same quality to which our readers have become accustomed continues and we look forward to a new stage in the growth and development of AMMSA," said Macedo.

An Aboriginal Canuck in King Bush's Court

Ann Arbor is as lovely little town about an hour west of Detroit. It's a university town and logically enough, it's full of students. While I am here not as a student, I am however here in an academic capacity. Playwright-in-Residence for Residential College is my official title, and I'm here to write a play for the theatre department, and offer up my experiences as a fairly successful playwright to the silly students who have opted to explore the world of theatre.

Surprisingly, the course I'm involved in teaching — Introduction to Canadian Native Theatre — has limited appeal here. So far, we have four students — though I am assured it will double by next week. Even a Philosophy of Star Trek course would probably have a dozen more interested students.

This is the first time I have done anything like this. Personally, I have never been to university but I hear it can be fun. I've seen all the appropriate movies. As a result, I've been kind of self-conscious about coming here under false pretenses. Still, I am incredibly delighted to have been invited here by the theatre department. It's like I've seen with many Native actors who occasionally

get cast in a Shakespeare play or other roles of a non-Native nature; it's a validation of them as an artist, not just an accident of birth. Many times I have seen a young Native actor excitedly tell me "I've got this really great role in a play/movie/television show, and I'm not playing an Indian!"

It's the same with my situation. You know what is sometimes said behind closed doors: "those Native people don't have to pay taxes, get cheap cigarettes and gas, and get all those plum writer-in-residency's at top American universities." Needless to say the Native American studies program seconded my appointment but I believe my point is still valid.

However, I must remain focused on my purpose. I am here to spread the message of Canadian Native Theatre. I will speak the gospel of Tomson, and how in 1986, he brought "the Word" to a small native community center in downtown Toronto, and how



THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

the Canadian theatrical community and bingo changed. I will preach about how the prophet Daniel David Moses spread the mighty waters of the Grand River to deliver the stories of his people into freedom. I will talk about how Native Earth, De-Ba-Jeh-Mu-Jig, Centre for Indigenous Theatre, Red Sky Performance and other vessels of understanding delivered their message unto the population.

The first thing I have told my students is to be ready for rejection, whether you are a writer or a performer. I have been turned down by so many theatre companies, I feel like a Jehovah's Witness.

The second thing of importance in the study of Native Canadian theatre is working knowledge of what I call B squared and R squared — bingo, beer, rape and residential schools. Most Native plays will

have some variation of these themes scattered throughout the text. Sexual abuse, substance abuse, and in many cases, a sense of

rebirth through the discovery of one's cultural roots pretty much make up what can be referred to as the Native theatre trifecta.

And thirdly, if you want to really understand the true essence of Canadian aboriginal theatre... good luck. We have comedies, dramas, tragedies, musicals, one-person shows, even puppet shows. So essentially, Native theatre is as varied as its people and cannot be summed up in one or two sentences or experiences. Some of us who have worked in the field for a decade or two are still trying to figure things out. Hell, I should be taking my own course.

Regardless, Ann Arbor seems like a lovely little town and I am delighted to be here. I do believe, however, that I was preordained to come here. It's been proven to me many times that God/the Creator/

what ever term you want to use, has a sense of humor. And I'm usually somewhere in the joke. First example: Three days before I moved here, a Hollywood movie company came to Peterborough, a town about half an hour from my reserve, to shoot part of a movie. It stars Samuel L. Jackson and Hayden Christensen. It's called *Jumpers* and is some sort of science fiction story. The film company dressed up the downtown core to resemble a small American town. And as I walked through it going for a coffee, I noticed there were a lot of Michigan references on taxis and in store windows including repeated references to the Wolverines, the U of M football team. Then I saw a sign that said "Ann Arbor." The movie being shot a short drive from my home takes place in the town where I was moving to. And one of the stars was named Hayden.

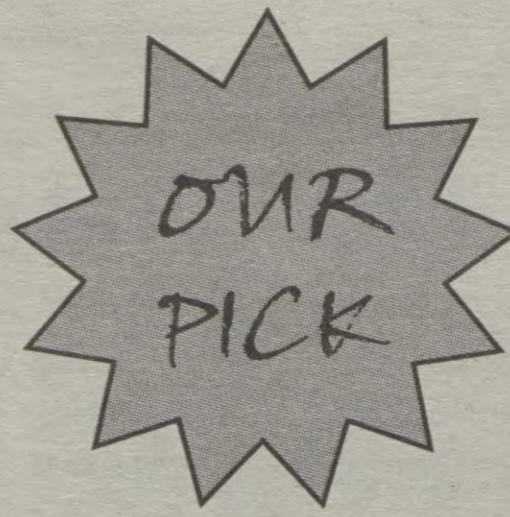
Second example: Since I've been here, I've had quite a bit of trouble getting my university I.D. card. Today I found out why. There's already somebody here with my full name, Drew Hayden Taylor. Maybe I will be taking my own course.

[radio's most active]

ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Donny Parenteau	Country Calling Me	What It Takes
Shane Yellowbird	They're All About You	Single Release
Kinnie Star	Please Hold My Hand	Anything
Eagle & Hawk	Indian Summer	Life Is...
Andrea Menard	100 Years	Simple Steps
Lonesome Highway	Highway 373	No Limits
C-Weed	Not Myself	Hey!
Beatrice Deer	Ilangani	Just Bea...
Stephen Kakfwi	Northern Woman	In the Walls of His Mind
Tracy Bone	Lonely With You	Single Release
New Horizon	Ugly	Vol. II
Jared Sowan	Kissing You	Eclectically Yours
Kimberley Dawn	Spirit of Our People	Single Release
Art Napoleon	Good Red Road	Miyoskamin
Los Lonely Boys	Diamonds	Sacred
Pima Express	Mambo Cumbia	Time Waits for No One
J.C. Campbell	Keep on Trying	Lazy James
Desiree Dorian	Bad to Be Good	Single Release
Harv Settee Jr.	Ste. Anne's Reel	Nancy's Dream
Susan Aglukark	I Will Return	Blood Read Earth

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



Artist—Shane Yellowbird
 Album—Life is calling my name
 Song—Beautiful Concept
 Label—306 Records
 Producer—Bart McKay

Yellowbird scores big with first CD

Alberta's own Shane Yellowbird blasted onto the country music scene earlier this year with his debut CD, *Life is calling my name*, revealing his effortless singing abilities to the world and earning him three Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards during the Manito Ahbee festival held in Winnipeg from Nov. 2 to 5. Yellowbird was named Best New Artist at the award show, while the song Beautiful Concept garnered him the Single of the Year Award and the accompanying video was named Best Music Video.



Yellowbird, a Cree musician from the Hobbema area, is experienced in riding the rodeos and breaking horses, which has influenced his passion for country music. O'Reilly International Entertainment Management noticed both his passion and his talent and signed him in 2003 to

an artist development deal. Most of the ten tracks on *Life is calling my name* are soft easy-listening country tunes, but Yellowbird has thrown a few more up-tempo numbers into the mix, with electric guitar joining with fiddle and percussion to create more of a country-rock sound. If you are a fan absorbed by Yellowbird's soothing sounds and want to find out more about this up-and-coming artist, visit his Web site at shaneyellowbird.com.

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<p>\$115* Bi-weekly</p> <p>2006 Optra</p>	<p>\$160* Bi-weekly</p> <p>2005 Impala</p>	<p>\$185* Bi-weekly</p> <p>2005 Trail Blazer</p>	<p>\$86* Bi-weekly</p> <p>2003 Cavalier</p>	<p>\$101* Bi-weekly</p> <p>2004 Optra</p>

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Windspeaker's Special Section Serving the Aboriginal People of Ontario

Author and artist receives literary award

By Cheryl Petten
Birchbark Writer

OTTAWA

Award-winning author and illustrator Leo Yerxa has just received another honor, being named this year's recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award in the Children's Literature—Illustration category.

"Through a unique creative process, and with poetic honesty, Leo Yerxa's emotionally powerful images transport us, with the echo of ancient hoof-beats, over the Great Plains," the jury in charge of selecting this year's winning children's book illustration wrote of Yerxa's book, *Ancient Thunder*. "Using the motif of traditional dress and a rich palette, Yerxa creates compositions that illustrate the mythical connection between horse and humanity."

Yerxa, who was born on the Little Eagle reserve in northwestern Ontario and who now calls Ottawa home, has had a love of creating art ever since he was a child.

"Some of the first things I can remember is painting, drawing, making things. So it just grew out of that," he said.

Yerxa studied graphic arts at Algonquin College in Ottawa and fine arts at the University of Waterloo before turning his attention to illustrating. His artwork can be found gracing the pages of books written by others, and within three books he himself

has written. His first book, *Last Leaf, First Snowflake to Fall* was published in 1993, was filled with Yerxa's art and poetry and earned him the Mr. Christies Book Award and the Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award and the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Award.

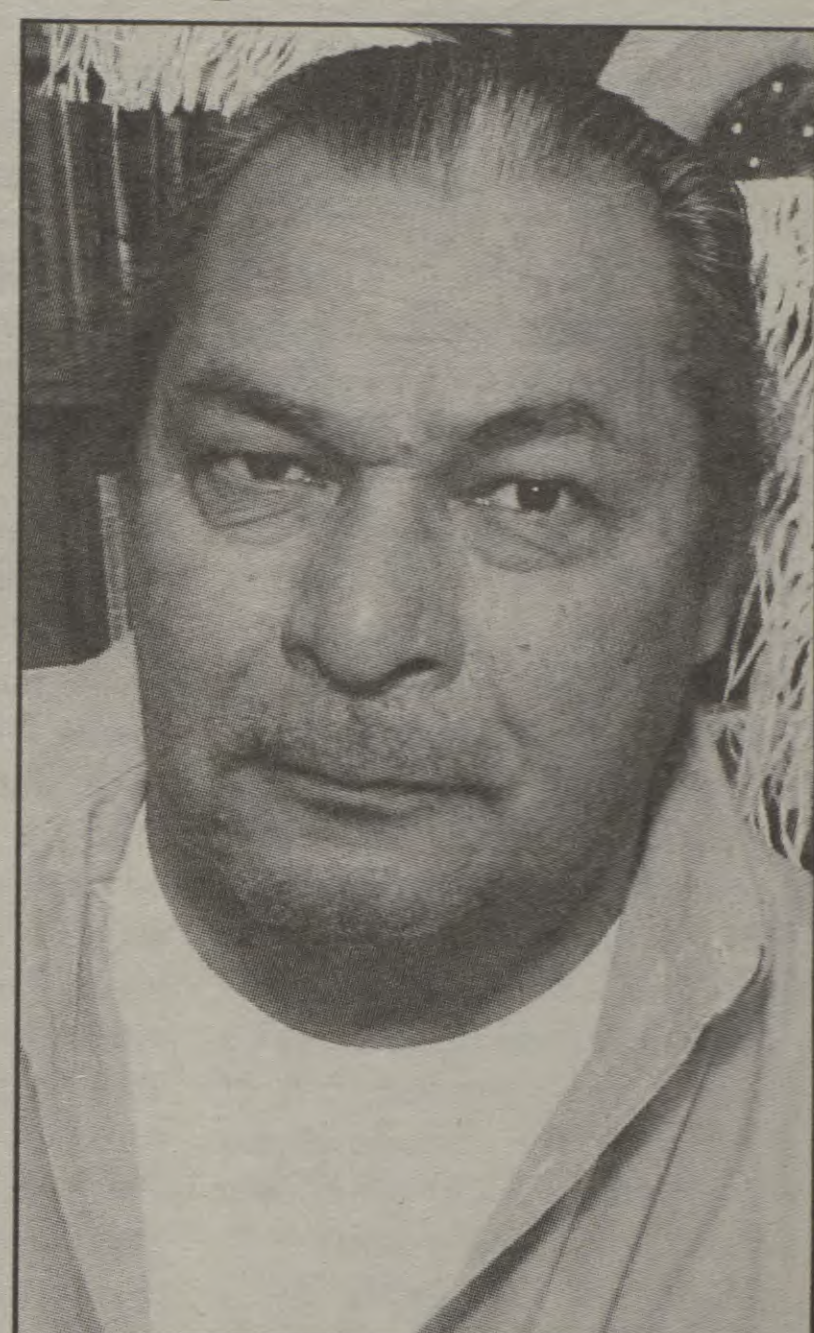
In 1995, Yerxa published his second book, *A fish tale: or, the little one that got away*.

His latest book, *Ancient Thunder*, celebrates the wild horses of the Prairies that played an important role in the lives of Aboriginal people in days gone by, while also celebrating man's connection with the natural world.

"I'm trying to, well, of course, tell a story," he said. "But I have a little theme in the books that I sort of write about, a reconnection with nature, like man reconnecting to nature. Because I think that's one of the problems with the world, with the environment, is that people aren't really connected to nature and they lose respect for it rather quickly. And that's why its sort of overly exploited. So anyway, that's a little theme in it. If children get something out of it, I hope its something like that."

Yerxa chose to create children's books for a couple of reasons.

"When I started, my children were little, for one thing. And then the other thing is it's considered an art form, more so in Europe than in North America," he said. "So someday I think that'll catch on more in



ROD MACIVOR/CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Ojibway author and illustrator Leo Yerxa is this year's recipient of the Governor General's Literary Award in the Children's Literature—Illustration category. He won the award for the stunning illustrations in his third book, *Ancient Thunder*.

North America, where the children's books are an art form all by themselves."

Yerxa said he has a formula he follows when it comes to creating his books. First he writes the story, then he puts it away for a long enough time that he still remembers the story he wants to tell, but not the specific words he's used to tell it. That's when the illustrating begins.

"And then after I'm satisfied with the way I'm illustrating it,

then I look at the words again and bring them together that way. So I make adjustments to the words or to the pictures, whichever seems necessary."

Only time will tell which of the many projects Yerxa is currently working on will be the next to reach fruition, but with the accolades being showered on *Ancient Thunder*, it will no doubt be met with eager anticipation.

"I have about ten things going, you know, at various stages of

completion," Yerxa said of his ongoing creative process. "So I'll just keep working on them and eventually one of them will be finished."

Each of this year's Governor General's Literary Award winners will receive a cheque for \$15,000 and a specially-bound copy of their winning book.

The awards will be presented by Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on Dec. 13.



Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, that it will hold a one-day public hearing on the application by Cameco Corporation (Cameco) to extend the expiry date of its current operating licence for the decommissioned Beaverlodge mill and mine site located in Northern Saskatchewan. The hearing will be held in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on January 25, 2007.

The public is invited to comment on the application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by December 22, 2006 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the name, address and telephone of the requester.

Hearing documents (submissions) are not available on-line and must be requested through the Secretariat at the address below. For more information, instructions on how to participate in this public hearing process or the complete text of the official Notice of Public Hearing, see www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2007-H-03, or contact:

L. Levert, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Tel.: (613) 996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284
Fax: (613) 995-5086
E-mail: interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca



BRYAN HENDRY, AFN

Veterans Lawrence Morrisseau from Sagkeeng First Nation and Grand Chief Norman Henderson of Montreal Lake First Nation were two of the wreath layers during this year's Remembrance Day ceremonies at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. Also pictured are Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Phil Fontaine, Donovan Fontaine and AFN Regional Chief Katherine Whitecloud. Veteran Alex Van Bibber also placed a wreath during the ceremonies on Nov. 11.

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Film remembers missing and murdered women

By Shauna Lewis
Raven's Eye Contributor

VANCOUVER

Metis film-maker Christine Welsh is sending a message of hope, resilience and awareness through her powerful, poignant and painful documentary concerning the ongoing epidemic of violence inflicted on First Nation women in Canada.

Welsh's film, *Finding Dawn*, examines the lives of five Native Canadian women, three of whom are either missing or have been murdered. The renowned artist, who calls the chronicles in her film "stories of transformation," can accurately declare her work a vessel for the propagation of greater public consciousness concerning the reality of violence inflicted on Native women.

"One of my goals as a filmmaker is to do what I can to give voices to those who don't always have a voice," Welsh said to a full house at the premier of her film, held at the Pacific Cinematheque in Vancouver on Nov 2. "I wanted people to understand who these women were and what they've left behind."

The first film shown at the 11th annual Amnesty International Film Festival, *Finding Dawn* has broken festival records by selling out prior to opening night. With such acclaim during its initial week, it is not surprising the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) production has recently won an award for audience favorite at the festival.

Produced by the NFB's senior producer Svend-Erik Eriksen, the film is named for Dawn Crey, a woman from the Chilliwack Stolo First Nation who went missing from Vancouver's notorious downtown eastside in 2000 and whose DNA has been linked to the high profile case against Robert Pickton, who faces 26 first-degree murder charges based on evidence found on his Port Coquitlam pig farm. Crey's tragic story is the first to be told in the documentary. Through family interviews and childhood pictures, Welsh takes audiences on an emotional journey through Crey's upbringing in a family that, although inflicted by the residual pain associated with residential school abuse, now appears loving and supportive.

Other stories told in the documentary include that of the

murder of a 16-year-old student whose body was found on a stretch of Highway 16 in Northern B.C. and the 2004 disappearance of a young mother and university student who went missing without a trace in Saskatoon.

Fittingly dubbed the "Highway of Tears," the remote stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George is where nine women (eight of them First Nation) have gone missing or been found murdered since the 1990s. It is in the rural community of Smithers, B.C. where Welsh travelled and documented the story of slain teenager, Ramona Wilson. A bright light in her family, Wilson was not unlike many teenagers who craved excitement outside the limits of her small town. On a June night in 1994, the young woman decided to hitchhike from Smithers to the neighboring community of Morristown to meet up with friends and participate in high school graduation parties. In April 2005, almost a year to the date from her disappearance, Wilson's body was recovered off the winding, desolate stretch of Highway 16.

From B.C., Welsh traveled to

Saskatoon where another family and close-knit community have lost a young woman. Missing since 2004, 26-year-old Daleen Kay Bosse, a mother and student, disappeared without a trace. For two years members of Bosse's community have rallied together in an attempt to locate any clues that may lead them to Bosse's whereabouts but to date no evidence related to the case has been uncovered.

Finding Dawn tells the tragic stories of women whose lives have met a violent end.

Welsh's documentary illuminates the reality of the brutality against Native women, yet rays of hope filter through the darkness, through annual ceremonies that



SHAUNA LEWIS

Janice Acoose is one of the women who shares her story in the documentary *Finding Dawn*. Acoose once lived on the streets, but worked hard to turn her life around and is now a respected writer, scholar and advocate for Aboriginal rights.

not only forge awareness of the violence but also act as reminders that these women existed in the lives of all who loved them.

(See Film-maker page 15.)

Exhibit merges traditional art of West and Southwest

By Shauna Lewis
Raven's Eye Contributor

VANCOUVER

Cultures merged at the Vancouver Museum at the end of October with the official opening of a Native art exhibition that showcases a marriage of Pacific Northwest Coast and American Southwest Indigenous stylization.

The Totems to Turquoise exhibit opened on Oct. 26 to an audience of artists, distinguished guest and media. Traditional and contemporary styles from the Northwest Haida, Kwakwaka'akw, Tsimshian, Nisga'a, Tlingit, Nuuchah-Nulth, Nuxalt, Haisla and Coast Salish were displayed under the same roof as works from the Southwest Zuni, Hopi, Santa Domingo, Taos, Pueblo, Apache and Navajo tribes.

The theme of the show rested on the similarities and distinctions associated with Indigenous material and spiritual culture. Jewelry was the primary work shown, but carved wood masks and elaborate textiles were also displayed.

It is the first time the Totems to Turquoise exhibit has come home to Canada. Prior to its arrival, the works were housed at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The planning and founding for the exhibition has come from the

Vancouver-based Bill Reid Foundation and its Donor of the Day program, which allows different corporate and individual sponsors to fund the cost for every day the exhibit is shown in Vancouver.

Mavis Dixon, director of development for the Bill Reid Foundation, said due to the number of works in the show executed by contemporary local artists, it was only natural that the exhibition was brought home to B.C.

"The number of living artists represented in the show is 42 Northwest Coast living artists," Dixon said. "This would be criminal if the show in New York never came home."

Dixon said the show is a reference and celebration to the ongoing "living culture" of the Northwest Coastal First Nations.

"We didn't want it to be just what is in the museum, but about what is happening today in the community. Who are the living artists today creating art based on what is art in their community?"

The exhibit sprang to life from the book *Totems to Turquoise*, written by American Lois Sherr Dubin. In 2000, Dubin planned and funded a cultural exchange field study between the Haida and Southwest artisans. The exchange, which had some Northwest Coast artist travelling to New Mexico to share their art style and Southwest artist travelling to Haida Gwaii, was

intended as contributing research for Dubin's book. Later the data would manifest into a full-blown exhibition in New York of which Dubin was co-curator.

More than 500 individual pieces are being shown in the exhibit. Detailed Chilkat mountain goat woolen blankets are presented next to loom-woven Navajo blankets and Hopi Katsina dolls share space with historic Kwakwaka'akw bentwood boxes and transformation masks.

While there are obvious differences in iconography and style between West Coast and Southwestern art, there are also some fundamental similarities, said Navajo jewelry artisan, Jesse Monongya.

"A lot of our spiritual and traditional ways are woven together," he said.

Monongya, son of the late legendary Navajo jeweler Preston Monongya, admitted that while geographic differences may influence the symbolism in art—Southwest artists showing admiration for the sky in their works and Northwest Coast art being influenced by the sea—the traditional and spiritual values are the same.

"We all believe in the Great Spirit. We respect all of our animals," he said.

The exhibit focuses on the important role traditional Indigenous art plays in the emergence of contemporary

stylization, as some of art's great masters are acknowledged in the show.

Biographic excerpts of Northwest Coast artists Charles Eden-Shaw, Bill Reid and Robert Davidson are displayed along with samples of their works.

Also on display are the personal narratives and exquisite jewelry of Southwest masters Kenneth Begay, Charles Loloma and Preston Monongya.

According to contemporary Haida artist Christian White, this understanding of older methodologies in the creation of works is part and parcel to being able to exercise and implement a new style.

"We have to understand our traditional work," he said. "Once we're at that stage then we can move on and understand a style within a style."

Like Monongya, White had the opportunity to share his craftsmanship with artists from New Mexico during the exchange project six years ago. Through



SHAUNA LEWIS

Haida artist Christian White stands next to his work on display as part of the Totems to Turquoise exhibit at the Vancouver Museum.

visiting artist studios and being introduced to Southwest styles, some of White's jewelry now incorporates a new south-of-the border flavor.

Totems to Turquoise will be showing at the Vancouver Museum Oct. 27, 2006 until March 25, 2007, offering one of the last chances to see the collection as a whole. Once the Vancouver show ends, the exhibit will return briefly to the United States and then be dismantled and all artifacts will be returned to their respective museums.

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Public Notice: Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Revelstoke Dam Unit 5 Application Open For Comment

The B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) invites the public to comment on the Application for the Revelstoke Dam Unit 5 Project (Project).

BC Hydro (Proponent) is proposing to add a fifth penstock, turbine and generating unit to the Revelstoke Dam and Generating Station in Revelstoke, B.C. This proposed Project would add 500 megawatts (MW) of dependable capacity, bringing the facility's total generating capacity to 2,480 MW.

The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Act, S.B.C. 2002, c.43.

The formal public comment period begins Tuesday, November 8, 2006 and ends Saturday, December 23, 2006. During this time the public is encouraged to review the Application and provide

comments to the EAO. Written comments received by midnight Saturday, December 23, 2006 will be considered. Form letters, petitions or other submissions only stating a position for or against the project cannot generally be considered.

Please send your comments to:
Brian Murphy, Project Assessment Director
Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Fax 250 387-2208

Or: e-mail comments to: eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca and use the heading Revelstoke Unit 5.

An electronic copy of the Application, as well as information regarding the environmental assessment process, are available at www.eao.gov.bc.ca

NOTE: All submissions received by the EAO regarding this Project are considered public and will be posted to the EAO website in their original form. If you do not want to have your address and/or e-mail address and telephone number posted to the EAO website, please indicate this with your comments.



A06-443b

[raven's eye]

Film-maker tells women's stories

(Continued from page 14.)

From the annual Downtown Eastside Women's March in Vancouver, to memorial walks on the "Highway of Tears," loved ones are finding ways to celebrate the lives and honor the spirits of these women while providing awareness and demanding justice and accountability.

In *Finding Dawn*, hope is also personified through the stories of two women who have lived through the darkness of life on the streets and substance abuse.

Janice Acoose is a living example of a life transformed. A professor and student of Indigenous literature at the First Nations University of Canada, the Saulteaux/Metis woman knows what it's like to pick yourself up from the dark depths of dysfunction. Acoose lived a life on the streets, but through hard work, support and the desire for a better life, she turned her life around and is now a celebrated writer, scholar, producer and advocate for the empowerment of

Indigenous people.

Fay Blaney is another example of hope and transformation. The Homolko First Nation woman fled her now-abandoned coastal community of Church House once located off northern Vancouver Island. In the film, Blaney shared her story of life on the Vancouver streets. Dislocation, disassociation and despair epitomized much of her youth.

In her adulthood Blaney's life took a positive turn and she returned to her community—a community that had now been relocated to a parcel of land in Campbell River, B.C. As an adult and professional educator, Blaney acknowledges the legacy of abuse her community has suffered through. Displacement, residential school abuse and substance addiction has infected much of her reservation.

Blaney told *Raven's Eye* of the violence against women on her island reservation. Gang rapes have been prevalent in her community and while Blaney is ardently working as an advocate for positive change, she admits a lot of work has yet to be done.

"There are still some real ups and downs," Blaney said. "A lot of women in the community still think that the atrocities they experience in the community are normal."

Blaney said respect, responsibility and the rehashing of issues and recovery from displacement is needed in her community before any positive changes can be made.

Blaney and Acoose both agreed that while it is important to honor these missing and murdered women, we as a society should focus on what we can do to prevent women from being at risk to predators.

"Our concern should be focused on those that are living, that are vulnerable to becoming missing women," Blaney said.

The importance of illuminating and examining difficult issues associated with the pain of residential schools and the legacy of family dysfunction was echoed by Lorraine Crey. The younger sister of Dawn Crey, she is another advocate for change and independently speaks to youth in her community who need guidance concerning an abundance of issues. She said she is very happy with the way Christine Welsh told her sister's story and said films like *Finding Dawn* are needed to provide a deeper understanding of the realities of life for women on Vancouver's streets.

The Stolo First Nation women hopes that through advocacy work and films like Welsh's, important issues will get the attention they deserve and these women won't be forgotten.

[education]

Learning centre to support sharing of knowledge

By Karin Fehderau
Windspeaker Contributor

SASKATOON

About 100 people were on hand at the recent launch of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre that took place at the Wanuskewin Heritage Park located just outside the city.

The Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre is a non-profit group whose purpose is to collect and classify data from various Aboriginal educational institutions in an effort to find teaching methods that will benefit the wider community.

"We work with all jurisdictions to share with as many who can benefit," said Dr. Marie Battiste, academic director of the Aboriginal Education Research Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, who, along with Dr. Vivian Ayoungman, executive director of the Calgary-based First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium, is co-director of the newly minted organization. "It's across-the-board information sharing."

Seeds for the idea were originally planted in the minds of University of Saskatchewan staff. Several years ago, staff at the

university's College of Education noticed they were getting a lot of requests from outside groups asking for information on different Aboriginal issues. At the same time, studies were being carried out on these very issues but the results were not being used to help others.

"There was a lot of ad hoc stuff being done," noted Battiste.

The Aboriginal Education Research Centre, already in place, devised a plan to coordinate these efforts. They submitted a proposal to the university and received funding for a three-year program with the understanding that they would be on their own after that.

"We saw the need to focus a centre on research," Battiste said.

The next step was to approach the Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) a national organization that promotes learning across the country. Funding for the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre was granted as part of an overall plan by the council to encourage growth in education through learning centres.

Five learning centres across the country have been established with the help of the CCL. The Aboriginal learning centre is the



KARIN FEHDERAU

Dr. Vivian Ayoungman (left) and Dr. Marie Battiste, co-directors of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre, speak to a crowd gathered at Wanuskewin Heritage Park near Saskatoon for the official launch of the centre on Oct. 19.

last one to be opened. Each centre has its own focus and is expected to share information about that theme with the rest of Canada. In addition to the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre, there is a centre in Atlantic Canada focused on adult learning, an early childhood learning centre in Quebec, a health and learning centre covering British Columbia and

the Yukon and a work and learning centre in Ontario.

The theme of Aboriginal learning extends across the Prairie provinces and into the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Battiste notes that, although the Prairies have done a lot of work in the area of Aboriginal schooling, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have done less. A coordinator to bring the northern

areas together with the south will be put in place soon, she added.

Although many different schools have been working to address the Aboriginal learning issues, most of the work has been done in isolation with little contact between the groups. The new learning centre would be an outside group to help remedy that, Battiste said.

(See Centre page 18.)

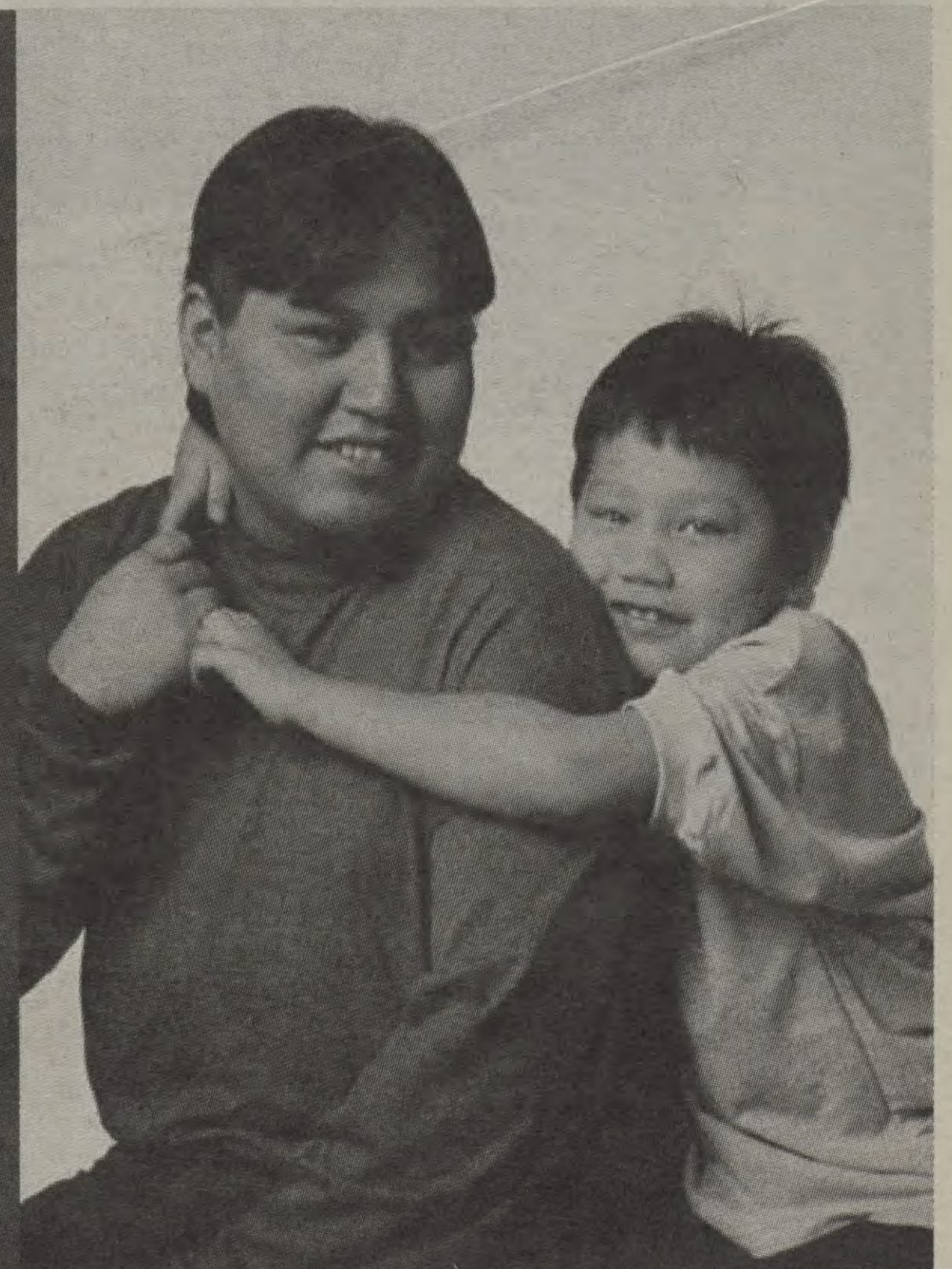
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OPEN LEARNING

U of S launches program for land managers

By Peter Derbawka
Windspeaker Contributor

SASKATOON

A new training program for First Nation resource managers has been introduced at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

Working with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the National Aboriginal Land Managers Association, the department of agricultural economics at the College of Agriculture developed the Indigenous Peoples Resource Management Program. Students in the program will attend six courses covering topics ranging from law and the environment to economics and leadership and will earn a certificate of proficiency upon successfully completing the course. All of the classes are at the first year university level.

Marilyn Poitras, director of the program, said it is a national program and will be offered in English and French, with the

"We're not making lawyers or environmentalists out of them, but we're certainly trying to create enough confidence that when they read documents they know what the language is and they know when they need to bring an expert in and when they can do it themselves."

—Marilyn Poitras

English program offered this year. She finds the vast experience of the students inspirational.

"The students are from all over Canada, from the Maritimes to Vancouver Island. It's a fabulous group, with lots of interesting people."

Land managers on First Nations in Canada look after absolutely every range of issues, Poitras explained. "Public works, leasehold issues, commercial development in Vancouver, cattle and ranch issues in Saskatchewan, all the way to the Maritimes. Land touches every aspect of life, and the land managers have seen it all."

One student with plenty of

experience is Maurice Sutherland. He has been a land manager for Peguis First Nation in Manitoba since 1981. "You're never too old to learn," he said. "And this is a great opportunity for people who want to learn land management."

Marian Moulton of Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick agrees. "I am getting a lot of good information," she said. "I've gotten more of a global way of looking at things instead of just at the reserve level. It's just so exciting. I can't get enough of it. I wish I would have had this 20 years ago."

Some of the students are new land managers, while some have more than 15 years experience.

"The life and work experience of the students allows them to immediately relate to the course topics," Poitras said. "They have numerous practical examples of many of the concepts covered in the materials."

Geno Clement from Listuguj First Nation in Quebec is happy with the range of the concepts being covered in the program. "The course helped me with a lot of tools and opened up my mind to a whole bunch of initiatives that are going on, especially with court cases that are relevant across the nation," he said.

The students come to Wanuskewin Heritage Park, a national historic site near Saskatoon, for a two-week intensive course, then have seven weeks of home study, with readings and assignments, in addition to their full-time jobs. Over a 12-month period there are three sessions of classroom work, each two weeks long, plus a final project presentation.

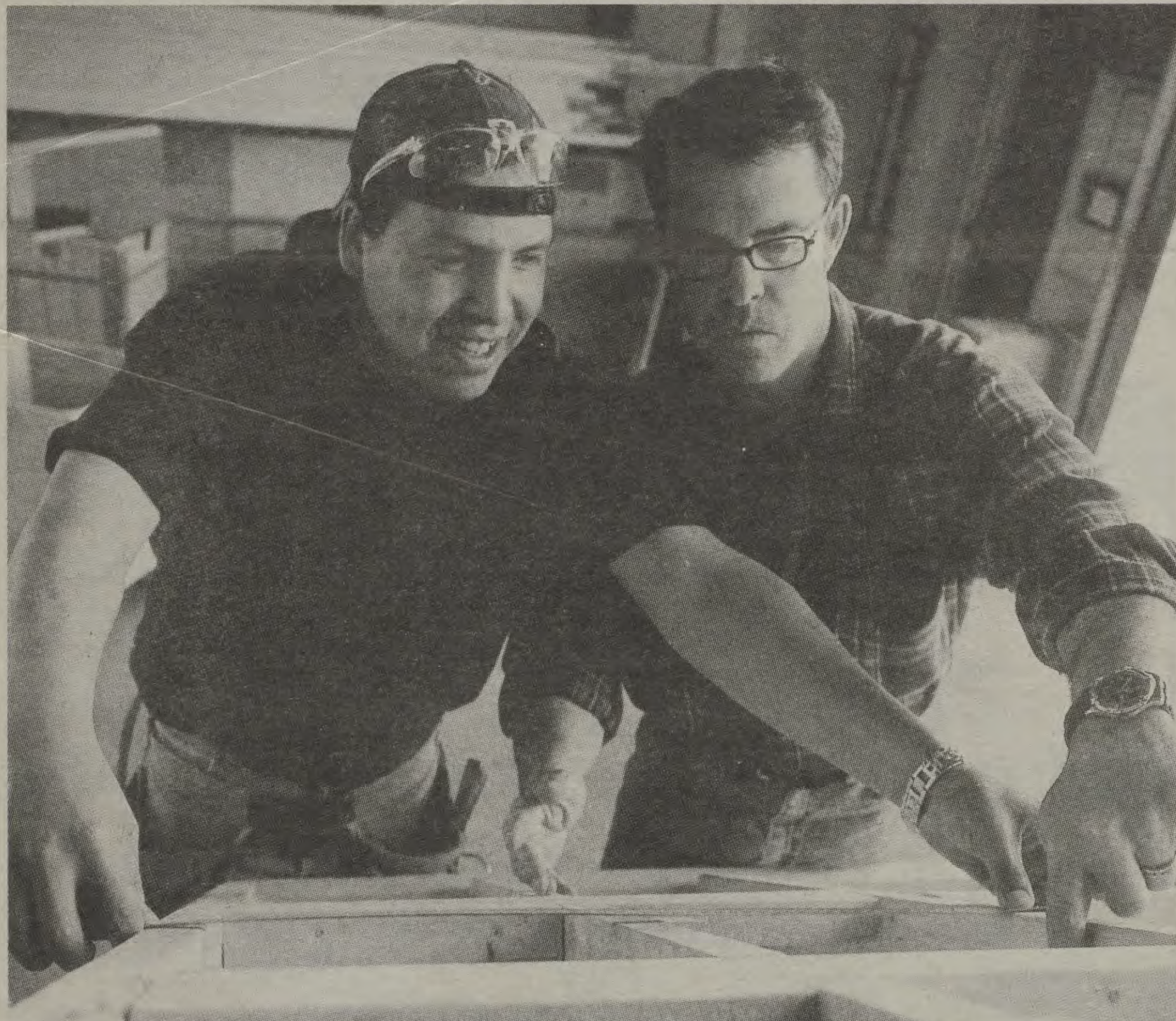
Because it is a distance education program the maximum number of students per year is

about 30. "With distance education keeping students engaged with their course when they are balancing professional and personal lives can be difficult," Poitras said. "We're not making lawyers or environmentalists out of them, but we're certainly trying to create enough confidence that when they read documents they know what the language is and they know when they need to bring an expert in and when they can do it themselves. That's definitely a big part of the program, and the networking is a big part, too."

That's important for Rex Lumberjack of Kinistin First Nation in Saskatchewan. "The course covers a lot of areas that regard land management and we do deal with everything in the land management area," he said.

"There's so much I have learned, and I'm getting a lot of networking done. We do have common problems but in different areas, so we're giving each other ideas on how to manage things better."

(See Land managers page 19.)



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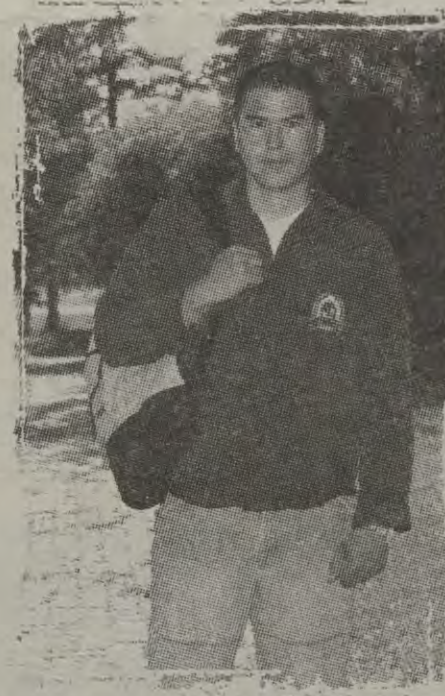
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Centre will create network for Aboriginal educators

(Continued from page 16.)

Data that is collected by the centre will be shared through workshops, symposiums and conferences, and three-way sharing between the province, the Aboriginal community and schools could be beneficial. The first conference will be in Edmonton in March 2007.

Although the centre's focus right now will be to bring together different schools, the wider community also needs to be included.

"We don't know about Elders and their learning," said Marie Battiste. "What could we contribute to their learning?"

Up until now, many improvements in Aboriginal learning have dealt with elementary and high school studies. What this new centre hopes to do is help co-ordinate efforts made in the pre-school and post-secondary arenas. One of the goals of this expanded focus would be finding ways to make the transition between high

school and post-secondary studies easier.

All of this is significant in light of the fact that twice as many Aboriginal as non-Aboriginal adults are working and living without their high-school diplomas. And this can seriously affect earning potential.

"This alone is a dramatic illustration that Canada's education systems have been failing Aboriginal peoples for decades," a statement from the CCL proclaims.

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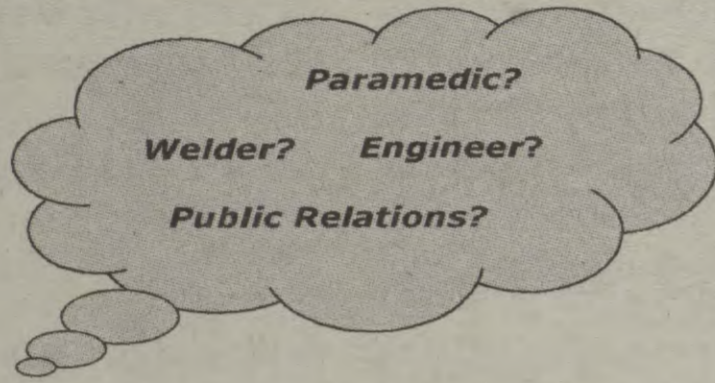
The new curriculum includes new courses on Aboriginal human life cycles, Aboriginal social policy, practice and ethics. The four-year program will

prepare graduates to work within Aboriginal communities, giving them the tools they require to address community needs more fully.

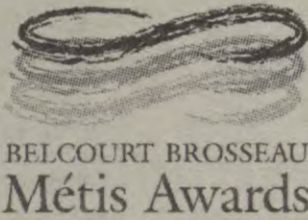
"This program provides our students with access to relevant knowledge and skills and ensures that our graduates will work in ways that honor our Aboriginal heritage," said Gordon Bruyere, co-ordinator of the BSW program.

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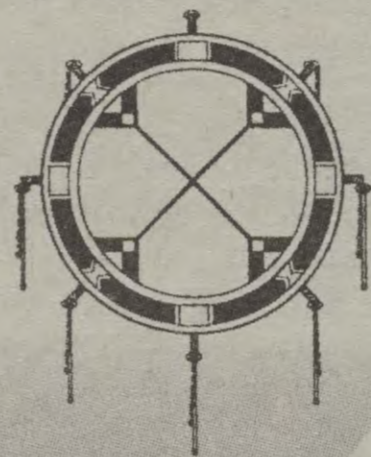
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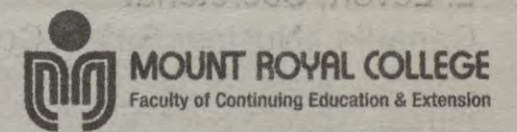


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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, that it will hold a one-day public hearing on the Environmental Assessment (EA) Guidelines regarding Ontario Power Generation Inc.'s (OPG) proposal for the refurbishment and life extension of the Pickering B nuclear generating station. The hearing will be held in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on January 24, 2007.

The public is invited to comment on the revised EA Guidelines. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by December 22, 2006 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the name, address and telephone of the requester.

Hearing documents (submissions) are not available on-line and must be requested through the Secretariat at the address below. For more information, instructions on how to participate in this public hearing process or the complete text of the official Notice of Public Hearing, see www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2007-H-01, or contact:

L. Levert, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St., P.O. Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Tel.: (613) 996-9063 or 1-800-668-5284
Fax: (613) 995-5086
E-mail: interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca



Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, that it will hold a two-day public hearing on the application by Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG), for the renewal of the operating licence for the Western Waste Management Facility located at the Bruce nuclear generating station. The hearing will be held in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on January 24, 2007 and April 19, 2007.

The public is invited to comment on the application on Hearing Day Two. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by March 19, 2007 at the address below and include a written submission; a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation; and the name, address and telephone of the requester.

Hearing documents (submissions) are not available on-line and must be requested through the Secretariat at the address below. For more information, instructions on how to participate in this public hearing process or the complete text of the official Notice of Public Hearing, see www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca, and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2007-H-02, or contact:

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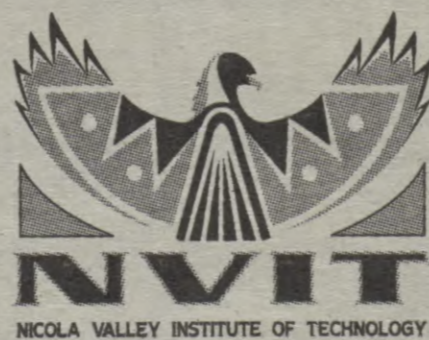
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[education]

Land managers go back to school

(Continued from page 17.)

Elders are pivotal to the success of the program. "They have created an atmosphere where they turned us into a family," Marilyn Poitras said. "The Elders also help students with balancing home life and work life and the roles of men and women. This program will be successful because of that, I absolutely believe that."

For Delyla Daniels, a leasing officer from Kamloops First Nation in B.C., the Elders are able to validate any traditional teachings that the students have in their own communities. "We're very fortunate that this program has brought Elders in to us."

The current program began in August and will run until the end of March. The next 12-month

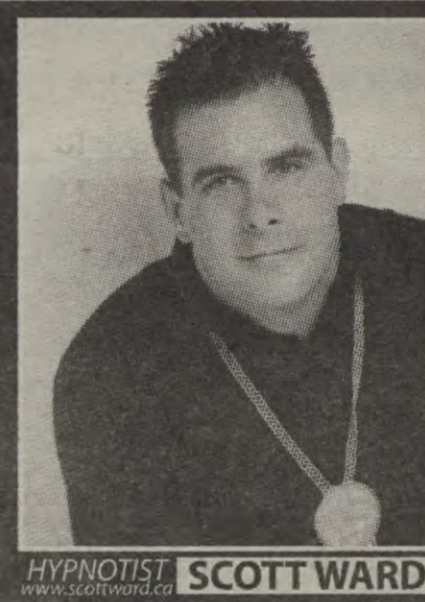
program is scheduled to start in May.

Although this is only the pilot year for the program, Poitras anticipates it will lead to development of a degree program in land management. With only 32 First Nations involved this year out of a total of 650 First Nations in Canada, each with a land manager plus assistants, potential demand for the program is high. There is also interest in the courses from students outside the program. The next step will be a diploma program and then a degree program. Poitras said she will be talking with the current students to see what type of classes they want to see next, and building that into her plans for the future.

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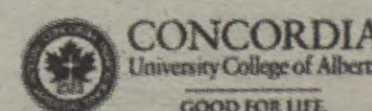
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Relationship

(Continued from page 8)

Ramsay told *Windspeaker* he was shocked to hear Prentice say the land question at Caledonia was a provincial matter.

"Quite frankly, I don't understand. Ontario, or any other province or territory has neither the power nor the authority on federal land. That is held by the federal government," he said.

Windspeaker asked if the federal position could be read as an expression of a political ideology.

"I'll give the benefit of the doubt. I'll put it this way: I feel that, to move this file along across the country, I think governments have to stop listening to their lawyers and make a political determination that we are going to settle land claims. I think that's the nub of this. I don't think it's ideology necessarily."

But Liberal MP Gary Merasty, former grand chief of the Prince Albert Grand Council in Saskatchewan, said the Conservatives are not being straight up about their financial plans for the Indian Affairs department.

"There's a huge frustration at the lack of movement on Kelowna, even to the point of misrepresentation of what they're proposing to actually be doing," he said. "They've said that this government has given more to Aboriginal people than any other government in the history of the country, and that is \$3.3 billion or something like that. But \$2.2 billion of that was the residential school agreement."

Of the approximately \$1 billion remaining, Merasty said \$600 million is going to provinces and territories and not directly into the hands of First Nations and Metis people.

"Then you have \$450 million left and that is spread over two years; \$150 million this year, which none of it has moved yet and the minister acknowledged that when I questioned him at the committee, and \$300 million is set to move next year. So the reality is that none of that \$150 million has moved this year. In fact, we're at a net loss in the First Nations and Metis communities because they've clawed back with these recent cuts money from health and Indian Affairs and other departments."

Some of the ideas floated by Prentice have Merasty concerned as well.

"The minister's talked about fee simple land ownership. To me that's a very, very scary issue because the Americans did this. It was called the Dawes Act," Merasty said.

The Dawes Act allowed for reservation lands to be sold or seized in repayment of outstanding debts. It led to a phenomenon that is referred to checkerboard reservations where chunks of reserve land were privately held and the communities were put under tremendous strains. Between the trend to fewer individuals being granted status as a result of the provisions of Bill C-31 and the proposal to allow private land ownership, Merasty sees big

troubles ahead.

"Think about it. There'll be no Indians and no land reserved for Indians. Big picture-wise, that's the issue for me and I'm tracking this as my role. And also these cuts are extremely concerning because I think we're at a net loss in funding," he said.

Osgoode Hall Law Professor Shin Imai said the idea that provinces might have the liability for pre-Confederation claims is "not a new thing that came in with Jim Prentice."

He said it's a tactic that department of Justice lawyers have come up with in the ongoing fight to protect the Crown from legal liability.

"It's sort of this underground fight that has been going on in litigation. To me, it just makes no sense. Just looking at Confederation and how it works and our Constitution, whatever happened before Confederation the idea is that we got together at Confederation and created a federal government and set up the structure," he said. "And the structure says in 91-24 that Indians and lands reserved for Indians are the federal responsibility, so that's where the jurisdiction is. I just find it totally astounding that they would say, 'Well, go back pre-Confederation, because our constitutional structure wasn't built on what was happening before Confederation. Prentice's statement was... it makes no sense to me in our constitutional structure. I don't see the logic in it. And maybe that's why he's now backing down from it. Maybe he's been made to realize that it's an untenable position.'"

Imai noted that the Law Commission of Canada also got cut.

"The last thing they sent out was a discussion paper on Indigenous legal traditions and the background research was done by John Borrows. I asked for all the copies to use in my classes because it's just terrific. So they're doing terrific work, but maybe it's upsetting the current prime minister. They don't want all this terrific work done on Aboriginal issues," he said.

The law professor believes the government has sent all kinds of messages that it's departing radically from past approaches.

"I think that with Stephen Harper there's been a definite change and it's just an objective fact." Regarding the decision to back away from the Kelowna accord Imai said "It's a decision they made and they were happy to make it. I think he's changing the course of government's relationships with Aboriginal people. It's conscious. They want to do it and they're doing it. From their point of view, they're doing it for a good reason. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples loves it."

They think they should get rid of reserves. For those people who are more inclined to affiliate and recognize their own cultural identity and the importance of collective consciousness and collective rights and nationhood, it's definitely a hostile turn."

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Forward resumé and two references by December 8, 2006 to:

Arnold Lampreau, Human Resources Chair
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Phone: 250-378-4235
Fax: 250-378-9119
Email: administration@nta.nicolatribal.org

For a complete list of duties and qualifications, contact the number above.

[careers & training]

Brazeau

(Continued from page 8)

The Indian Affairs minister spoke at the CAP assembly and announced an increase in funding of \$1.3 million, a 26 per cent increase that brings CAP's annual government funding up to \$6.3 million. That prompted one AFN source to suggest Patrick Brazeau was "singing for his supper" when he made his public comments in support of the government. Brazeau rejected the criticism.

"Yes, we've got an increase of \$1.3 million. But let's not forget our total budget is \$5 million, and of that \$5 million in a given year, half of it is dispersed to our provincial affiliates across the country. So the \$1.3 million is a modest increase. So to the critics out there that might have said that we've been bought for \$1.3 million, well I'm not as cheap as some people might think," he said. "If people start criticizing in that fashion and taking personal shots that must mean that you're doing a good thing."

Windspeaker asked Brazeau to go on the record in response to the allegations that he was part of a government strategy.

"The efforts to raise the bar on public debate around Indian Act abolition is entirely CAP's own pursuit. There is no hidden agenda or attempt to mask any other endeavor. Let me make it clear, we are not the government's messengers. We are, however, hopefully, serving as a catalyst to get things moving towards seeing an end to Canada's most repressive, archaic, prescriptive piece of legislation.

"And who could question the wisdom in that? Let's face it, the yardstick on Aboriginal policies has only moved forward after healthy debates and that is what our intent is," he responded.

He was asked why he was

doing this now. He said he had seen a report commissioned from an ethnologist by the department of Indian Affairs that showed that by the year 2129 there may not be any more status Indians due to the provisions of Bill C-31 which denies status to children who have some non-Native heritage.

"If you look at 2129 as opposed to when the Indian Act was first implemented in 1876, we're almost at the halfway point right now. So if we're going to change the wave with respect to the status Indians in this country, we've got to start acting now. And the way to do that is to try and offer up a solution, which is the elimination of the Indian Act and the reserve system; create those nations so that we can turn the tide," he said.

Brazeau also supported the federal decision not to proceed with the Kelowna agreement.

"To me Kelowna was just a means to pump some significant dollars into, I'll call them the three major organizations, which they are not, the AFN, Metis National Council and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and just putting more money into the reserve system and that just doesn't work anymore," he said.

"I mean, 130 years and what's the result? So what's putting more money into the system going to do?"

He insists he is simply trying to kick-start a long overdue discussion that will lead to action that will benefit all First Nation people.

"The reason why I'm doing this is I'm sick and tired of the rhetoric.

It's time to act and let's try to unite people," he said. "That's my biggest hope, to unite the people, even though right now it might not seem as though that's what the purpose of this is."

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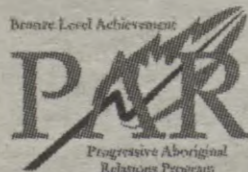
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[footprints] Ben Michel Innu leader believed in creating a better future for his people

By Heather Andrews Miller

The passing of Ben Michel this past summer at the age of 53 from a massive and unexpected heart attack has left a void in the leadership of the Innu Nation. For approximately 30 years, Michel advocated for Innu rights so his people could have control over their lives and their land. He devoted his entire working life to being a political leader and while still in his teen years and early twenties was actively participating in protecting the land and the way of life of his people.

Since those early years, Michel had passionately joined other leaders of the 2000-member Innu Nation to achieve partnerships with the government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the federal government. Even before his election as president of the Innu Nation in 2004 he had been at the table of many comprehensive land rights negotiations and participated in numerous protests and evictions of mining companies who had begun development on Innu lands without permission or negotiation.

Ben—Penote in Innu—Michel was born on June 28, 1953 to Shimun Michel and Mani-An Michel of Sheshatshiu, Labrador, the fourth child of the 12 who would eventually be born to the couple. The English schools he attended at Sheshatshiu and Wabush gave him bilingual abilities, a skill he would find helpful later in his life when dealing with industry and government officials, but he always remained fluent in his Native Innu tongue.

Michel and his siblings

were taught by their parents (who are still alive and are respected Elders in the 1,200 resident community of Sheshatshiu) to honor the land, and the family often enjoyed a traditional lifestyle. Later, he would pass on the same values to his own four children as he travelled the country to conduct negotiations and hold meetings about pertinent issues that would affect their future. He chose to drive to the many meetings he attended so he could bring his children along with him rather than leaving them behind at home. The family travelled every year to an annual gathering in Quebec, meeting with the Montagnais people with whom the Innu share their language and culture, but holidaying and relaxing as a family as well.

Michel was one of the people who could remember the Innu as a sovereign people with their own sustainable economy based on hunting, fishing and gathering. He saw the damage that mining, forestry, and hydroelectric projects were doing to the land and sought to ensure the Innu had a say in how these developments would unfold so that the environment could be protected.

One of the Innu's first experiences with industrial development was the Churchill Falls power project in the early 1970s that proceeded to drown forever a portion of their hunting grounds, trap lines and ancestral burial sites without any consultation or negotiation with the Innu. The unfortunate experience taught a young Michel and the Innu leaders that they needed to insist on meeting with government and industry to ensure they were part of the planning for any further developments. This set the stage for most of Michel's career as he spent the rest of his life delivering this message and ensuring

agreements were carried out. Members of the community united in showing great support in any action necessary to get the attention of those in control of non-Aboriginal development.

Michel was involved in protests concerning military low level flight training over Labrador and eastern Quebec in the 1990s. Canada and its NATO allies allowed supersonic jets to fly over the area, as many as 30 to 40 times a day, flying low to avoid radar detection and greatly disturbing the wildlife, causing caribou to miscarry and threatening the food that the Innu and other Aboriginal people in the area hunted for survival. Children were startled by the planes that appeared with no warning of their approach and, clipping the tree tops, flew over the home lands with a noise twice as loud as thunder. The protests went on for years.

When the extension of a logging road right next to the community was planned, again without consultation, Michel and other leaders gave an eviction notice to officials and workers and set up tents to ensure that once they left they did not return.

The protestors continued their presence until a series of meetings resulted in then-premier Clyde Wells agreeing to prevent the road from being extended. In 1994, the Voisey's Bay nickel deposit was discovered in the area and the Innu found they were once again protesting the apparent ignoring of their rights as exploration of the area began without consultation. Michel helped to organize and attend the protests, which were eventually effective and gave the development companies and governments notice that the Innu must be included in any further development. They were joined in this protest by nearby Inuit people, whose lands were also threatened by the mining

development.

One of the many people Michel met during his years of political leadership was Dr. David Suzuki, and family members say that the two found they had many environmental concerns in common and a great mutual respect for one another and the work each was doing.

Michel wanted to share the spotlight as leader with those around him and he taught and trained others with his knowledge and skills, including Daniel Ashini, the new leader of the Innu Nation. The incoming president has said he will continue working towards the vision he shared with his cousin, who was attending mining rights negotiations in Quebec at the time of his death in August. Ashini is a strong negotiator in his own right and has represented the Innu Nation in past land claims and numerous other activities, but admits the work is ongoing.

At the funeral held in Michel's home community of Sheshatshiu, more than 500 overflowed a school gymnasium for a five-hour service of remembrance. In attendance were politicians, friends and family members. Condolences poured in from across the country and the Combined Councils of Labrador asked all communities across the province to fly their flags at half mast.

In a statement of condolence

issued by the office of the federal minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Jim Prentice called Michel a man of the people, someone who spoke passionately about the right to self-determination and possessed both vision and the ability to carry out the work necessary to see that vision become reality.

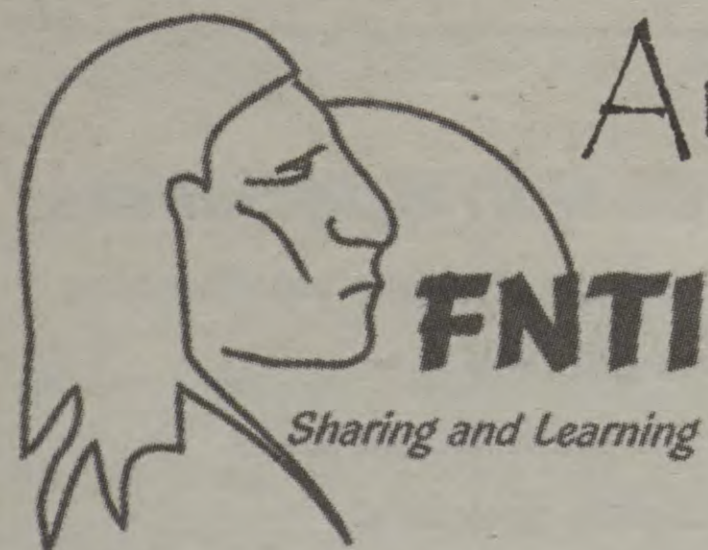
Family members say near the end, Michel seemed always to be tired, as if his many years of political and leadership duties were beginning to take their toll.

He leaves behind his wife Janet, his four children—James, Yvette, Annette, and Megan—grandchildren, his siblings, nieces and nephews, and his parents. He also leaves an entire community that continues to mourn his too-early passing but which will be forever grateful for the difference he made in their lives through his efforts to preserve the culture and the way of life for so many people. He will be remembered as the father of the Innu people.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INNU NATION

Ben Michel was a strong and determined leader who worked tirelessly for the Innu people, but he also made spending time with his family a top priority.



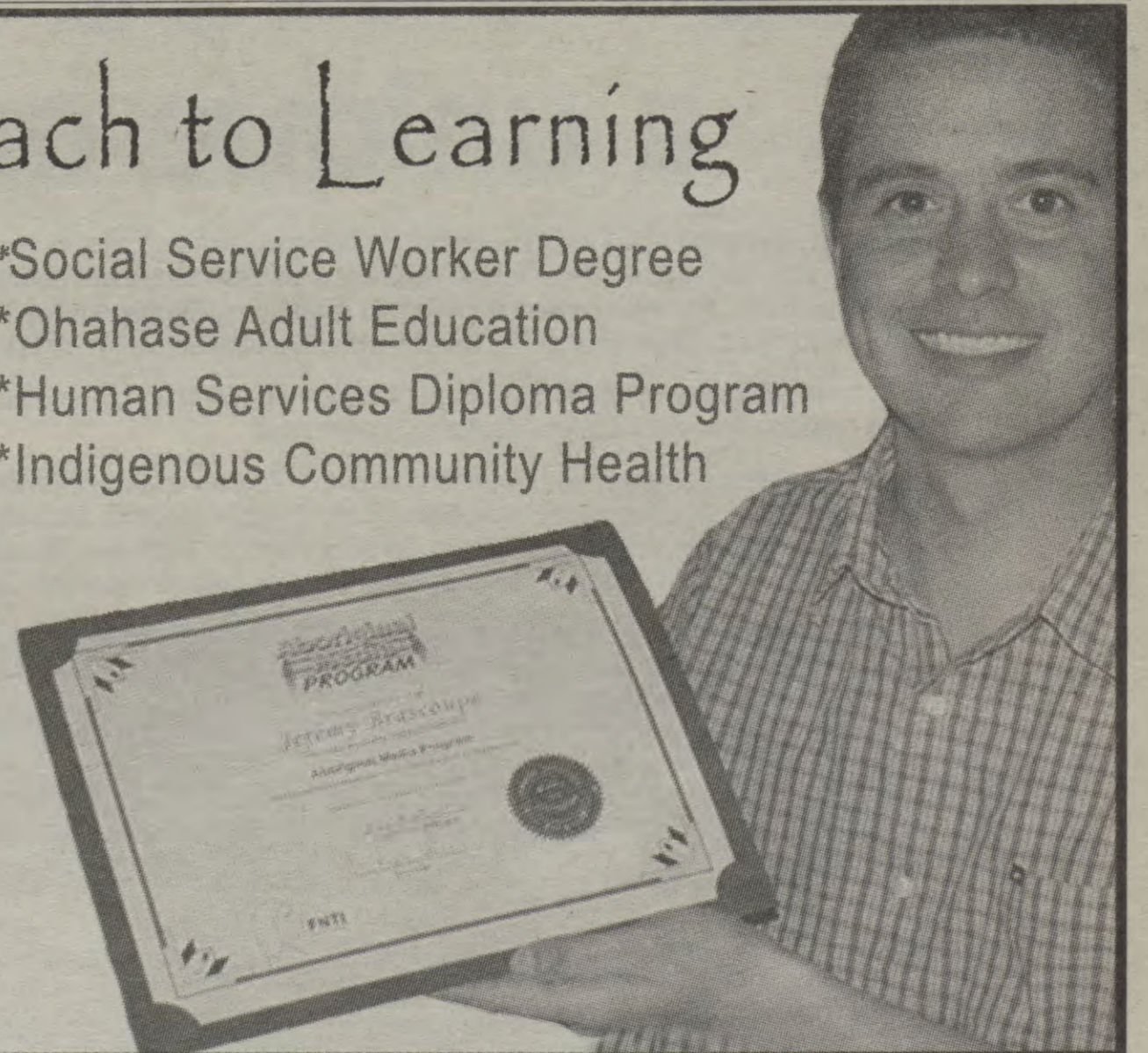
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2007 Photo Contest Winners



Lynden Swan
Photograph by:
Doug Thomas
Peguis First Nation, Manitoba

Congratulations to our Photo Contest winners:
Doug Thomas and Robbie Halkett
Each has received a prize award of \$1500.00.

Windspeaker and Scotiabank would like to thank the many entrants in our Photo Contest. There were more than 500 photos received this year!

The decision was very difficult, but one look at the two selected photos will convince you that our judges made excellent choices.

There will be a new contest for next year which will open on July 1, 2007



Justyn Halkett
Photograph by:
Robbie Halkett
Brochet, Manitoba

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Aboriginal History Project

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JANUARY - 2007

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MARCH - 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 Hey! Start the year off right subscribe to Wind-speaker! 1-800-661-5469	1999 Nina dies in avalanche at New Year's Eve celebrations in Kangasquajitjoo, QC.	1984 Native Father died Wayne Rolland travels to death walking from Fort Chip to Fort McKey.	2006 Start the year right with your own Wind-speaker subscription. Call 1-800-661-5469	2002 Launch of AMWSA's 5th publication Ontario Birchbark.	1985 The Lubicon Lake Indian Band receives \$1.5 M from federal gov't to defray legal costs.	1966 The Drum, a new independent newspaper, begins publishing in the western Arctic.
1984 Albertan Douglas Cardinal selected to design National Museum of Civilization.	1949 Distance runner Tom Longboat dies at Six Nations reserve in Ontario.	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1997 Scotiabank becomes sole sponsor of the National Aboriginal Career Symposium.	1997 Essay Writing Contest for Aboriginal Youth.	1988 Chief Big Bear dies on the Peavander reserve.	2001 President Bill Clinton fails to pardon Indian rights activist Leonard Peltier.
1993 MIA Mike Cardinal is sworn in as Alberta's first status Indian cabinet minister.	1999 Standoff that lasted 78 days sparked when a town council wanted to expand a golf course.	2000 A. Oka.	1989 A whooping cough epidemic hits Hobbama, Ala., and 250 residents are infected.	1945 Pharol Cardinal, Indian leader and author, is born at High Prairie, Alberta.	2001 Supreme Court dismisses appeal of Ont. police officer convicted in Dudley George shooting.	1945 Pharol Cardinal, Indian leader and author, is born at High Prairie, Alberta.
1991 Native trapper Leo LaChance is shot and killed by white supremacist Carver Merland.	1999 65 elk translocated from Elk Head Park to traditional lands of Montreal Lake Cree Nation in SK.	1995 Premiere of AMWSA's cultural publication: Buffalo Spirit.	2000 First meeting of Louis Riel's provisional government is held.	1941 Buffy Sainte-Marie, folk singer and song writer, is born at Piapot reserve in Sask.	2007 The Ontario Court of Appeal confirms Metis hunting rights.	1999 CRTC approves the first-ever national Aboriginal TV network: AFN.
1989 Hobbama boxer Danny Stonekeeper wins the Canadian light-heavyweight title.	1977 Edith Brant Monture, Minister without portfolio in the federal government.	2000 Joseph Brant, dies, born on the New Credit Reserve in 1794.	1870 It began when four hungry Santee Sioux stole some eggs from a homestead near Acton in the Minnesota River valley. It ended with hundreds of settlers killed, 1,700 Sioux imprisoned and more than 300 Sioux men condemned to death.	1985 The Sioux Uprising of 1862.	1999 Jones William Ignace, Cree, is released from custody after serving...	1976 Leonard Peltier is arrested at Smalloy's Camp in Alberta.

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1989 February 4 - Quebec - A study of breastmilk from Inuit mothers from northern Quebec shows it contains the highest levels of PCBs of any mother's milk in the world.	1987 February 27 - Tanto Cardinal and Tom Jackson are nominated for Genie awards for their roles in "Hoyahits".	1958 James Gladstone, 71, the first Indian Senator, is appointed in Ottawa.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1985 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.	1870 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.	1985 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.
1999 Jones William Ignace, Cree, is released from custody after serving...	1976 Leonard Peltier is arrested at Smalloy's Camp in Alberta.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1992 Davis Inlet, six children die in a house fire.	2001 James Boy, Cree claim to victory against the development of future hydro-electric power.	1999 CRTC approves the first-ever national Aboriginal TV network: AFN.	1985 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.
1875 Parliament votes to grant amnesty to Louis Riel for his role in the execution of Thomas Scott in 1870.	1941 Buffy Sainte-Marie, folk singer and song writer, is born at Piapot reserve in Sask.	2007 The Ontario Court of Appeal confirms Metis hunting rights.	1999 CRTC approves the first-ever national Aboriginal TV network: AFN.	2001 James Boy, Cree claim to victory against the development of future hydro-electric power.	1985 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.	1985 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.
1987 Group of 14 Inuit formed to focus on local issues (see full description on the right).	1998 J.J. Harper Day observed throughout Manitoba.	1985 The Ontario Court of Appeal confirms Metis hunting rights.	1999 CRTC approves the first-ever national Aboriginal TV network: AFN.	2001 James Boy, Cree claim to victory against the development of future hydro-electric power.	1985 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.	1985 Louis Riel is elected president of the new provisional gov't in Red River, Man.
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Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1980 March 5 - Mohawk Jay Silverheels - who played Lone Ranger's sidekick Tonto dies. From Six Nations Reserve near Bradford, Ont. He was founder of the Indian Actors Workshop.	1977 Benjamin Chee Chae, renowned Ojibway artist, commits suicide in Ontario jail cell.	1862 Shalijoo arrives on Vancouver Island and spreads throughout BC killing thousands.	1983 Lubicon Lake band granted permission to proceed with injunction to stop resource...	1983 John Joseph Harper shot and killed by Robert Cross of the Winnipeg Police Dept.	1988 John Joseph Harper shot and killed by Robert Cross of the Winnipeg Police Dept.	1960 Indian people are given the right to vote in federal elections, but many don't want it.
2001 Florent Vallant wins Juno in the Best Music of Aboriginal Canada category.	1991 Milton Barn With a Tooth Archibald Douglas Joseph Cardinal is born at Red Deer, Alberta.	1934 Archibald Douglas Joseph Cardinal is born at Red Deer, Alberta.	1913 Renowned Mohawk potter Pauline Johnson dies.	1999 In the Blue Ground: A North of 60 Movie aired on CBC.	1988 John Joseph Harper shot and killed by Robert Cross of the Winnipeg Police Dept.	1960 Indian people are given the right to vote in federal elections, but many don't want it.
1986 Elaine Janvier, a white woman, is elected chief of 51 Caledon First Nation in Alberta.	1984 Former Alta. U. Gov. Robt. Stenhouse of Socha Lake is inducted into the Hall of Fame.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1621 Samuel greets the Mayflower pilgrims with the words "Welcome Englishmen."	1983 A whooping cough epidemic hits Hobbama, Ala., and 250 residents are infected.	1988 John Joseph Harper shot and killed by Robert Cross of the Winnipeg Police Dept.	1960 Indian people are given the right to vote in federal elections, but many don't want it.
1983 Launch of the AMWSA newspaper - later to be named, Wind-speaker.	1885 Gabriel Dumont is chosen to head the new armed forces of the Riel government.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1885 Louis Riel demands people of Fort Carbon surrender during the North-West Rebellion.	1989 A whooping cough epidemic hits Hobbama, Ala., and 250 residents are infected.	1874 Fugitive Louis Riel breaks into House of Commons and is sworn in to represent Manitoba.	1876 US Army of 1,400 men attacks Indian camp. Defeated by Crazy Horse and 200 warriors.
2003 Wind-speaker and AMWSA celebrate 20th Anniversary!	1885 Gabriel Dumont engages Mountain and settles in battle at Duck Lake.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1999 Time Keeper stars in television movie on the Blue Ground. The North of 60 Movie on CBC.	1993 Wind-speaker celebrates 10th Anniversary by becoming national news publication.	1874 Fugitive Louis Riel breaks into House of Commons and is sworn in to represent Manitoba.	1876 US Army of 1,400 men attacks Indian camp. Defeated by Crazy Horse and 200 warriors.

APRIL - 2007

MAY - 2007

JUNE - 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1999 The new territory of Nunavut is officially established - no Inuit!	1885 The Frog Lake Massacre of the North-West Rebellion.	1975 Removed Native artist Gerald Tailfeathers dies, on Blood Reserve, Alberta.	1887 Chief Big Bear released from jail. He was imprisoned for his part in the North-West Rebellion.	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1950 Q.1950, sportswriters name him the greatest all-around male athlete of the half-century.	1988 Battle of Fort Pitt, North-West Rebellion.
A. Jim Thorpe.	1999 First Nations chiefs in northern Ontario begin on 11 day fast to draw attention to...	1991 Inadequate health care services in their communities.	1991 Carney Markham sentenced to 4 year jail term for killing Leo LaChance.	1991 Wind-speaker columnist Richard Wigwamee receives national newspaper award.	1885 Battle of Fort Pitt, North-West Rebellion.	1988 Battle of Fort Pitt, North-West Rebellion.
1983 Opening of the Scowbig Hotel Jozzy, 100 per cent owned by the Scowbig Band.	1986 Mohawk clan mother Molly Brant dies.	1986 Elph Harper is named Minister without portfolio in the federal government.	1907 An Oronogaga Indian from the Six Nations Reserve near Bradford, Ont. wins the...	1991 Boston Marathon, Tom Longboat is 19.	1885 Peter Reginald Kelly, Native activist and leader, is born at Skidegate, B.C.	1988 Battle of Fort Pitt, North-West Rebellion.
1999 Aboriginal people rally outside Queen's Park in Toronto, strapping crime scene tape.	1999 Ipperwash protestor Dudley George.	1890 Crowfoot, Chief of the Blackfoot (Siksika), dies at age 60.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1887 Ache Will Sampson, best known for his role as the silent Indian in One Flew Over the...	1885 Cuckoo's Nest is given a new heart and lungs.	1988 Battle of Fort Pitt, North-West Rebellion.
Q. Current Grand Chief of the Assembly of First Nations?	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1960 April 14 - Frobisher Bay, N.W.T. - Inuit donate works of art to the United Nations to help refugees in need of food, shelter, and warmth.	1871 London, England - Four Inuit leaders are greeted by Queen Anne. They have come to purchase the Queen to bolster the British war effort against the French.	1999 Supreme Court decides off-reserve members should have voting rights in on-reserve elections.	1885 Cuckoo's Nest is given a new heart and lungs.	1988 Battle of Fort Pitt, North-West Rebellion.

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1977 May 5 - Willy Adams of Rankin Inlet is the first Inuit to sit in Parliament when appointed senator for NWT.	1996 Frank Calder receives a Lifetime Achievement Award for process to deal with land claims.	1670 The Hudson Bay Co. is established and given sole authority over the lands in the New World.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1985 Molokai whalers' harvest grey whales in Neah Bay, Wash., resurrecting a whaling tradition.	1996 Minister Ron Irwin tells Metis they can remain part of Canada if Quebec separates.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
1754 Peace efforts between Metis and British diminish when Metis kill the crew of English...	1991 Molokai whalers' harvest grey whales in Neah Bay, Wash., resurrecting a whaling tradition.	1885 Molokai whalers' harvest grey whales in Neah Bay, Wash., resurrecting a whaling tradition.	1996 Minister Ron Irwin tells Metis they can remain part of Canada if Quebec separates.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1985 Molokai whalers' harvest grey whales in Neah Bay, Wash., resurrecting a whaling tradition.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
1985 Section 97 of the Indian Act is unconstitutional. Dry reserves are outlawed in Manitoba.	1997 AMWSA launches 4th newspaper: Raven's Eye to serve Native people of BC and Yukon.	1885 Riel surrenders, Northwest Rebellion.	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1996 Minister Ron Irwin tells Metis they can remain part of Canada if Quebec separates.	1985 Molokai whalers' harvest grey whales in Neah Bay, Wash., resurrecting a whaling tradition.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
1999 Supreme Court decides off-reserve members should have voting rights in on-reserve elections.	1887 James Gladstone, Canada's first Native senator, is born at Mountain Hill, N.W.T.	1998 Scotiabank sponsors the "Futures in Business" Aboriginal Youth Scholarship in...	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1996 Minister Ron Irwin tells Metis they can remain part of Canada if Quebec separates.	1985 Molokai whalers' harvest grey whales in Neah Bay, Wash., resurrecting a whaling tradition.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1885 May 28, Birthday of Olympic gold medalist in decathlon, Jim Thorpe.	1998 Scotiabank sponsors the "Futures in Business" Aboriginal Youth Scholarship in...	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1996 Minister Ron Irwin tells Metis they can remain part of Canada if Quebec separates.	1985 Molokai whalers' harvest grey whales in Neah Bay, Wash., resurrecting a whaling tradition.	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1951 Indian Act gets first major overhaul in more than a century. Its objective remains assimilating Indian people, the revised Act ends prohibition of Indian ceremonies and dances, gives Indian women right to vote in band elections.	1969 Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien recommends that Indians not have special status and the gov't no longer be responsible for them.	1873 A band of Assiniboine Indians is attacked by American wolf hunters at...	1905 U.S. Gov. of Alberta from 1974 to 1977, born at Morley, Alberta.	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1873 A band of Assiniboine Indians is attacked by American wolf hunters at...	2007 Cypress Hills in what is now Alberta. More than 20 die.
1970 Red Power! presented to Indian Nations by the Indian Nations for Native people.	1763 A battle is fought high over the straits wall during an exciting game...	1829 Fort Michilimackinac, the last known member of the Beothuk Indians of Newfoundland, dies.	1905 U.S. Gov. of Alberta from 1974 to 1977, born at Morley, Alberta.	2007 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1873 A band of Assiniboine Indians is attacked by American wolf hunters at...	2007 Cypress Hills in what is now Alberta. More than 20 die.
1746 French spythrusts to Metis Indians, killing up to 75% of the Metis population.	1983 First Annual Aseelawakia Fun Run is held in Edmonton.	1990 Elph Harper, holding an eagle feather for strength, votes 'no' to the Meach Lake Accord.	1996 A proclamation is issued declaring June 21 as National Aboriginal Day.	2006 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1999 Alexandria & Natasha Woody are named National Aboriginal in Cree of the...	1999 Alexandria & Natasha Woody are named National Aboriginal in Cree of the...
1876 Gen. George Custer and his men die at Little Big Horn. A horse named Comanche is only survivor.	Q. Named as the greatest all-around male athlete of the half-century.	1816 Confrontation between the Metis and settlers results in 21 deaths. Battle of Seven Oaks.	1960 The federal gov't approves an Indian Affairs plan to abolish the department.	1999 Alexandria & Natasha Woody are named National Aboriginal in Cree of the...	1999 Alexandria & Natasha Woody are named National Aboriginal in Cree of the...	2001 Brandon Nakar, son of Ted Nakar, is picked in 3rd round of NHL draft by New Jersey Devils.
2001 Tonko Inlet's Jordan Tooboo is selected by Nashville Predators as the 4th round of NHL draft.	1761 Metis and the British formally conclude a peace treaty signed a year earlier.	1975 Leonard Peltier is charged in the shooting deaths of two FBI agents.	1754 A proclamation is issued declaring June 21 as National Aboriginal Day.	2006 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.amwsa.com	1999 Alexandria & Natasha Woody are named National Aboriginal in Cree of the...	2007 Time to subscribe to Wind-speaker! Call 1-800-661-5469



This project is made possible through the vision and generous sponsorship of Scotiabank.

Justyn Halkett
Photograph submitted by Robbie Halkett
Brochet, Manitoba

JULY - 2007



Aboriginal History Project

Sponsored by Scotiabank

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1884 1 Louis Riel returns to Canada to lead the Métis rights movement.	1885 2 Big Bear and his son, Hovewash, surrender to Gen. Middleton in the North-West Rebellion.	1897 3 Acting Sgt. Kenneth Dineen, who shot Native protesters during the 1969-70 Oka Crisis, is pardoned.	1847 4 Provincial Park, receives minimal sentence.	1847 5 Gibway of the north shore of Lake Huron is the site of the first meeting of the Ojibwa.	1847 6 are occupying their land.	1994 7 Ovide Mercredi is re-elected as Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (second term).
1984 8 Johnny Bob Smilgoy dies. Smilgoy drew national attention to Indian concerns.	1870 9 End of occupation of Look Island in the St. Lawrence River by Mohawks from the north.	1900 10 St. Regis Reserve. They say they hold the title to the island. The title is still in dispute.	1900 11 A 100-man police force storms the barricade at Oka. Corp. Marcel Lemay is shot and killed.	2000 12 Start taking pictures for the 2008 History Calendar photo contest.	2007 13 The last of the Beothuk people, a Native American people, dies.	1978 14 Start taking pictures for the 2008 History Calendar photo contest.
1912 15 Jim Thorpe wins both the Pentathlon and Decathlon at the Stockholm Olympics.	1896 16 He was later shipped to his medical base, where he played semi-pro baseball in 1911.	1896 17 July 15 - Missionary Albert Lacombe begins construction of a chapel at the settlement.	1820 18 The last of the Beothuk people, a Native American people, dies.	1974 19 The last of the Beothuk people, a Native American people, dies.	1974 20 of hunting out of season. ICC Court found that Aboriginal people could hunt on unoccupied sections.	2007 21 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
2007 22 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 23 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 24 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 25 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 26 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 27 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 28 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
2007 29 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 30 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 31 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2000 The Manitoba gov't apologizes to the family of slain student Helen Betty Osborne, for its mishandling of the 1971 criminal investigation into the Aboriginal girl's murder.			

AUGUST - 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1689 Number of Indian slaves is rising as colonists in New France attempt to resolve labor shortages. Many of the slaves, sold in Ville Marie (Montreal) and Quebec, are Pawnee from Mississippi Valley.	1994 1 Two 17-year-old Native teenagers are banished to two remote islands off the southeast coast of Alaska for hunting up a pizza delivery driver.	1915 3 Niiga's politician and businessman Frank Arthur Calder is born at Ness Harbour, B.C.	2001 4 Manitoba commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Great Peace Treaty of 1701.	1952 5 Perry Island, Ont. - First World War hero Francis Reganow dies at age 63.	2007 7 Take more pictures for the 2008 History Calendar photo contest.	1957 11 The founding president of the Indian Association of Alberta dies. John Galihoo was 75.
1952 5 Perry Island, Ont. - First World War hero Francis Reganow dies at age 63.	2007 6 Stowwagee, an Aboriginal boy, dies at age 63.	1973 8 The federal gov't announces it will begin accepting applications for comprehensive land claims stemming from a Supreme Court decision regarding the Niiga of B.C.	1958 10 House of Commons hears that the depletion of caribou herds has led to starvation.	1990 16 Oka - Police replaced by 2,600 soldiers. 1,100 more will be brought in as the crisis continues.	2007 17 Take more pictures for the 2008 History Calendar photo contest.	2007 18 Check the latest issue of the AMMSA publication for entry forms, rules and deadlines.
2007 19 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1994 20 A female white buffalo calf is born in Wisconsin. The calf is seen as a positive omen.	1996 21 Ave Early, first woman to regain her Indian status under Bill C-31, dies at 64.	2007 22 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1990 23 Oka - The Canadian army advances into Mohawk territory.	2007 24 Keep taking pictures for the 2008 History Calendar photo contest.	2007 25 Number of copies of all of the AMMSA publications circulated each year? A. 632,000 +
1971 26 Yellowknife - Ed Brad, 30, Chief of the Smith Indian band, dies after being shot by RCMP.	1843 27 Aug. 30 - Chief of the Smith Indian band, dies after being shot by RCMP.	1999 28 Caramental reunification of the Huron Wendat confederacy took place when descendants returned to the land known as Huronia in Ontario after being dispersed in 1649.	1996 30 AMMSA's web site launched. Check it out at: www.ammsa.com	2007 31 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1978 Scotiabank creates a National Indian and Inuit Financial Services Department.	

SEPTEMBER - 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1828 Gov. Gen. Lord Dalhousie recommends that the British gov't assimilate Canada's Indian people - impressed with how the Methodists at Credit River had transformed the Mississauga people to Christian farmers who wore short hair, go to church and send their children to school.	1999 2 Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) is launched.	2006 3 Take more pictures for the 2007 History Calendar photo contest.	1877 5 Lakota Chief Crazy Horse is killed.	1993 6 Doris Inlet, Inuit block camp to stop mining from landing there. Chief Kalle Rich called.	1990 7 Milton Sam With a Both first photo in the 2007 History Calendar photo contest.	1763 8 Sept. 7 - King George III issues proclamation giving subjects to settle in Canada.
2006 9 White Bear Band in Saskatchewan is granted settlement of land and cash worth \$18 million.	1984 10 Terrorist attacks on USA destroy World Trade Centre towers, built with cash worth \$18 million.	2001 11 World's largest tipi erected at Medicine Hat, Alberta.	1991 12 Oka - Phone lines erected at Medicine Hat, Alberta.	1990 13 AMMSA launches 3rd Native Publication Saskatchewan Sage.	2006 15 Have you sent in your entry for the 2007 History Calendar photo contest yet?	2006 15 Have you sent in your entry for the 2007 History Calendar photo contest yet?
1986 16 The picture of Inuit whalers is registered by a robot on the Canadian 52 bill.	1999 17 Supreme Court overturns Donald Marshall, Jr.'s conviction for illegal fishing, recognizing an East Coast Aboriginal treaty right to a commercial fishery.	1887 19 Blackfoot Treaty 7 is signed.	1877 20 Blackfoot Treaty 7 is signed.	2006 21 First day of fall.	1885 22 Wandering Spirit, who had surrendered with Wood Cree at Fort Pitt, pleads guilty to murder.	1974 23 Ojibwa - RCMP not to be allowed to lose on the Native People's Caravan of about 300 people.
1999 23 Peace treaty signed by Haisla, Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xaisla.	1993 24 Sovereign Chief Walter Teme challenges Bill C-31 in court.	2006 25 Have you sent in your entry for the 2007 History Calendar photo contest yet?	1990 26 Oka - Mohawks walk out of the Kanishkate Treatment Centre. A violent confrontation occurs when soldiers struggle to get the Mohawks under control and take them into custody.	1663 28 Ojibwa - RCMP not to be allowed to lose on the Native People's Caravan of about 300 people.	1974 29 Ojibwa - RCMP not to be allowed to lose on the Native People's Caravan of about 300 people.	

OCTOBER - 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1997 October 30 - Senator and Chief of Knowledge First Nation Walter Teme dies.	2007 1 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1995 2 Scotiabank contributes \$250,000 to Aboriginal business programs at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Commerce.	1759 4 British attack and burn the Algonquin village of Ojibwa killing 30 people.	2007 5 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1869 6 Fall - The smallpox epidemic has come to the prairies killing thousands of Indians.	
2007 7 Peigens, Blackfoot, Assiniboines and Cree. It has also spread to the Métis.	2007 8 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.ammsa.com	2005 9 Aboriginal Calendar photo contest winners: Deborah Nelson and Jacqueline Pitchenese.	1992 10 Oct. 10 to 16 - Canadian Native House Cuisine gold medal team of the World Culinary Olympics held in Frankfurt, Germany, with 11 medals, 7 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze.	1999 12 Kamloops Indian Band announce the purchase of the 44,000-acre Harper Ranch.	1982 13 International Olympic Committee restores the Olympic medals of Native Jim Thorpe.	
2007 14 won in Sweden in 1912, but stripped because he played semi-pro baseball in 1911.	1988 15 Labrador band members set up checkpoints on the four main roads into their territory.	1869 16 The National Council of the Métis of Red River is formed.	2004 17 Aboriginal Calendar photo contest winners: Gloria Bert and Sarah Kalkie.	1965 18 Abraham Okpik is appointed to NWT Council. He is first Native on Council.	2006 19 Aboriginal Calendar photo contest winners: Doug Thomas and Robbie Halliday.	1666 20 New France - French forces set fire to four Mohawk villages and burn all of the Indian.
2001 21 Aboriginal Calendar photo contest winners: Rebecca Swenden and Donna Wilford.	1844 22 Louis Riel is born at St. Boniface.	2002 24 Aboriginal Calendar photo contest winners: Paul Aardenburg and Tina Paul announced.	1985 25 "Hunting is a right, not a privilege."	2000 26 Aboriginal Calendar photo contest winners: Frank Lacombe and Dennis Okane.	2000 27 Aboriginal Calendar photo contest winners: Frank Lacombe and Dennis Okane.	
1678 28 business people who wanted an open fur trade to improve dealings with Natives.	1917 30 Alex Decoteau is killed by a sniper's bullet during World War One.	1994 Eight Inuit walrus hunters die when their boat capsizes in Inuit.	1999 October 29 - Peigan Elder Joseph Crowhorse Sr. dies. Crowhorse played a large part in keeping Aboriginal spirituality alive during the days when it was illegal to practice the traditional life.			

NOVEMBER - 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1752 The Nova Scotia Governor and Micmac chief Major Jean Baptiste Cape of Shubenacadie conclude a treaty that says as warlike events between the British and the Micmacs should be "buried in oblivion with the hatchet."	2007 4 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.ammsa.com	2007 6 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1670 7 The Hudson Bay Co. is established and given sole authority over the fur trade in the New West.	2007 8 This rebellion resulted in the largest mass hanging in Canada's history.	A. The North-West Rebellion.	1903 10 Fr. Adrien-Gabriel Morice replaced as spiritual leader of Carrier Indians for religious.
1961 The National Indian Council is formed.	2007 5 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.ammsa.com	2007 6 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1670 7 The Hudson Bay Co. is established and given sole authority over the fur trade in the New West.	2007 8 This rebellion resulted in the largest mass hanging in Canada's history.	A. The North-West Rebellion.	1903 10 Fr. Adrien-Gabriel Morice replaced as spiritual leader of Carrier Indians for religious.
1975 11 Quebec City - The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement is signed.	2007 12 It is the first Aboriginal treaty to be negotiated since 1923.	2007 13 K. Kateri Itokwiska.	1975 15 Native opposition to the James Bay hydroelectric project ends with signing of agreement.	1885 16 Louis Riel is hanged for treason at Regina.	2007 17 Q. Serving two life sentences for killing two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation.	
2007 18 A. Leonard Peller.	2007 19 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 20 Q. He led the Shawnee forces during Little Bighorn War.	A. Tecumseh.	2007 22 Q. She is Canada's first Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs.	2007 23 A. Mary May Simon.	1807 24 Joseph Brant dies at Burlington Bay, Upper Canada.
1885 25 Eight Indian men were hanged at Battleford for murders committed in North-West Rebellion.	1885 26 Eight Indian men were hanged at Battleford for murders committed in North-West Rebellion.	1885 27 Eight Indian men were hanged at Battleford for murders committed in North-West Rebellion.	1888 29 The federal government begins formal negotiations to settle Lubicon land claims.	2007 30 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1996 Scotiabank develops an Aboriginal Employee Mentorship Program in Toronto.	

DECEMBER - 2007

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1969 Harold Cardinal, president of the Indian Association of Alberta, publishes book "The Unjust Society: The Tragedy of Canada's Indians", an attack on the Canadian gov't's efforts to assimilate Indian people.	2007 2 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1993 3 AMMSA issues 2nd publication: Alberta Sweetgrass	1775 4 Mohawk war chief Thayendanegea - Joseph Brant - arrives in England.	2007 5 He is to present land grievances to the British government.	2007 7 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1882 8 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
2007 2 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1993 3 AMMSA issues 2nd publication: Alberta Sweetgrass	1775 4 Mohawk war chief Thayendanegea - Joseph Brant - arrives in England.	2007 5 He is to present land grievances to the British government.	2007 7 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	2007 8 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1882 8 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469
2007 9 Give the gift that keeps on giving - a subscription to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1998 10 City of Edmonton and Alberta Heritage for the Arts and Citizenship Commission honor.	1968 18 Marion Stanley-Venne, a Métis woman for her contributions to human rights in the province.	2007 12 Q. Location of Carter's last stand.	A. Little Bighorn.	1797 14 Proclamation is issued in Upper Canada to protect Native burial grounds, Mississauga.	1979 15 Indians urged the gov't to protect the sites from settlers who stole items from the graves.
1981 16 The gov't will set aside \$4 billion and a large amount of land to settle Native land claims in...	1968 18 The Yukon and the NWT is hoped the claims can be settled by 1985.	2007 25 Merry Christmas! From everyone at AMMSA and Scotiabank.	2007 26 Check out the Essential Aboriginal Resource: www.ammsa.com	1869 27 Louis Riel becomes the new leader of the provisional government of the Red River Colony.	2007 28 Time to subscribe to WindSpeaker! Call 1-800-661-5469	1890 29 United States cavalry kill 153 Sioux people at Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota.



This project is made possible through the vision and generous sponsorship of Scotiabank.

Lynden Swan
Photograph submitted by Doug Thomas
Peguis First Nation, Manitoba