

Windspeaker

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TERRY LUSTY

Cory Poitras, 12, of St. Paul, Alta. was a featured guest at this year's Métis festival held in Edmonton Nov. 15 to 17. The talented fiddler said he's more than a fine musician. He hopes to do well in business when he gets older. The festival was organized by the Edmonton Métis Cultural Dance Society.

AFN re-structuring finances

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

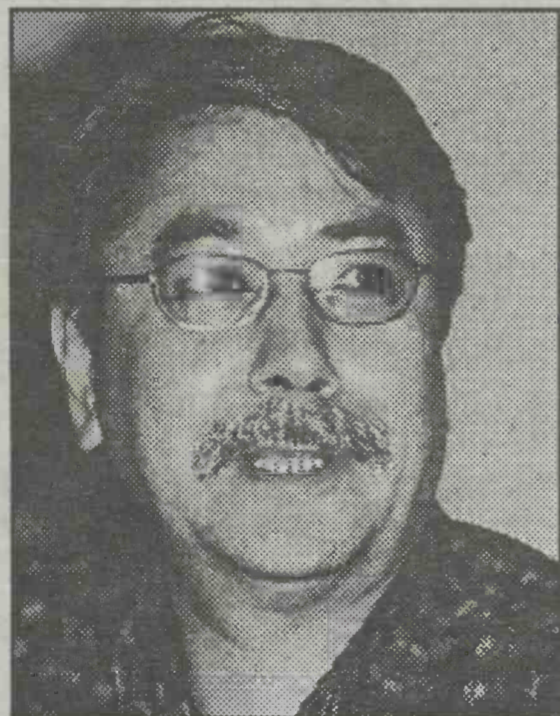
The Assembly of First Nations is going through a difficult and at times painful reorganization after reductions in the funding it receives from the Department of Indian Affairs forced the layoff of 70 employees.

As federal government adds more support staff and hires consultants to advise the Indian Affairs minister in his public relations war with the AFN over governance, the AFN is forced to downsize and is faced with the task of finding creative ways to do more with less.

At the Ottawa Confederacy of Nations in early December, Northwest Territories Vice-chief Bill Erasmus told the chiefs the organization could be facing a \$1.18 million deficit by the end of the fiscal year, although he added that "with a little arm twisting and a few miracles, we may not have a deficit."

Erasmus said it was important to get next year's funding negotiations out of the way as soon as possible, adding he hoped to have the job done by January.

Comments attributed to officials close to Minister Robert Nault in a *National Post* story on Dec. 18 make the AFN's future financial situation even more precarious. A senior government official suggests the minister is fed up with the AFN's unwillingness to go along with his attempts to reform the Indian Act and may



Herb George

decide to shift funding to other national Aboriginal organizations.

The October staffing cuts have not completely solved the financial crunch. The chiefs' organization is already looking at leasing out some of the now vacant space in its Ottawa headquarters and the executive announced on Dec. 5 that it will triple the administrative cut it takes from program dollars from five per cent to 15 in the next fiscal year.

Reporters were kept out of about half of the Confederacy meeting, but one source told *Windspeaker* that an Elder suggested the executive members take a pay cut to help ease the financial pressure.

Vice-chief earnings were previously not disclosed by the organization, but one former AFN employee who believes too much money is absorbed through salaries and not enough is targeted at the basic issues important to

grassroots people, provided detailed numbers about the vice-chiefs' earnings and expenditures.

A document entitled "Schedule of remuneration—Vice-chief's offices" said that a total of \$1,755,566.40 was dispersed to the 10 vice-chiefs in the last fiscal year. The base salary is identified as \$90,000 each. That is augmented by \$3,071.88 in benefits, \$3,461.54 in a severance allowance and \$15,000 for travel expenses. Northern vice-chiefs Bill Erasmus and Mary Jane Jim (Yukon) are reported to receive an extra \$6,600 for travel.

The document also states that all the vice-chiefs also receive money to hire two staff members: the first earns \$40,000, the second, \$32,000.

AFN Chief Executive Officer Dan Brant said the document was authentic, but was an unrevised version. In the final version of the audited financial statement, the total figure for vice-chief spending was \$1,689,580, he said. He also said that the second staff position was eliminated in October, a savings of \$320,000 in the year to come.

Former AFN employees made several allegations with relation to some vice-chiefs who the sources say rarely attend meetings. One source told us executive committee minutes called "records of decision" would show attendance, allowing us to verify or dismiss those allegations. But the AFN refused to disclose those records.

(see Finance page 7.)

Dispute escalates

By Matthew R. Stewart
Windspeaker Contributor

KAMLOOPS, B.C.

The ongoing conflict over Sun Peaks ski resort's land use and occupancy of territory claimed by the Neskonlith band of British Columbia reached a new phase in December with the destruction of Native property, an impending lawsuit and bitter accusations against the province's Liberal government and, in particular, the province's attorney general, Geoff Plant, the minister responsible for treaty negotiations.

Plant halted discussions regarding the disputed area with the band in November 2001. On Dec. 5, Sun Peaks Resort Corp. obtained an order from the B.C. Supreme Court to remove tents and a flag pole that Native protesters had set up at the bottom of a newly created ski run. Another order prohibited protesters from occupying a parcel of land at McGillivray Lake under licence to Sun Peaks Resort.

The Secwepemc people of the Neskonlith band claim the area as part of their traditional territory and have sought to halt a proposed \$70 million expansion of the resort. More than a year ago, the protestors set up the camp on the mountain at McGillivray Lake as the 'Skwel'wek'welt Protection Centre' and through this past year they sought to open discussions with the provincial government to deal with the land claim issues.

Neskonlith Chief Art Manuel said the protest was intended to send a message to those "who would ignore our Aboriginal title and try to make us trespassers on our own land."

He told *Windspeaker* that while the protestors peacefully vacated the sites after the court orders were issued, they planned to return before the end of December to perform a spiritual ceremony at the main site, McGillivray Lake. It was there that a cordwood cabin and other structures had been built to shield the protestors, including Elders and children, from the elements. The structures included two sweatlodges. All of the structures were destroyed on Dec. 10 by bulldozer in a demolition operation conducted by Sun Peaks management and representatives of B.C. Assets and Land Corporation (BCAL), a provincial Crown entity, observed by the RCMP.

(see Sun Peaks page 13.)

WHAT'S INSIDE

QUOTABLE QUOTE

BUDGET DEFENDED

Minister of Indian Affairs Robert Nault calls the funds allocated to Aboriginal issues in the recent national budget a down payment on promises made in the Throne Speech last year.

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The Assembly of First Nations dumps an executive-negotiated plan to work with the federal government on changes to the Indian Act.

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REFEREN-DUMB

The Liberal government of British Columbia is holding fast to plans to hold a referendum on the BC Treaty Process, and has released a set of 16 questions it wants feedback on. Reaction ranges from outrage to outright boredom; however, the questions may not be as innocuous as they seem.

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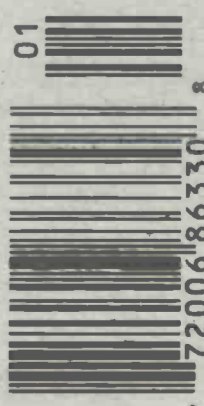
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Nault calls budget a "down payment"

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

The minister of Indian Affairs sounded a little defensive when he discussed the recent federal budget with the Native press during a conference call on Dec. 12.

As Native leaders responded to the budget by saying they had been expecting far more after hearing the promises made by the prime minister during last January's Speech from the Throne, Minister Robert Nault defended his government's spending decisions.

"I have coined the phrase in the last few days that this to me is a 'down payment' towards the direction and initiative that we have committed ourselves to work with Aboriginal people through the Speech from the Throne in the next four, five years. The objective, of course, is to improve the quality of life of First Nations citizens, in particular, in my mandate, which is on reserve," he said. "The \$185 million in new investment over the next two years is intended to work with early childhood development, which is \$100 million, fetal alcohol syndrome, which is \$25 million over two years, and of course a budget increase of \$60 million in funding to support special education, which is one of the major components and improvements that we're looking for in our education system for Aboriginal people."

He admitted the money for special education was long overdue.

"That's been a major flaw and a gap in our services to Aboriginal children and this is, I believe, a very strong start and beginning to improving the education system for First Nation children right across the country," he said.

Although, Finance Minister Paul Martin didn't take up

"We do not believe it's acceptable to have First Nation young people, in particular young people who have the qualities to go on to post-secondary education, be held back because of a lack of resources."



— Robert Nault

nearly as much of his budget speech talking about Aboriginal issues as Governor General Adrienne Clarkson dedicated to the subject during her Throne Speech, Nault pointed out that Native people will get their share of spending that isn't necessarily targeted at Native communities.

"Some have not been quick to catch this in the budget—the infrastructure dollars that were announced of some \$2 billion. It's safe to say that every infrastructure program that we've ever announced had a component for Aboriginal people and this one will be no different," he said. "So I think we will also get an increase in infrastructure dollars to be used in the communities to develop our sewer, our water and the other infrastructure needs that we're always struggling with."

Martin's announcement that \$680 million will be allocated over the next five years for affordable housing will also have a spillover effect for Native people, Nault said.

"I think that will have a major impact for Aboriginal people. As we speak, I've been in discussions with Minister

(Alfonso) Gagliano, the minister responsible for CMHC (Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation) about our work between his department and mine and the relationship we have in making sure that Aboriginal Canadians' housing starts to improve over the long haul," Nault said.

The minister dashed any hopes that the expectations raised by the Throne Speech would be satisfied by announcements made when the prime minister's reference committee on Aboriginal issues made its report.

"No, I wouldn't be able to make that kind of commitment or suggestion today. I think the objective of the reference group, as has been laid out on a number of occasions, is to bring all the different ministers who have direct roles and responsibilities for Aboriginal people into the same room to talk about the past, the present and the future with an eye of finding better ways to succeed and a lot quicker than we have been able to in the past," he said. "So I don't think the objective of the reference group is to come out with strategies that would cause

ministers to make announcements outside the budget process. ...If you're asking if we're going to be looking at policy initiatives and possibly policy changes, that certainly would be what discussions are all about, that can be made any time. But as far as new resources, if that's what you're talking about, those usually come through the budget cycle."

Asked if he was satisfied with the spending initiatives announced in the budget, Nault reminded reporters that his department escaped the cuts imposed on other departments in the mid-1990s.

"I think it's a good start. One of the things I have said to the media that's extremely important to remember is that a number of departments, when we were dealing with deficit issues in the past, got significant cuts. Ours is a department that never had a cut in this government's mandate since '93 on. In fact, we're probably averaging between five and seven per cent every year if you include the resources we get from Treasury Board and Finance for claim settlements. That's a significant amount of money on average per year. This year we've gotten a guaranteed two per cent increase in our budget, plus the announcements of the \$185 million, continuing programs and so on. I think we've been getting our fair share and then some on a regular basis and we're continuing to develop our strategy based on the need to continue to get increases because of the fact that we have a very fast growing, young population, and the needs are there especially in areas like education, housing, infrastructure and, obviously, creating an economy, which is my priority."

Despite having no money to start new initiatives, the minister said the under-funded post secondary education area will be a priority.

"We do not believe it's acceptable to have First Nation young people, in particular young people on to post-secondary education, be held back because of a lack of resources. So that will be one of the major priorities for me this year," he said.

"I have committed myself to making sure we have a good discussion this year about the education structure, the authorities that are there, the jurisdiction that is there, how it's been put in place and whether in fact we need to make some changes to that in order to get better results. And that includes the resources necessary to make sure our young people can go on to post-secondary and get that education that they need to get a job, which is the end result of all of this."

Asked if the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 had changed the prime minister's social change agenda, the minister said no.

"I don't think it had any effect from the perspective of the First Nation agenda being a priority of the prime minister and this government. Obviously, Sept. 11 had an effect on the budget lines because we're putting over \$5 billion into security. It's a total of seven but as you know we're looking, through some fees for airline passengers, to recoup some of that money, which is close to \$2 billion as I understand. So that \$5 billion hit on the treasury may have had an impact on decisions that were made as to how much money we'd get in the early going of this mandate for Aboriginal issues. But as far as the prime minister, myself and other members of cabinet, we're very committed to this agenda and we believe the down payment that we've made, as I've been calling it, in the budget is an indication that we are serious about making some changes and some progress on improving the lives of Aboriginal people," he said.

DIAND consultations fail to impress women's group

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

A new Native women's group, established in mid-November, is setting up shop in Ottawa.

Pam Paul, former executive director of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), is the president of the new National Aboriginal Women's Association (NAWA). Carolanne Brewer, who recently resigned as staff legal counsel for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), is working for the new group. Jennifer Sinclair, recently laid off after working as a policy analyst for the AFN for four years, is also on board as vice-president.

Sinclair told *Windspeaker* about the new organization during a break in proceedings at the AFN Confederacy in Ottawa on Dec. 4.

"With the flip-flopping back and forth with the consultation for the governance, when [NWAC] opted out at the last minute again for the second

"They gave us the consultations, the forms, which are bogus. I mean, you're going through them and a majority of the comment lines say 'Will not discuss. Will not discuss. No comment given.' But in the end when they ask what was the theme of the discussion, what was most prominent in the minds of the people: Accountability. Accountability. I didn't see a single question or a single comment dealing with accountability."

—Jennifer Sinclair

time, Ontario, Yukon, Nova Scotia and several of the other smaller women's organizations who didn't have a voice at NWAC were saying they were now left out of the process," she explained. "When you only have one national organization for women's voices and if the national voice decides then that they are going pull out to support the AFN, then where do the other women [at the table] who feel that they want to be represented. . . go? There was no place. They approached Pam

Paul and asked if she would set this national organization up to facilitate the process for them. She did. She contacted me and asked if I would help her out."

After being laid off by the AFN, the 39-year-old Long Plains First Nation (Manitoba) member was preparing to set up her own company.

"I wanted to call it Indigenous Policy Research," she said.

That plan has been set aside for the moment as she works to establish NAWA, but the issues she holds closest to her heart

will be part of what the new organization focuses on. Sinclair was working on research into rarely discussed and little examined effects of child welfare policies.

"What are the effects on the mother when a child is taken from her? What are the effects on the neighbors in the community when this happens? Even in mainstream adoption circles, the effects on the birth parents on losing their children is only just being studied," she said.

A great deal of harm had been done to mothers who were subjected to policies that were geared to removing Native children from their families. And because the practice has been so widespread, it appears, she said, to have affected the stability of many communities.

"If you can't have stability of families, then the chances of having a stable economy, which is actually made up of individuals working inside those economies. . . well, you could run into problems," she explained.

The AFN cuts have pushed this kind of research to the back

burner, but Sinclair said NAWA will try to champion that kind of issue.

"With NAWA we wanted to allow women a chance to participate. Everybody talks about how women are the most vulnerable in society—other than children—but we're the ones who are supposed to look after the children, we're the ones who are most impacted by the Indian Act because we're not even recognized in the Indian Act," she said. "So with NWAC deciding to pull out and with AFN saying they're not going to put up with the tinkering with the Indian Act, for a lot of women it was, 'Well, no. Even if they're tinkering with the Indian Act, we would like to be there to 1) ensure our rights are being protected under the new draft, and 2) to ensure that those values that we bring to the family are also incorporated when they're looking at the types of restructuring that they're looking at under the Indian Act.' So that's what we've done."

(see Consultation forms page 3.)

Starlight

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SASKATOON

The request for a sentencing circle by two Saskatoon police officers convicted of dropping a Native man off on the city's outskirts on a frigid winter's night was harshly rejected by a provincial court judge on Dec. 3.

Four days after making that determination, Mr. Justice Schiebel rejected the officers' application for a conditional sentence and imposed an eight-month jail term on both men.

In the Dec. 7 sentencing decision, the judge stated that sentencing guidelines required him to take note of any aggravating factors that might call for a sentence closer to the maximum.

"There is no doubt there are strong suspicions that race played a part in this offence. However, suspicion is not evidence and since the Crown has failed to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that race played a role, I am unable to consider whether or not race was an aggravating circumstance," he wrote. "Therefore under Section 718.2 [of the Criminal Code] the only aggravating circumstance that can be considered by the court is 'evidence that the offender, in committing the offence, abused a position of trust or authority in relation to the victim.'"

The judge then ruled that was clear to him that the officers had "abused their position of trust to a high degree."

"The actions of the accused are so reprehensible that t

Road to long for

By Joan Taillon
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

After eight months confined to a hospital bed, Robert Cardin, 32, still is in too much pain from burns inflicted by an arsonist to speak to *Windspeaker* about his future. To his family, though, he has acknowledged that he knows he will never be the same fit family man who expected to attend the Northern Alberta Institute

APTN wants

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

WINNIPEG

After a meeting of the board of directors in Winnipeg in early December, the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network's 21-member board of directors has decided to let their news staff come up with a new look for news and public affairs programming.

Sources say the board rejected the plan of the man they retained to perform an analysis of the news and public affairs department. Jeff Bear, a Malisee veteran of the television industry

ment"

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Consultation forms page 3.)

After eight months confined to a hospital bed, Robert Cardinal, 32, still is in too much pain from burns inflicted by an arsonist to speak to *Windspeaker* about his future. To his family, though, he has acknowledged that he knows he will never be the same fit family man who expected to attend the Northern Alberta Institute of

Technology this fall to study computer drafting.

Cardinal, Anita, 32, his wife of two years, their three daughters and two visiting nephews, were asleep in their apartment in Edmonton last April 13 when Timothy Zielinski, a laborer with a grudge, set a gasoline fire in the doorway of their home. Zielinski, 29, mistakenly believed he was torching the abode of gang members, who had previously physically attacked him.

Anita and daughters Courtney, 14, Rosa Lee, 12, Harriette, 8, and one of their cousins escaped by jumping out a window. Anita landed on concrete, hurt her back and broke her hip and both legs. She was released from hospital in August and will require extensive foot surgery after a persistent ulcer in her foot heals.

"It's a miracle she's still alive," Louise Alexis said about her eldest child. "She's in a lot of pain all the time."

(see Life page 8.)

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Sources say the board rejected the plan of the man they retained to perform an analysis of the news and public affairs department. Jeff Bear, a Maliseet veteran of the television industry,

declined to comment when contacted by this publication. Sources say news director Bruce Spence is heading up the staff-directed restructuring initiative. Spence could not be reached for comment.

The rumors swirling around the Ottawa chiefs' Confederacy, which took place at the same time the APTN board was meeting, were that Kirk Lapointe, the president of CTV National News, would attend the December APTN board meeting in Winnipeg. Those rumors turned out to be false. But Lapointe told *Windspeaker* that he has been trying to contact APTN ever since a story in the

November edition of this publication revealed a disagreement between staff and management over how BCE/CTV benefit money was being used by APTN.

"I'm still waiting for a meeting," the CTV news president said on Dec. 18, adding he would comment further at a later date.

Under the terms of its CRTC (Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission) licence, CTV's parent company BCE has a five-year, \$3 million "benefit" agreement with APTN. The next \$600,000 installment isn't due for several months.

Starlight cruise cops get eight months

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SASKATOON

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The judge then ruled that it was clear to him that the officers had "abused their position of trust to a high degree."

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"The actions of the accused are so reprehensible that the court must denounce the unlawful conduct in the strongest terms."

—Mr. Justice Schiebel

court must denounce the unlawful conduct in the strongest terms," he added.

Dan Hatches, 40, and Ken Munson, 44, convicted of taking Darrell Night on what has become known as a starlight cruise, claimed they should be allowed access to a sentencing circle rather than be given a conventional sentence for their criminal convictions.

In his ruling, the judge noted that the established legal criteria for the granting of a sentencing circle includes the requirements that the accused accept responsibility, that all disputed issues be resolved prior to the circle and that the victim agrees to participate.

"[The judge] ruled in answer to these individuals', these common criminals' application for a sentencing or a healing circle, on Dec. 3 that a sentencing circle was inappropriate in this particular instance and as such he was not prepared to order one," Donald Worme, Night's lawyer, told *Windspeaker*.

Worme said Justice Schiebel described the application as "confused and ironic" given that the defendants had applied for a change of venue early in the proceeding, then pled not guilty and conducted what Worme called a tough, aggres-

sive, difficult defence.

"Difficult as far as the victim was concerned, attacking him, calling him everything from a belligerent drunk to a welfare recipient to a racist," Worme explained.

The lawyer said the judge was not impressed by the officers' application for a sentencing circle.

"He did describe their not guilty plea and their antics throughout, including the application as being, 'death-bed repentance,'" Worme added.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice-chief Lawrence Joseph said, "Justice Schiebel did the right things for the right reasons."

The officers' lawyers argued that allowing their clients access to the alternative Native justice process was an equality issue. Joseph said they were misinformed, at best.

"The issue is not whether non-Aboriginal people can participate in and benefit from First Nations traditions, the issue is whether or not these two men met the criteria for a circle. The judge agreed with the First Nations community that they did not," he said. "Judge Schiebel has not allowed these two defendants and their lawyers to make a mockery out of First



Donald Worme

Nations traditions."

Worme said his client had a high level of respect for police officers prior to the night of the offences, but he has lost that respect because of the actions of the officers that night and during the prosecution.

"Mr. Night was very clear that he would not participate given the absolute lack of appreciation of restorative justice principles," the lawyer said.

An apology to the victim early in the process may have changed the outcome, but Worme said Munson and

Hatches apologized only to their former employer and colleagues—they were fired by the Saskatoon chief of police within hours of their convictions—but waited until after the Dec. 3 ruling to apologize to the victim.

Night has instructed his lawyers to proceed with a civil action. He is claiming \$2 million in damages.

Worme said other investigations related to starlight cruises, that could lead to charges against other police officers, are still in progress.

"There is upcoming in January the Wegner inquest. And then we are anxiously awaiting the decision of the Saskatchewan Department of Justice relative to the 1990 freezing death of the young man, Neil Stonechild," he said.

The lawyer said statements made by the Saskatoon police chief when he fired Munson and Hatches, that the police service could now put the issue to rest, was naive or worse.

"Any kind of cursory or summary statement that the problem is dealt with with the firing of Hatches and Munson is wishful thinking at best," he said.

Consultation

(Continued from page 2.)

With NWAC boycotting governance consultations, Sinclair's group has filled the void and occupies a place on the joint ministerial advisory committee. But if the minister is looking for an Aboriginal group that will rubber-stamp his governance agenda, she said he's looking in the wrong place. She's not impressed so far with the way DIAND is portraying or interpreting the information they gathered at the consultation sessions.

"We're at the table, the minister's table. We're the women's group that is at the table," Sinclair said. "They gave us the consultations, the forms, which are bogus. I mean, you're going through them and a majority of the comment lines say 'Will not discuss. Will not discuss. No comment given.' But in the end when they ask what was the theme of the discussion, what was most prominent in the minds of the people: Accountability. Accountability. I didn't see a single question or a single comment dealing with accountability."

"The other questions they were asking, the way the government had worded the questions was very leading. So when it looked at chiefs and accountability, they only let the chiefs be the policy people and the staff be the administrators, which is totally incorrect because there's actually three levels that should be in existence, so they weren't even awarding the chiefs the proper role inside their questioning."

Although she said she believes NWAC is in decline, Sinclair said the new organization is not out to put NWAC out of business.

"We're moving into a place in our history where it's almost impossible to say that you're one voice representing all peo-

ple. Our intention is not to replace. It's an alternative. We don't intend to go political. We intend to take policy issues, identify those issues, challenge government on those issues and also challenge us as women," she said. "Some of the women who will sit on our board are on the board of NWAC and there's no rules that say you can't. NWAC has a process in place that says you must belong to a regional women's organization. So all of the smaller local groups—and there could be hundreds of them in a province—each of them must be affiliated with the provincial organization, otherwise they do not have a voice at the national level. We do not agree with this. We would like to represent women, period. But, recognizing that there's no way we can manage or keep track of or co-ordinate the statistics of looking after individual women and being able to respond to individual women, what we had to decide was that we would represent groups of women, and a group could constitute five. If a woman called us up from a community in the North and said it was just her but she's having a hard time getting the attention of the chief or the council on certain issues, we're not going to say that we can go in there and make it right for them. Nor can we say that we can take those issues and work on the legislation and policy of government and change it so there will be an immediate effect. What we hope to be able to do is take our skills and teach this woman how to bring other women into her association so that we empower her to gain a voice through more women inside that community and that those women as a collective will be able to approach whatever it is."

She said the organization is now looking to build its membership.



~ Established 1983 ~

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Gauntlet thrown, Indian Affairs

We got some help this month when some hard, verifiable financial information about the AFN was 'slipped under the door in a plain brown envelope.' Such leaks are the essence of journalism, because people in positions of power and influence will lie to us if they think they can get away with it. We've seen that. And without the kind of assistance we receive, there's no way we can ever know if we're getting the straight goods and all of those goods.

That said—and we're going to shock you—we feel the need to commend the AFN for their quick and forthright response to our inquiries. While we're not sure they would have answered the questions if we hadn't convinced them we had the information, the organization was quick to respond. Vice-chief Ken Young and CEO Dan Brant, especially, responded with integrity when we asked the tough questions.

Young put a very legitimate challenge to this paper: Go and do the same job on the government.

"If there's going to be transparency and accountability, fine. But let's have it both ways," he said.

The timing wasn't right for us to take that challenge up this month. That was our fault. We

couldn't get the inquiries to the government in time to fairly expect them to respond. But, because we take a break for the holidays, too, INAC now has more than a month to prepare.

We will be asking who their consultants are, how much they make, what they do, and a lot of other questions that deal with the government's spending on the politics of Indian Act reform.

We hope you'll be ready, INAC, to answer our call. You can't say we haven't warned you.

On another front, we feel Professor Elizabeth Furniss has written a very important book. We believe she has put her finger on an aspect of Canadian culture that is all-too-rarely dealt with in any forum in this country. An editorial decision was made to join what would have been a simple review of the professor's book with a news story that swept through Indian Country in December—the Jonathan Kay piece in the *National Post*, "A case for assimilation."

Furniss argues (and we think proves, but buy the book and decide for yourself) that Canadians have deluded themselves into thinking they're benevolent and devoid of racism against Native people. She calls it an unexamined racism that is absorbed through the pores of all

Canadians in very subtle, almost undetectable ways. After reading the book and Kay's article in the same week, we thought the latter helped dramatically prove the former's thesis.

We made another editorial decision not to contact Kay for the article for a couple of reasons: 1) he had his say in a gigantic piece (by newspaper standards) in his own publication, 2) Professor Furniss believes that confrontation will never bring Canadians to realize what they're doing. She preaches patient, gentle education. We figured arguing with Mr. Kay would mean we were ignoring that very good advice.

We saw Mr. Kay on APTN's Contact and saw that he was respectful and thoughtful, if a little too convinced of his complete understanding of a complex beat that's he's spent a mere eight months studying. We aren't calling him a raving, hate-mongering racist, although some will. He probably meant well but some of the material in his article makes us believe he's suffering from a uniquely Canadian malady. But we do invite him to look at the professor's ideas and see if he can come to grips with them—and then write another long, long piece for the *Post*.

A tribute to Eric, my friend

GUEST COLUMN

By **Lindsay Cote**

NORTH BAY, Ont.

It has been a short time since my little cousin, Eric, died in a car accident. As with many who have passed on in similar circumstances, he did not have to die.

Eric was a passenger in a van heading home after a party. The intoxicated driver lost control of the vehicle and it rolled over. My cousin, who was not wearing his seat belt, was thrown from the van. He died instantly when his body slammed into the pavement, crushing the back of his skull and breaking his neck. Just like that, Eric became a statistic.

Sure, tears rolled down my cheeks as well as those of the other 200 or so people who came to see him off on his spirit journey. This incident shook up our whole community and it left everyone in a state of shock.

Eric was in his twenty-second year of life. He always had a smile and a kind word when you ran into him. He was respected by everyone. He left behind a partner and a small, four-year-old daughter.

He was raised in the bush; this week he and his dad, brother, uncles, grandfather and cousins would be moose hunting. He worked in the bush on the same forestry crew as me. He was hard-working and consistent—who could ask for more?

Eric was one of the first people to come and sit at the drum when I brought it back to my community some 12 years ago.

Even back then, as young as he was, he stood out because of the respect that he showed for the drum and its teachings. He was someone who I could trust.

Eric was not an everyday drinker but indulged when the rest of the youths in his age group got together. Most of the time the parties took place in the community; other times they traveled to neighboring communities to party.

It's not just down-and-out, wino-type people who die alcohol-related deaths. In this case alcohol took a young man who thought that it was all right to get in a car with others who had been drinking.

The final outcome of the night of good times was one dead, three others seriously injured, one little girl whose father will never play or hold her again, and a young man charged with the death of another. Eric's partner and his daughter's mother almost died. The driver and his partner, who was the fourth passenger, have two small children together. Last but not least, two communities are looking for answers while dealing with tremendous grief.

You may think that I am resentful and angry that my beautiful cousin had to die this way—damn right I am! But having achieved sobriety in my life I have an understanding of what happened. I'm also looking at the good that I see can come out of this tragedy.

Up until this incident happened, our younger generation thought that they were invincible and that nothing could happen to them. On the contrary, I sat looking into the faces of dozens of young people who sat stunned, looking at an open cas-

ket and at the body of a person who was supposed to live out his life as a part of their group.

There is, however, a positive side to this story. There are many of us men in our community who will step forward and be that father figure for Eric's little girl. The whole community will do our best to ensure that she knows her father.

I saw our community pull together and perform a totally traditional burial ceremony, the first of its kind in well over 100 years in our community. I saw the young men and women taking on their traditional roles with 150 per cent effort.

What was beautiful to watch was a few of the four- and five-year-old girls (my own daughter included) perform their own ceremony utilizing our spiritual leader's medicine bundle. His bundle was open on the floor. The girls walked over, sat and knelt on the floor, and with his Eagle feather smudged themselves with the sage that was burning in his smudge bowl, and proceeded to carefully and respectfully go through every item in the bundle. They then approached the casket and had their own little meeting and discussion. Coming to their own understanding of the situation they then went outside to play.

Every age group had its support system, from the young to the old, with the exception of the infants—their job was to remind us that death is a part of life and that life does go on. The children performed without a flaw for the larger audience. The older children, youth and young adults talked about changes to come, and that alone is good. (see Beginning page 10.)

Why a

Every year around this time we have to deal with turkey fat. We eat so much Christmas turkey, mashed potatoes and pie, so as not to have the ability to buckle our pants. Well, this year not only is there fat, but there are a lot of junk gifts that I'd like to give back, or throw away. I'd consider a trade for some of those micro-fibre waistbands they hand out at Ottawa cocktail parties. I'd keep my new TV for now.

Will APTN-TV ever stop running the ad about the AB-FLEX exercise belt? I got three of them for Christmas. I'll probably end up donating all three to the AFN (Assembly of Furious Natives) in Ottawa. I am sure that with all the per diems they hand out at their monthly executive soiree, that someone among their ranks could use the belt. Not that I don't need it. I just couldn't get it to stay on.

And how about that zig-zag Hollywood Indian girl hair parting comb? Can you imagine if all of our Indian Elders and traditional men had this comb? I think it might get more of them on TV, but just once, I'd like to see an Indian man part his hair with one of these combs.

This reminds me of an idea that my mother thought of 10 years ago when we were surfing the primetime menu of mainstream commercials. Four beautiful women from different cultures were extolling the virtues of Orin Olay in foreign languages.

"Why don't they ever ask Indian women to do these commercials?" she asked, an answer to her own question waiting on the tip of her tongue.

"What would you say Mom? I dutifully asked.

"Well, Edji-tannoogewi, medagnum ettaa sompegnesyaw awaki you meemay."

After I recovered from uncontrollable laughter that shook me so hard I fell off the couch, I turned to Mom whose serious gaze had alerted my abandon.

"What's so funny?"

She had said, "My skin would be well tanned once I had soaked

Everyone

Dear Editor:

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an Affairs

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(see Beginning page 10.)

Why am I so sexy?

Every year around this time we have to deal with turkey fat. We eat so much Christmas turkey, mashed potatoes and pie, so as not to have the ability to buckle our pants. Well, this year not only is there fat, but there are a lot of junk gifts that I'd like to give back, or throw away. I'd consider a trade for some of those microfibre waistbands they hand out at Ottawa cocktail parties. I'll keep my new TV for now.

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This reminds me of an idea that my mother thought of 10 years ago when we were surfing the primetime menu of mainstream commercials. Four beautiful women from different cultures were extolling the virtues of Oil of Olay in foreign languages.

"Why don't they ever ask Indian women to do these commercials?" she asked, an answer to her own question waiting on the tip of her tongue.

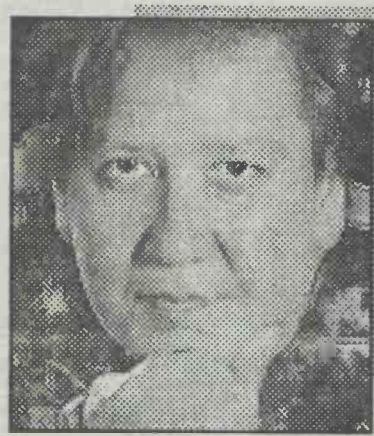
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"Well, Edji-tannoogawig medagnum ettaas somepneysan awaki youd meemay."

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"What's so funny?"

She had said, "My skin would be well tanned once I had soaked



Meganumbe
by Jeff Bear

myself in this white man's grease." When I repeated what she said, mimicking her gestures, we both convulsed with laughter.

If Mom were alive today she would watch the APTN. What would she think? She would walk away from the commercials, a genetic trait I wish I had, but she would likely watch the soaps. What soaps? The one from New Zealand that has one brown face in it.

She would ask, "Where are all the Jeff Chandler movies? He played an Indian. How come they don't have Maliseets on TV? And, where's those Oil of Olay commercials you said we'd make?"

My mother would have turned out to be one of the APTN's biggest fans. I know she would have liked all those CBC (Caucasian Broadcasting Cats) re-runs, since she never watched them when they were fresh and on CBC's network. Now that they were on our channel, it somehow made the stories better.

Mom was a news junky. She always wanted Peter Man-to-Man of CBC's nah-shun-all to wear a hat.

"He should hide that head."

She would have said the same about some on-air talent at APTN, but she may have been more cutting in her criticism.

"If they're bald, they can't be Indian."

When all the women around her thought that Yul Brenner was handsome with his shiny top, she downgraded him to the simple status of "ugly man who needs Oil of Olay."

"But bald is in," I tried to assure her. As usual, Mom's mind was set. Bald was something she

associated with her cousins going off to an Indian residential school, those wretched institutions that were set up to beat the Indian out of Indian kids. Suffice it to say, Mom was an expert TV viewer.

But she would have scolded, perhaps even pitied, me for being a two channel man. APTN and the CBC, that's all I ever watch. Everything else on TV is too white and therefore programs are in too much denial. MTV is just a barrage of sexual imagery. Oh, and there's Fashion File. Why doesn't APTN do a fashion file? Aren't there enough new baseball hat designs? Fringed dresses? The latest in stretch-wear?

Then there is the blabbermouth channel where all of CTV (Cheap TV) generated talk shows come to roost.

APTN already has some of those and I try not to watch them. But there is one I couldn't resist.

Why are Indian men sexy? That was the topic of an APTN program that calls itself "current affairs." Were the guests having a current affair, I wondered as I watched the host squirm nervously as his guest extolled the virtue of his adventurous lips. I immediately went to change the channel for fear my mother was watching me from above, but the zipper fell from my hands.

During the commercial break I dreamed about next year's turkey dinner. I slipped on the Ab Flex belt for one last go at burning fat. As the jelly rolled, I thought to myself: Why am I so sexy? It's probably from all that Oil of Olay I used as a kid getting myself ready for a career in television.

Everyone can claim to be an Indian

Dear Editor:

In today's world and with the employment equity allowing Aboriginal people to claim their descent for opportunities, [this suggests] new Aboriginal recruits. It appears that almost anyone can claim to be Aboriginal.

I started asking people working in the federal and provincial public sector how they obtained

their positions. Many had indicated they checked the box for Aboriginal on applications. There is no proof of Aboriginal identification required, just check the Aboriginal box.

This leads to further curiosity. I started asking people how they obtained employment in Aboriginal positions. Some examples were that being Aboriginal was

enough to hold a position. Others were hired by saying they are Aboriginal or friends hired them. At random many could not justify their Aboriginal heritage.

Well, how does a person become a true Aboriginal? Any individual would give their points and opinions [about] what an Aboriginal person is.

(see Status page 20.)

Things just don't add up at APTN

Dear Editor:

I just read the article about the APTN board's plans to restructure the news operation, and wanted you to know my thoughts. Good article, well written and good timing.

Two important points just don't add up: the Sept. 25 meeting that occurred with staff and senior management, and later, your conversation with APTN CEO-Ron Nadeau on Oct. 23. You say Nadeau told you that he doesn't know anything about a \$6 million deficit. Although, you

also write that you have an unedited tape which suggests he does know.

Secondly, I find it highly offensive to learn that there is a possibility that any APTN board members might use their position on the board to benefit their own production companies. That shouldn't be. It seems obvious that APTN needs board members who are not looking towards cashing in, but who are looking towards building the network first. From the information in your article, this doesn't

appear to be the case. *Windspeaker* ought to get a copy of the network's conflict of interest guidelines.

One last comment, again regarding the \$6 million deficit. I would be really interested in seeing any audit information, if one is being done.

I have to end with a line from the *Windspeaker* editorial regarding the state of journalism in Indian Country. "There's too much bad about it to be doing much good."

Alex McKay

Where'd that arrow in my back come from?



Drew Hayden Taylor

There are three things in this world I would urge people never to be or do. The first two are unimportant, but the third definitely would include being a critic or reviewer in the Native artistic community. Because no matter what you may write, you can be sure somebody you know will not like it and make sure that you know they do not like it. Or they will never talk to you again.

To begin with, in Canada, the Native population is fairly small. The Native artistic community is even smaller. And in a place like Toronto, most of the Native population would fit in my mother's back yard for a barbecue. As a playwright, I know almost all the other Aboriginal playwrights in Canada, as well as the vast majority of actors and directors. As a published author, I also know most of the other First Nations writers on a personal level. As a Native film-maker...you get the picture.

And with the advent of political correctness, it's no surprise that many institutions that review books, plays, films etc., would prefer to avoid the hassle of seeming insensitive to the artistic aspirations of this country's Indigenous population, and at the same time, review their work without a potentially "racist" slant. So often times, they call on a First Nations peer. That's where I often come into the picture, like a lamb to slaughter.

I think it's important to point out that unlike many critics, I actually work in the fields I may review. Otherwise, what's the point of offering up an uneducated opinion? God knows there's enough of those in the world. Critics can sometimes be like people who watch a lot of porn, but never have sex.

In the past I have reviewed books by Tom King, Brian Maracle and Richard Wagamese, as well as movies ranging from *Dances with Wolves* to *Pocahontas*. I've written my opinion about various television shows, and many detailed articles exploring the world of Aboriginal theatre. So needless to say, I've both pleased and pissed off a lot of people.

And the ironic thing is, I'm not an exceptionally brutal critic. I bend over backward to find positive things to say about the material I am reviewing. This is because there is often perceived to be a fine line between those who support our artists, and those who feel the need to be critical and drag them down. It's often referred to in the over-used clichéd "crab story."

It goes something like this: "A man was walking down the beach one day and saw this Native man approaching. In the Native man's hand was a pail. Inside the pail was a bunch of live

crabs. The man said to the Native man "You better put a lid on your pail or all your crabs will get away." The Native man shook his head with a smile, saying "I don't need a lid. They're Indian crabs. The minute one of them makes it to the top, the others will pull him back down."

That is often the danger of writing from inside a marginalized group. I have been told numerous times: "After 500 years of oppression and suppression, what our nations need is positive reinforcement and encouragement. Otherwise, you're playing into THEIR hands, and dividing us in our time of cultural renaissance"... or something like that.

As a result, the objectivity in reviews can be suspect. In many of the Native magazines I've seen, the review section consisted of 99.9 per cent glowing praise if the book/film/album was Native-originated. It got to the point where if I saw the word review, I didn't bother reading the text because I knew instinctively it would be kind words and rabid support. Again, it's difficult to consider such support as a fault after several hundred years of being told our stories and arts were worthless and meaningless. Thus the conflicted nature of being a Native critic.

Many other marginalized communities, i.e. the gay and lesbian community, the Asian, Jewish, Black, or left-handed walnuts merchants, have similar issues. It is perceived that an objective opinion can quickly be misconstrued as a personal attack and the reviewer has been corrupted by mainstream sensibilities.

The Native playwrighting populations may consist of a dozen or two, so every time you say or write something like "So'n'so's dialogue seemed a little clichéd and could have been more original," it's not anonymous words from an anonymous patron. Especially when you've sat at the bar with this fellow writer, lent them money, or they lent you money, then it seems like a betrayal, regardless of the accuracy of your comments. I personally have received long letters deconstructing my reviews and pointing out, both rudely and politely, how invalid my opinion is. And that's what a review is, simply an opinion.

So with all that is being said, reviewing somebody's work is a huge responsibility. Reviewing somebody's work in the Native community is fraught with delicate considerations. However, growth comes with constructive criticism, be it Native or non-Native. The real trick is to take what you can, and ignore the rest. Easier said than done, but it sure beats getting an ulcer.

Finance plan

Finance woes plague chiefs' organization

(Continued from page 1.)

Windspeaker e-mailed all the allegations made by former employees to all the vice-chiefs on Dec. 14, five working days before our deadline. Copies of the e-mail were also sent to Brant, the national chief's office and the AFN communications unit. We received responses from communications staffer Monica Ille, Brant and two vice-chiefs — Manitoba's Ken Young and British Columbia's Satsan Herb George.

"I have nothing to be embarrassed about my salary. I'm qualified to earn the salary that I'm earning," said Young, who holds a law degree.

George simply stated that the figure was correct. When we asked for the names and salaries of the people on his staff who are funded by the national office, George pointed out that only one person was in that category due to the cuts.

"While the salaries of publicly elected officials should withstand public scrutiny, the B.C. AFN respects the privacy of its two staff members and will not release names or salaries," George said in a written statement.

Young rejected the allegations that some executive members don't pull their weight.

"The other guys, they put out. They work," he said.

Some vice-chiefs receive these salaries on top of the salaries they get for other positions they hold in their regions. Young said former national chief Phil Fontaine pushed for a raise in salary for himself and the vice-chiefs, in part to eliminate the need for a vice-chief to hold a second job.

"The reason why the former national chief structured the salary that way was because, at the rate that they were getting paid, at \$55,000, quite a few of them were moonlighting to make ends meet," he said.

"So what he did was he went and negotiated with the federal government, with the minister of the day, for appropriate funding so that the vice-chiefs, the executive of the AFN, could earn the salary relevant to

"The reason why the former national chief structured the salary that way was because, at the rate that they were getting paid, at \$55,000, quite a few of them were moonlighting to make ends meet."

—Manitoba's AFN Vice-chief Ken Young

that position. So far as the national chief's salary, that's a determination made by the chiefs. A resolution was passed in Toronto increasing the salary to what you say it is, \$125,000, and if the chiefs want to lower it, they'll do so at an assembly."

Young said the vice-chiefs are working at the same level as, and are frequently in competition with, government officials who make significantly more in terms of salary, benefits, perks, and staff support.

"On the finance stuff, it would be fair if you compared. The government, they're not free from being looked at in terms of salary structures. I mean, the minister, with all due respect, he has taken shots at the organization and you look at his office and the support that he has right across the country. He comes to Winnipeg and he has all of the regional office there to look after him. If he goes to Ontario, the same thing. We don't have that kind of capacity. Absolutely not! And he has big capacity here too. For him to take potshots at the organization and attack it fiscally and make it look like it's a non-entity, that's not fair and that's not respectful either," he said. "I don't know how much money his unit eats up there but he has a political office. And they have an unlimited budget in my view."

Akwesasne Grand Chief Mike Mitchell caused a bit of a stir during the Confederacy when he took issue with the raise in administrative fees the AFN will take out of program funding.

"Now, if it's a matter of strategizing where those monies are going to go that we have AFN administer and take some money off the top, perfectly understandable. But if you continue to take... I tell you what it's going to

mean; we're going to have to lay off some further staff at AFN. That's the end result," he said.

The suggestion by an influential chief like Mitchell that the AFN should start cutting its spending rather than take money from program dollars was seen by many observers as a veiled shot at the level of compensation within the organization. Young saw it as more of a complaint that the executive made the decision without consulting the chiefs' committee that was affected.

"I didn't see Mike Mitchell's comments as being an attack on the organization. I think what he wanted was information relating to a percentage of the health budget being used for administrative purposes. The executive had taken the position that the percentage that was being used at the moment was too low and we had passed a resolution at the executive meeting to up it. Mike felt that the communication was not there for the chiefs that were sitting on the committee," Young said. "And he had a point, but, nonetheless, we, the executive, have to sometimes take positions that are not popular. They have to be made based on fiscal reality and the fiscal realities at the AFN are ones that are not super."

Allegations were also made that the vice-chief staffing dollars are not always spent on staff. Young said the regions have to go through an auditing process that would detect that kind of thing and there's been no indication of it.

"If there's money that's not being used for purposes for which it was placed into the hands of the national organization, the executive will deal with that. At the moment we don't have any information that would cause us to believe an investiga-

tion is warranted in that regard. If there is information, we would of course require the financial people to bring it forward," he said.

The reorganization has clearly angered some people who found themselves without employment. Some of the criticisms leveled at the AFN are legitimate and some aren't, Young said. Most of the housing directorate staff was laid off despite the huge need for work on the housing front for First Nations. Former employees see that as a sign some of the cuts were made with a hidden agenda in mind.

"The housing unit is mine; I'm glad you asked. I took exception to that," Young said. "I think there should have been a lot more thought given to the way the layoffs were implemented. The unit should not have been gutted to the point where there was no staff there. That's an in-house problem that we've addressed. We've addressed it but nonetheless it's been done and the administration has taken a position and we as an executive have expressed our disappointment in the way some of the layoffs were handled."

CEO Dan Brant had to make most of the tough decisions regarding layoffs. As the top non-political staff member in the organization, he has powers that exceed the national chief's when it comes to employee relations.

"Nothing has been cut," Brant said. "We are still trying to undertake all of the activities by a different method using a greatly reduced number of staff that we did not want to let go."

Some of the resentment may be the result of misunderstanding of a novel method of management that he has instituted in the organization.

"One of the things I want to make sure of is that we don't give the impression that we simply rolled up and cancelled activity in certain areas. What we went through was brutal enough without it going out to First Nations that we're not doing this anymore. There's no question that the impact it has had on us

is tremendous. You can't lay off 70 people and not have it have an impact. But we changed our management style, which by necessity will take some time to get comfortable in. We have a number of things that we're obligated to do because of funding agreements. What we did is identify into bite-sized pieces the activities that need to be undertaken. We identified a team leader for each of the activities and we identified a team of people that were remaining that would provide support to the team leader on that activity," Brant explained. "I'll pull a number out of the air: for the 100 activities that we have, we may have 15 team leaders and we've got 35 staff who are participating in a whole range of things that have more to do with their individual expertise than being in, say, a housing program. If we use housing as an example, we've got a communications person working there, a health person participating on the team. Actually I'm participating in housing as a team member. My own background is in housing and I'm working for the team leader who in another situation reports to me. It's a crazy situation and it's the implementation of that is the transition from a line management operation to a matrix operation, which is difficult."

Windspeaker was told the CEO's salary is \$90,000 and that all AFN directors receive either \$80,000 or \$90,000 a year.

AFN spokesperson Monica Ille said that's just not true.

"For the CEO, I don't have a number and we're not allowed to give out specific salaries, but concerning the directors I can say there's a salary grid that starts at \$64,000 and goes up to \$85,000," she said.

Ille said all vice-chiefs don't necessarily earn \$90,000.

"We give the money to the regions and then they decide. They and the vice-chiefs are accountable to their constituents," she said. "In the Yukon region, they decide how much they give to [vice-chief] Mary Jane [Jim]. I think she gets less."

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Jan. 19, 2002 Whitebear First Nation, SK (306) 577-2048
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- THIRD ANNUAL FIRST NATIONS ENERGY CONFERENCE**
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Life forever changed for family man

(Continued from page 3.)

Robert Cardinal received burns to 93 per cent of his body because he stayed behind in the fire to try to find his other nephew, five-year-old Giovanni Alexis. A fireman saved the boy, who spent 10 days in hospital recovering from burns.

Harriet was also burned and was in hospital about a month.

Another man, Edgar Rosetti, received minor burns when he found Robert in a stairwell and tried to put out the flames on him.

Zielinski pleaded guilty to eight counts of arson causing bodily harm. On Dec. 6 he was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Although Robert's physical injuries are the worst, his wife is also suffering, members of the Cardinal and Alexis families said.

According to Louise Alexis, the children are not doing so well either.

"They're still terrified. They can't even sleep with the light off."

Robert's mother, Yvonne Cardinal from Saddle Lake, is in the second year of a social work program at Blue Quills College. She said her training has stood her in good stead in trying to deal emotionally with the senseless act that has damaged their whole family. She is getting a lot of support from friends and instructors at the college. Her people at Saddle Lake have been there for her too, she said, with both financial and spiritual support. She has accepted counselling.

Yvonne said Robert and Anita were married at Lac Ste. Anne

in September 1999 and had a happy life with a promising future before the fire. They had recently moved to Edmonton so Robert could attend school while Anita looked after the children at home.

"Nothing major has happened in the family until April 13, 2001, [the date of the fire]" Yvonne said.

This experience "has changed me emotionally, though," she added. "Seeing my son have a lot of courage makes me strong. I shed a lot of tears with him and talked about forgiveness."

"Robert has anger at the guy who did it for hurting his family."

She said "I'm working on that (anger) too, with a priest. He told me how Mary saw her son suffer... I never thought about that much before."

Yvonne travels to visit Robert, who is still extensively bandaged and in isolation, every second weekend.

"Right now, he's stable and alert," she said on Dec. 14. "But the rehab will take years." Doctors can't tell them when he will be ready to transfer to the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital or to what extent he is likely to recover.

Robert and Anita lost everything they owned in the fire. Eventually the family will have to find accommodation near the rehabilitation hospital, probably housing that is modified to accommodate Robert's disabilities, his mother said, and she is worried about the expenses they face on top of everything else.

"But we're just very thankful

to God that he's with us. There was a huge shock, and now we have to cope. And coping is the hardest thing... I know that Bobby's physical condition will never be the same."

In the meantime, Michelle Arpin, Robert's sister, and another brother, David, make sure he has company every day. She and David, a second-year accounting student at NAIT, are the only family members living in Edmonton, so they "try to take care of the weekdays." Robert is only allowed two visitors at a time.

Robert is "depressed," she said. "He's been in the same room for eight months and he's tired of everything."

She said her brother's family was on a waiting list for the Capital Housing program at the time of the fire. Because both Robert and Anita were hospitalized when a house was offered to them, however, they were unable to take possession June 1 and are now at the bottom of the list again.

"So Anita's floating really. She's staying with aunts here and there... it's just really unsettling. She can't do anything till she gets a place." Anita gets around with a walker and a wheelchair.

Michelle manages the trust account for the family, which has \$2,600 in it, she said. Donations to help with Robert's rehabilitation and putting his family back on their feet are being accepted at the London-derry branch of the Toronto Dominion Bank in Edmonton. Cheques may be made out to Robert Cardinal and deposited to branch 8312, chequing account 3103732.

Assimilat

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer
TORONTO

National Post editorial page editor Jonathan Kay may be the most unpopular person in Indian Country.

His piece in the Saturday, Dec. 8 edition has Native people over the country fuming. Kay wrote "The case for assimilation," a lengthy editorial essay that concludes that First Nations should give up the fight for self-government and just blend in with the mainstream. To make his case, he quotes former Reform Party analyst Tom Flanagan, a Lutheran pastor from Australia and a mining company official among others. He bases his argument on anthropological theories that anthropologists say are relics of a less-enlightened era.

Even Robert Nault, the former minister of Indian Affairs, found fault with the piece.

"Well, you have my assurances that as long as I'm minister there will not be policy of assimilation. That's policy of the past and I do believe that's the intention of our reference group of ministers or the intention of the prime minister or this party," the minister said. "That's not our objective. Our objective is to create a good quality of life for Aboriginal people."



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Family man

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In the meantime, Michelle Spin, Robert's sister, and another brother, David, make sure he has company every day. She and David, a secondary accounting student at NAIT, are the only family members living in Edmonton, they "try to take care of the weekdays." Robert is only allowed two visitors at a time. Robert is "depressed," she said. "He's been in the same room for eight months and he's tired of everything."

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Assimilation argument in article infuriates Natives

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

National Post editorial page editor Jonathan Kay may be the most unpopular person in Indian Country.

His piece in the Saturday, Dec. 8 edition has Native people all over the country fuming. Kay wrote "The case for assimilation," a lengthy editorial essay that concludes that First Nations should give up the fight for self-government and just blend into the mainstream. To make his case, he quotes former Reform Party analyst Tom Flanagan, a Lutheran pastor from Australia and a mining company official, among others. He bases his argument on anthropological theories that anthropologists say are relics of a less-enlightened era.

Even Robert Nault, the federal minister of Indian Affairs, found fault with the piece.

"Well, you have my assurances that as long as I'm the minister there will not be a policy of assimilation. That's a policy of the past and I don't believe that's the intention of our reference group of ministers or the intention of the prime minister or this party," the minister said. "That's not our objective. Our objective is to create a good quality of life for Aborigi-

"This kind of argument is easily recognizable to me and I think it's best to challenge it, not based on fact, because he's not really basing his opinion on fact, he's basing it on myth."

—Dr. Elizabeth Furniss

nal people on reserve and off reserve and we have to find the right policy, processes and programming in place and governance structure to make that happen. I read that article as well and was quite surprised by the way it was put together and I certainly don't agree with it."

Dr. Elizabeth Furniss, a University of Calgary anthropology professor, said most of the arguments Kay relied upon to make his case are based on outdated science and a distinctly Canadian style of racism. Furniss is the author of *The Burden of History*, an academic study of racial attitudes towards Native people in Canada. Her book is a less technical version of her doctoral thesis.

The anthropologist lived and worked in a reserve community near Williams Lake, B.C. for several years before she began the research that earned her a PhD. She concluded that racial stereotypes of Aboriginal people are so deeply ingrained in the Canadian consciousness even non-

Native people who believe themselves to have good intentions can display the symptoms of racism. She said Kay's work exhibits classic Euro-Canadian attitudes towards Aboriginal people.

"This kind of argument is easily recognizable to me and I think it's best to challenge it, not based on fact, because he's not really basing his opinion on fact, he's basing it on myth," she said of Kay's essay. "So my strategy has been to culturally situate that kind of argument and look at it as the product of a colonial legacy in Canada and as a style of, it's almost like a ritual tradition in Canada of talking about the Indian problem."

Furniss pointed out that attitudes about Aboriginal people—particularly the "drunken Indian" and "Indian as criminal" stereotypes—are accepted by non-Native people as conventional wisdom, what she calls "common sense" racism, even though statistical studies don't support them.

"The stereotypes of Indian people as drunks or as criminals are part of the Canadian tradition of viewing Native people. If you want to define racism as the belief that Native people are inherently inferior based on either their biology or their culture, that's my working definition. So when people say Native people are drunks, that's kind of a belief that they're inherently that way—that's just the way they are," she said. "Part of redefining the relationship between Aboriginal people and Canadian society is for Canadians to become aware when they're engaging in these kinds of discussions, which are really uninformed and so pervaded by misconceptions and myths that it defeats the whole purpose."

"You stand on a street corner in Williams Lake at 5:30 on a Friday afternoon and you don't see drunk Native people. So the actual evidence that was out there didn't seem to support these stereotypes. So the question I had was how can people believe these things? These beliefs that are so obviously racist. Then I had to put myself in the shoes of the ordinary Euro-Canadian resident of a small town and say, 'OK, there's actually a systematic way of socializing Euro-Canadian residents that leads people to believe that these ideas are common sense.' This is where the invisibility of racism

comes in because, for example, if we just take the myth of the drunken Indian, despite the fact that there really doesn't seem to be much evidence, this kind of stereotype is circulated on a daily basis in conversations between Euro-Canadians. So it's part of the conversational reality."

Negative attitudes towards Native people come from many places, she said.

"When people go through public schools, they read about drunken Indians in their high school history textbooks. They go to popular histories on the bookshelf and read about Indians and alcoholism. It gets reported in the newspaper. It gets constructed as a social problem in the way politicians talk about it. Statistics get interpreted in ways that reinforce the stereotypes. So in a real sense it is part of the constructed reality of Euro-Canadian culture, but it doesn't have any real empirical basis. That's why the whole idea of common sense racism is so important to deconstruct because just arguing on the basis that there's no evidence to support it doesn't really get at the heart of why people believe these things."

Furniss believes denial is a major social issue in this country.

(see Outdated page 10.)



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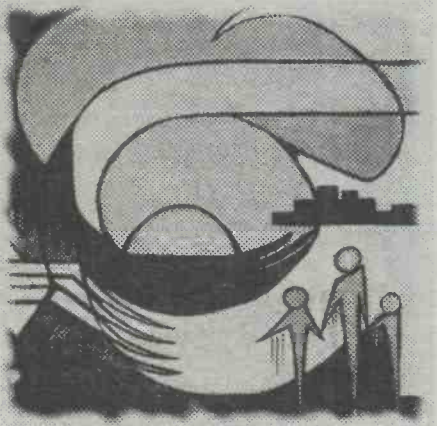
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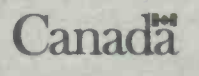

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Outdated science and ingrained racism at root of thinking

(Continued from page 9.)

"The denial of Canada as being a racist society is part of the myth of national identity and history that we have grown up with for over 100 years. Probably earlier than that. We have always told ourselves that Canadians are a nice people; we have treated our Indians well; the typical kind of paternalistic statement. I think our conviction of our own benevolence blinds us to looking critically at who we are as a nation," she said.

"Sometimes it's difficult for people like politicians to actually believe that there might be a kernel of truth in the idea that we actually are a racist country. I was thinking of Jonathan Kay's article and part of the way these convictions of benevolence and superiority get worked out is in these traditions of talking about the 'Indian problem' as if the Indian problem is something that is inherent to Native people and that doesn't implicate Canadian society at all.

"It always gets constructed as an Indian problem and I think it is important to recognize the cultural dynamics that underlie that because in Canada, along with everything else, we have this tradition of constructing things as an Indian problem, which then authorizes people like Jonathan Kay to talk about these issues as if they were informed. But they're simply drawing on myths of Canadian identity and history which then authorizes them to talk as if they know something about the subject without ever having to talk with Native people."

The anthropologist took on academics that pontificate on Native issues by relying on "common sense racism" rather than hard research.

"Have they done in-depth research in a Native community using recognized social scientific methods? Have they lived in a Native household and participated in community life? If they haven't, they are not informed by fact," she said. "Academic institutions are no less

influenced by myths of history and by traditional styles of talking about the Indian problem as are ordinary Canadians and I think it's important to recognize. So when Jonathan Kay draws on different scholars to back his argument for Native assimilation, he's selectively choosing academics who are deeply entrenched in the colonial ideology. That again excludes Native people from having any participation in the conversation."

The flash points in recent Native/non-Native conflict seem to be over land and resources. Non-Native people are angered when their jobs are threatened by land claims. But Furniss argued that disagreement doesn't necessarily have to produce racial tension.

"Racism isn't just a matter of competing over resources, it's a Canadian tradition. People mobilize these in times of competition, but they are very much a latent part of the fabric of Canadian society. Because if it was simply that easy to challenge

them on empirical grounds, the problem would have been solved long ago," she said.

And arguments by non-Native people that they're not responsible for the past deeds of their ancestors miss the point entirely.

"It's not just history," she said. "It's history that lives on in the present so, regardless of what our grandparents did or thought, we are still perpetuating that colonial culture."

Although Kay's essay was an ambitious attempt to make sense of a very confusing and vexatious area, his cultural conditioning as a Canadian steered him away from more useful analysis, she said, and persuaded him to rely on

thinking that is contaminated by out-dated colonial ideas.

"Those ideas of cultural evolution were prevalent in late 19th century. They have long been discarded in anthropology. They're just incorrect. There's no other way to say it," she said.

"The idea that hunting cultures are incompatible with industrial societies is totally without merit. There's just no social scientific evidence to support that. Hunting cultures have to make accommodations to their interconnections with capitalist society, but there's absolutely no reason why people can't maintain that culture with proper structural support in terms of government legislation and so on."

Beginning of change for grieving community

(Continued from page 4.)

Eric's death symbolizes the beginning of change, we hope for the best, for our community. Many people touched by Eric's death will find that their lifestyles will change. Programs addressing alcohol awareness will resurface in our community. Over time, Eric's family will become stronger and the current excruciating pain will lessen.

Eric's daughter will know who her father was and that his death marked the beginning of a new direction for many people in our community. She will know little of Eric's alcohol behavior but lots about his compassion towards people, his great sense of humor and his kindness and gentleness.

Eric's partner, who was critically injured in the accident, is starting to physically heal; she

will be strong for her daughter. She has the support of family, friends and community. She will hear and read the police report—the part that says that she "and Eric were kissing when the driver lost control of the van." Knowing that her last moment with Eric was one of love—a kiss shared—will, we hope, bring her some comfort.

Eric did not have to die, but that is the way that alcohol works. Alcohol does not discriminate and is not prejudiced; it doesn't care if you are good or bad. I've looked for and found the good in this tragedy and I have my closure. Now I can only watch and wait and see how our community deals with this, and of course I'll assist where I can.

Good-bye Eric. This cousin will truly miss you.

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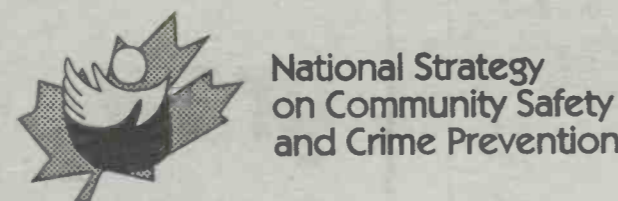
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Treaty r

By Matthew R. Stewart
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOU

After everyone expected th to be full of fire and gunp der, some say the question ing recommended to the Bri Columbia Liberal govern on treaty negotiating princip are weak and innocuous.

But the Native leadership i letting down its guard.

First Nations Summit re sentative Bill Wilson was raged by the proposed questi

"I think it's a colossal w of time and money," s Wilson. "We think this is a r ally repugnant exercise th dredging up racism around province. We urge all citizen boycott it.

"The questions may seem nocuous, but all of them pu together with a 'yes' woul ply dictate that the prov continue with business as us It's a sham."

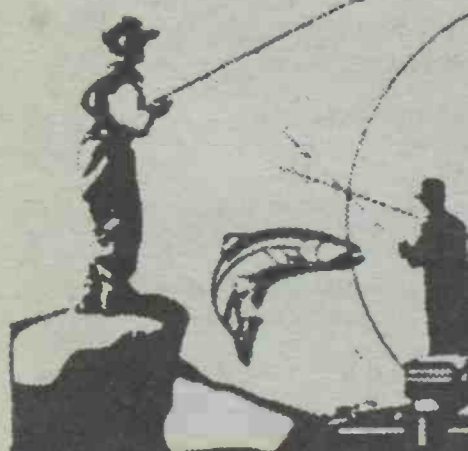
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f thinking

Thinking that is contaminated by out-dated colonial ideas. "Those ideas of cultural evolution were prevalent in late 19th century. They have long been discarded in anthropology. They're just incorrect. There's another way to say it," she said. "The idea that hunting cultures are incompatible with industrial societies is totally without merit. There's just no social scientific evidence to support that. Hunting cultures have to make accommodations to their interactions with capitalist society, but there's absolutely no reason why people can't maintain that culture with proper structural support in terms of government legislation and so on."

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Treaty referendum questions called 'ridiculous'

By Matthew R. Stewart
Windspeaker Contributor

VANCOUVER

After everyone expected them to be full of fire and gunpowder, some say the questions being recommended to the British Columbia Liberal government on treaty negotiating principles are weak and innocuous.

But the Native leadership isn't letting down its guard.

First Nations Summit representative Bill Wilson was outraged by the proposed questions.

"I think it's a colossal waste of time and money," said Wilson. "We think this is a morally repugnant exercise that is dredging up racism around the province. We urge all citizens to boycott it."

"The questions may seem innocuous, but all of them put together with a 'yes' would simply dictate that the province continue with business as usual. It's a sham."

Chair of the Aboriginal Affairs committee that recommended the questions, however, sees value in the exercise.

"This will give British Columbia treaty negotiators a firm mandate at the table," said John Les, "a mandate that is confirmed by the consent of the public."

The mail-in referendum is to be conducted before next May, but a specific date has not been chosen. Specific details, including how the process will work, who will get ballots and whether there will be a public education campaign, have not been decided.

Though Les has great hopes for the referendum and the 16 questions, reaction around the province has been less than encouraging.

"It confirms our worst thoughts about this whole process," said Summit executive member Kathryn Teneese. "We don't agree with an approach like this, where the rights of a minority are being placed in front of a majority, and in this case a relatively uninformed group of constituents who are



Attorney General Geoff Plant

going to be asked some questions without any information."

Teneese said some of the questions address Aboriginal rights already affirmed in Canadian courts and Section 35 of the Constitution. She wondered whether the province would use the referendum as a way of backing out of the existing treaty process altogether.

University of Victoria political scientist Norman Ruff called the referendum an injustice to Aboriginal people.

"By instinct I'm not against referendums, but at this stage in the [negotiation] process, I think it is a betrayal of trust."

The mainstream press variously characterized the questions as "ridiculous," "a rather mild farce," "like a 16-part social studies test," "like one of those snap quizzes that high school teachers were always springing on us," and "innocuous to the point of absurdity."

Even members of the Liberal party are calling on government to reconsider.

"I'm a Liberal," Clive Tanner, a former MLA, told the legislative committee that toured the province to sample public opinion on the proposed treaty referendum. "I'm as proud of my leader as punch and I think he's doing a hell of a job. But he's wrong on this. I think he should stand up and say 'I made a mistake.' So should you all."

"I have read no editorial or commentary, I have heard no television or radio point of view, I have seen no academic treatise and I know of no business organization that supports a referendum," Tanner said. "So you made an election promise. Well, my friends, it takes a big man to say 'I've changed my mind after due consideration.' But if he's forthright and prepared to face some criticism, and if he has 77 of 79 seats and his popularity is in the 60- or 70-per-cent range, then... don't hold a referendum. You weren't elected to send out questionnaires. You were elected to make decisions. Now get out and make them."

The cost of the referendum is estimated at \$9 million. For a province where the health care system is said to be falling apart, nurses complain they are underpaid and the government is slashing social expenditures to the bone in the name of "sound fiscal management," a lot of anger is directed against the provincial Liberals over the referendum cost.

As a Vancouver Sun editorial expressed it: "The question has 16 parts and 278 words. It'll cost \$9 million to ask it. The process will fulfill a Liberal provincial election promise. And it'll accomplish virtually nothing."

Despite these criticisms, B.C.'s Attorney General Geoff Plant, who is also the minister responsible for treaty negotiations, supports the referendum and will take the recommended questions seriously.

"The objective is to get a clearer mandate for the province's negotiators. My hope is that will make treaties easier to achieve."

Plant is also taking seriously the recommendation that the provincial government issue an "expression of regret" to Aboriginal people for past injustices. While the report that accompanied the referendum questions never mentions the word apology and neglects to describe the injustices for which it recommends the government be regretful, Plant said he would con-

The Questions

Openness

1. Treaties should be negotiated in as transparent a manner as possible. Yes or No
2. Treaty negotiation should be responsive to the input of local community and economic interests. Yes or No
3. Local government participation in the treaty process is guaranteed. Yes or No

Property and Interest Issues

4. Private property is not negotiable, unless there is a willing seller and a willing buyer. Yes or No
5. Continued access to hunting, fishing, and recreational opportunities will be guaranteed for all British Columbians. Yes or No
6. The province will maintain parks and protected areas for the use and benefit of all British Columbians. Yes or No
7. All terms and conditions of provincial leases and licences will be honored. Yes or No
8. Fair compensation for unavoidable disruption of commercial interests will be assured. Yes or No

Aboriginal Governance

9. The province will negotiate Aboriginal government with the characteristics and legal status of local government. Yes or No
10. Treaties must strive to achieve administrative simplicity and jurisdictional clarity amongst various levels of government. Yes or No
11. Province-wide standards of resource management and environmental protection will continue to apply. Yes or No
12. Treaties should provide mechanisms for harmonization of land-use planning between Aboriginal governments and local governments. Yes or No

Settlement

13. Affordability should be a key factor in determining the amount of land provided in treaty settlements. Yes or No
14. Treaties must ensure social and economic viability for all British Columbians. Yes or No
15. The existing tax exemptions for Aboriginal people will be phased out. Yes or No
16. Treaty benefits, including cash and land, should be distributed and structured to create economic opportunities for all, including those living on and off reserve. Yes or No

sider offering an apology.

"The general intention is to achieve some measure of reconciliation in moral terms," he said.

"The history of Aboriginal people in British Columbia post-contact (with Europeans) has been very difficult," Les said. "Let's acknowledge that. It seems self-evident." However, he stopped short of calling it an apology for past treatment of Aboriginal people. Average British Columbians today don't feel responsible for these prob-

lems, he said. "This is a process that would have us say yes, we recognize that many aspects of the past relationship were unfortunate, unproductive and impacted very negatively on Aboriginal people."

The Summit's Teneese dismissed the olive branch. "Unless there's some sincerity associated with those kinds of words, don't bother saying them," she responded. "We want action; we don't need patronizing words."

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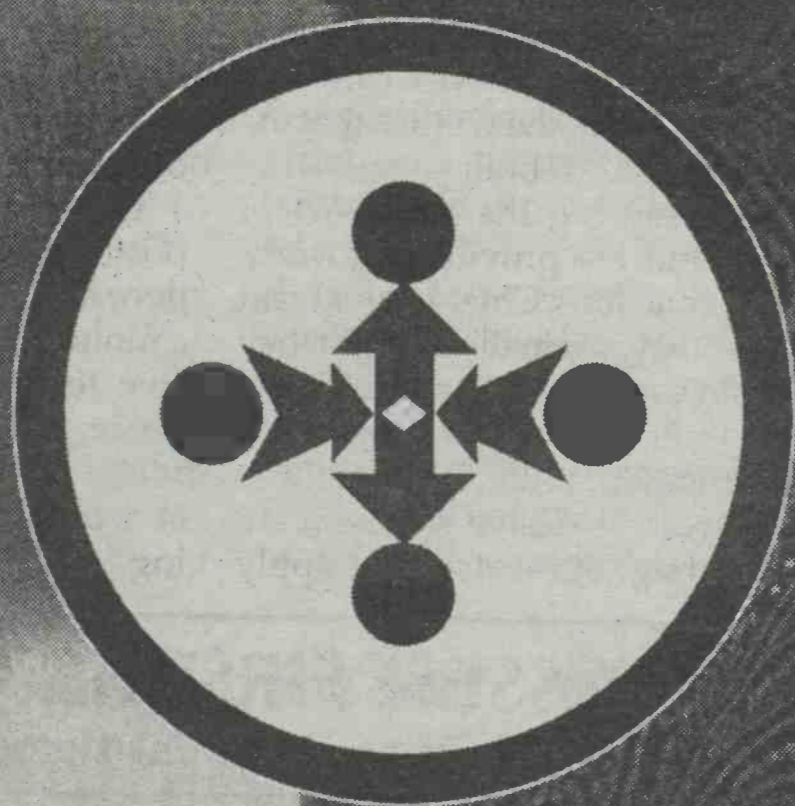
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Sun Peaks removes protesters

(Continued from page 1.)
The rubble was then torched by BCAL.

Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) President Stewart Phillip issued a statement later the same day calling BCAL's actions malicious.

"We find it unfortunate that the issue has unnecessarily escalated," said Phillip. "Sun Peaks has no idea how devastating it was to see that cabin destroyed."

Chief Manuel said his members are frustrated and he is not ruling out roadblocks in the future.

"There is a genuine impetus there to see something happen on a larger scale," he said. "We have to challenge the economic saleability of Sun Peaks as a tourist destination."

He said the most unfortunate thing "is that it would not be necessary if the B.C. attorney general would return to the discussions we began in November, and the federal government would finally begin discharging its duty to the people of Neskonalith and the people of British Columbia by directly addressing the Aboriginal title issues that we share with our brothers in all of the nations of British Columbia."

The Neskonalith band is one of several that target direct negotiation with governments outside of the existing B.C. treaty process, which Chief Manuel characterizes as "flawed."

The attorney-general asserted, however, that both the Skwel'kwel'welt Protection Centre and the McGillivray Lake camps must be removed first before discussions could proceed, citing that "the members of the public feel that their safety is threatened." That cleared the way for Sun Peaks to obtain the court injunctions.

Plant subsequently told *Windspeaker* that he "didn't think the other parties are really interested in negotiating... they're still talking about confrontations and road blockades. I don't think confrontation is the framework within which we can hold discussions on the issue." He was not forthcoming about what the Neskonalith people should do to

establish such a framework.

No longer content to simply quash future development, Native Elders are demanding Sun Peaks Resort pack up and leave the area altogether. And lawyers for the band have been instructed by Chief Manuel to file suit in the B.C. Supreme Court on the basis that the province acted without authority when it destroyed the cordwood cabin and other structures at McGillivray Lake.

Louise Mandell, lawyer for the band, asserts that the Sun Peaks injunctions declared protesters could not occupy land around the day lodge at the lake, situated eight kilometres from the resort's main village. But the court order did not give the government the right to remove Native-built structures there, she said. Mandell said she will seek a ruling from B.C.'s Supreme Court that the B.C. Assets and Land Corp. acted unlawfully when it demolished the cordwood cabin. Mandell said the injunction allows Native people to use the area at McGillivray Lake; the protesters are only prohibited from living there.

"There was nothing in the court order allowing the removal of structures, sweatlodges or sacred objects," she said. "The destruction of this house was completely outside the scope of the court order. And whether the government can justify its actions under the Land Act is highly debatable. I frankly don't believe it can," she said. As well, she will ask that the buildings be rebuilt.

Concerning the Land Act of B.C. and the provincial government's actions, Chief Manuel said that "they originally thought they could come in and grab us by the scruff of the neck and throw us off the land. That may apply to non-Native trespassers who are squatting, but it does not apply



Canadian Consulate Munich, Germany December 16, 2001

to Natives on our own lands." Within days of the destruction at McGillivray Lake, a response was also heard from outside Canada. On Dec. 17, Chief Manuel issued the following press release:

"In Munich, Germany, last night there were demonstrators outside of the Canadian Consulate protesting the shameful behavior of Sun Peaks Resort and the refusal of the B.C. and Canadian governments to open up talks with our people."

Manuel reported a statement made to the international press by the spokesperson of the Munich protest, who said "tourist resorts that behave in such an insensitive way cannot survive. They need international tourists and we do not want to be caught in a land conflict. Sun Peaks is killing their own business by behaving like they are. In German we have a saying that they are 'crossing over their own skies', or 'digging their own grave.'"

The German protestors left posters taped to the consulate door and, on the doorstep atop a mound of snow, a Christmas tree festooned with protest notes to welcome Canadian representatives as they arrived at work the following morning.

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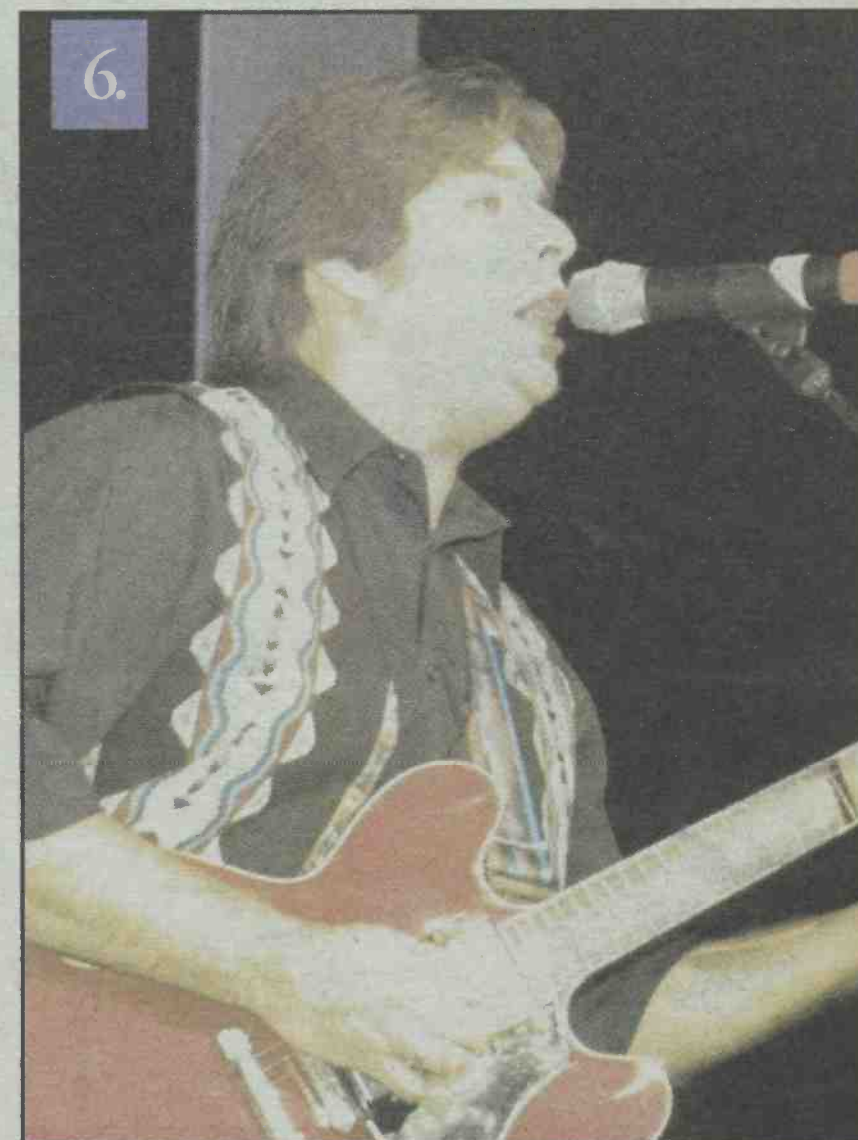
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- 6. Best Jazz or Blues Album went to the Ronnie Douglas Blues Band for "Big Brother." He also performed.
- 7. Best Powwow Album—Contemporary went to Stoney Park for "Wolf Pack."
- 8. Marty Ballentyne of Breach of Trust puts the excitement of winning three awards into his performance.
- 9. Best Male Artist went to Billy Joe Green for "My Ojibwe Experience, Strength and Hope."
- 10. Ray Villebrun wins in the Best Country Album category for "Sound of Thunder," and Best Song Single category for "I Found Her Tonight."
- 11. Among the evening's entertainment was Faron Johns of the Pappy Johns Band.



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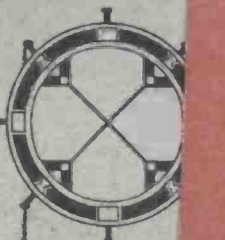
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Native astronaut encourages kids to reach for the stars

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer
HOUSTON, Tex.

When Commander John Herrington tells Native American children they should reach for the stars, he can do so with more authority than most. Not only did he reach for the stars, but soon he will be walking among them.

Next September, Herrington is going to make history when he becomes the first Native American in space.

Herrington's mother is from the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma and, although he didn't grow up on the reservation, he is a member.

Herrington will be a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle Endeavor for NASA's 113th shuttle mission, scheduled for launch Sept. 6, 2002.

Like many of us who have grown up in a world where space exploration was a reality, Herrington had childhood dreams of being an astronaut.

"I dreamed about it as a little kid, but I never really thought it was something I could achieve, you know. So it's one of those things. You dream about it, but you don't pursue it until the point in your life when you realize that you're going in the right

direction."

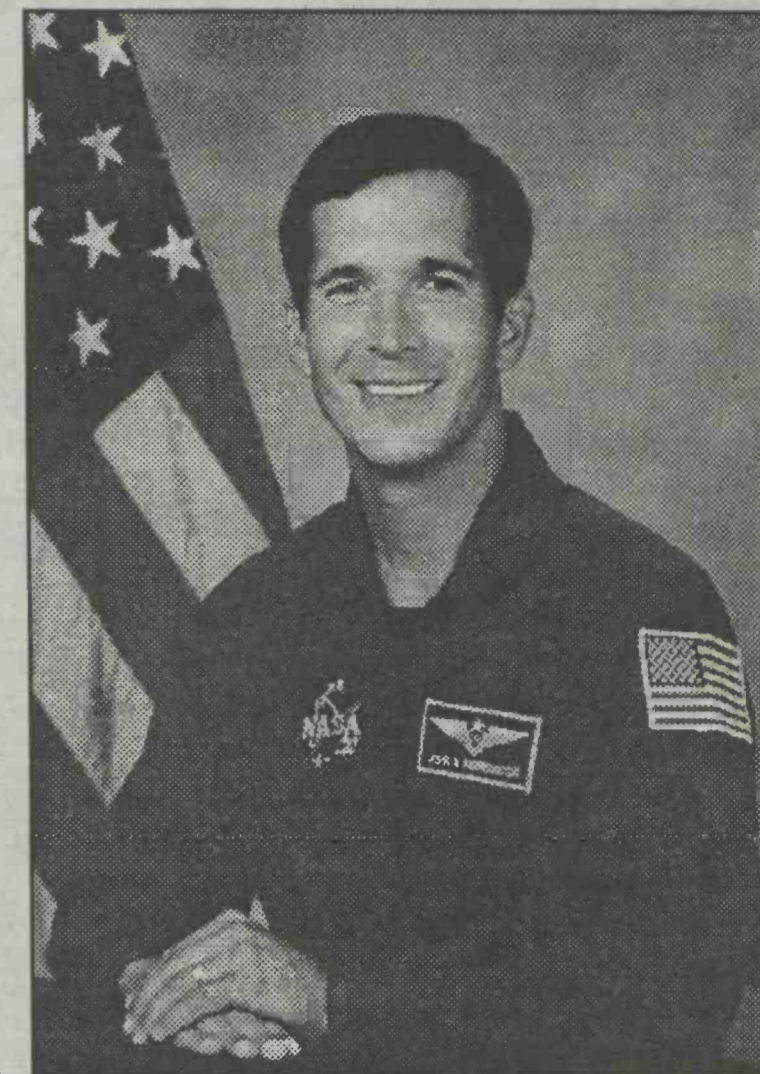
The path Herrington traveled to become an astronaut was far from a direct route. The first part was a bit bumpy. And Herrington started on the journey without a map.

After graduating from Plano senior high school in 1976, he went to college, but without a clear idea of what he wanted to do.

"I've just always done things that I've enjoyed, that I thought I would enjoy or that would be a challenge," he said.

"I started out in college. Really, I wanted to work outdoors. I didn't really have any direction. My parents encouraged me to go to school, but they didn't really tell me what I should take. They left it up to me.

"I moved around a lot in school when I was a kid, and so I never really had a chance to get to know my counsellors and my teachers. So I didn't have a really good idea what I was good at. I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to work out-



Commander John Herrington

side, and be outside, and do things outdoors. And money wasn't an issue. I wanted to have fun working. And I thought doing things outdoors would be that. And in first year, I didn't study very much at all. I ended up doing a lot of rock climbing and spending my time outdoors. It wasn't that I wasn't intelligent, it was the fact that I didn't concentrate on my studies and my grades suffered. I got kicked out." (see Astronaut page B12.)

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Teen a role model to other youth

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer
CARRY THE KETTLE
FIRST NATION, Sask.

The fashion runways of Europe may seem a world away from the hallways of the Nakota Oyate Education Centre, but it looks like soon Desarae Eashappie will be dividing her time between both.



Desarae Eashappie

Desarae, a 15-year-old from Carry the Kettle First Nation in Saskatchewan, has been on the receiving end of a lot of attention from modeling agents in fashion centres like Milan, Paris, New York, Los Angeles and Miami,

and has had offers of runway work in Barcelona, and print work in Toronto.

Desarae first got into modeling last year when she entered and won the province-wide Fresh Faces Model Search co-ordinated each year by Stages Model and Talent Agency. As part of her prize for winning the Saskatchewan title, Desarae traveled to Vancouver in November to take part in the Faces West Model and Talent Convention. There, she continued her winning ways, claiming top spot in three out of the four categories of competition—swimsuit, portfolio, and overall top model.

Of the 300 or so girls taking part in the convention, Desarae was the only First Nations participant, said Brenda Eashappie, Desarae's mother.

"All the agents that were there put lists up and circled the number of the contestant that they want to see. And Desarae had probably the most call backs," she said. Since returning home from the convention, Desarae's agent has received calls from agents in Milan, Barcelona and Toronto.

"But all the ones we met are all very interested in offering her a contract at some point," Brenda said. "It's pretty overwhelming."

In the year since winning Saskatchewan's Fresh Faces Model Search, Desarae hasn't been doing a lot of modeling, Brenda explained. She's done a shoot for SaskTel, appearing in a brochure explaining the company's services, a photo shoot for Red Road in Fort

Qu'Appelle, and has done some work on YTV's Incredible Stories Studio. Now, following her recent success in Vancouver, her modeling services are going to be in greater and greater demand.

Despite all the success and attention, Brenda says her daughter is "pretty humble about it all." "She's very excited, but at that same time, she's pretty low key about all the attention. And she's really proud to be able to be a role model, and to kind of flaunt her culture."

While her modeling accomplishments are impressive, they aren't the only thing earning Desarae a role model designation. In October, she was one of the recipients of this year's SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Awards of Excellence, winning in the education category. That award recognized not only Desarae's academic accomplishments—such as maintaining a 92 per cent average—but also her efforts to help her fellow students, and to share her culture.

Sharing in and celebrating all of Desarae's successes are her family members: her mother Brenda and father Lonnie, twin brothers Kylie and Lonnie Jr., as well as her two older brothers Randall and Kris Shiplack, who live in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Heading into the competition in Vancouver, Desarae said she was both nervous and excited.

"I was eager to see the other girls and how well they did. I was eager to see if there was any other nationalities there. But I was the only First Nation girl there again."

Her emotions were mixed following her victories at the convention.

"Well, I guess you could say I was really overwhelmed, and really proud of myself. At first I didn't think I would do well, because I had to go on stage in my bathing suit, and I didn't even want to do that, and I ended up winning that part of the competition. So I was also really surprised, I guess."

As for the modeling itself, Desarae has a lot of fun with it.

(see Teen model page B11.)



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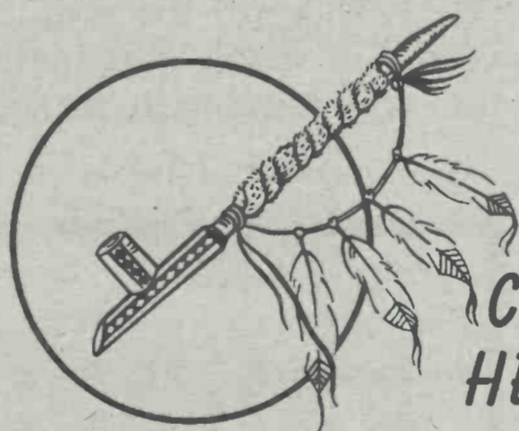
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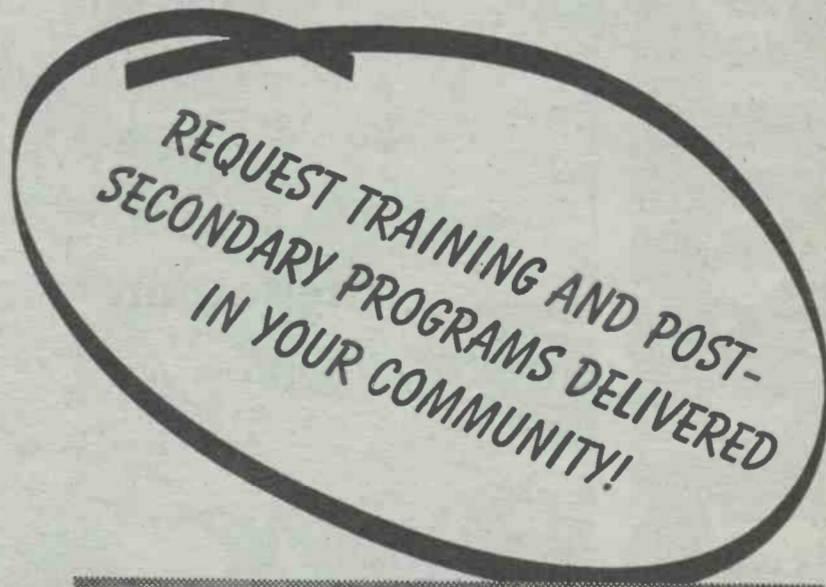
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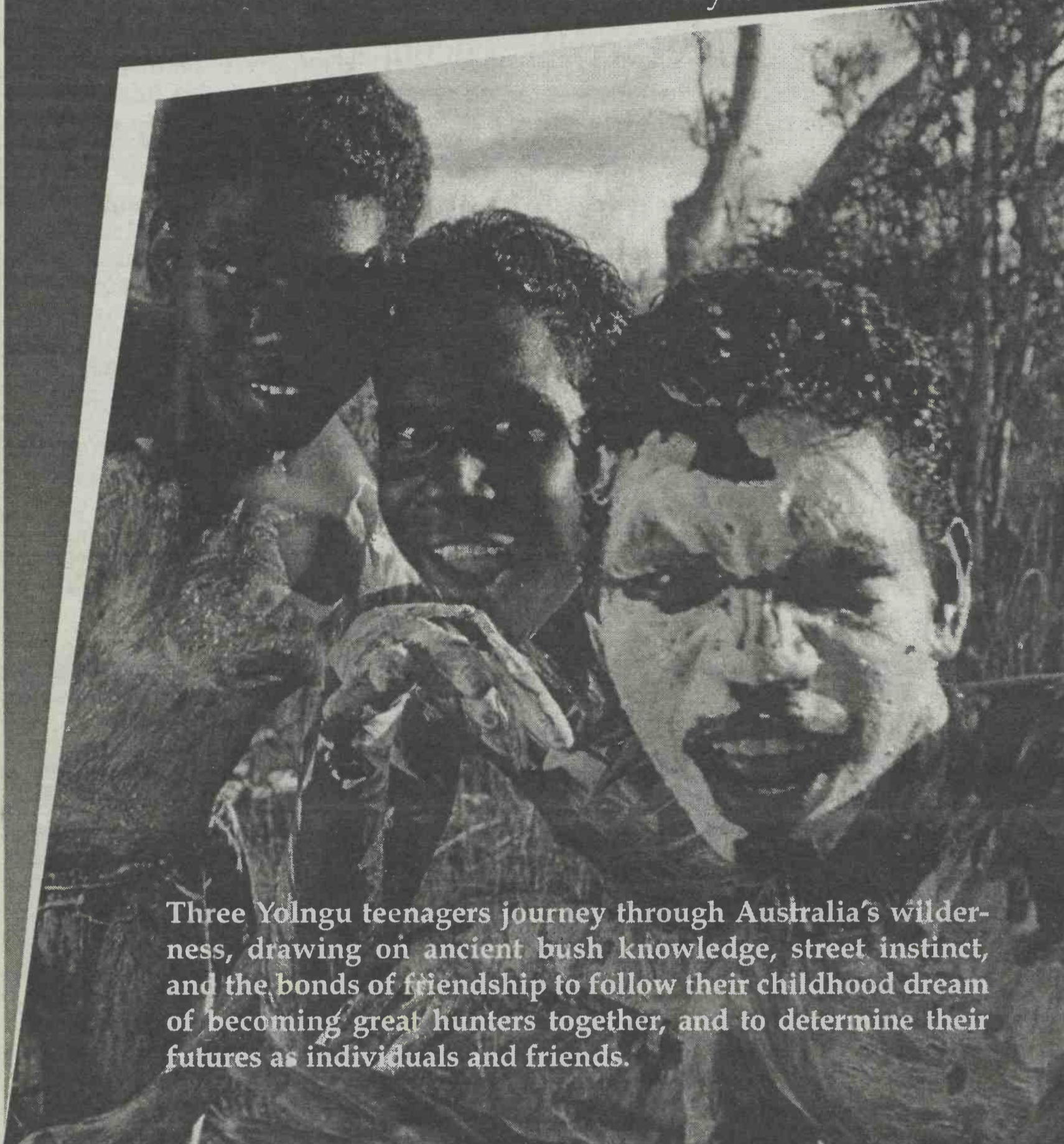


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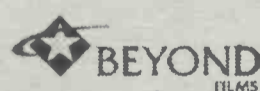
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Yolngu Boy is produced by the Australian Children's Television Foundation and Burrundi Pictures, with the assistance of Film Victoria, a division of Cinemedia, SBS Independent, and the Northern Territory Government. Financed by the Australian Film Finance Corporation and the Australian Children's Television Foundation. Distributed in Australia and New Zealand by Palace Films. Distributed internationally by Beyond Films.

As seating is limited, please purchase tickets in advance by calling:

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A free afternoon matinee for schools is also scheduled. Please call for details.



Earn your sea legs

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer
SYDNEY, N.S.

If you've ever dreamed of a life at sea, the Canadian Coast Guard would like to hear from you.

The coast guard is accepting applications for enrollment in its Canadian Coast Guard Officer Training Plan, a four-year program offered at the Canadian Coast Guard College in Sydney, N.S.

"It's a four-year degree granting program for training as marine engineers or navigation officers in the Canadian Coast Guard," explained Peter Brand, acting superintendent of nautical science training at the college.

"When they recruit, they recruit into the civil service. They're not recruiting as students; they're recruiting employees. So they recruit employees, they bring them into the civil service, and then they give them a job for four years to go into training to become either a navigation officer or an engineering officer for the coast guard."

The coast guard covers the cost of books and tuition for students in the program, and also provides them with regulation coast guard uniforms, medical and dental coverage, meals and accommodation, and a monthly allowance. The cost of traveling to the college at the beginning of the student's studies is also covered, as is the cost of a return trip home for Christmas.

Students completing the four-year program will earn a bachelor of technology in nautical sciences degree upon graduation, as well as certification as an officer that is valid on commercial ships.

Upon graduating, participants in the training program must serve an additional four years as a ship's officer with the coast guard, or as a public servant elsewhere in the public service. Participants must also agree to serve those four years whenever they are assigned.

The 45-month training program is offered in both English and French, and consists of both classroom time as well as time at sea.

Students in the marine engineering plan spend 11 months at the college, followed by four months at sea, then another 16 months at the college, five months at sea, and another nine months at the college.

Students in the navigation officer portion of the plan spend 11 months at the college, followed by seven months at sea, then return to studies at the college for 10 months, followed by another eight months at sea, and nine more months at the college.

All students in the officer training plan must com-

plete a number of core courses, including both general academic studies, such as math, physics, communication skills, and computers. The program also includes courses such as damage control, pollution control, seamanship, signals, and ship construction, specifically aimed at preparing students for a career as a coast guard officer.

According to Brand, the training provided by the coast guard college offers prospective students not only a guaranteed, full-time job upon graduation, but it also offers them a career.

"The graduates, when they enter into the fleet, they enter at the lowest level of the officers within the fleet. But they have the tools, they have the theory, to be able to write their certification and move up the ranks of the coast guard. It's really a career path that we're offering. And graduates from the college are found all through the coast guard today. Actually, they're found outside as well, in the private sector. And they've moved up into the ranks of senior management inside the coast guard. So that's really what we're offering, a career path into senior management of the coast guard, if you stay with it long enough," he said.

And more and more graduates are staying with it, Brand explained, due in part to the changes the coast guard has made in its leave system.

"We actually find today that most of the graduates, they tend to stay at sea. Going to sea today is not like it once was. When I went to sea it was more or less you stayed at sea and there was no leave system, and you built up your vacation and you got it whenever you could. The coast guard today offers a very, very good leave system. It's month on, month off on most of the vessels. So for a person with a family life and other interests, really you can have that sea-going life and still have the other side as well. There's all kinds of opportunities. Many of the guys who go to sea have businesses on the side, or they go back to school in their off time," Brand said.

"So I guess that's what they're offering today too, is a life where you can actually have a home life as well as a life at sea."

To be considered for entry into the Officer Training Program in September 2002, applications must be submitted by Jan. 21, 2002.

For more information about a career with the Canadian Coast Guard, call the college registrar at 902-567-3208, or visit the Canadian Coast Guard College Web site at <http://www.cgc.ns.ca>.

Your future begins today

Careers & Training

Hotel proud of housekeeping certifications

By Carmen Pauls
Windspeaker Contributor
LAC LA RONGE, Sask.

If any other hotel had a pack of wolves roaming its halls, the manager might be calling for pest control. But not Clarence Neault. The manager of the La Ronge Motor Hotel not only wants to keep his pack, he's proud to have them.

The W.O.L.F. Pack, as Neault calls them, are six of the hotel's staff, who are now nationally certified housekeeping attendants. The achievement marks the end of a five-year project called Workplace Open Learning Fulfillment (W.O.L.F.). The goal was to get all of the hotel's long-term housekeepers (more than 75 per cent of the department) recognized as professionals in their field, certify their prior learning, and create a workplace environment in which national standards are taken as part of the job.

The first to be certified was Tracy Moosewaypayo, who

"It can say to visitors both foreign and local that we ascribe to very high standards on this property. We have certified employees."

—Clarence Neault

later started in a housekeeping training video produced by the hotel. She was followed by Elsie Halkett (who now works for the La Ronge Health Centre) and Angie McDonald, head of the housekeeping and janitorial departments. Neault then approached McDonald about co-ordinating a training program for the housekeeping staff.

The hotel now boasts a learning centre, where staff can practice their literacy skills and use training materials provided by the Saskatchewan Tourism Education Council (STEC).

McDonald is available daily to co-ordinate group learning sessions, administer tests and serve as a resource for her colleagues.

While some of the recently trained staff preferred to complete the STEC workbook on their own, others found group sessions a joy.

Asked what she appreciated most, Jean B. Charles instantly recalled "the joking around and laughing when we were in the classroom—we could do it in Cree."

As an instructor, McDonald also liked being able to use Cree, her first language, as she and her col-

leagues bounced questions and ideas off one another and practised their skills. She is also pleased by what she has gained by her involvement: not only camaraderie, but a new level of responsibility.

"I can get into a better job. I'm a manager now," McDonald said. "I was able to jump up. . . I'm proud to say where I am (working) now."

Her colleagues—Cathy Venne, Margaret Clinton and Vicki Hunt—echoed those thoughts.

"I'm so proud of working here," Hunt said. "It was hard, but I got it."

That sense of pride is exactly what Neault was aiming for.

"Number one, standards are taught, and number two, it does create a sense of professionalism and ownership, which equals dollars for us. They care for the business," he said.

As well, having well-trained staff creates an atmosphere where learning is valued, and new employees

are "automatically inducted" into that climate, Neault said. Chuckling, he pointed to the STEC pin all certified staff now wear.

"They all want a pin," he said of his newer employees.

"For the first-time ever, we're seeing recognition of these front-line workers," said Carol Lum, STEC's executive director. "They have an opportunity now to test themselves against national standards. You think you're good at what you do. Now you have a chance to prove it. . . It's no longer training to someone's opinion."


Certification also gives workers more flexibility, because employers know what skills certification implies, and it also gives the employer a certain caché: he or she can advertise for certified staff, and use them as an advertising tool, Lum said.

"It can say to visitors both foreign and local that we ascribe to very high standards on this property. We have certified employees."

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The University of Regina, in a position, subject to budgetary approval, commencing July 1, 2002. A variety of approaches to literature request from the Department. www.uregina.ca/arts/english/

Candidates should have a Ph.D. in a specialist in Medieval Literature candidates with expertise in the following courses: Chaucer to Literature; Structure of Medieval Language; Literature and Culture.

All qualified candidates are eligible to be given priority. The University of Regina reserves the right to accept or decline any application. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae and transcripts for reference and transcripts for reference.

Dr. M. Knuttila, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences



UNIVERSITY OF REGINA

Department of Arts and Social Sciences

The University of Regina, in a twelve-month term position. Applicants would be expected to teach courses in at least one of the following: Politics, International Relations. Program. Applicants should submit three letters of reference. Faculty of Arts, University of Regina. Date for applications is February 1, 2002. Contact Howard Leeson, Acting Chair, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2, Regina, Saskatchewan (306) 585-4815. All qualified candidates must be permanent residents with employment equity.

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automatically inducted" that climate, Neault said. "Looking, he pointed to the pin all certified staff wear. "They all want a pin," he said of his newer employees. "For the first-time ever, we're seeing recognition of the front-line workers," said Carol Lum, STEC's executive director. "They have an opportunity now to test themselves against national standards. You think you're good at what you do. Now you have a chance to prove it. It's no longer training someone's opinion." Certification also gives employers more flexibility, because employers know what a certification implies, it also gives the employer a certain caché: he or she can advertise for certified employees and use them as an advertising tool, Lum said. "You can say to visitors both foreign and local that we adhere to very high standards of this property. We have certified employees."

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The University of Regina, Department of English invites applications for a two-year, limited term position, subject to budgetary approval, at the floor of the assistant professor rank (currently \$44,419 per annum), commencing July 1, 2002. The curriculum of the department of English emphasizes the variety of approaches to literature in English Studies. A description of the program is available upon request from the Department (306-585-4140), or from the University of Regina website at: <http://www.uregina.ca/arts/english/index.html>.

Candidates should have a Ph.D., teaching experience, and a record of scholarship. We are looking for a specialist in Medieval Literature or English Language Studies. Preference will be given to excellent candidates with expertise in both areas. The successful applicant will be asked to teach some or all of the following courses: Chaucer; Studies in Medieval Literature; Introduction to Linguistic Approaches to Literature; Structure of Modern English; Introduction to Linguistics I; History of the English Language; Literature and Composition.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Regina is committed to employment equity.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae by February 15, 2002, and arrange to have three letters of reference and transcripts forwarded to:

Dr. M. Knuttila, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2



UNIVERSITY OF REGINA
Department of Political Science

The University of Regina, Department of Political Science invites applications for two twelve-month term positions at the rank of Assistant Professor, commencing July 1, 2002. Applicants would be expected to teach Introductory Political Science, as well as undergraduate courses in at least one of the Department's primary fields of Canadian Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations and Political Theory. Applicants should have a Ph.D. or expect completion in 2002, a commitment to excellence in teaching, and an active research program. Applicants should submit curriculum vitae, and arrange for the forwarding of three letters of reference and graduate transcripts to Dr. Murray Knuttila, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2, Fax: (306) 585-5368. Closing date for applications is February 15, 2002. Academic inquiries may be addressed to Dr. Howard Leeson, Acting Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Regina, Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2, Email: howard.leeson@uregina.ca, Phone: (306) 585-4400, Fax: (306) 585-4815. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Regina is committed to employment equity.

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The future's sunny
for a career in TV

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer
MISSISSAUGA, Ont.

If you're looking for an opportunity to get into the world of television broadcasting, the Weather Network would like to hear from you.

The Weather Network and its sister company MeteoMedia, which operates in French, are Canada's only 24-hour specialty channels devoted to weather and environmental issues.

"And we're also Canada's leading private sector weather information provider," said Michelle Grech, human resources manager with the Weather Network.

In an attempt to attract potential Aboriginal employees to the network, the human resources department has been involved in a number of outreach initiatives, including attending the Canadian Aboriginal Festival at Skydome to learn more about Aboriginal culture, and visiting schools and colleges to let students know about career opportunities at the Weather Network.

"Basically, our goal is to be the employer of choice, and build relationships with the Aboriginal community," Grech said.

"One of the things we've done recently is we co-ordinated a luncheon at the University of Toronto in the First Nations House. And we did that in October of 2001. And basically it was just introducing ourselves and outreaching to the students, and making them comfortable with us, and hoping that they'd be interested in working here and developing a long-term work relationship," she said.

Another recent initiative was an Aboriginal cultural awareness training session held for managers at the Weather Network.

"It was excellent. I think everyone was really receptive, and we're just trying to sort of make sure that we're a diverse organization," Grech said.

The network also offers internships, co-op placements and job shadowing, designed to give people hands-on experience in a broadcast environment.

Although there are currently no full-time positions open at the Weather Network, the network always welcomes inquiries and applications from any Aboriginal candidates interested in joining the team.

"There are certain posi-

tions that we do recruit for, but we are pretty open in terms of meeting people and seeing what their skills and their educational background is, and trying to incorporate them within our organization as best as we can. So we're very open, basically, to meeting any of the Aboriginal students or candidates who are interested in working here," Grech said.

The team at the Weather Network includes meteorologist, producers, on-air personalities, graphic artists, switcher/editors, production assistants, news writers, as well as members of the sales department, accounting department, human resource department, information technology department, Web department, a new media division a multimedia division, and also a division that provides up-to-date weather maps and forecasts for the day.

While some positions have a certain set of qualifications for candidates to meet, there is some flexibility for the right candidate, Grech explained.

"If we see that people have potential, and there are certain skills and experience that they have and if they're willing to learn, I think it's all in terms of the attitude of the individual and if they're willing to grow and learn with us, then we are definitely willing to invest our time with them."

"I think there's a lot of opportunities for growth and advancement within the company. There are training opportunities that are available. And it's a great place to work," Grech said.

"We have a very extensive values and beliefs system, and we always want to make sure that we're creating an environment that encourages excellence and initiative, and is fair and respectful to all. And I think that that's really important. I think that shows in the environment that we've created here, to make sure that's a very open, and a fun place to work."

"We'd like to be the employer of choice, and we welcome all candidates to consider working at the Weather Network, for its environment and the opportunities, and the people that work here. And we hope that people will join us and grow with us," Grech said.

For more information about career opportunities with the Weather Network, e-mail the human resources department at hr2@on.pelmorex.com.

Your future begins today

Careers & Training

Aboriginal dietitians in high demand

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer
TORONTO

There are currently only about a dozen Aboriginal registered dietitians across Canada, but that is slowly changing, thanks to a number of new initiatives aimed at attracting and supporting Aboriginal students who want a career in nutrition.

Marlene Wyatt is director of professional standards with Dietitians of Canada, the only national organization of dietitians in Canada. Among its other roles, Dietitians of Canada is the accreditation body for dietetic internship and university programs.

In order to become a registered dietitian, a person has to complete a four-year undergraduate degree in nutrition or dietetics, followed by a 45-week practical training program or internship.

One of the projects Dietitians of Canada has been involved in is a dietetic internship program offered through Whitehorse General Hospital.

Kelly McQuillen is professional practice leader for the Yukon First Nations' dietetic internship program.

According to McQuillen, the work to develop the Yukon internship program started in 1994 as a way to help one of the workers at the hospital to complete her requirements to become a registered dietitian. She had completed her degree in nutrition and had moved back to the community, but didn't want to have to leave again to complete her internship.

"So I was the only dietitian working there at the time, and the question was, 'Well, why can't you train her?'"

McQuillen contacted Dietitians of Canada to find out about its standards for internship accreditation, then set out to design an internship program with the sup-

port of a number of partners, including the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board, the Council of Yukon First Nations and the First Nations Health Program.

The program was initially offered as a pilot project, and was partnered with St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, a teaching hospital serving a large Aboriginal population.

"They had a lot of programs that could offer services that were linked to issues around First Nations health... so they were able to provide nutrition services around things like diabetes and AIDS and renal health and cancer, that were large issues, at least within the Yukon population," McQuillen explained.


"It's really been a partnership," McQuillen said of the internship program, "because it came from a need from First Nations that they wanted to be able to train their own in the community."

Funding for the program has come from three major partners—the First Nations Health Program through the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Hospital Corporation, and the bands, tribal councils or organizations of the individuals applying for the internship.

"It's worked quite well in that there is support from the individual's community for them to go, because they're funding that. There's support from the Council of Yukon First Nations because it's a First Nations focus. And there's support from the hospital corporation because it's linking to the communities and also, they're utilizing their staff and resources and commitment there."

Other partners that have joined the project since its inception include London Health Sciences, the project's new affiliation site, and the Yukon government.

(see Dietitian page 10.)



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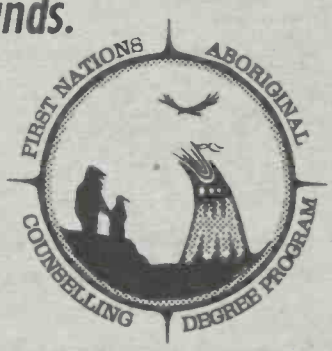
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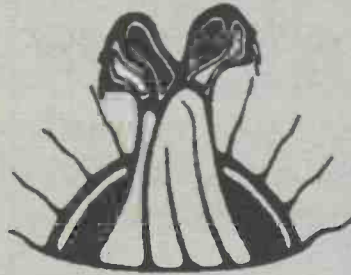
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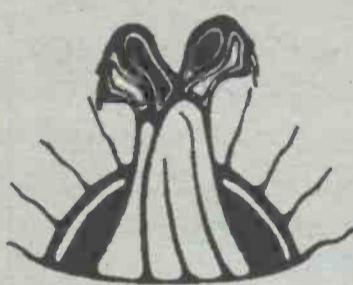


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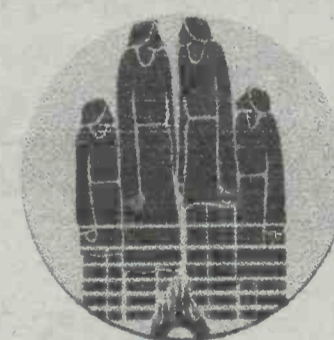
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Careers & Training

Summit chiefs dig deep to establish scholarship

By Matthew R. Stewart
Windspeaker Contributor
VANCOUVER



Carole T. Corcoran

Chiefs from around the province dug into their pockets at a First Nations Summit meeting in North Vancouver on Nov. 30 to contribute cash for the establishment of the Carole T. Corcoran Memorial Award at the University of British Columbia Law School. Corcoran was a co-chair of the Summit from 1998 to 2000. Organizers of the scholarship fund have a target of \$20,000 to seed the fund, and any amount above that will be used to fund a second university entrance scholarship, available to a first-year student of Canadian Aboriginal ancestry.

The award will be given to a graduating Aboriginal student in the faculty of law with high academic standing. Community involvement and the ability to serve, work with, and lead both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians will also be considered. The annual award will be made on the recommendation of the faculty of law.

Carole T. Corcoran passed away in February. She was viewed by many as one of Canada's foremost Aboriginal lawyers. She practised law with the Vancouver firm of Fast & Corcoran. She was Dene from Fort Nelson, B.C. and had extensive experience in Aboriginal government and politics at the local, regional, and provincial levels.

She served on several boards and commissions, including the Royal Commission on Canada's Future (1990-91), the British Columbia Treaty Commission (1993-95), the Board of Governors—University of Northern British Columbia (1993-95), Conflict Management Board—Royal Roads University (1997-2000), and the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (1998-2000). She was appointed to the Indian Claims Commission in July 1992.

Donations to the scholarship fund can be made payable directly to the University of British Columbia. A tax receipt will be provided. Send to: Carole T. Corcoran Memorial Award, University of B.C., Development Office, 6253 N. W. Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 Tel: (604) 822-8900.

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Careers & Training

Doc in training inspired in junior high P.E.

By Brian Lin
Windspeaker Staff Writer
VANCOUVER

It's exam time at the University of British Columbia, but second-year medical student Nicholas Half takes 45 minutes out of his busy schedule to go for a run around the Endowment Land.

"I'd like to run three or four times a week, but right now I'm down to about once a week because of the exams," said the 25-year-old of the Cree community of Saddle Lake First Nation in Alberta. If not for his love for sports, Half said he would never have ended up where he is now.

"I was a really active kid," said Half. "So I always wanted to do something with my life that would keep me active, like a police officer or a fireman." But a Grade 7 physical education course changed his mind. "One of the blocks in P.E. was a health and fitness unit," Half explained. "We were taught some anatomy and had to do research and write papers. I wrote a paper on the human skeletal system and that got me really interested in how the body works."

Half went on to complete a bachelor in kinesiology degree at Simon Fraser University with the intention of going to medical school after-



Nicholas Half takes a run in the trees before heading off to exams at the University of British Columbia.

wards. The first doctor-to-be from his reserve, Half said it hasn't all been smooth sailing.

"I went through four stages." From fantasizing about being a doctor to finding out what it takes, to combating difficulties with basic sciences in college, he has now found the strength and determination to make his dream come true.

"For a while, I actually didn't think it was going to

happen," he said. "I wasn't doing so well at school and then I joined a pre-med society and it opened my eyes."

Born in Nelson, B.C., Half spent a couple of years in his early teens living on the reserve with his parents. He's seen the need for better health care for First Nations communities, but said his choice to be a doctor is "solely a selfish one."

"It's what I want to do," he

smiled. "But it's very exciting to be the first, because people can see me and realize that it can be done." Half said he hasn't ruled out family practice, but he really wants to be an orthopedic surgeon.

His goal is to perform complex surgery involving the reconstruction of bones, which will likely see him work in a large hospital in a major urban centre.

"I'd like to think of the fact that half of the Aboriginals in

this country are living off the reserves. So I'll be meeting them wherever I go."

The avid hockey player says his interest in orthopedics springs from a childhood aspiration.

"I like fixing things," he said.

"There's so much more you can do [in orthopedics]. You're actually fixing something, and you can improve the patients' lives for many years to come."

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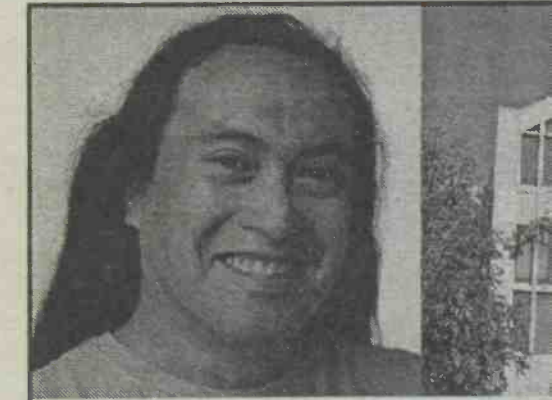
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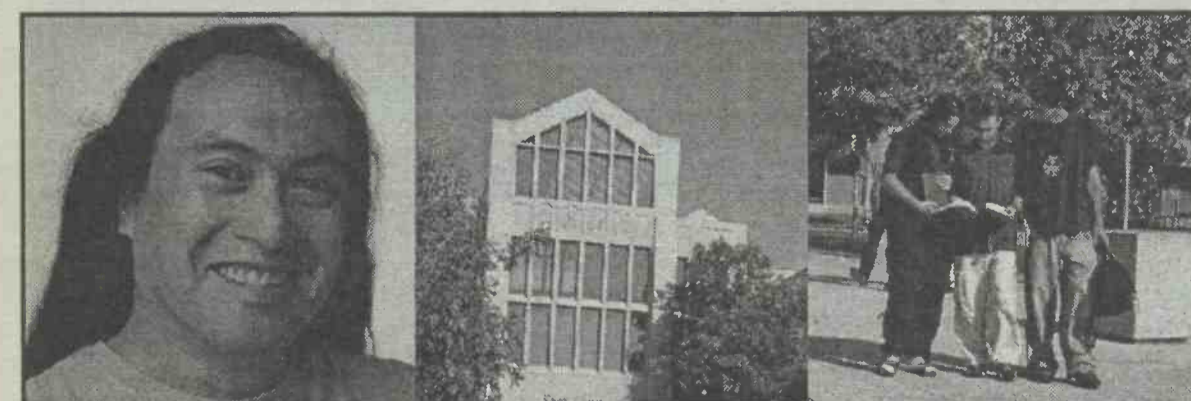
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Aboriginal pilots to benefit

By Cheryl Petten
Windspeaker Staff Writer
OTTAWA

If you're an Aboriginal pilot, or even if you're just thinking of becoming one, there's a new organization designed to help you get off the ground.

The Canadian First Nations Pilot Association was started by pilot Stephen Pierro as a network for Aboriginal pilots from across the country.

The association has been around as a Web-based entity for about a year now, and work is now underway to formalize the organization.

The association has a mission statement, business plan, constitution and bylaws in place, and a number of established pilots have expressed interest in being on the association's board of directors.

"The next step is getting the support from the communities, and from the other Aboriginal pilots," Pierro said. "There are so few of us. We figure there may be 100 Aboriginal

pilots in Canada. That's just a rough guess, because there hasn't been any statistics done on it."

So far, the association has attracted about 30 members, coming from all parts of Canada.

Pierro started the Web site last year, after he graduated from the aviation diploma program offered by the First Nations Technical Institute.

"After I graduated, I was looking for work, and I couldn't find anywhere on the net that would help me, as an Aboriginal. So I started this Web site to get some Aboriginal pilots together through the net, and maybe give young people a place to turn. Say they're interested in aviation. Then they would have a place to go and get some information," he said.

"We hope to provide mentoring, maybe getting some of the pilots who are established already in the industry to maybe go into the communities and talk as role mod-

els, to show the young people that they can do it. That it is possible," Pierro said.

"The main purpose is to develop a network of Aboriginal pilots who will give each other a heads up of where the jobs are. Once you graduate, it's so difficult to get a job, because once you graduate from flight school, you're a low time pilot, and a lot of businesses, a lot of places, don't want to hire low time pilots," he said.

"The magic number is usually about 500 hours to get hired on somewhere, for insurance purposes. Unless you meet up with a company that's willing to take you on."

He encourages those thinking about a career in aviation to "go for it."

"It's fun. It's a great experience to be flying."

For more information about the Canadian First Nations Pilot Association, visit the association Web site at <http://www3.sympatico.ca/spierro>, or e-mail Pierro at fnpa@canada.com.



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Dietitian training

"We've graduated now five interns. We have two more that are currently in the program. So seven candidates through the program. The five that have graduated are all working. And actually were working before they had their exams. They are very highly sought after by Aboriginal communities," McQuillen said.

"They've all passed the registration exam by their provincial registration board. So, in terms of the quality of the program, we're seeing a 100 per cent pass rate into their professional associations, and 100 per cent employment rate.

"I think that, certainly, it's built some capacity in the Yukon as well, because two of the grads from the program have stayed in the Yukon to provide nutrition services in the Yukon, which was the original intent of it. That's why two-thirds of the funding is coming from the Yukon for this program, was that we had a gap. We were having a hard time attracting people and of course all of the scarcity of health professionals in northern communities and in Aboriginal communities. The key was to provide qualified nutritional professionals in the Yukon. And from that, we've doubled our numbers, in that we had two, and I think we've got five or six dietitians now, registered dietitians working in the Yukon," she said.

"The program downfall is that there is a tuition of \$8,900. Most internships in Canada now are not charging registration. But again, that isn't generally focused on the individual paying that. We support them and work with them to secure funding through their band or through administrative structure. And we've been successful to date," she added.

The Yukon-based internship program offers a number of things not offered by similar programs in the south, including a strong emphasis on traditional medicine, traditional foods, and cultural sensitivity training.

"One of our interns went to Old Crow, which is above the Arctic Circle, for one of her placements. They've gone to fish camp and provided training to youth and stuff like that at fish camp. They've looked at providing traditional meals and cooking traditional meals. They do a huge section around access to food in communities, the cost of food in northern communities. They do stuff around access to wild foods and the food security/safety issues around that. . . . So I think they get a focus that isn't in any of the other programs."

In addition to its involvement with the Yukon internship program, Dietitians of Canada has also been working on developing another

internship program to be offered in the north.

"It's going to be an internship program in northern communities, with a First Nations focus, so that again students would get exposure to, depending on where it is, obviously, First Nations or Inuit health. For the first part it's going to be First Nations, because it's going to be in the sort of near north," Wyatt said.

The organization is also working on other initiatives designed to attract and support Aboriginal people wanting to become dietitians, through an Aboriginal network of member dietitians.

"They're doing some other innovative things to try and get members connected for mentorship of students and that kind of thing," Wyatt said.

One of the people coordinating the Aboriginal network initiatives is Bernadette deGonzague, who is currently working as a community dietitian with the Wikwemikong Health Centre on Manitoulin Island. She and fellow Aboriginal nutritionist Laurie Nicholas, who works as a community nutritionist with the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, started the Aboriginal network last year.

"What we would like to do really, ideally, is to try and encourage more Aboriginal students to come into the field," deGonzague said. "I think there's going to be a lot of job opportunities in the future. Just in the field in general, there's over 30 jobs right now in Ontario. But I think as more and more communities undergo health transfers, or start more of their own health care, I think there's going to be a lot more opportunities in the communities for dietitians. Where I work right now, when I first moved to Manitoulin, there was only one dietitian. And now there's four, two of them working with the First Nations communities on Manitoulin. And I know that there have been a number of job opportunities."

If you're interested in finding out more about careers in dietetics, deGonzague suggests you should start by finding out if there's a dietitian in your community, then going out and speaking to them.

Additional information about careers in dietetics or nutrition can be found online, by visiting the Dietitians of Canada Web site at www.dietitians.ca, or the Web site of the Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment at <http://www.cine.mcgill.ca>.

For more information about the Yukon First Nations dietetic internship program, e-mail Kelly McQuillen at kmquillen1@shaw.ca, or Laura Salmon with the First Nations Health Program at Whitehorse General Hospital at laura.salmon@gov.yk.ca.



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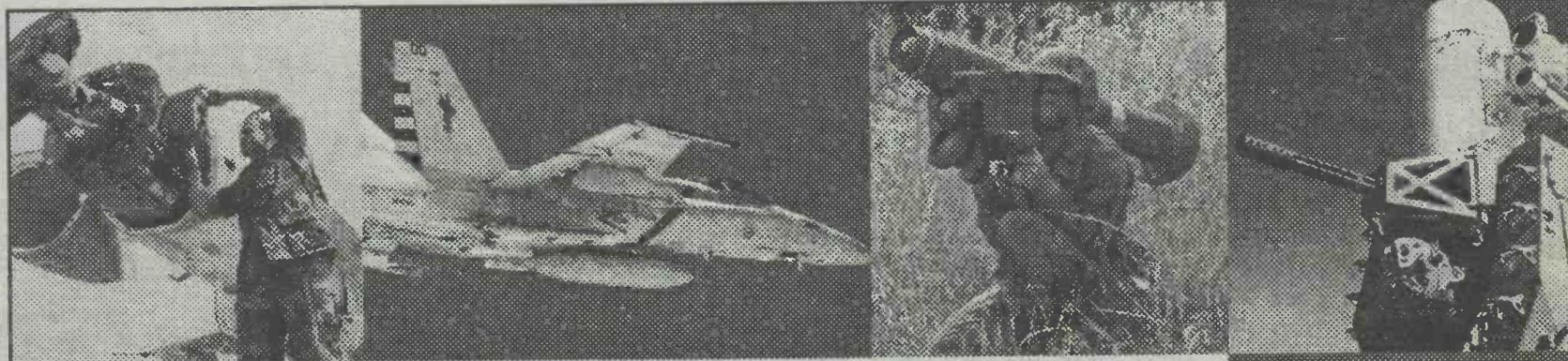
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For hotel reservations please call 1-877-901-ROOM (Toll Free) or (505) 843-6300.
To register for the workshop please call 1-800-522-0772, ext. 2248.

For more information about the agenda, times, etc;
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Teen model's success

(Continued from page B2.)

"It's a time when you can get away from everything and kind of, not shut everything out, but just kind of forget about it, I guess," she said. "When I'm in front of the camera, I become a whole different person. I don't think about anything else. It's just fun."

The prospect of travelling to other countries on modeling assignments is something Desarae finds exciting, and is one of the reasons she decided to chose modeling in the first place.

"It's kind of going to be scary though, because I'm going to have to leave all my friends and go to a new place for a few months, and I'm going to have to adapt to a new lifestyle over there for a little while. So it's going to be a big change, but I'm pretty sure that I'll be able to fit in quickly," she said.

"Of course, I'm going to miss all of my friends and my relatives in Saskatchewan here. It will be a new and different experience for me, but that's the whole thing about modeling. If you want to go into it, you have to be prepared to try new things. Because I'm used to the same old Saskatchewan. I'm used to all of my friends being right beside me and making me laugh and that kind of thing. When I'm over there, I'll be there with maybe a couple of other girls I hardly know, Desarae said.

"My friends are actually really supportive. They're really proud of me. I've had a couple girls cry over me before because they were

proud. They're very supportive, and they're always here for me. I haven't had somebody turn on me because of jealousy or anything like that. They've all stuck by my side," Desarae said. "A big thank you to all my friends and family who have been here."

While her modeling success may not have changed Desarae's relationships with friends and family, it has changed the way some people look at her, Desarae explained.

"Well, I get a lot more hellos everyday. People, they've actually become more friendly. You know, I was called anorexic and stuff like that. But people, since then, they have turned completely around and now I'm their new best friend and that kind of thing. But mostly everybody has become really supportive. I don't believe anybody has got a green eye yet. So hopefully they don't."

While Desarae will be focusing a lot of time and effort on her modeling career for the time being, she will also continue to work hard on her studies. If the traveling for modeling begins to interfere, she plans to home school, but doesn't anticipate a problem as long as she keeps her marks up.

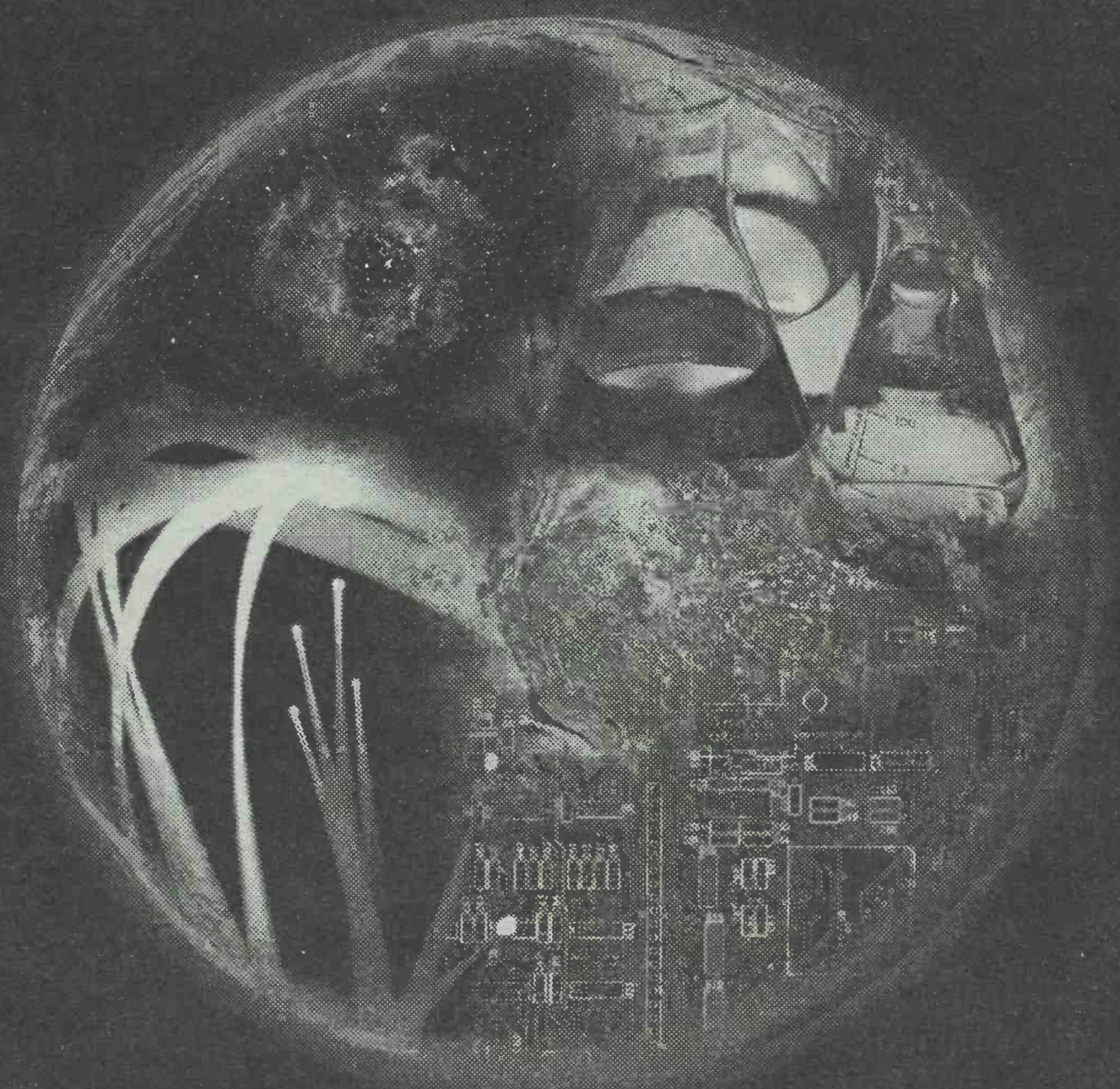
As for her long-term goals, Desarae hopes to go to university to study architecture. And her goals for her modeling career?

"I'm really hoping to travel, and someday be on the cover of a magazine, or be well-known," she said.

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ABORIGINAL HEALTH POLICY ANALYST

The **Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care** seeks an individual, experienced in aboriginal health, to support co-ordination of all aspects of aboriginal health issues/services through development/implementation of aboriginal health programs/policies. Reporting to the co-ordinator, aboriginal health office, strategic health policy, you will: help plan, develop, implement, evaluate cross-ministry programs, aboriginal health initiatives, including health promotion, institutional, mental-health services; facilitate advocacy of aboriginal communities as consumers/partners in planning health services. **Location: Toronto**, with frequent travel throughout Ontario.

Qualifications: knowledge/understanding of health status/needs of Ontario's aboriginal population, effective culturally sensitive programs to address those needs; experience in Ontario's health system; proven ability to provide strong support co-ordination of concurrent projects in environment with many competing deadline demands/pressures; proven, successful consultative, team-building, negotiation, communication, organization, project-management skills.

Salary range: \$51,340 - \$61,501

Resume and covering letter must be received by Jan. 25, 2002. Quoting file HL-37-509/CL, send to: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Human Resources and Organizational Development Branch, Client Service Office, 5700 Yonge St., Mezzanine Level, North York, ON M2M 4K5. Fax: 416-326-4107. E-mail: resumes@moh.gov.on.ca.



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Careers & Training

Astronaut just wants kids to choose something fun

(Continued from page B1.)

It was after his suspension from college that Herrington discovered what direction he wanted to take on his career path.

"I worked at a variety of things for a few months, and ended up getting this job in Colorado, surveying, and over the next year that's what I did. And that's what got me excited about math. Doing engineering, and putting it into practice, and seeing what it really meant," he said.

Herrington then enrolled at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and after five years of studies, received a bachelor of science degree in applied mathematics in 1983.

"In the last year, I tutored a guy who was a retired navy captain, used to fly in World War II. He's the one who talked me into going into the navy. And that looked like it was a challenge," he said.

"I wasn't looking way down the road 20 years at what I'd be doing. I was look-

ing, 'Is this something I'd like to do?' And if it wasn't, I'd go do something else. But I really enjoyed it. It was a real challenge. And my career just kind of flourished. I just really enjoyed it, and when you enjoy something, you do well at it," he said.

"I did well my first tour in the navy, and then I applied to be a test pilot, because I thought that would be exciting, and a chance to fly jets. And so I got picked for the test pilot school. You just don't go, you have to apply, and so I got accepted to it. Did that for a year of school, and a couple of years as a test pilot. And then earned a masters degree. Because this is the time I decided, 'Hey I'd love to be an astronaut. How do I get there from here?' I needed a master's degree to be competitive."

Herrington received a master of science degree in aeronautical engineering from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1995, and then returned to the navy and started work in Washington,

"If you're not having fun at it, you're doing the wrong thing . . . Anything is possible. Just put forward your best effort."

—Commander
John Herrington

D.C. The next stop on his career path would be at NASA.

"This whole time, I applied twice to NASA. My second application is when I was interviewed, and I was selected that same application. So that was, wow, it was fantastic. Just really neat. Everything's just a challenge, and I enjoy it, and I love going to work."

During the mission that Herrington will be part of, the shuttle will dock with the International Space Station. Then, Herrington and another crew member will take

part in three space walks to install a large truss onto the left side of the station.

When he speaks to groups of Native children, he has one message above all that he tries to impress upon them.

"That anything is possible. I mean, they can do anything they want to do. The trick is, is find something you like doing.

"And listen to the people around you that want to make a difference in your life. Because there were people in my life that made a difference. If I hadn't listened to them, I wouldn't be doing this, and I know that for a fact. And for whatever reasons, they decided to sit me aside and say, 'Hey, have you ever thought about doing this? You should try this.' I was fortunate that I listened to them," he said.

"A lot of these events that I go to and speak to them, obviously, will be a school environment or be a conference or something, where there are a lot of people there that are adults that are trying to

make a difference in the lives of the kids. And the kids need to recognize that. That these people are giving of their time to do that so that they can achieve their full potential. So I kind of like to plant that seed, and get them to realize, to look around the room and go, 'Wow, these people do care about me.' You know, you're not alone out there."

Once he's realized his dream of going into space, Herrington plans to continue on with his involvement in the space program.

"I'll keep doing this until I'm not having fun at it anymore. And when I'm not having fun, I'll go and find something else."

It is own philosophy, the way he lives his life, that he shares with the children he speaks to.

"Strive to be something you want to be. And have fun at it. If you're not having fun at it, you're doing the wrong thing . . . Anything is possible. Just put forward your best effort."

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Regina Catholic Schools wishes to thank all applicants in advance for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Native Womens Resource Centre of Toronto Inc. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Native Womens Resource Centre (NWRC), a non-profit agency, is seeking a mature, well-balanced and versatile individual who possesses excellent leadership capabilities including strong interpersonal, team building and organizational skills to perform the duties of the Executive Director.

Under the direction and supervision of the President and Board of Directors, the Executive Director is the chief administrative officer for the NWRC.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Implement and evaluate all NWRC's policies, principles, programs and services in accordance with NWRC vision, philosophy and mandate.
- Develop and manage financial resources
- Supervise and evaluate all employees

QUALIFICATIONS

- Post-secondary education in Business/Management Administration, Human Services or related field
- At least four (4) years of experience in management of personnel and financial resources
- Knowledge of the community service/support organizations available in Toronto
- Knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal cultures, values and traditions is essential

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CLOSING DATE January 15, 2002

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Chair, Hiring Committee

Native Women's Resource Centre

191 Gerrard Street East, Toronto, ON M5A 2E5

Fax: (416) 963-9573

(Preference is given to women applicants with Aboriginal ancestry)

NWRC would like to thank all applicants, however, only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

University Accessibility

The Executive Director, University Accessibility reports to the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost. The position has University wide responsibility for the administration, co-ordination and development of initiatives and programs which enhance accessibility to, and participation, in the University by all segments of society. The University of Manitoba has developed programs and services over many years to enhance accessibility. These include degree, diploma and certificate programs which operate through Faculties and the Continuing Education Division. The University of Manitoba ACCESS programs and the Aboriginal Focus Programs are examples. In addition, services, such as those provided by the Aboriginal Student Centre, support the University's accessibility goals and objectives. At present and for the future, many of the programs and services are focused on and developed in partnership with Aboriginal communities and groups in Manitoba and surrounding areas. The Executive Director is expected to provide direction, co-ordination, and assistance to the Office of the President, Faculties/Schools, to administrative and academic support units of the University, and to external organizations and groups in development and management of programs and services which enhance accessibility to and completion of University education.

Qualifications for the position include:

- a minimum of a masters degree and preferably a Ph.D. or equivalent employment experience in a relevant area;
- post-secondary education employment experience in, and knowledge, of accessibility issues, particularly as they affect Aboriginal peoples, under-represented groups, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and economically disadvantaged people;
- experience in design, development, implementation and operation of educational programs with accessibility objectives;
- success in working and negotiating with department and agencies of governments and community organizations, particularly those representing Aboriginal peoples;
- understanding of historical, cultural, political and other factors which serve as barriers to participation in post-secondary education;
- high level of cultural awareness and competency relevant to Aboriginal peoples and other under-represented groups;
- excellent written and oral communication skills including those relevant to proposal writing, ability to encourage, motivate and advocate with a high degree of tact and diplomacy.

This is an administrative position which may include an academic appointment in a relevant area, subject to appropriate academic credentials. The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidate are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Applicants should send a curriculum vitae and the names of three referees to the address below. Review of applications will commence in February 2002 and applications will be accepted until an appointment is made.

The Vice-President (Academic) and Provost, University of Manitoba
Room 202 Administration Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2

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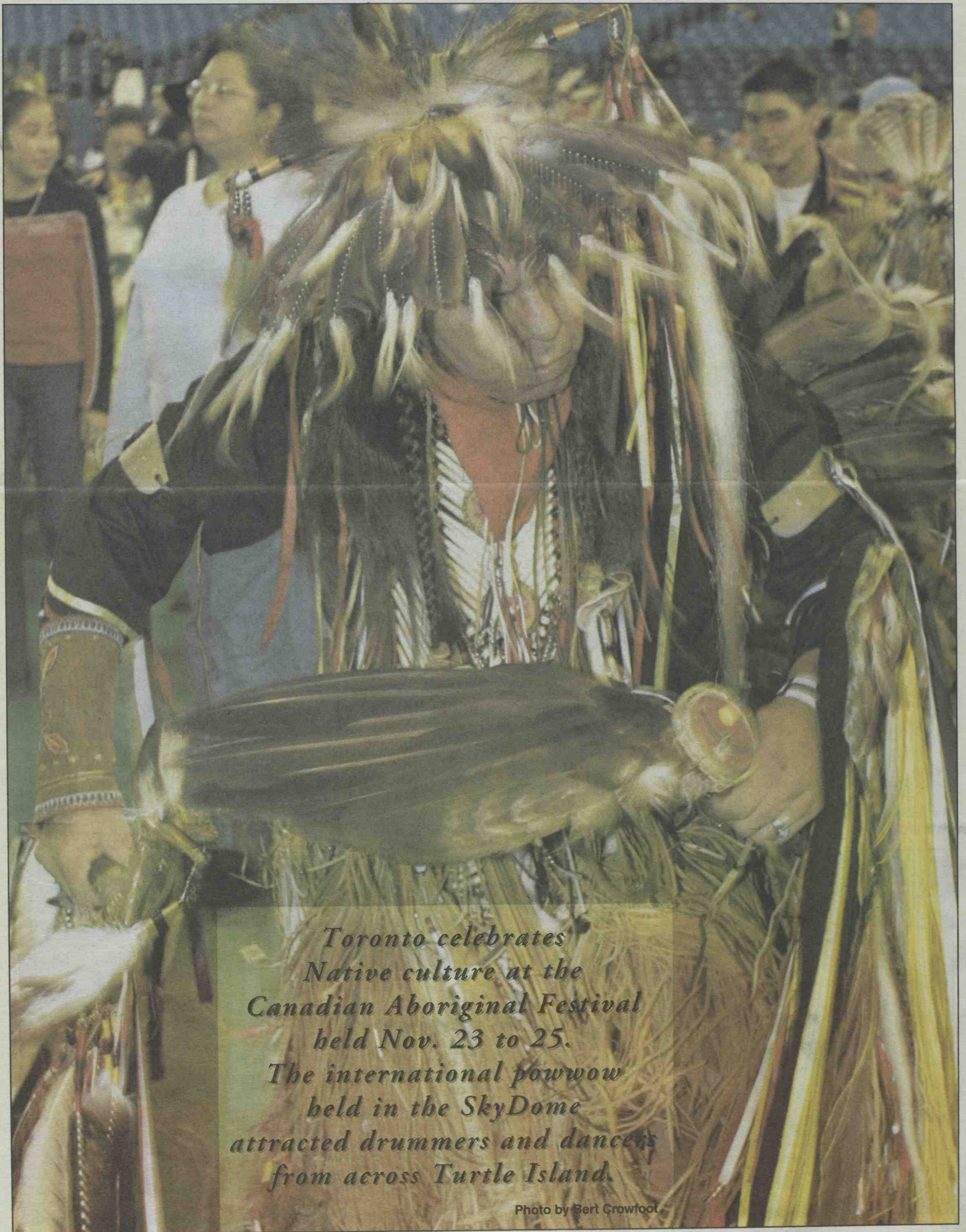
Ontario

Volume 1 Number 1

JANUARY 2002

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The Aboriginal Newspaper of Ontario



*Toronto celebrates
Native culture at the
Canadian Aboriginal Festival
held Nov. 23 to 25.
The international powwow
held in the SkyDome
attracted drummers and dancers
from across Turtle Island.*

Photo by Bert Crowfoot



Hometown Ronnie Douglas Blues Band wins again

By **ABBY COTE**
Windspeaker Contributor
MNJIKANING (RAMA)

For the Ronnie Douglas Blues Band, winning the Canadian Aboriginal Music Award for Best Jazz or Blues Album for the second time—the first time was in 1999—was that much sweeter because they were the hometown boys.

“Winning here in our community with our families and friends in attendance was really great, because it gave them the opportunity to share it with us. After all, it’s our families, friends, community and fans that put us here,” said Ronnie Douglas.

“The award show is a wonderful thing for Aboriginal people across Canada. It’s nice that we have a means to showcase our music, whether it’s contemporary or traditional. This way we get some well-deserved attention. We won the Canadian Aboriginal Music Award for Best Jazz or Blues Album in 1999 for our first recording. It’s great to be two for two,” he said.

The band’s release “Big



ABBY COTE

Ronnie Douglas of the Ronnie Douglas Blues Band accepts his award for Best Jazz or Blues Album at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards held at Mnjikaning on Nov. 23 at the Casino Rama Entertainment Centre.

Brother” contains 10 tracks of solid blues, including great keyboards, guitar and harp (harmonica).

No stranger to awards, the Ronnie Douglas Blues Band

was the winner of the 1999 Toronto Blues Society new talent search and won the 1999 Maple Blues award. For Douglas, the music on “Big Brother” represents the com-

bination of two key musical influences in his life—home and community.

“This recording is dedicated to two very special people: my father, Gordon R. Douglas who passed away on Jan. 28, 2000. I thank my father every day for his gift of music that he gave me. This release is also dedicated to my big brother, Larry M. Douglas, who I thank for his influence on my life and for providing me with inspiration. My brother showed me the ropes, so to speak, not by showing me the licks, but by exposing me to all kinds of good music,” Douglas said.

From early on in his life, Douglas remembers being surrounded by local musicians. These musicians provided him with the groundwork and teaching that started him on his own musical career. Many of these musicians allowed Douglas to sit in with their

groups when he was in his teens. These days making music is still a large part of community life in Mnjikaning, where the Ronnie Douglas Blues Band has a large, appreciative and very proud following.

“I love what I do, although having a family (his newest addition is only six months old) somewhat limits when and where I can play. The band and I also have regular day jobs, so right now I try to keep our performances close to home,” he said.

Ronnie Douglas and the band have submitted their material to the Juno award committee and are waiting to hear if they have received a nomination in the Best Blues category for the upcoming awards in March. For more information on the band, to buy a CD or book a performance call (705)326-6308 or e-mail: rdouglas@bconnex.net.



BERT CROWFOOT

The Best New Age or Alternative Album Award was presented to Yodeca with David R. Maracle for “Yodeca (Earth Fusion).”



BERT CROWFOOT

The Best Traditional Album/Contemporary Award and the Best Instrumental Album Award went to Thomas B. Maracle for “Spirit Land Band.”



Celebr

1. (From left to right) June Loone, Melissa Archibald, Deanne Solomon, Nahann Peltier and Janice Cox, graduates of the Turtle Concepts self-esteem program, performed hostess and modeling duties for the Canadian Aboriginal Festival held in Toronto Nov. 23 to 25.

2. Travis Dugas of Alberta took part in the powwow held at the Skydome.

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5.



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groups when he was in his teens. These days making music is still a large part of community life in Mnjikaning, where the Ronnie Douglas Blues Band has a large, appreciative and very proud following.

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BERT CROWFOOT

Temporary Award and the went to Thomas B. Maracle

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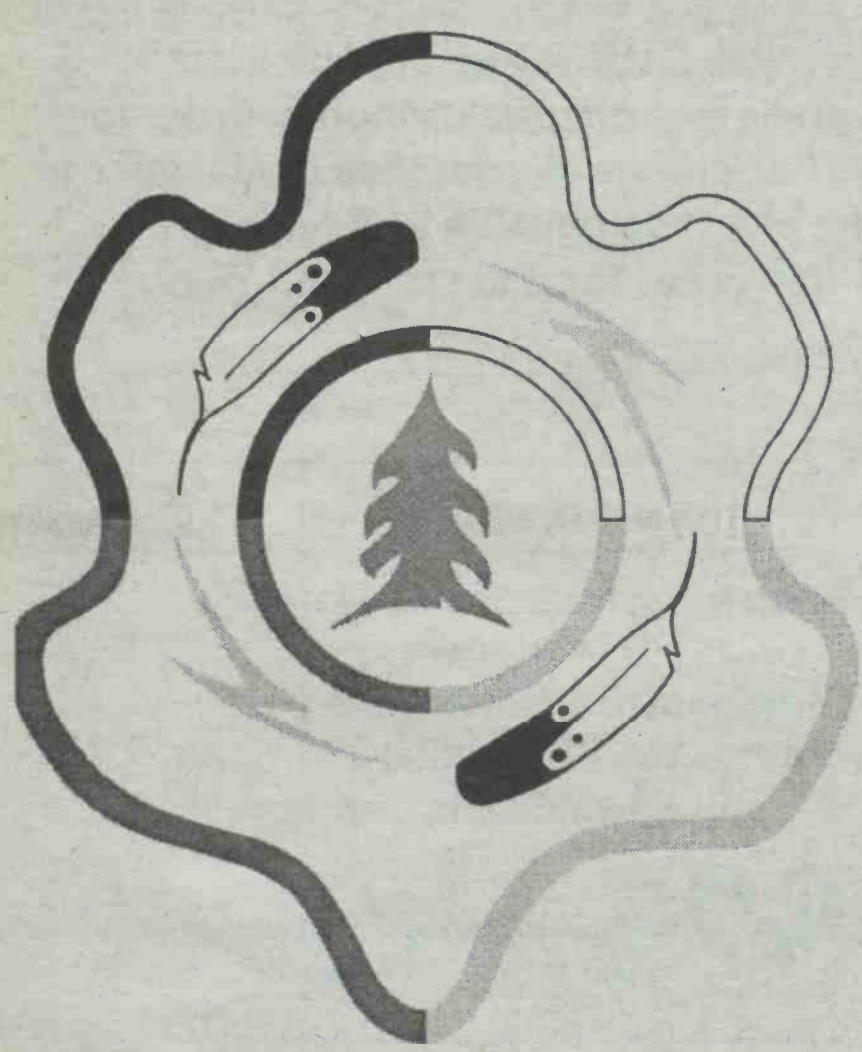
1. (From left to right) June Loone, Melissa Archibald, Deanne Solomon, Nahanni Peltier and Janice Cox, graduates of the Turtle Concepts self-esteem program, performed hostess and modeling duties for the Canadian Aboriginal Festival held in Toronto Nov. 23 to 25.



2. Travis Dugas of Alberta took part in the powwow held at the Skydome.



3. Joanne and Leah Shenandoah perform at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival held in Toronto.
4. International powwow participants from the Blood reserve in Alberta are J.R. and Carol Melting Tallow.
5. The Logan Alexis Singers traveled cross-country from Alberta to take part in the international powwow.
6. From the East Coast taking part in the powwow are the Easter Eagle Singers from Nova Scotia.

Hydro One remains committed to the ongoing celebration of Aboriginal culture through events such as the Canadian Aboriginal Festival and the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.

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By **BERT CROWFOOT**
Publisher

Welcome to our premiere issue of *Windspeaker Ontario*, a publication for and about the Aboriginal people of Ontario.

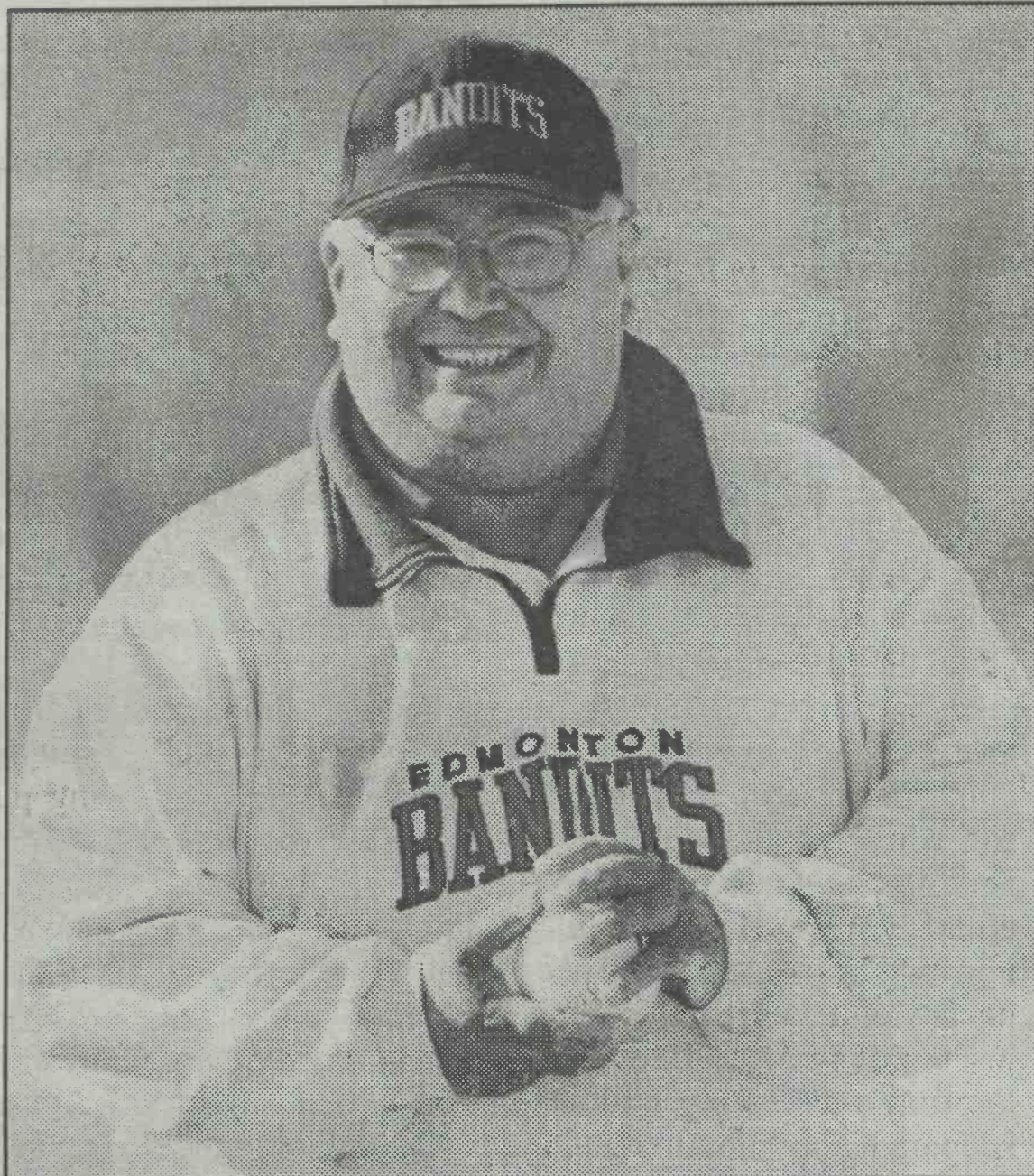
Windspeaker Ontario is published by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA), which also publishes, *Windspeaker, Alberta Sweetgrass, Saskatchewan Sage, B.C. Raven's Eye* and *Buffalo Spirit*.

We have often been asked when AMMSA would produce a publication for Ontario, like it has for other provinces. We have listened to our readers and this month we launch our latest addition to the AMMSA family of publications.

Our mission has always been to bring people together, to share and to empower Aboriginal people through open and objective coverage of news and other important current events.

Windspeaker Ontario will profile Aboriginal people who are active and successful in the Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal communities. It will bring you information about the activities of the people, the celebrations they are taking part in, and how they are achieving their goals. It will focus on the positive aspects of the community as it grows and prospers.

AMMSA is financially and politically independent and always has been. Readers can be assured that there will be no political biases in the publica-



Bert Crowfoot, publisher of Windspeaker Ontario

tion, not now, not ever. What you can expect is coverage about your community, your events and the news and information that is useful to you.

As mentioned earlier, the focus of *Windspeaker Ontario* is on the community events that are happening throughout the province. It will be published monthly and will start as an insert in *Windspeaker* for the first three months and will then spin off on its own after that. We hope to have a new name by then. We encourage you to consider entering our Name the Pa-

per Contest.

Windspeaker Ontario will be distributed to all Aboriginal organizations, Métis and First Nation offices, individuals and corporations that have a strong interest in Aboriginal community affairs.

I hope that you enjoy your first issue of *Windspeaker Ontario* and please remember, this is your publication, so call us with story ideas or to let us know of the upcoming events in your community. We will endeavor to cover as much of the province each month as space allows.



~ Established January 2002 ~
ISSN # pending
Published monthly by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

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- Paul Barnsley - Senior Writer
- Joan Taillon - Staff Writer
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Exotic stocks hurt the ecosystem

BY CHIEF RALPH AKIWENZIE
 CHIPPEWAS OF NAWASH
 Guest Columnist



Chief Ralph Akiwenzie

"This we know: Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

—Chief Seattle in 1854 trying to get the president of the United States to understand the Native point of view.

The ethic expressed so well by Chief Seattle more than 100 years ago might be expressed in terms of the physician's oath: "First, do no harm." It is one reason why Native people are so nervous about the Ontario government's new Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act. Some people are telling us that this Act is just a gift to Mike Harris' old hunting and fishing buddies, keeping his promise to the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters before he leaves as premier. But we think it opens a door that will be hard to close.

Let me explain by way of example. Sportsmen's clubs in our area (Georgian Bay and Lake Huron) are introducing thousands of Pacific-coast salmon to the waters around the Bruce Peninsula in huge numbers. They assure us these salmon are good for the local economy and are a harmless addition to the ecosystem. The salmon might help boost the economy of the area by attracting other sportsmen to fishing derbies, but I'm not so sure they are harmless.

The top predators in these waters used to be nmebin (our word for lake trout) and naame (sturgeon). In fact Owen Sound bay, long before there was an Owen Sound, was called chinamewikwedong—Big Sturgeon Bay. These two fish ruled the waters here but they did so without interfering with one another's ways.

This is not the case with stocked Pacific salmon (stocked, I might add, with the financial and technical assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources).

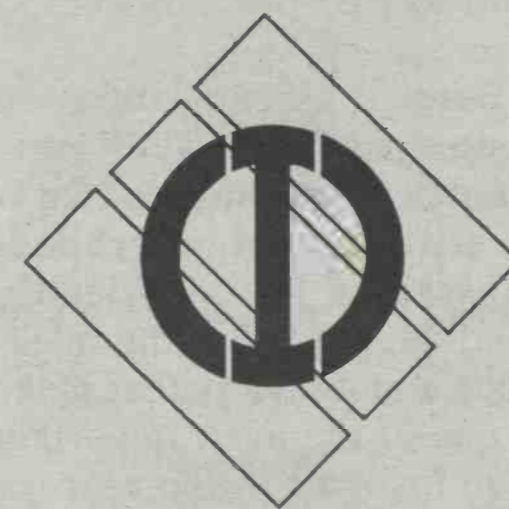
Salmon are voracious eaters. They target alewife and rainbow smelts—the same species lake trout feed on. The MNR itself has collected evidence that Pacific salmon interfere with lake trout. Studies by its own biologists on one of the last native lake trout populations in Lake Huron show that salmon are invading the spawning beds of the lake trout and violently disrupting lake trout spawning activities. And lake trout caught as part of the study showed marks consistent with attacks by the larger, more aggressive salmon.

Our own biological staff and the independent biologists we frequently consult tell us our fears, sparked by our own ecological knowledge of the area, are well founded. Stocking exotic species (that is, species not native to the waters they are stocked in) is a risky business. There are numerous studies in the scientific literature documenting the ecological downside of stocking exotics.

For example, exotics can overgraze the forage base (other, smaller fish), compete with native species for food and spawning space, alter the natural biomass of streams and rivers, and they can alter dramatically the communities of other species.

(see Fish page 11.)

Congratulations to AMMSA on the launch of the WINDSPEAKER'S ONTARIO edition.



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Festival explores the best of Native media

By JAMIE MONASTYRSKI
Windspeaker Contributor
TORONTO

Whether yours was a thirst for bloody horror films, a hunger for docu-dramas or a hankering for obscure experimental videos, the second annual ImagineNATIVE Media Arts Festival had something for everyone's taste. Add to the mix educational workshops and informative panels and even the savviest of film lover was kept salivating.

Billed as the nerveiest of film festivals by the Toronto media, the best in Aboriginal media arts met from Nov. 21 to 24 to explore film, video, radio, multimedia and television.

One of the highlights this year included the screening of *Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner*, a film that won the Camera d'or for Best First Feature Film at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year. It is also Canada's official entry for the Academy Awards in the Best Foreign Film Category.

"We are proud that we screened this film at this year's festival," said festival producer Richard Hunter. "This year's festival was a huge success."

The opening night screening of *Atanarjuat, The Fast Runner* was a gala event with SkyTracker lights beaming into the sky from the red carpeted entrance of a grand theatre. In attendance was Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, along with film industry representatives, sponsors and Aboriginal multimedia artists from around the world.

Clarkson made a small speech before the film applauding the organizers and the Aboriginal artists who had come to participate in the event. She said it was a perfect opportunity for all talented artists to show the world their art and to promote Aboriginal culture.

Other films showcased at ImagineNATIVE were from as far away as New Zealand, Mexico and Nunavut, making

the film festival a truly international event. With films exploring the politics in Chiapas, contemporary life in Canada's newest territory and one man's journey into the culture of the New Zealand Aboriginal, many viewers got a first-time glimpse into other worlds.

Cynthia Lickers, executive director and founder of the festival, said she was pleased with the film lineup this year and the inspirational quality of the films.

"I was astounded by the quality of films this year. The energy and excitement around them was contagious."

And that's the way the organizers like it.

For Aboriginal multimedia artists in Canada, a Native-centred festival is what they need. There aren't too many film festivals out there that are accepting Native-flavored films or taking chances on emerging directors with experimental shorts, said Lickers.

Most of the larger mainstream film festivals like Toronto or Sundance will only accept films that are spiced to a polish and have some buzz behind them. On the flip side, the smaller film festivals will accept new and obscure films, but their audience isn't as large and influential. Because of that many industry insiders aren't as likely to sit through hours of film to find that one gem to promote.

But that's what is different about ImagineNATIVE, said Hunter, who believes that it is still the neighborhood, grassroots Native-friendly festival, but it has the influence and contacts that make it one of the most important film festivals of the year for



JAMIE MONASTYRSKI

Host Jennifer Podemski and Mark MacDowell from the Canadian Foreign Affairs and International Trade Arts Division were award presenters at the gala.

Aboriginal artists.

"The films were amazing. We are a big success, because we had films from all over the world. We attract some of the larger, more established artists, but we also like to give the young, first-time directors a chance," said Hunter.

"It's a prime opportunity for the film-makers to meet some amazing contacts."

Nevertheless, like all great festivals, there are time and programming restraints, said Lickers, so many films did not make the final cut. Many films were turned down not necessarily because of quality issues, but because of time restraints.

"It has to be open to everyone. We had a lot of up-and-coming directors there, but we had to turn down a lot of work too," said Lickers.

One fact remains, Hunter emphasizes. Whether your film is viewed or not, the artist always leaves the festival with bundles of business cards, contacts and information that coming to it is always worth the trip.

- Best Film**
Atanarjuat (The Fast Runner)
—Zacharias Kunuk
- Best Video**
Ningiura (My Grandmother)
—Arnait Ikajurtigiit & Mary Kunuk
- Best Radio Program**
Living Voices
—Keevin Lewis & Elizabeth Weatherford
- Best Television Program**
Aroha Series (New Zealand)
—Melissa Wikaire
- Best Interactive Program**
Ablakela—Dana Claxton

For instance, new directors had the opportunity to pick up some tips and hints from some heavy-weight industry insiders at the workshops.

One of the more popular workshops was one of the more important ones—How to get a film accepted to a film festival. According to Lickers they had a lot of response to this workshop since there are hundreds of Native film-makers out there with a film in hand but no means or experience on how to publicize or get it viewed.

The esteemed panel included industry insiders and festival programmers from the likes of Sundance and the Toronto International Festival. They discussed, debated and described the ins and outs of festivals and the importance of proposals and presentations.

Another popular workshop was entitled: Learn the big pitch. Again insiders and film professionals offered their insights and experience into what makes one pitch successful and another a dog. Interested individuals learned how to organize their visions and scattered anecdotes into one solid creative plot until worthy of a pitch session. Most importantly, the workshop provided information on how to find funds to produce that next critically acclaimed master-

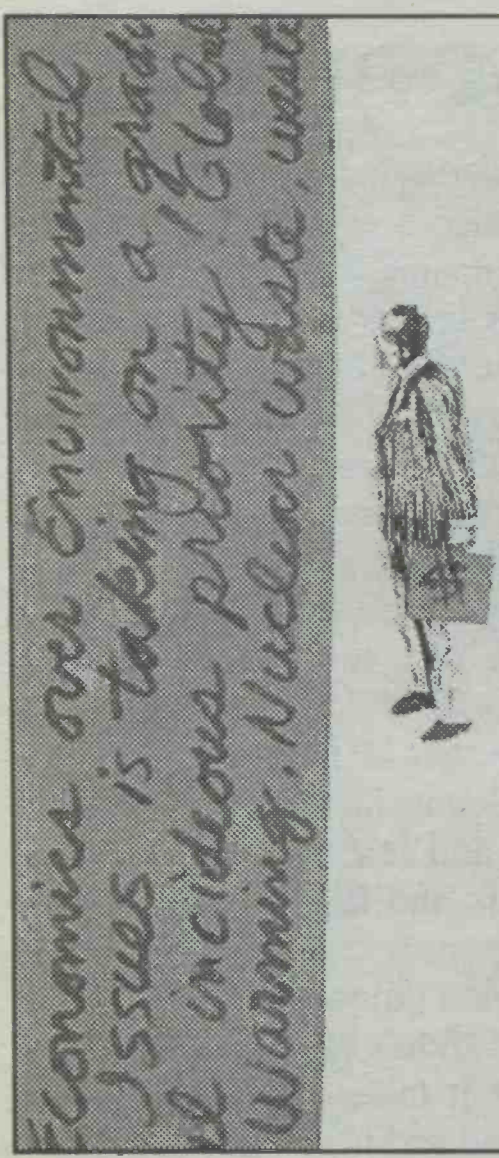
piece.

Once the pitch is perfected, another workshop was offered whereby producers and/or directors had five minutes to pitch their ideas to a panel, including Steve Martin from the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Damion Mercer from Alliance Atlantis, Robin Smith from Lions Gate and Heather Rae from Winter Films LA.

Also included in the list of workshops and panels were Radio Waves in your Direction; Animation; Indigenous TV from around the World; and Buffy Sainte-Marie's Cradleboard Teaching Project, among others.

After pages of notes were taken, reels of film viewed and reels of film exposed, popcorn spilled and business card booklets filled there was the final award dinner and gala held in the Atrium at CBC headquarters on Front Street in Toronto.

Newly elected chief of the Six Nations and chair of the ImagineNATIVE Festival Roberta Jamieson opened the gala. Actors Jennifer Podemski and Darrel Dennis were co-hosts. Sister to Jennifer and wife to Darrel, Tamara Podemski provided the evening's main musical performance singing songs from her new CD *Winter Moon*,



Anonymous Yours by Lit

By JOLENE DAVIS
Windspeaker Contributor

PIKANGIKUM

Where would you start if someone asked you to think about your country and, using the Canadian flag as a starting point, make a piece of art to express your feelings? This is exactly what was asked of some students at Enochokay Birchstick school, Pikangikum.

It was also asked of the students at Upland District High School in the United States, but they were to use the American flag. The artwork of each class of Grade 12 students posted their work online to discuss it with the students of the other country. This project culminated in "Flag Voices," a cross-border art exchange.

The artwork shows the different issues that concern the teenagers in the two very different communities. Pikangikum is a northern fly-in community, while Upland District High School is a suburban Los Angeles.

"The Ojibway/Cree students deal with isolation from the rest of the country," said Pikangikum art teacher Vesa Peltonen. "At the same time, images of 'the good life' come to them via 50 channels. They face a huge divide between the modern world and their traditional society. On the other hand, the Los Angeles

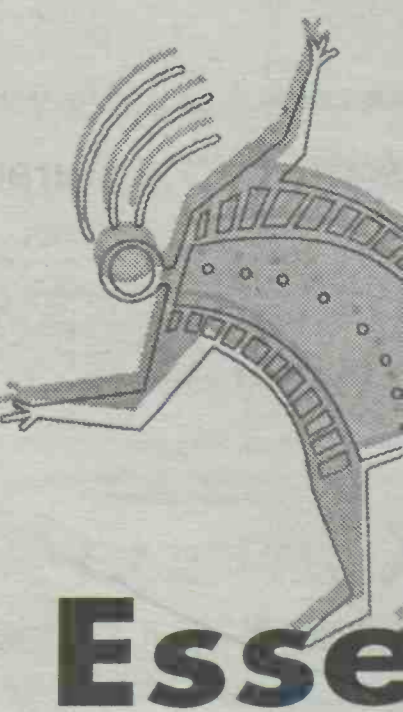
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Windspeaker's Ontario is only a temporary name - we need a better and more permanent name for our exciting new publication serving the Aboriginal people of Ontario. Maybe you can help us? The name should be reflective of the various Aboriginal cultural and linguistic groups living throughout Ontario. When you suggest a name - please also provide an explanation as to why you think it would be appropriate. One name will be selected from all the entries received by March 1, 2002. A prize of \$500.00 will be awarded to the individual who has suggested the selected name (in case the selected name has been suggested by more than one person - the prize will be divided). Enter now and enter often!

By Mail: Windspeaker's Ontario Name Contest, 15001 - 112 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5M 2V6
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Contest closes: March 1, 2002 - All entries must be received by this date to be considered.

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Two bilingual children's books published in one year

By **ABBY COTE**
Windspeaker Contributor

TORONTO

Marie Gaudet is president of Gaa-dibaaatjimat Ngaashi: Stories From My Mother Inc., an Aboriginal-owned company specializing in Native language and cultural development.

Her commitment to traditional language had led her to create three in a series of four children's books based on her mother's life experiences. The first book is titled, "MOO IISIKAAG! (niipsikaag)—The Cow is Going to Bump Into Me." Gaudet illustrated, designed and published the book while her mother, Rose Logan (Pitawanakwat) wrote the story and translated the book into Ojibwe.

The second in the series is now available, with the third available in January. The second book is titled, "Ode'min Keng (Picking Strawberries)" and tells of the experiences of a little girl spending time with her grandmother.

The third book is titled, "When Grandmother Comes To

Visit," a story based on the moon time (menstruation) teachings and berry fasting.

This third book is based on teachings from Lilly (Osawamick) Bourgeois-Biidowe'aanmido Kwe who walked on to the spirit world on March 1, 2001. Lilly was well known in the Anishinabe community for her teaching of the Ojibwe language and culture, jingle dress dancing, drum making, and for working tirelessly to help others with their journey of wellness.

"My third book," said Gaudet "is a great way to explain these teachings to our children in a simple, uncomplicated way."

Gaudet is a traditional woman, jingle dress dancer, singer and hand drummer. She is Turtle Clan and a member of the Wikwemikong First Nation of Manitoulin Island.

She has extensive training and employment experience in the field of education and cultural development and programming. She has worked in day care and elementary schools and is currently involved with the Stay In

School Program in Toronto where she is assisting Aboriginal youth in writing, designing and publishing a collection of short stories.

She said that being the mother of six active children, who range in age from teens to toddler, has been her first and foremost education in child development. She is concerned that her children and all Anishinabe children receive the opportunity to learn their language and culture.

"My vision is to promote the revitalization of Anishinabe language and culture. The resources that I am developing will enable our children to learn our language and appreciate the beauty of it by seeing it and hearing it. It is my hope that children, through their learning and enthusiasm, will inspire their families to learn about our language and culture."

Gaudet has created all aspects of these books except for the story lines and the Ojibwe translation. She designed them, did the graphics and the layout and is publishing them by herself using her

home computer. She is self-taught on the computer and has found much of the project to be a valuable learning experience.

"Although it took me six months to complete the first book, I enjoyed every moment as it has allowed me to become creative again. Being a mother of six is a full-time job and sometimes sacrifices have to be made, like putting my other career on hold for a while. Creating and publishing these books is the fulfillment of a life-long dream that has been a really positive experience."

Rose Logan is Marten Clan and originally from Wikwemikong and is a member of the Muncee Delaware First Nation. She is a traditional woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and jingle dress dancer. Logan is an Ojibwe language teacher who has completed the Ojibwe Language Teachers Program at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay and is currently working at the First Nations School in Toronto.

The books have beautiful, colorful graphics with text in

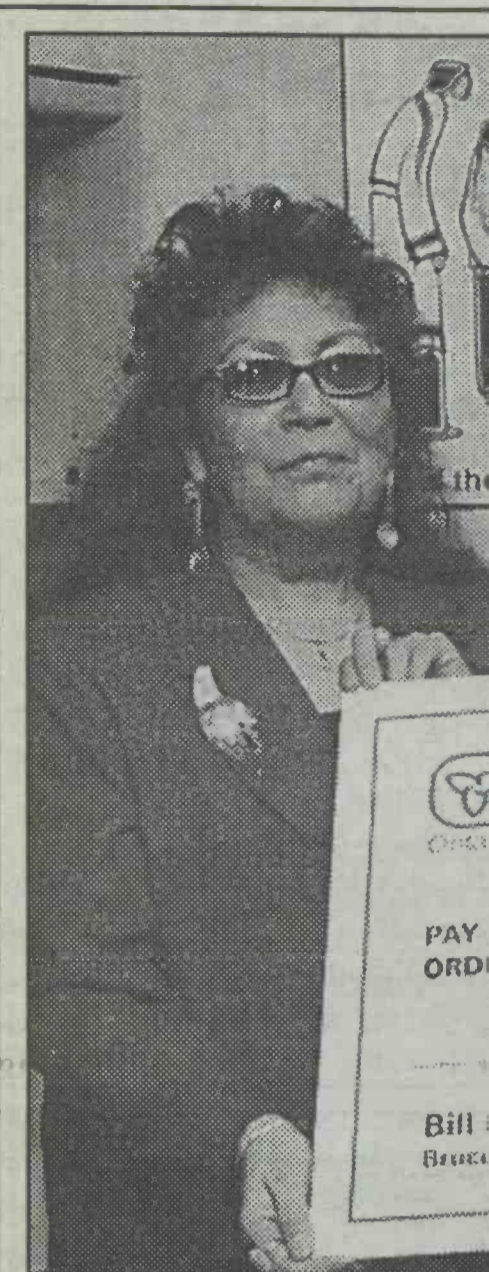
both English and Ojibwe. There is also a cassette tape that accompanies the book so children can listen as they read along. One side of the tape has the story in English; the other side is in Ojibwe.

The language text is simple and the tapes are easy to follow. At the sound of a hand drum you turn the page, making it easy for children to follow along in either language.

Gaudet has approached libraries and school boards with her book and is receiving positive responses from both, as well as from a number of bookstores.

"I didn't foresee all the work that it takes in the publishing world and how hard it is to market and sell your own work. I just look at it this way, the second book and third book and so on are going to be that much easier to publish, market and sell."

Anyone wishing to order these books should contact Marie Gaudet at Tel: (416) 469-8044 Fax: (416) 466-5854 or by e-mail marie.gaudet@sympatico.ca or check out her website: www.storiesfrommymother.com.



The Ontario Native Literacy of Training Colleges and model and administer their skills and to deliver spiritual, emotional, mental Marlene Keeshig, director Bruce-Grey Owen Sound

Author visits Six Nations

By **L.M. VANEVERY**
Windspeaker Contributor

CHIEFSWOOD

Cree author Richard Van Camp was a guest at the home of E. Pauline Johnson for a book reading and signing hosted by the Writers of Six Nations and the Chiefswood National Historic Site on Dec. 8. This was his fourth stop on a book tour that covered Ottawa, Toronto and Six Nations of the Grand River.

Van Camp was promoting his fourth book, entitled Angel Wing Splash Pattern, which was recently published by the 2001 Wordcraft Circle Publisher of the Year-Kegeedonce Press. The designer of Van Camp's book, Six Nations' own Jerry Longboat was also in attendance.

Angel Wing Splash Pattern is a collection of nine of van Camp's finest short stories that



L.M. VANEVERY

Richard Van Camp

celebrate his Dogrib ancestry and explore the honest and sometimes painful truth of "contemporary Native life."

Van Camp's writing career began 10 years ago and evolved into him being a great listener of stories told around the supper table in Fort Smith, N.W.T. (see Van Camp page 11.)

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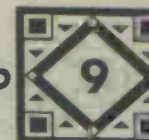
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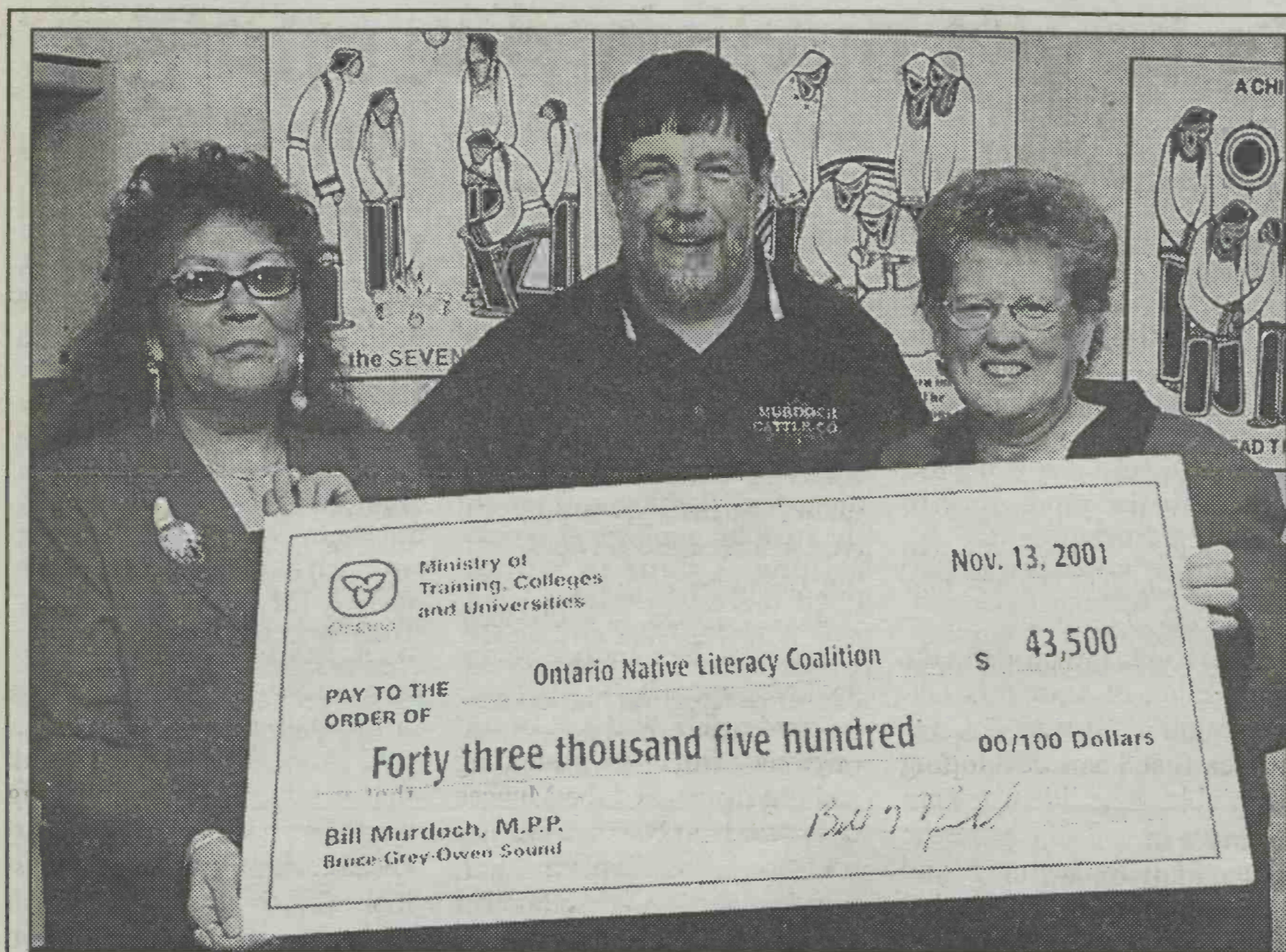
one year

English and Ojibwe. There is also a cassette tape that accompanies the book so children can listen as they read along. One side of the tape has the text in English; the other side has the text in Ojibwe.

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Anyone wishing to order these books should contact Marie Goudet at Tel: (416) 469-8044 or (416) 466-5854 or by e-mail at mariegoudet@sympatico.ca or visit her website: www.storiesfrommymother.com.



The Ontario Native Literacy Coalition in Owen Sound received \$43,500 from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on Nov. 13. The money will be used to research, model and administer programs that other Native literacy practitioners can use to upgrade their skills and to deliver a program reflective of an holistic approach supporting the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical development of students. (From left to right) Marlene Keeshig, director of the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition, Bill Murdoch, M.P.P. Bruce Grey-Owen Sound, and Ellen Paterson, executive director of the coalition.

"Caribou Song" brought to the stage

By **ABBY COTE**
Windspeaker Contributor
TORONTO

On Feb. 23, 2002, a new production company called Red Sky is presenting the Canadian premiere of the stage adaptation of Tomson Highway's new children's book "Caribou Song," with music supplied by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

"This type of multi-disciplinary body of work has never happened before. Never before have Native people been involved in a production that intertwines storytelling, dance, song, theatre, orchestral and traditional music all in one experience," said Sandra Laronde, Red Sky artistic director.

"Caribou Song" is about one northern Cree family's relationship with the caribou. This production will bring the book to life combining the creative talents of Sandra Laronde, Carlos Rivera and 80 classical musicians.

"This production previewed in Switzerland on Sept. 2 and 3,

2001. Following this [Toronto] performance we are planning on a North American tour. For that tour we have scaled the production down somewhat in order to accommodate the musical presence, whether that happens to be a symphony, philharmonic or chamber ensemble available to us in the communities that we go to. This means that we will be able to take the production to small, rural Native communities or to large, urban city centres," explained Laronde.

"Tomson has written a round dance into the performance. Hearing a full symphony performing a traditional round dance is really something," she said.

"Caribou Song will be performed at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Feb. 23rd 2002 at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto. This is a family-oriented production and is especially geared to children five to 10 years of age. For more information contact the Toronto Symphony Orchestra box office.

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Northern Ontario diamond mine a possibility

By JOAN TAILLON
Windspeaker Staff Writer
ATTAWAPISKAT

A northern First Nation could have Ontario's first diamond mine in its backyard in two years or less.

That's according to the community's designated spokesman on the issue, consultant Paul Wilkinson.

De Beers Canada is in the advanced exploration stage at its Victor Project 90 kilometres west of Attawapiskat in the James Bay lowlands, where diamond-bearing kimberlite pipe was found last summer.

The firm recently completed a desktop study in conjunction with engineering consultants Bechtel Canada and SRK, to find out if they have a good prospect. Another engineering firm, AMEC, is evaluating environmental considerations.

Criteria for building a mine include having enough diamonds that can be extracted in a manner that will recover the costs of building a mine and operate it at a profit.

The study "did not show they could build and operate a mine profitably," according to Wilkinson, but it recommended a pre-feasibility study be done to see if technical problems can be overcome and if costs can be reduced. This will take about a

year. At this stage, both the First Nation and De Beers are optimistic.

Company executives from Canada and South Africa met with Attawapiskat's chief and council and the community Nov. 26 and 27 to present the results of the study. About two dozen band members are employed on the Victor project, where there has been an exploration camp for two years.

Key concerns of the community, set out in the memorandum of understanding agreement signed between the band and the company in 1999, are protection of the environment and economic opportunities for the First Nation, Wilkinson said.

"De Beers has made a commitment that if it goes ahead to build a mine, it will negotiate what is called an impact and benefit agreement with the Attawapiskat First Nation."

He added, "We are at a very advanced stage of our planning to define the kinds of benefits that Attawapiskat will try and negotiate, and we are also at an advanced stage of discussions with De Beers about the Attawapiskat negotiating team and . . . the timetable for negotiations. Because the impact and benefit agreement has to be signed before the environmental assessment of the process is complete."

That agreement has to be filed as part of the environmental impact study "to show that all of the concerns, environmental, employment, contracting, training . . . have been solved to the satisfaction of everyone concerned."

In addition, Wilkinson said, "De Beers has also made a commitment already that if it proceeds with the mine, it will build a training centre in Attawapiskat so that people can get training without having to leave their homes, their families and their communities for long periods."

The study found that an open pit mine is the best option for

the area if De Beers decides to go ahead, because it would be too difficult and costly to keep an underground mine dry.

Ground water disposal is one of the biggest challenges to operating on the muskeg terrain; therefore, more geotechnical work and hydrology studies are required. That will be done this winter, along with drilling and possibly further geological work. Drilling is done in winter when there is a winter road from Attawapiskat and an ice runway providing access to the camp. The First Nation has no year-round road access, so transportation costs are high.

Bulk sample drilling removed about 10,000 tonnes of rock for testing last winter, most of which was processed at the site. Both De Beers and Wilkinson say diamond mining does not involve the use of harmful chemicals in processing.

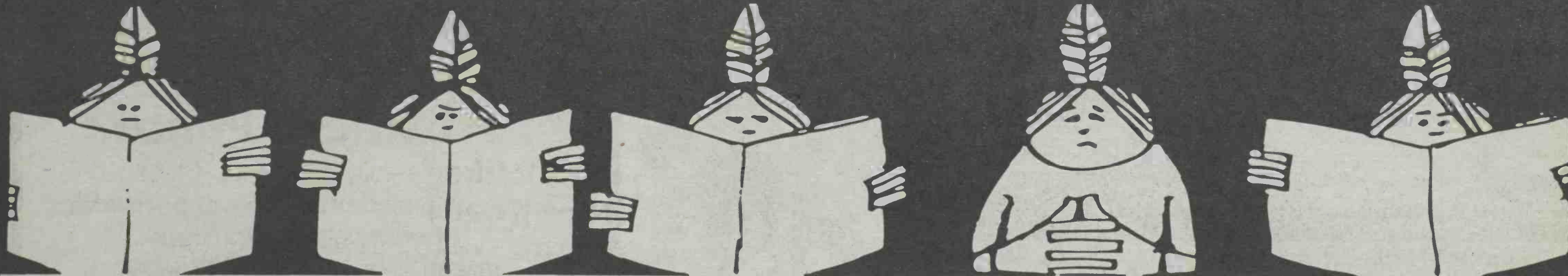
Following the pre-feasibility study, if De Beers proceeds, a number of stages remain before diamond extraction for profit can begin. Some timelines overlap, such as the 12 to 18 months needed for both a feasibility study and to obtain permits. That is followed by 12 months for site preparation and another 18 to 24 months for construction.

Partners in Akwesasne-based bottled water company Iroquois Water present a cheque to the organizers of the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships on Dec 4. The men's and women's national championships will be hosted by Akwesasne councillor, Chief Larry King (left), looks on.



PAUL BARNSELY

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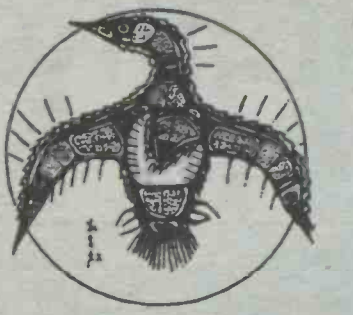
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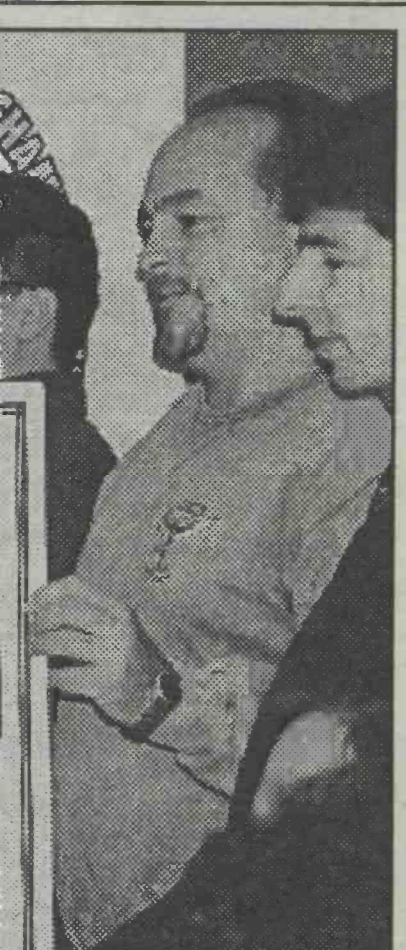


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sample drilling removed 10,000 tonnes of rock for last winter, most of was processed at the site. De Beers and Wilkinson diamond mining does not use the use of harmful chemicals in processing. Following the pre-feasibility study if De Beers proceeds, a number of stages remain before extraction for profit begin. Some timelines over such as the 12 to 18 months for both a feasibility study and to obtain permits. followed by 12 months preparation and another 4 months for construc-



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Fish stocks in danger

(Continued from page 5.)

We cannot see a single ecological benefit to the stocking of Pacific salmon in the Great Lakes. The only benefits salmon stocking seem to provide are economic and recreational. That is not only my opinion, it is the opinion of some pretty well known biologists as well. For example, last year, Dr. Howard Tanner (considered the godfather of salmon stocking) had this to say about salmonine introductions in the Great Lakes:

"Sportfishing has become the key value for almost 100,000 square miles of productive freshwater."

This is not a value we share.

And way back in 1968, the esteemed fisheries biologist Dr. Henry Regier warned us about the threat of ecological tinkering on natural species of Great

Lakes fish.

"Recent attempts in the Great Lakes to introduce exotics are not all 'a slow, careful searching for and evaluation of new species to supplement the old'... I suggest that we try to identify whom we are seeking to please by providing 10-pound salmon or striped bass!"

The folks the Ministry of Natural Resources are seeking to please, of course, are the hunters and anglers of the province. Their provincial organization, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, has lobbied hard for a "right to hunt and fish." It seems they are about to get it with the Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act. This is troubling. Will sportsmen now take it as their "right" to tinker so dangerously with the environment? Will they insist the gov-

ernment support their tinkering? Will they insist they have a "right" to introduce other exotics to Ontario's lands and waters, just so they will have more and more species to take? Will they assume their new "right" and their close partnership with the MNR trumps our hard won, constitutionally recognized, Aboriginal and treaty rights?

Yes, certainly, the last question is of immense concern to Native people. For years the federation of hunters and anglers has had a severe case of constitutional envy. But the damage they will do to us with their new "right" will be matched only by the damage they will do to the environment. Manipulating the environment to support the sports industry is not good conservation, and neither is this new Act.

Van Camp visits Six Nations writers

(Continued from page 8.)

"I have a genuine love of storytelling. I love to listen, share and learn stories wherever I go," he said.

Van Camp, a graduate of the En'owkin International School of Writing, read two short stories from his newest book and an excerpt from his children's book, What's The Most Beautiful Thing

You Know About Horses? He is also the author of another children's book, A Man Called Raven and a novel, The Lesser Blessed.

Van Camp signed books for guests and told stories late into the evening.

"I believe a good story is one of the best gifts you can share with someone," he said.

Van Camp is working on his

Master's degree in creative writing at the University of British Columbia.

"I want my writing to really touch, amuse, shock and inspire First Nations in every community possible. I really want to make First Nations people smile and be proud of our strength. I also want to sneak a little heartache in there too," he said.

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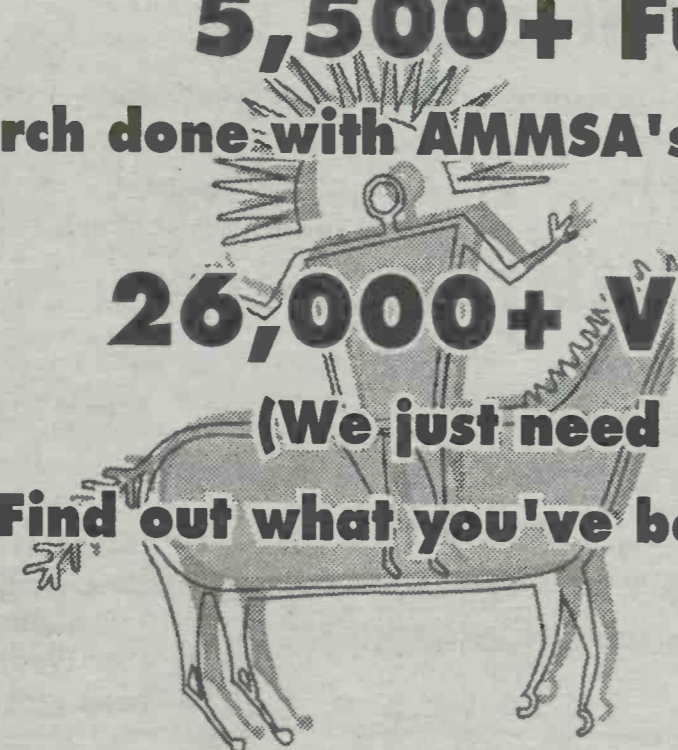
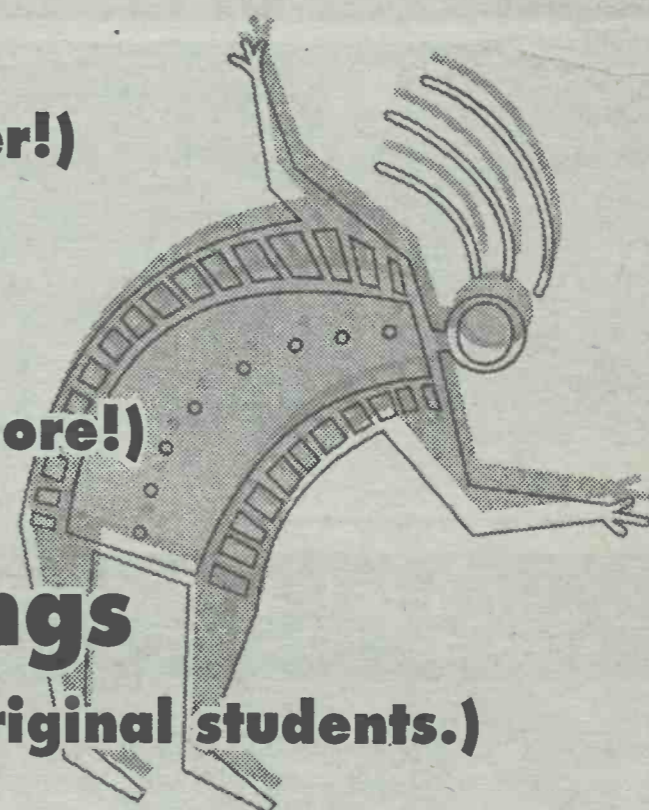
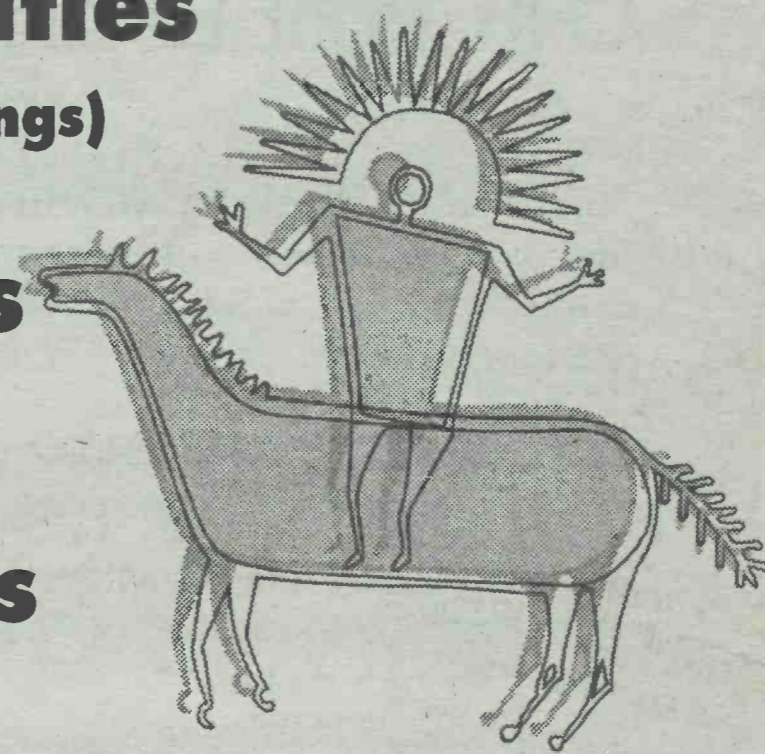
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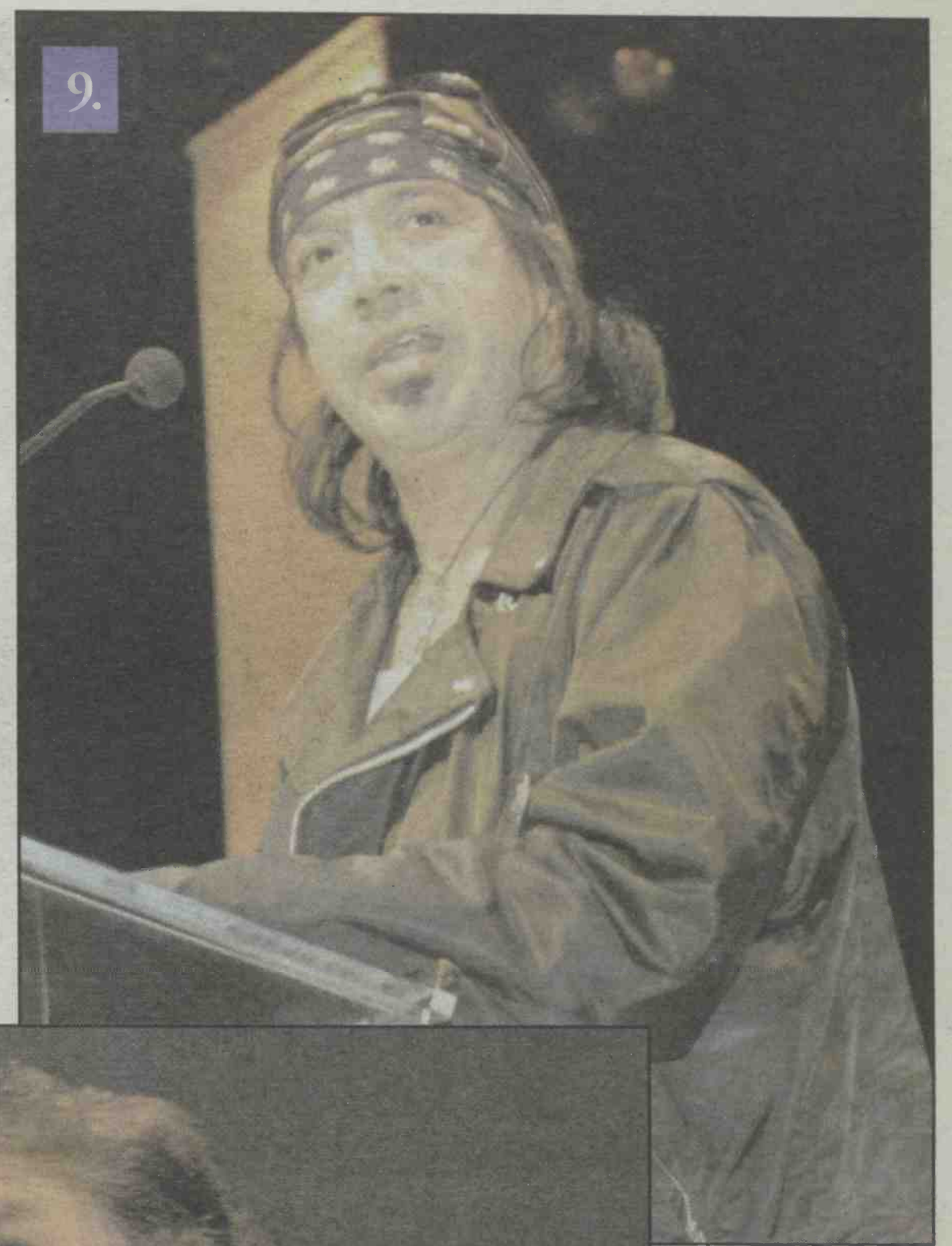
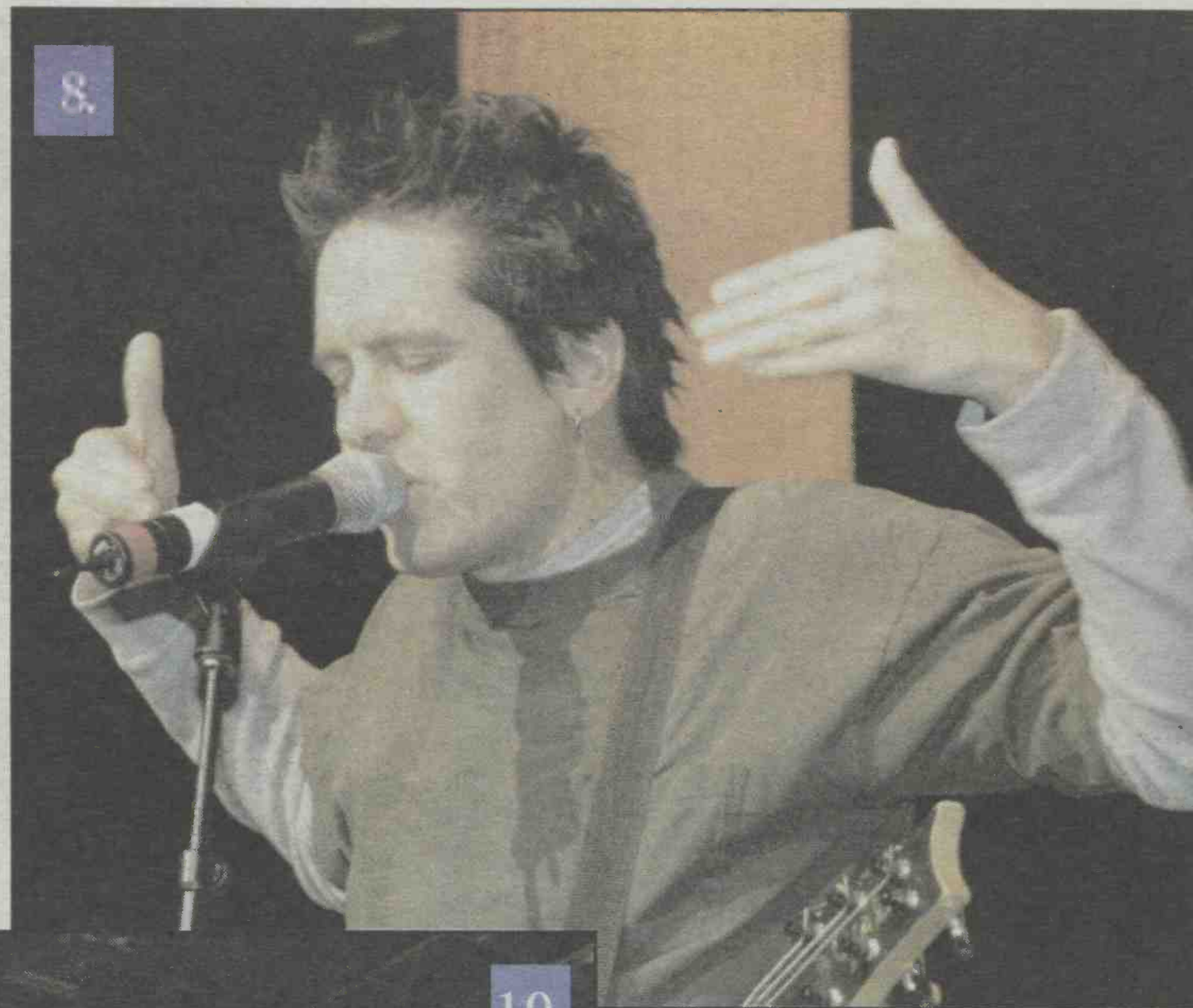


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- Best Songwriter—Breach of Trust for the song "Complicated" written by Breach of Trust
- Best Drum Songs Album—Whitefish Jrs. for "Cree Man"
- Best Powwow Album—Traditional—Pipestone Creek for "Contest Is On"
- Best Powwow Album—Contemporary—Stoney Park for "Wolf Pack"
- Best Traditional Album/Historical—Logan Alexis Singers for "Round Dance Time"
- Best Traditional Album/Contemporary—Thomas B. Maracle for "Spirit Land Band"
- Best Instrumental Album—Thomas B. Maracle for "Spirit Land Band"
- Best New Age or Alternative Album—Yodeca—David R. Maracle for "Yodeca (Earth Fusion)"
- Best Jazz or Blues Album—Ronnie Douglas Blues Band for "Big Brother"
- Best Country Album—Ray Villebrun for "Sound of Thunder"
- Best Rap or HipHop—War Party for "The Reign"
- Best Rock Album—Breach of Trust for "Songs for Dying Nations"
- Best Group or Duo—Breach of Trust for "Songs for Dying Nations"
- Best Male Artist—Billy Joe Green for "My Ojibwe Experience, Strength and Hope"

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New centre at Casino Rama hosts Canada's Aboriginal music awards

By Abby Cote
Windspeaker Contributor

MNJIKANING (RAMA) Ont.

Organizers for the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards held on Nov. 23 tried a change of venue this year. Instead of holding the ceremonies at Toronto's SkyDome, as was done for the past two years, this year's event was held at the new Casino Rama entertainment centre on the Mnjikaning First Nation in Ontario. Located about two hours at rush hour north of Toronto, this facility opened in July 2001.

The Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards show is part of a larger event, the Canadian Aboriginal Festival, created, organized and co-ordinated by Indian Art-I-Crafts of Ontario and held annually for the past eight years.

This year's presentation of the awards show saw the addition of the Award Ceremony Orchestra directed by Donald Quan and featuring the vocals of Faron Johns of the Pappy Johns Band, along with Juno nominee ElizaBeth Hill.

Many of the award presenters came from Aboriginal business, as well as corporate sponsors of the awards and Aboriginal people representing Native governing bodies and agencies. Master of Ceremonies was Native American singer Joanne Shenandoah.

"We have to remember that there is no border," Shēnandoah said. "We are related. We are brothers and sisters. We are invested no matter what age in our cultures to keep our songs and music alive. Now more than ever is the perfect time to

bring music that is healing to the world. Our music is healing. Now is the time to let our music be heard. No more boundaries. Boundaries are walls. Our music is what has kept our people alive and now I'm happy to be sharing that with the world."

Although the show ran within 10 minutes of the slated two-hour time allotted, one of the disappointments was that there were only six performances. Last year there were nearly twice that number. Also disappointing was that many of the winners were not present to accept their awards.

It was good to see that the category of Best Rap or Hip Hop had enough nominees this year to be able to grant an award; last year there were not enough submissions to develop this category. Unfortunately, this year there were not enough submissions to name a winner in the Best Female Artist category.

Ron Robert, co-ordinator of Indian Art-I-Crafts of Ontario, said "we did not have enough submissions from female artists. All we can tell you for next year is—submit, submit, submit."

There are already changes in the works for next year's awards.

"Next year we will have implemented a new and distinctly Aboriginal flavor to the show. We are also making changes to our entry and juror information forms, and we have a new submission deadline for next year. June 30, 2002 is the deadline for recordings released between Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2001," explained Sadie Buck, director for the 2001 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards show.

There seemed to be a much re-

peated, though unofficial, theme to this year's awards event—language. Several of the winners gave speeches in their traditional languages, as well as in English, and many of the winners made a point to mention the importance of knowing, using and preserving Aboriginal language.

This message was brought home by Marty Ballentyne, articulate lead singer with Breach of Trust, in one of his three award acceptance speeches.

"I want to thank Ted Whitecalf for speaking Cree at the show tonight, because one of the most beautiful forms of music we have left, and we have to treat this as a very precious commodity, is our languages and listening to the sounds of those."

This year's awards left the impression that there is indeed a great deal of maturing Aboriginal musical talent across Canada. Consensus, however, seemed to be that moving the awards back to Toronto would be a good idea.

Many people had to rely on the shuttle bus service provided between Toronto and Casino Rama to get to and from the awards show.

Also, by holding the awards in Toronto, many people suggested they would be more able to attend other events held at the same time in conjunction with the Canadian Aboriginal Festival. For example, also on Nov. 23, Elaine Bomberry was hosting a CD release party for the Pappy Johns Band, the house band on APTN's Buffalo Tracks. There was also a large Aboriginal multimedia conference held on the same weekend in Ontario's capital city.

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By Abby Cote
Windspeaker Contributor
MNJIKANING

Breach of Trust, a hard-rocking group of four musicians who are being compared to Rush and Pearl Jam, have broken onto the mainstream Canadian music scene after years of work.

But it was the Canadian Aboriginal people who caught their attention on Nov. 23.

Their second recording, "Songs For Dying Nations," earned honors for Best Aboriginal Music Album at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards held at the Casino Rama Entertainment Centre.

Three members of the band—lead singer/guitarist Marty Ballentyne, drummer, Paul Aube, and bassist/vocalist Zane Kryzanowsky, hail from LaRonge, Sask. Breach of Trust's newest member, Cheechoo, is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation in Moose Factory, James Bay, Ont.

Breach of Trust released their first recording, an EP titled "Dead Issue," in 1995. "Songs for a Dying Nation" was independently recorded before EMI signed them on and released "Songs" after re-negotiating and adding lyrics such as Cheechoo.

All four band members are seasoned performers who have been plying their trade for years. These boys are a professional act, that Toronto-based Much Music recognizes as a band that's going places.

"Much Music has been very supportive of us, and we're looking forward to playing some feature play on stations across the country and some Aboriginal stations."

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Breach of Trust scores a hat trick at awards

By Abby Cote
Windspeaker Contributor

MNJIKANING

Breach of Trust, a hard rocking group of four musicians, who are being compared to Rush and Pearl Jam, have burst onto the mainstream Canadian music scene after years of hard work.

But it was the Canadian Aboriginal people who came to honor them on Nov. 23.

Their second recording, "Songs For Dying Nations" earned honors for Best Songwriter, Best Group or Duo and Best Rock Album at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards held at the Casino Rama Entertainment Centre.

Three members of the band, lead singer/guitarist Marty Ballentyne, drummer, Billy Aubut, and bassist/vocalist, Zane Kryzanowsky, hail from LaRonge, Sask. Breach of Trust's newest member, Colin Cheechoo, is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation of Moose Factory, James Bay, Ont.

Breach of Trust released their first recording, an EP titled "Dead Issue," in 1995 and "Songs for a Dying Nation" independently before record giant EMI signed them on and re-released "Songs" after re-mixing it and adding lyrics sung by Cheechoo.

All four band members are seasoned performers who have been plying their trade for years. These boys are a tight, professional act, that Toronto-based Much Music recognizes as a band that's going places.

"Much Music has been very supportive of us, and we're getting some feature play on radio stations across the country and some Aboriginal stations are



BERT CROWFOOT

The boys in the band with fans from the stands. Breach of Trust is the big winner at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Award on Nov. 23.



Marty Ballentyne

playing us too. [Songs For Dying Nations' is] getting it's due, and [these awards are] very

cool," said Ballentyne.

Marty Ballentyne was chosen several years back as a national Aboriginal youth role model. Ballentyne comes from a mixed cultural background, both Aboriginal and European. He is an articulate individual with a deep and passionate respect for his Native heritage and culture.

Ballentyne is especially passionate about the need to preserve First Nations languages

as integral components of Aboriginal culture and heritage.

During one of the band's three trips to the podium, Ballentyne paid tribute to the band members' children.

"Some of us have some children and they're at home and we miss them very much, so we want to dedicate all the things we do tonight and all nights to our children.

"We want to thank all of you because you've been really great and we feel very welcome here. We want to thank all the people of this territory for making us welcome as we traveled here to be in your presence tonight."

Colin Cheechoo (known as "Cheech") has an extensive family history of music and

stage performance. He is the son of Juno nominee and Canadian Aboriginal Music Award winner Vern Cheechoo. Colin is at least the third generation of the Cheechoo family to find his passion in playing music.

"This is beautiful. It's a first time for all of us and we're really enjoying ourselves. We're following in the tradition of music in bringing home this award. This is the second release for Breach of Trust and the first one that I'm on, but this was our first nomination, and we won," Cheechoo said.

When asked about the band's lyrical style, Ballentyne explained it this way, "Our songwriting process is about being as truthful, passionate and honest as we can. The way we write, the way we arrange the music and the lyrics are all a process where we're just trying to celebrate our group and the individuality of the members of the band and the sound that we create when we're together."

Asked about the title of their CD "Songs for Dying Nations" and whether or not he thought First Nations were dying, Ballentyne was evasive.

"I don't know. What do you think?"

"I think that one of the things that music can do, and one of the things that anything creative can do, is to get people thinking about things. So I don't know. I know what I was thinking, but I don't want to impose my thoughts on anybody. I would rather just let people decide for themselves. If you look around tonight I would say that we are far from over. I love who I am and I love where I come from and I love all the things that I still have to do to honor my bloodline and where I come from."

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The 2002 AFN Christmas Gala will be held on December 6, 2002.

Vice-Chief Wilson Bearhead and staff would like to wish everyone a positive and productive 2002!

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National chief hanging in there, having fun

Mention of rumors that he was thinking of stepping down got a chuckle from the national chief after the first day of the confederacy in Ottawa.

"I am enjoying myself. I find it very challenging," he said. "There are 80 First Nations. We are very diversified. We have different strategies and different approaches. The challenge is trying to find a middle ground. When we talk about issues like housing, trying to bring down the high rate of unemployment in our communities, the incarceration of our people, we all seem to agree. That's what we want to tackle, to eradicate poverty. But the minute we start talking about what the minister wants to do, unilaterally, and continue to push it, we come into a disagreement. But when we talk about where we want to go then the challenge is will the government give that mandate to the minister so

that then we can sit down to a process and begin down the path of implementing it and moving forward."

So you're sticking it out? he was asked.

"I've been around for 25 years, I don't plan to go away. At least that's my plan. I don't know about those guys. They might get rid of me tomorrow," he said, laughing again.

Why ban the press?

Reporters weren't too impressed when they were asked to leave for the governance debate. The national chief wasn't ready to apologize when he faced the national press after a six-hour closed session.

"We're entitled to be able to have a good discussion among ourselves and I think that it's healthy. It's a request from the members so we respect that. I think, for us, it's imperative that we have that discussion among

ourselves before we go out there," he said.

But the secrecy of band councils is one of the issues the minister has used as a reason to review First Nations governance and this will add fuel to the fire, *Windspeaker* argued.

"That's your interpretation. The people that are here, our members are not excluded. Whoever's a member here can participate. The only ones who are excluded, unfortunately, are you guys."

The press represents the people who can't be here, a Native reporter countered.

"Well, we deliberate. Even in band councils, they have their own internal meetings and you don't go there," Coon Come said. "I think you should. Find out for yourself whether they'll kick you out or not. You go to the James Bay Cree where I'm from, when we discuss things we'll kick you out. We've done it many

times because we believe we have to discuss among ourselves as our people and if you're a member of that you'll participate."

And the chiefs aren't the only ones who have closed meetings, he added.

"Try to go to the premier's meeting. Or a cabinet meeting."

Governance Act by March?

The published report claiming unnamed senior government sources had lost confidence in the AFN had one piece of news that was easy to miss. A senior government official said there was a chance the First Nations governance act could be ready for first reading by March, six months earlier than previous dates mentioned by the minister. Indian Affairs spokesman Alistair Mullin said it's possible. He said the joint ministerial table on governance is ex-

pected to report back to the minister with recommendations for drafting by early February at the latest. If the recommendations are simple and straightforward, he said, the process could be that quick.

Vice-chief Ken Young thinks that's the way it's going to shake out.

"The piece of legislation that he's developing, it's quite simple. There's three aspects to it: there's governance, and there's the election issue and there's the accountability issue. It's not going to be a very lengthy piece of legislation," he said. "It's a stand-alone piece of legislation. It's not an amendment to the Indian Act as everyone describes it. The fundamental issue there is the issue of legal capacity. Legal capacity meaning, in our view, means the government is attempting to make First Nations into political corporate entities.

(see Proposed page 20.)



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Wheaties

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

JIM THORPE

The Breakfast of Champions has finally decided to honor the greatest athletes of all

Native American Jim Thorpe who was an Olympic double gold medalist, as well as a baseball and football player, made it to the cover of Wheaties the popular cereal dubbed Breakfast of Champions.

Canadians, however, will not travel south of the border if they wish to buy a box of Thorpe's mug on the cover. The particular Wheaties boxes only be sold in the United States.

A spokesperson for General Mills, the company that produces Wheaties, said the firm publicly reveals the number of any cereal boxes it makes any athlete on its cover. The length of the campaign is still being released either.

Thorpe's family, however, was thrilled with the honor.

"My dad had a bowl of almost every day for breakfast, and, of course, we ate Wheaties," said Thorpe's 12-year-old daughter Grace. "It was very modest and humble when it came to all of the attention. But he would be honored to be recognized as Breakfast of Champions."

The Wheaties announcement in November was timed to coincide with National American Indian Heritage Month.

The announcement was made in the Pennsylvania town named after Thorpe. And it was made at Jim Thorpe High School.

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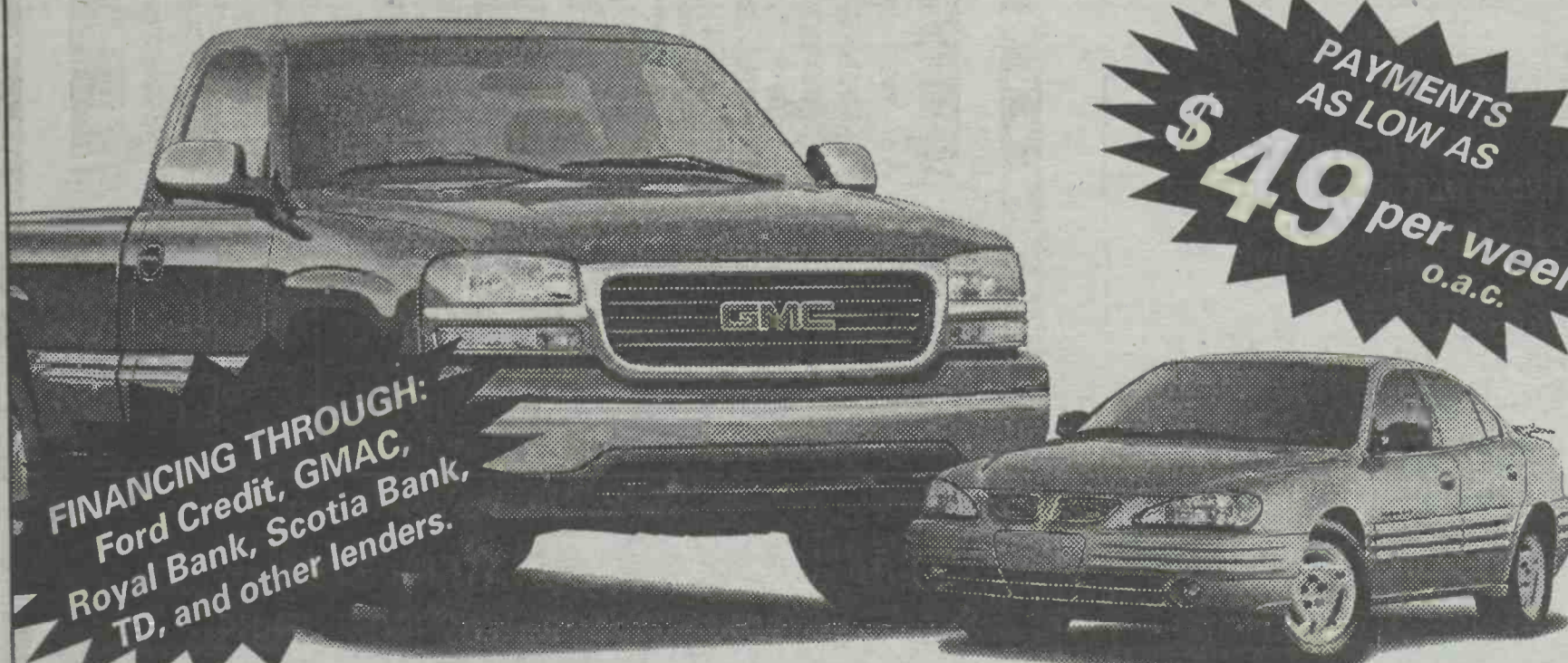
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ected to report back to the minister with recommendations for drafting by early February at the latest. If the recommendations are simple and straightforward, he said, the process could be that quick. Vice-chief Ken Young thinks that's the way it's going to shake out. "The piece of legislation that's developing, it's quite simple. There's three aspects to it: there's governance, and there's the election issue and there's the accountability issue. It's not going to be a very lengthy piece of legislation," he said. "It's a stand-alone piece of legislation. It's not an amendment to the Indian Act as everyone describes it. The fundamental issue there is the issue of legal capacity. Legal capacity means, in our view, means the government is attempting to make the First Nations into political corporate entities. (see Proposed page 20.)

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Wheaties chooses Thorpe

By Sam Laskaris
Windspeaker Contributor

JIM THORPE, Pa.

The Breakfast of Champions has finally decided to honor one of the greatest athletes of all time.

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The Wheaties announcement in November was timed to coincide with National American Indian Heritage Month.

The announcement was also made in the Pennsylvania town named after Thorpe. And it was made at Jim Thorpe High School.



Jim Thorpe

Afterwards a parade was held to celebrate the occasion. Among those who marched in the parade were a number of children who had written letters to Wheaties' officials asking them to honor Thorpe.

Brian Immel, Wheaties' marketing manager, is pleased the honor finally came to fruition.

"Jim Thorpe is the archetypal Wheaties champion and it is easy to see why his story is so inspiring to school-age children in America," he said. "Wheaties is honored to have a role in keeping the legend of Jim Thorpe alive."

There were attempts in the past to have Thorpe honored on a Wheaties box. Company officials said he was on a list of possible athletes they would honor. He

moved to the top of that list after thousands of children wrote in favor of such a move.

"Jim Thorpe is a hero among school children and this Wheaties box is dedicated to every child in America who, like Jim Thorpe, is inspired to pursue a dream," Immel said.

Anna McKibben can also take plenty of credit for the fact Thorpe is now on Wheaties' boxes. The Oklahoma native—the same state Thorpe was born in—sparked a huge letter-writing campaign.

When she was crowned Miss Indian USA in 1998, McKibben said she was inspired by Thorpe's story. And she wanted to offer some payback by campaigning to have Thorpe on Wheaties' boxes. She wrote to every American Indian newspaper, to tribal headquarters and to Native Web sites in 35 states. The response was tremendous.

"I've received hundreds of letters of encouragement from people who are passionate in their support of Jim Thorpe and my cause," she said. "Jim Thorpe has a special place in the heart of all Native American Indians. And now Wheaties has a special place in my heart."

Besides playing both pro football and baseball, Thorpe won gold medals in both the pentathlon and decathlon at the 1912 Summer Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden.

A who's who list of sporting greats have previously adorned Wheaties' boxes. That list includes Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods.

Akwesasne/Cornwall to host national Native hockey championships

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

AKWESASNE, Ont.

All-star teams representing various regions of the country will make their way to Cornwall Island in April for the first-ever, officially sanctioned national championship of Native hockey.

Midget- and bantam-age players (born in the years 1984 to 1987) will represent their regions on all-star teams in the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association sanctioned tournament. Separate competitions for male and female players will produce two national champions. Women's teams will be allowed to carry up to five over-age players, born as early as 1980.

Aboriginal sport bodies in the provinces and territories are responsible for selecting the teams that will compete in the championships.

The event was announced during a press conference at the A'nowara'ko:wa Arena on the Akwesasne Mohawk Territory on Dec. 4. The state-of-the-art, 39,000 square foot arena (designed in the shape of a turtle) was built by the band in 1995. It seats 2,500 fans and boasts an NHL size rink. Visible from the reserve arena's parking lot, a 10-

minute drive across the St. Lawrence River, is the other venue for the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, the 5,500 seat Cornwall Civic Complex and Convention Centre.

The tournament will be run by the National Aboriginal Sports Circle (NASC) with help from its Ontario branch and many local individuals and businesses. The week-long event will begin April 21 and wrap up with the two championship games on April 27. Six entries on each side are confirmed so far: one all-star team representing Atlantic Canada, Quebec, northern Ontario, southern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are confirmed in both the male and female tournaments. NASC officials discovered on Dec. 19 that Alberta will not be able to send teams this year. Organizers hope Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon, N.W.T. and Nunavut will send teams in 2003.

Former NHL coach of the year Ted Nolan will coach one of the Ontario entries. He has signed a memorandum of understanding with the sports circle to use the tournament as a place to scout for players for Team Indigenous. Standouts will be invited to a national Indigenous select camp in Thunder Bay, Ont. in July. (see Hockey page 20.)



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Proposed governance act a threat to treaties

(Continued from page 18.)

"To our way of thinking that's a threat to the treaties, threat to Aboriginal title, threat to the relationship that we have to the Crown. Corporations never sign treaties and corporations never said that Aboriginal title belongs to us. It was First Nations that said that, the First Nations people. The treaties were signed by nations of people, not corporate entities. The fiduciary relationship is owed to First Nations people, not the corporations. I believe that that aspect of the legislation is the most questionable one."

No money for meeting?

AFN CEO Dan Brant has a tough job to do after the holiday break. He's got to find the money to hold an emergency chiefs

meeting on governance. It was recommended at the Ottawa confederacy that the meeting be held in Winnipeg in February, but there's no money in a very tight budget for an unscheduled national meeting.

"We don't have anything planned yet and certainly one of the things is cost," he said. "We have to look at can we or how do we do this. We're still scratching our heads about how we put things together to make it happen. A special chiefs' assembly at this particular point in time, it's a matter of trying to find the resources to get it going."

Sarnia denied leave to appeal

Chief Philip Maness, Chippewas of Sarnia, told the confederacy that the Supreme

Court of Canada declined to hear his community's appeal of the Ontario Court of Appeal decision in the Sarnia case. In that case the court imposed the laws of equity in what many observers said was a reach by the court to avoid recognizing the band's title to land within the city of Sarnia even though the court recognized that the band had a legitimate claim to the land because of a faulty surrender.

"We applied to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal," the chief said. "The appeal was based on a claim that the Ontario Court of Appeal ignored Section 35 of Constitution Act. On Nov. 8 the Supreme Court of Canada refused leave."

The chiefs voted to support a resolution calling for a letter of support from the AFN in the band's application to the court to re-hear the case. The Supreme Court justices do not have to provide reasons why they decide to hear or not hear a case and it's very rare that the court will change its mind. But there is a section of the law that allows for such an application.

"It's a long-shot probably,"

Maness admitted. "We feel very strongly that we had the best case that we could take forward in addressing Aboriginal title because of our land that was set aside by treaty. We also think that because of the significance of the case... we feel it's a political decision by the courts to avoid to hear it."

Anti-terrorism Act a huge insult say chiefs

Several chiefs made passionate speeches when it came time to discuss the anti-terrorism bill on Dec. 5.

Chief Ralph Akiwenzie made an especially good presentation, pointing out that Canada had a history of using force against Native protesters at Oka, Ipperwash and other places, and this bill would only make legitimate political protest more dangerous for his people.

"I find it absolutely incomprehensible with that level of participation that we have and loyalty to the country, to have to deal with something like this terrorism act," the Ontario chief said. "So I'm going to cut my speech

short because I'm going to get quite upset because I come from a family of veterans, very loyal people in our First Nations communities that fought in World War I and so on. But I'm not going to dwell on that, I'm going to dwell on this. Let's think very seriously about the basic fundamental freedoms that we have."

He slammed the proposed act as oppressive and insulting.

"It's a big excuse to my people to subjugate and a big excuse not to have us exercise our rights, Aboriginal and treaty. Legislation again! It makes me sick!" he said.

Chief Art Manuel brought home the point that even the possibility that Native people engaged in political protests could be lumped in with the mass murderers who spawned the legislation was offensive, as was the Justice minister's unwillingness to include a specific exemption from the act for Native protesters.

"We must make sure that those people do not be labeled as terrorists because they aren't flying planes into buildings in New York City. What they're doing is quite different, like night is to day."

Hockey tourney

(Continued from page 19.)

Former Mohawk Olympian Alwyn Morris joined Akwesasne Grand Chief Mike Mitchell, Nolan, former Montreal Canadian John Chabot and others in announcing the selection of Akwesasne for the inaugural championships.

"This event is unlike other hockey tournaments as it will offer a unique blend of high performance competition in a strong supportive cultural environment," said Morris.

Mitchell hurried home from Ottawa, site of the Assembly of First Nations Confederacy, to at-

tend the press conference.

"It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we accept the honor of hosting the first-ever National Aboriginal Hockey Championships," the grand chief said. "We join with our neighbors, the city of Cornwall, to welcome all participants and spectators to our territory, knowing that for all involved is that this will be an experience of a lifetime."

The tournament is open to only Indigenous players and coaches but welcomes status and non-status First Nations people, Métis and Inuit.

Status or none

(Continued from page 5.)

However, in the public sector it appears that anyone claiming to be Aboriginal can be considered for Aboriginal employment opportunities.

What can we do about this? Any suggestions? I recommend that proof of lineage and gene grams could be next step towards identifying Aboriginal descent.

Ann M. Nipshank

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At that time the males were in their early twenties or late teens. They were travelling by rail and hitch hiking to farms, working as field labourers.

The men stayed for a short time with Mr. and Mrs. Thomas who at that time were a foster home for boys named Don, Wayne and Tom, ranging in age from 8 - 16. Thomas' lived on the 11th concession of Brock Township.

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Governance work plan panned

(Continued from page 6.)

"He has a mandate with cabinet. He can't go beyond that. He has a mandate that he has to comply with and we had a resolution and we had to go back to the chiefs on something as fundamental as governance for their approval or rejection," he said. "He was in the same position as us. He

would have had to go back to cabinet to get an expanded mandate on some aspects of that work plan. He couldn't say, 'Well let's do it.' The prime minister would have turfed him."

It was not up to the executive or the national chief to "sell" the work plans to the chiefs, the vice-chief added.

"That's not the way to do work with your people. Sell? You explain and you try to give the idea that this work plan is do-able. You explain it and let them decide and that's what we tried to do," he said. "We explained it and the decision was taken otherwise. And you live with that. That's fine. I accept it."

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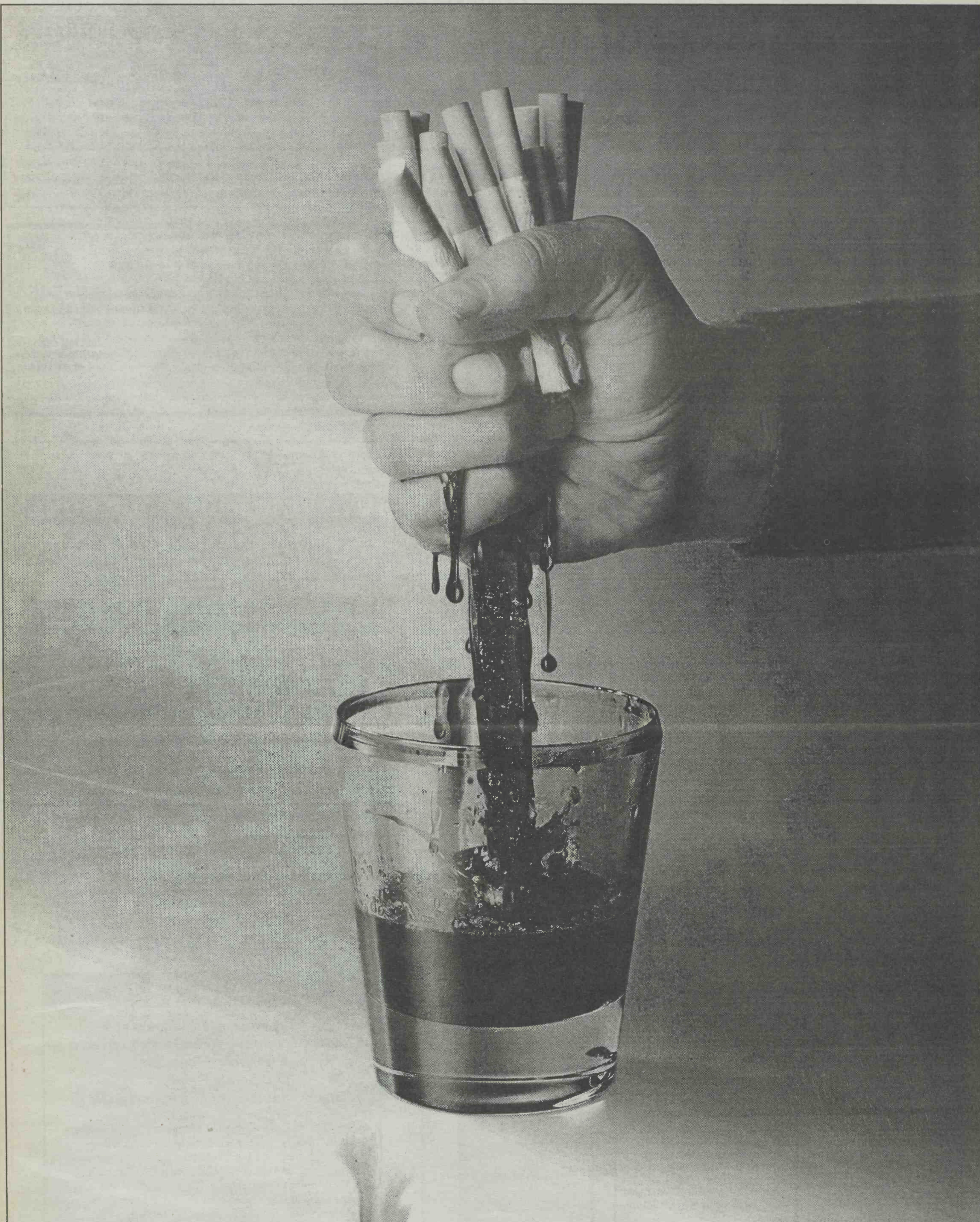
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Canada

Recognize warning signs

Heart disease and stroke are the major causes of death and disability in Canada for men and women.

Angina

The heart requires blood filled with oxygen and nutrients to work properly. Several small blood vessels (called arteries) supply blood to the heart. If the blood vessels become narrowed or blocked, the blood flow to the heart decreases and this can cause symptoms of angina (chest pain) or a heart attack.

Angina occurs when your heart has to work harder (pump harder) and needs more blood and nutrients but is unable to get the blood flow it needs.

This stress on the heart muscle causes pain. Angina can be triggered by physical activity, stress, excitement, after meals, or even with cold air exposure.

Angina pain typically lasts for a few minutes and will go away once the person rests.

People with angina should stop their activity and rest. People with angina who have a medication called nitroglycerine ("nitro"), should take a dose (pill or spray) immediately and see if the pain goes away. Nitro helps open up the arteries and relieve the chest pain. If neither rest nor nitro work, go to the emergency department or call an ambulance (or 911). Chest pain like angina may be a warning sign of a heart attack.

Warnings of a heart attack

A heart attack occurs when an artery to the heart becomes plugged by a blood clot. The heart is prevented from getting



The Medicine
Bundle
Gilles Pinette,
B.Sc., MD

any nutrients and the muscle starts to die.

With proper quick treatment, some hearts can be saved and the damage minimized. Watch for these symptoms of a heart attack:

Chest pain—can be felt as a heaviness or pressure in the chest. Often it is squeezing or crushing pain and can be mild or intense. The chest pain can spread into the shoulders or down the arms. Pain can also spread into the back, neck, jaw, or throat.

Short of breath—people may have trouble catching their breath

Nausea (sick to the stomach), vomiting, or sweating more than usual. Often people feel weak and tired, and may be dizzy. Sometimes the arms can feel tingly or numb.

People with diabetes often have silent heart attacks that don't create all the typical symptoms I've mentioned. Diabetics should be seen by a doctor (or nurse) immediately if they have even one of the above symptoms.

What to do

If you have any warnings of a

heart attack, go to emergency (or nursing station) or call the ambulance (911) immediately. People often wait for the chest pain to go away or think that it is just indigestion. Don't wait to see the doctor. Time is heart muscle. The sooner you seek treatment, the quicker you can restore the blood supply to the heart. It can mean the difference between life, death, or disability.

In the hospital, you may have tests of your heart, lungs, and blood. There are medications that can be used to treat pain, open the arteries, or break up the clots. Surgery to open or bypass the arteries may be the best option for some heart attacks.

This column is for reference and education only and is not intended to be a substitute for the advice of an appropriate health care professional. The author assumes no responsibility or liability arising from any outdated information, errors, omissions, claims, demands, damages, actions, or causes of actions from the use of any of the above.

Dr. Pinette is a Métis family physician in Manitoba and host of APTN's Medicine Chest. Contact Dr. Pinette at pinette@shaw.com.

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FINAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED'S PROPOSED HORIZON OIL SANDS PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

On December 11, 2001, Alberta Environment issued final Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for Canadian Natural Resources Limited's proposed Horizon Oil Sands Project (up to 300,000 barrels per day of bitumen production). The proposed Project is located approximately 70km north of Fort McMurray, in Townships 96-97, Ranges 11-13, W4M, in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo.

Copies of the Terms of Reference are available from:

Ms. ADELE THOMSON
Canadian Natural Resources Limited
P.O. Box 5630
Fort McMurray AB T9H 3G6
Phone: (780) 714-6161
Fax: (780) 714-6162
e-mail: horizonproject@cnrl.com

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Traditional healers face criminal charges

By Margo Little
Windspeaker Contributor

GORE BAY, Ont.

A magnificent eagle circled the Gore Bay Court House Nov. 26 as Juan Uyunkar and his son Edgar Wainahatae Uyunkar entered the building to face a variety of criminal charges. The two Ecuadorian men were accompanied by their interpreter Maria Alice Ventura, as well as by 35 supporters from Wikwemikong First Nation on Manitoulin Island.

Juan Uyunkar, 48, Edgar Uyunkar, 21, and Maria Ventura, 32, were arrested Nov. 24 after a joint Ontario Provincial Police and tribal police investigation into the death of a Wikwemikong Elder during a healing ceremony. Jean (Jane) Maingowi, 71, collapsed Oct. 19 after ingesting a holistic concoction containing natem. The substance is also known by a variety of other names including yaje, caapi, pinde, karampi, dapa, mihi, kahi.

The father and son have been charged with criminal negligence causing death, administration of a noxious substance, importing into Canada a controlled substance and trafficking in a controlled substance, as well as possession of a controlled substance. Ventura was also charged with administering a noxious substance and trafficking in a controlled substance.

The medicine in question was made from a plant native to South America and commonly used in healing rites. The plants are normally mixed with tobacco and water and then boiled to produce the medicine.

At their bail hearing, Lloyd Greenspoon, the lawyer representing the three accused, pressed the Crown and the justice of the peace to allow his clients to remain in the Manitowaning or Wikwemikong area as they feared the custody situation in Sudbury.

"The two men ordinarily reside in a natural jungle environment," Greenspoon contended. "Putting them in the Sudbury jail puts them in undue hardship."

Lorraine Ottley, representing the Crown, argued that the bail hearing should be adjourned for two days to allow a Spanish interpreter to be brought in from North Bay or Sault Ste. Marie. For the past two months they had relied on Ventura to provide translation on a daily basis.

Greenspoon countered that a delay would be damaging to the accused. He urged that permission be granted for Ventura to interpret for the father and son duo.

"She will take an oath that she will perform a strict accurate interpretation," he said. "She is competent to interpret both ways, from English to Spanish and from Spanish to English. He pointed out that the court has traditionally used non-licensed court interpreters to make sure that accused persons understand the proceedings.

During this exchange Ventura explained the choices in Spanish to Juan and Edgar Uyunkar. She

UPDATE

On Dec. 18, the accused appeared in court for a second time.

Since up to two hundred police interviews have to be completed, the matter has been remanded until Jan. 29. A small amendment was made in bail conditions at the most recent court appearance. Maria Ventura is now allowed to reside anywhere within the District of Manitoulin.

translated their response back to the Justice of the Peace saying, "We trust her and we know she will do her best."

Although the Crown expressed reservations about Ventura performing an appropriate interpretation as a co-accused, justice of the peace C. S. Sanders agreed to allow the informal translation to proceed. Ventura was permitted to sit between the two men and do simultaneous interpretation during the testimony of witnesses.

At this point in the bail hearing, the court imposed a publication ban on all evidence heard in open court. Details of the case against the three individuals cannot be reported at this time.

All three were released on bail Nov. 26 under strict conditions. They are required to remain in the Manitowaning area, to turn in their passports and visas and to report to the OPP regularly. In addition, they are prohibited from possessing the medicines used in the healing rituals.

"This is a tragedy, but my clients are not responsible," said lawyer Lloyd Greenspoon in an interview following the bail hearing. "We deny any criminal negligence causing death. There is no criminal culpability here."

The strong presence of the First Nations spiritual community in the courtroom had been encouraging to his clients, he said.

"The community supporters who invited them here feel that this is an attack on their Indigenous medicine," he added. "It is a well known fact that Indigenous people travel up and down the continent sharing medicines."

He also indicated that the defence will call upon Indigenous medicine experts from around the world in an attempt to prove that the controlled substance does not exist in the potion used by the Uyuksars.

Chief Glen Hare of M'Chigeeng First Nation spoke briefly after the hearing and the imposition of the publication ban.

"I am surprised this case even came to court," he said. "I see no reason why they are there. The attendance of community supporters in the courtroom spoke for itself. The court is wasting everyone's time. The accused are being put through the system and sacrificing everything they've worked for. It's a shame; now they don't get to go home and spend Christmas with their families."



University of Saskatchewan

Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor.

The position requires a specialization in the area of Sociology of Law and Criminology, with expertise in areas like Aboriginal justice, criminal justice policy, corrections, or gender, law and crime. (Please quote competition #2A when applying for this position). The starting date is July 1, 2002.

A completed doctoral degree in Sociology is required. A demonstrated record of excellence in teaching, and a demonstrated record of obtaining research funding and high research productivity, or the demonstrable potential to develop such a record, is required.

An application, including a curriculum vitae, a statement of interests, current and projected research activities, a sample of recently published work, and any available teaching evaluations, should be sent to:

Head, Department of Sociology, University of Saskatchewan
1016 - 9 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5
Tel: (306) 966-6925; fax (306) 966-6950

Applicants should also arrange for three reference letters to be sent to the same address or fax number. Closing date for receipt of applications and reference letters is February 15, 2002.

More information about the Department of Sociology and its programs can be found at www.arts.usask.ca/sociology/

In accordance with immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed in the first instance to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. This position has been cleared, however, for advertising at the two-tier level, and applications are invited from qualified individuals regardless of their immigration status in Canada. The University is committed to employment equity. The Department of Sociology is seeking to address a gender imbalance among its faculty complement; to this end, qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply. Members of designated groups (women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and visible minorities) are encouraged to self-identify on their applications.

Department of Sociology

The Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor. The starting date is July 1, 2002.

The position is in the area of Aboriginal justice and knowledge, and is open to candidates with strong sociological backgrounds and related research interests. (Please quote competition #31P when applying for this position). This position is based in Sociology, but is part of a priority area identified by the University of Saskatchewan for an interdisciplinary initiative in Indigenous Peoples and Justice. The duties associated with the position include participation in the development of the B.A. program in Sociology with a concentration in Indigenous peoples and justice; development and instruction of one or more of the capstone courses related to Indigenous knowledge and ideas of justice; participation with other faculty members with teaching responsibilities and graduate supervision in this area; and pursuit of research activities related to the theme of Indigenous peoples and justice, including participation in interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives.

Normally a completed Ph.D. in Sociology is expected at the time of appointment, or prior to recommendation for tenure.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, a statement of interests, current and projected research activities, a sample of recently published work, and any available teaching evaluations, should be sent to the Department Head at the following address. Applicants should also arrange for three reference letters to be sent to the same address or fax number. Closing date for receipt of applications and reference letters is February 15, 2002.

Department of Sociology, University of Saskatchewan
1016 - 9 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5
Tel: (306) 966-6925; fax: (306) 966-6950

More information about the Department of Sociology and its programs can be found on the Department website: www.arts.usask.ca/sociology/

The University is committed to employment equity. Members of designated groups (women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and visible minorities) are encouraged to self-identify on their applications. In accordance with the nature of this position, preference will be given to candidates of Aboriginal ancestry.

College of Law

The College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan invites applications for a full-time tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor, with appointment to commence July 1, 2002.

The position is in the area of Indigenous knowledge and ideas of justice. The appointment will be in the College of Law, but is part of a priority area identified by the University for an interdisciplinary initiative in Indigenous Peoples and Justice. The duties associated with the position include participation in the development of the LL.B. component of interdisciplinary programs related to this theme; development and instruction of one or more of the capstone courses related to Indigenous knowledge and concepts of justice; collaboration with other faculty members appointed as part of this initiative and with community partners; and pursuit of research and publishing activities related to the theme of Indigenous peoples and justice, including participation in interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives.

Candidates should have a completed LL.M. or other graduate degree in law, or a law degree and a completed graduate degree in some other discipline, such as anthropology, political studies, Native studies, criminology, psychology or history.

Applications, accompanied by a curriculum vitae, transcripts of grades, a sample of scholarly writing, and letters from three academic referees, should be sent to the Dean at the following address. Consideration of applications will begin as of January 15, 2002.

Dean Beth Bilson, College of Law
15 Campus Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A6
Tel: (306) 966-5910; fax: (306) 966-5900; e-mail:
beth.bilson@usask.ca

More information about the College of Law may be found at www.usask.ca/law and more information about the Indigenous Peoples and Justice Initiative may be found at www.usask.ca/university_council/planning/projects.html

Department of Political Studies

The Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2002. The position is in the area of Aboriginal Public Administration and is open to candidates with a background in one or more of the following areas: Aboriginal Public Administration, Aboriginal Public Management, Aboriginal Public Policy, and Aboriginal Governance and Politics. Candidates should also have research interests in one or more of these areas.

This position is based in Political Studies but relates to a priority area identified by the University of Saskatchewan for an interdisciplinary initiative in Indigenous Peoples and Justice. The Department's part in this initiative is the development of an undergraduate program, and subsequently a graduate program, in Aboriginal Public Administration.

The duties associated with the position include participation in the development of programs in Aboriginal Public Administration; the development and instruction of one or more of the capstone courses related to Indigenous knowledge and ideas of justice; collaboration with other faculty members with teaching responsibilities in these areas; and pursuit of research activities related to Aboriginal public administration, management, policy, governance and politics. Candidates should also be predisposed to participation in interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives.

Candidates for the position are expected to have, or be close to completing, a Ph.D.

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, a statement of interests, current and projected research activities, and any available teaching evaluations, should be sent to:

Dr. Donald C. Story, Head,
Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan,
9 Campus Drive, 919 Arts Building, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5
Tel: (306) 966-5200; fax: (306) 966-5250

Applicants should also arrange to have three letters of reference sent to the above address. Closing date for receipt of applications and reference letters is February 15, 2002.

Information about the Department of Political Studies and its programs can be found on the Department website: www.usask.ca/politic/

The University is committed to employment equity. Members of designated groups (women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, and visible minorities) are encouraged to self-identify on their applications. In accordance with the nature of this position, preference will be given to candidates of Aboriginal ancestry.

Chiefs

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

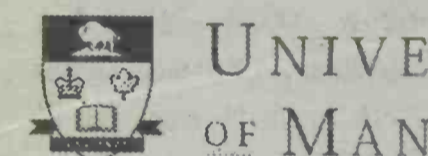
OTT.

The vote on a resolution regarding Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault's resignation passed by a narrow margin after a lively debate at the Assembly of First Nations Confederacy on Dec. 6.

Only 111 of the 143 registered chiefs and proxies were at the vote on the morning of the last day. The vote to approve the resolution was close, 46, with 10 abstentions. It works out to 51 per cent in favour. A simple majority carries a resolution at Confederacy meetings. Sixty per cent is required at annual general meetings.

The minister was clearly aware of the nature of some of the discussion. He didn't take the call for his head would have much effect, but he was happy about some of the comments made during the meeting after the resolution was passed.

"I don't think it'll have an impact on the work that we're doing on the First Nations governance initiative. The reason why I say that is because of



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Chiefs vote to call for minister's resignation

By Paul Barnsley
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

The vote on a resolution calling for Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault's resignation was passed by a narrow margin after a lively debate at the Assembly of First Nations Confederacy on Dec. 6.

Only 111 of the 143 registered chiefs and proxies were around for the vote on the morning of the last day. The vote to approve the resolution was close, 55 to 46, with 10 abstentions. That works out to 51 per cent in favor. A simple majority carries a resolution at Confederacy meetings. Sixty per cent is required at annual general meetings.

The minister was clearly aware of the nature of some of the discussion. He didn't think the call for his head would have much effect, but he wasn't happy about some of the comments made during interviews after the resolution was passed.

"I don't think it'll have any impact on the work that we're doing on the First Nations governance initiative. The reason why I say that is because this is

not about personalities. This is not about... I don't think it's appropriate, really, to get into the kind of language that was used by some of the chiefs in interviews," he said. "I'm not going to allow a debate that's so important to Aboriginal people to get to that low level. We need to stick to the high road and have discussions, not about our personalities, but more importantly about the lack of structure vis-à-vis governance and what governance has to offer as it relates to building an economy and improving the lives of First Nations citizens. I have always kept the door open for the Assembly of First Nations. I very much appreciate the fact that the national chief and the executive, in a meeting two weeks or so before the Confederacy, we agreed with each other on a joint work plan that was presented to the Confederacy that we could work together."

Shuswap Tribal Council President Art Manuel made the motion citing the "arrogant attitude of the minister."

"He has said my way or the highway to the chiefs of Canada. The minister has been closing the door to any sort of

dialogue that shows any real understanding and real movement towards the kind of changes that we need as Indigenous people," Manuel said.

Manuel, chief of B.C.'s Neskonlith band, told the chiefs they needed to send a message to the government.

"I understand that the Assembly of First Nations has suffered economic losses in terms of the kinds of financial contributions that the federal government makes to us. But that's the cost of making tough decisions," he said, in response to chiefs who worried out loud a call for the minister's resignation would close and lock the door to negotiations with the government.

"The kind of tough decision that the national chief made in South Africa, I think, really embarrassed Canada, and that's one of the reasons why Canada has cut back on funding. I think in terms of the positions that we took with respect to the First Nations governance, that's going to cost money, too. Like, nothing is free. You can't expect to get \$20 million a year from the federal government and fight them at the same time.

Twenty might go 10 and 10 might go to six. Those are the costs of the decisions we made collectively here."

He said the chiefs should not blame the national chief or the executive for decisions arrived at by a vote of assembly. He urged the chiefs to get behind the decisions of the national body.

"Asking for the resignation of the minister of Indian Affairs is one way to send a clear signal because his reputation as a minister was based upon his ability to pass the First Nations governance act and the fact that we rejected it, we have to stand behind that and say we need a new person that will look at this in a broader scope," Manuel added.

Then things started to get ugly.

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Dennis White Bird, whose organization called for Nault's resignation months ago, asked for an amendment to the resolution that showed his frustration with the minister.

"The last 'be it resolved' in the resolution talked about the honorable Robert Nault. I think 'honorable' should be taken out.

He's not very honorable in our book," he said.

The mover and seconder agreed to the amendment.

Others, including Chief Louis Quill of Pikangikum spoke in favor. Then Vice-chief Bill Erasmus had his say. Noting that Nault was the seventh minister he's worked with, the N.W.T. vice-chief said he couldn't support the motion.

"Never has the prime minister taken our advice when we take this kind of action," he said. "I can't support the motion. I won't vote against it, but I believe we need reconciliation. We need to be able to work with other people. We need to be able to work with other governments. Are we really going to influence anything by asking him to resign?"

Ojibways of Sucker Creek (Ont.) Chief Patrick Madahbee decided the time was right to tell a joke at the minister's expense before urging the executive to get to work on a comprehensive communications strategy that would put the chiefs' position on governance before the public in a favorable light.

(see Resignation page 27.)

Saskatchewan

College of Law

University of Saskatchewan invites applications for position at the rank of Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2002.

of Indigenous knowledge and ideas of justice. the College of Law, but is part of a priority university for an interdisciplinary initiative in law. The duties associated with the position include the development of the LL.B. component of the LL.M. program; development and instruction of the courses related to Indigenous knowledge and law; collaboration with other faculty members appointed to the College of Law; and pursuit of research activities related to the theme of Indigenous law and participation in interdisciplinary and international activities.

Completed LL.M. or other graduate degree and a completed graduate degree in some discipline, anthropology, political studies, Native studies, or history.

Curriculum vitae, transcripts of grades, and letters from three academic referees to the Dean at the following address: Applications will begin as of January 15, 2002.

Bilson, College of Law, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A6. Phone: (306) 966-5900; e-mail: paul.bilson@usask.ca

The College of Law may be found at www.usask.ca/university_council/

Department of Political Studies

Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan is seeking a tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant Professor, effective July 1, 2002. The position is in the area of political science and is open to candidates with a Ph.D. in one of the following areas: Aboriginal Public Administration, Aboriginal Public Policy, and Politics. Candidates should also have research experience in one or more of these areas.

Department of Political Studies but relates to a priority area of the University of Saskatchewan for an interdisciplinary initiative in law and justice. The Department's part in the development of an undergraduate program, and a graduate program, in Aboriginal Public Administration.

The position include participation in the development of an Aboriginal Public Administration; the teaching of one or more of the capstone courses in the program; and ideas of justice; collaboration with teaching responsibilities in these courses; and activities related to Aboriginal public policy, governance and politics. Candidates should have research experience in interdisciplinary and international activities.

are expected to have, or be close to having, the following:

Curriculum vitae, a statement of interests, and any available teaching experience to:

Dr. Gerald C. Story, Head, Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan, Arts Building, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A5. Phone: (306) 966-5200; fax: (306) 966-5250

to have three letters of reference sent to the following address: Applications and resumes should be received by January 15, 2002.

Department of Political Studies and its programs can be found at: www.usask.ca/politic/

to employment equity. Members of the Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, are encouraged to self-identify on their resumes with the nature of this position, preference for employment by an Aboriginal person.



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Physical Education/Kinesiology
Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Studies

Position:

Applications are invited for a tenure-track position in Physical Education/Kinesiology at the Assistant Professor level. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The appointment will begin July 1, 2002 subject to final budget approval.

Qualifications:

Candidates should possess an earned doctorate in Physical Education or a related discipline. The successful candidate will have demonstrated excellence in teaching and scholarship, including the ability to attract external funding and to maintain a program of research leading to publication in refereed journals.

Responsibilities:

The Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Studies offers undergraduate degrees in Physical Education (B.P.E.), Exercise and Sport Science (B.E.S.S.) and Recreation Studies (B.R.S.), as well as a Master of Science degree, and a Master of Arts in Recreation Studies. Approximately 400 undergraduate and 40 graduate students are enrolled in the Faculty. The Health, Leisure and Human Performance Research Institute actively facilitates interdisciplinary research within the Faculty.

The successful candidate will be required to teach and supervise students in the undergraduate and graduate programs to provide service to the University and community, and to develop and conduct an independent research program. Preference will be given to candidates qualified to teach in the areas of sociology of sport/leisure, history of sport, health education, fitness and research methods.

Application Procedure:

Applications, including a description of research, teaching and professional interests, accompanied by a curriculum vitae and the names of three references, should be sent prior to March 1, 2002 to:

Dr. Dennis Hrycaiko, Dean
Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Studies
The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Elizabeth Ready, Associate Dean (Academic)
Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation Studies
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2
Tel: (204) 474-8641; Fax: (204) 474-7634; E-mail: readyae@ms.umanitoba.ca

The University of Manitoba is a comprehensive institution of higher learning with over 24,000 students. It is located in Winnipeg, a vibrant and culturally diverse city of 650,000 residents. It is the largest city in the Province of Manitoba, and is located in the commercial, social, economic and government centre of the Province. The University of Manitoba encourages applications from qualified women and men, including members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, and persons with disabilities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian and permanent residents will be given priority.

Further information about the University of Manitoba and the Faculty may be obtained from <http://www.umanitoba.ca> and <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/physed/>



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Candidates must be registered or eligible for registration with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. Nevertheless, international applicants are encouraged to apply.

The closing date on this competition is February 8, 2002. Please quote competition number 2001-68. All qualified applicants are asked to forward their curriculum vitae and the names of three references to:

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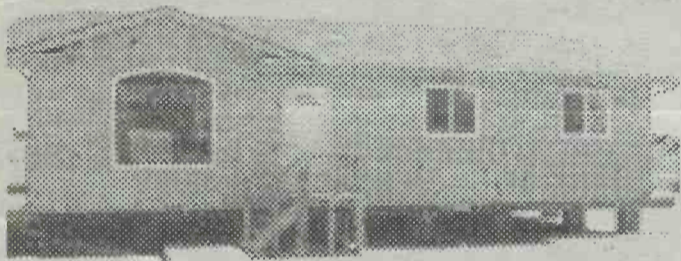
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Conference examines why people protest

The Voices conference presented by the political science students' association at the University of British Columbia is still taking shape, but organizer Jackie Hoffart hopes that folks will come away from it with a sense that political protest can be more than just carrying picket signs and blockading roads.

Voices: Understanding Protest Cultures—Understanding the Culture of Protest will be held in Vancouver on March 14 and 15. Participants will debate, investigate, analyze and have opportunity to criticize the nature of pro-

tests and what conditions spur them on. Key concepts include an historical look at repression, abroad, as well as here in Canada, the mobilization of people and their responsibilities in regard to protest, free speech and corporate media, and social change through cultural expression in music, film and other artistic endeavors.

Hoffart wants to make it clear that she is not an expert in this area.

"The beauty of putting on this conference from my perspective is that I'm sort of the audience

that I'm appealing to, which is the audience that says I want to know more about the way people make change and I want to make change myself, and I feel that there's a need for that, but I'm just not sure how."

There has been announced a call for papers that will deal with the concepts mentioned, but participation does not have to begin with such formality. She encourages anyone that feels they have information to share to make contact with the Voices conference. Contact Hoffart at voicesconference@hotmail.com.

Resignation demand futile

(Continued from page 25.)

Why does that brain on the top shelf cost \$1 million? he asked as he told the assembly his joke. "Because that one belonged to a minister of Indian Affairs—it was never used."

Musqueam First Nation (B.C.) Chief Ernie Campbell told the chiefs the motion was the wrong thing to do.

"I don't know if this is the answer," he said. "I know there is going to be a cabinet shuffle and he's going to stay where he is whether we ask for his resignation or whatever. I know we shut the door yesterday. I guess this resolution is going to go ahead. We probably locked the door now. You have to remember. He just gets his marching orders from above, from cabinet, from Treasury. If you want to ask for his resignation, you might as well ask for the resignation of his bosses, the people who are telling him what to do—cabinet, Treasury.

Ask for Chretien's resignation. Asking for his resignation, it's not going to help anything. It's not going to happen."

Williams Lake First Nation (B.C.) proxy Nancy Sandy warned the chiefs the move would not make them look good.

"I really don't understand how Aboriginal nations in this country can claim an inherent right to self-government and at the same time hang on to the fiduciary relationship they say this Indian agent has with us. I can understand the fiduciary relationship based on the Indian Act... but if we're truly sovereign nations as we claim, then there is no fiduciary. We don't have a parent to make decisions for us, to put our trust in. We are the parents if we're truly sovereign. I can't support this resolution because you say in the first sentence that Canada has a fiduciary responsibility. It's a hard thing to let go of and it's been with us for so

many years. But I can't accept the fact that Canada continues to be our parent if we're truly sovereign. How many times, Art, have any one of our chiefs here have been asked to resign because the nay-sayers in our communities don't agree with us?" she asked. "How many times has the national chief been asked to resign because the chiefs in assembly don't agree with him?"

She said "you can't just hang your head and fight. You have to stand your ground and fight."

Chief Mike Mitchell said he couldn't support the resolution because the Two Row Wampum Treaty prohibited his people from interfering in the other side's government.

"The white man has crossed over... but we have strived to adhere to the principles of the Two Row. We can't tell their government how to govern," he said.



OFNLP



**ONTARIO FIRST NATIONS LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
AND PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR JOINT APPOINTEE**

Ontario First Nations Limited Partnership and the Province of Ontario are requesting proposals from qualified proponents to provide certain financial review and reporting services relating to the uses of Casino Rama Net Revenues by Ontario First Nations. Proponents should be independent of all the parties; a chartered accountant, certified management accountant, certified general accountant or otherwise qualified to provide the services; and experience in working with First Nations.

The detailed Request for Proposals may be obtained at the following website:
www.kpmg.ca/jointappointee.

Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be made in writing by 4:00 p.m. EST on January 7, 2002 and directed to Gary Beveridge, KPMG LLP, by facsimile at (905) 523-2222.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSAL: 4:00 p.m. EST on JANUARY 14, 2002



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