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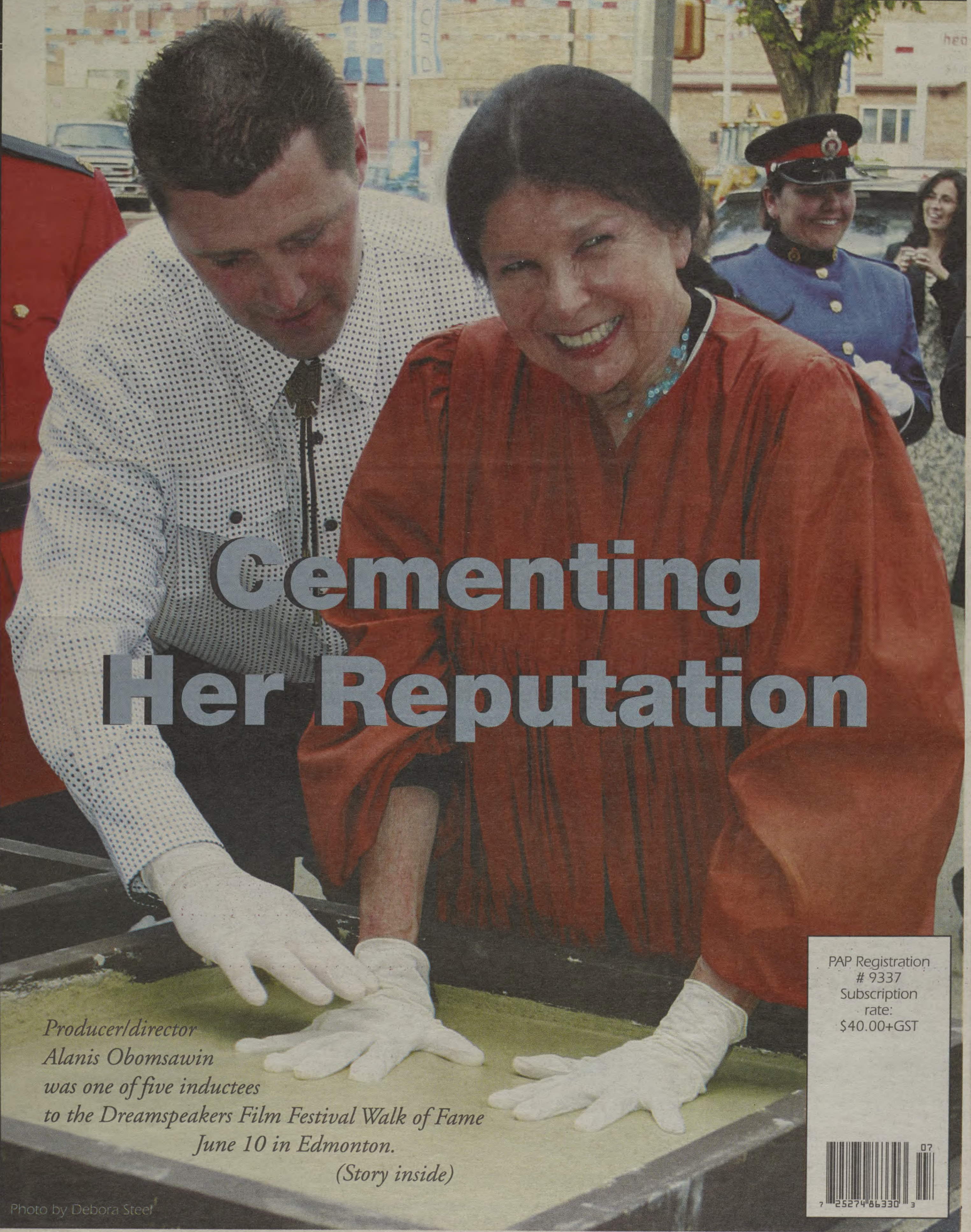


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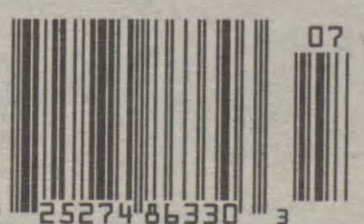
## Cementing Her Reputation

*Producer/director  
Alanis Obomsawin  
was one of five inductees  
to the Dreamspeakers Film Festival Walk of Fame  
June 10 in Edmonton.*

*(Story inside)*

Photo by Debora Steel

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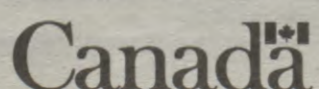
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### Two race for top job of AFN 9

Incumbent Phil Fontaine will take on challenger Bill Wilson for the position of national chief at the Assembly of First Nations' election in Vancouver in July. The chiefs will come together for their annual general meeting, with the election just one of the highlights of the three-day affair.

### Strike three for Canada at the UN 10

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice is woefully misinformed or purposely misleading the Canadian public on negotiations with the Lubicon Cree of Northern Alberta. Lubicon Cree Chief Bernard Ominayak is taking the minister to task over comments made after a third report from the United Nations that is critical of Canada on this file.

## Windspeaker Business Quarterly

### Look for it inside this issue

Windspeaker takes a look at the potential for economic success for First Nations communities along the planned route of the Gateway pipeline, and the actual prosperity being realized by Aboriginal communities in oil rich Alberta.

## Departments

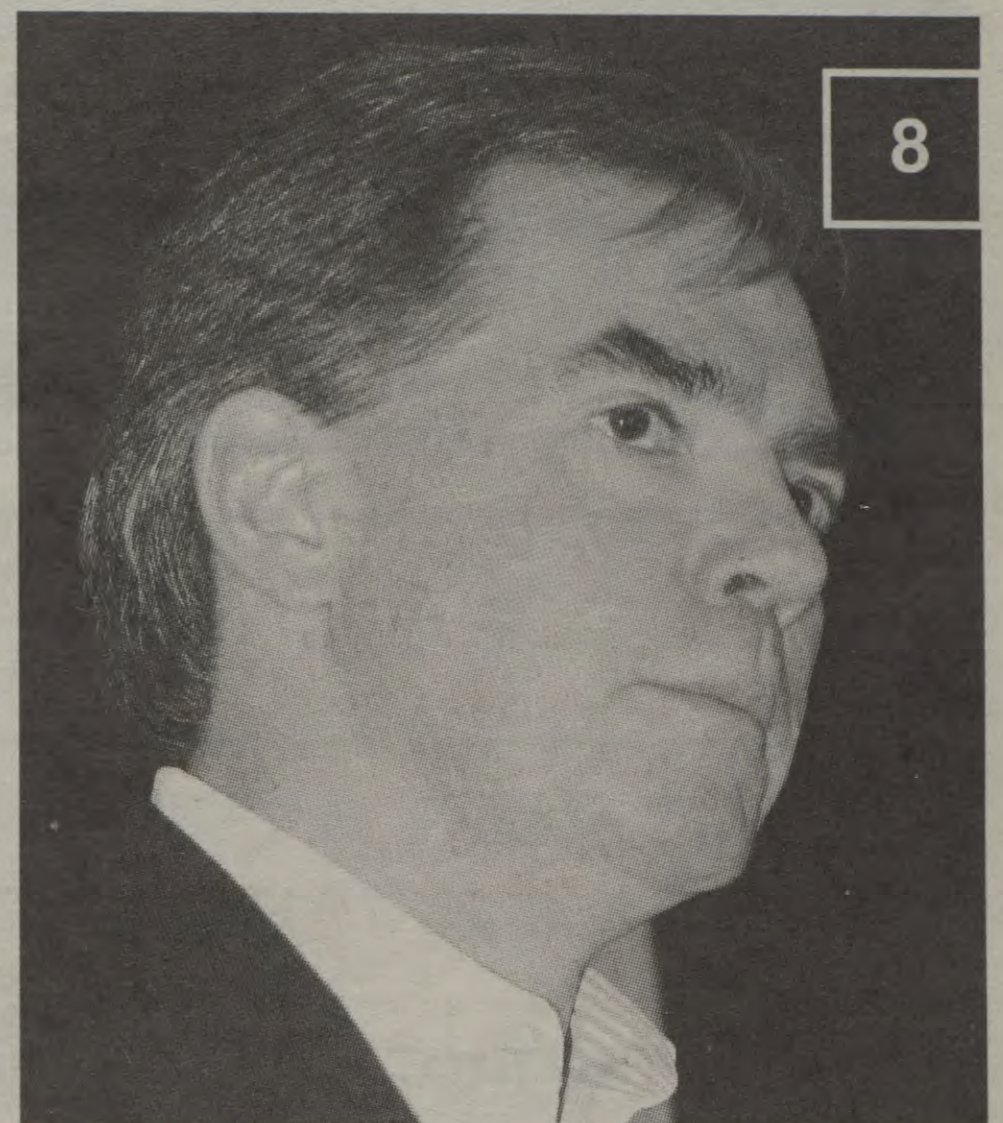
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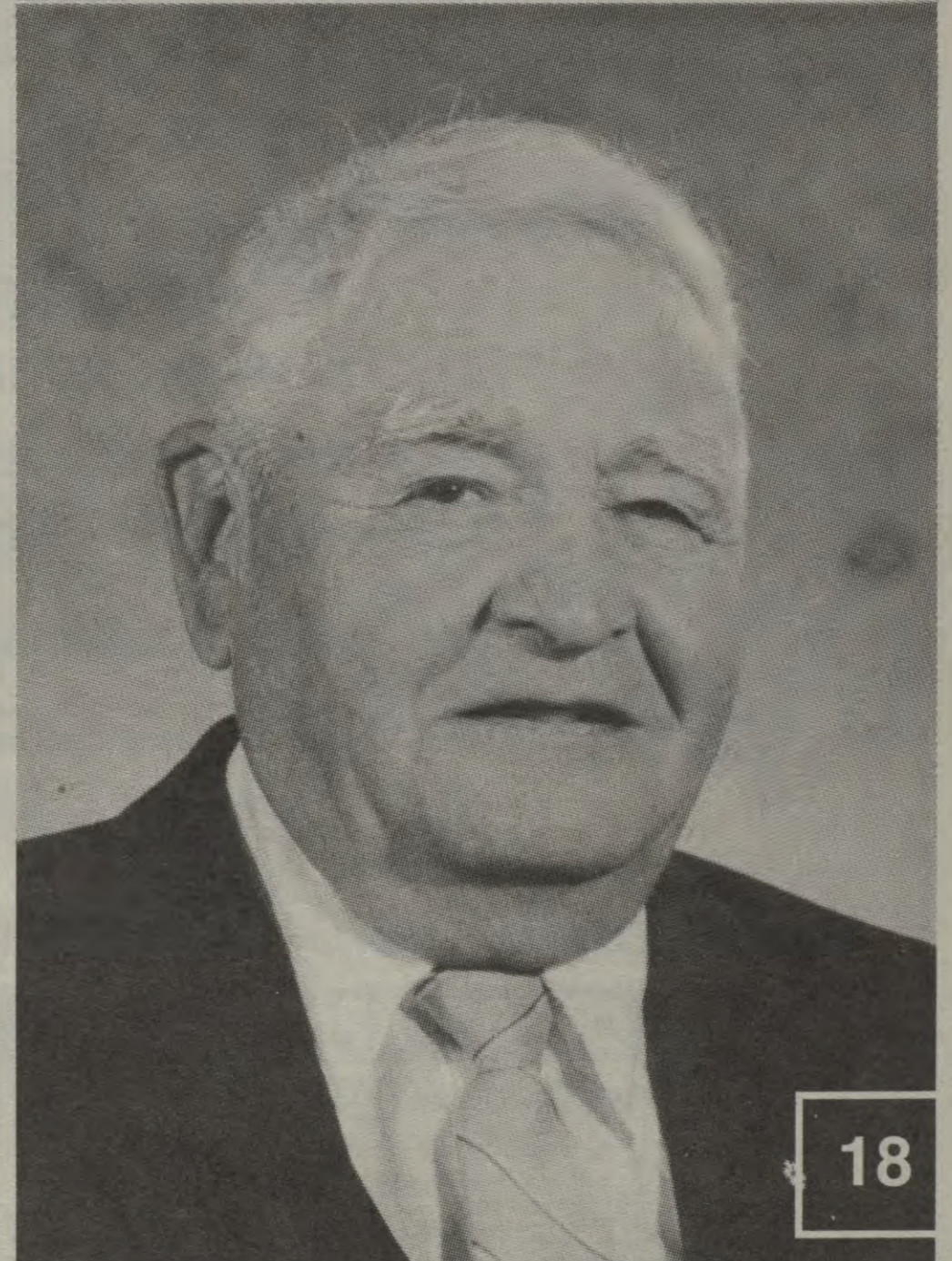
Walter Perry Deiter believed in his own capabilities and the capabilities of the Aboriginal people around him. He was among a group of people who worked to establish a national organization to represent the interests of First Nations people in Ottawa, and in 1968 became the first national chief of the National Indian Brotherhood, the precursor to the Assembly of First Nations.



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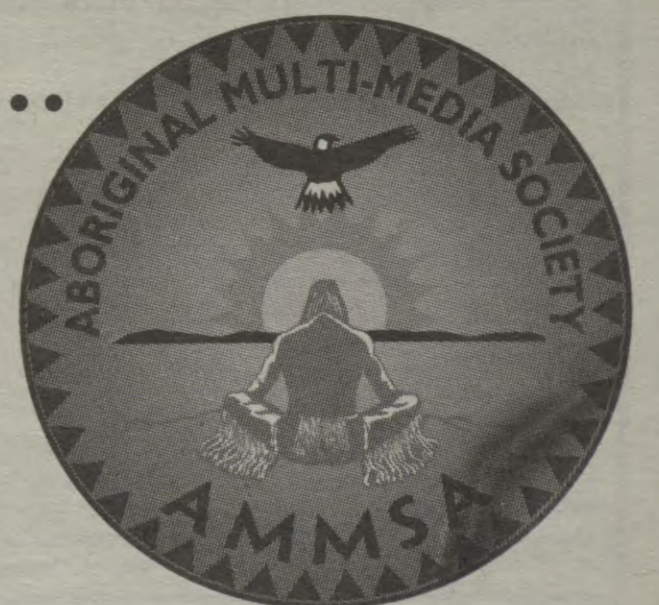
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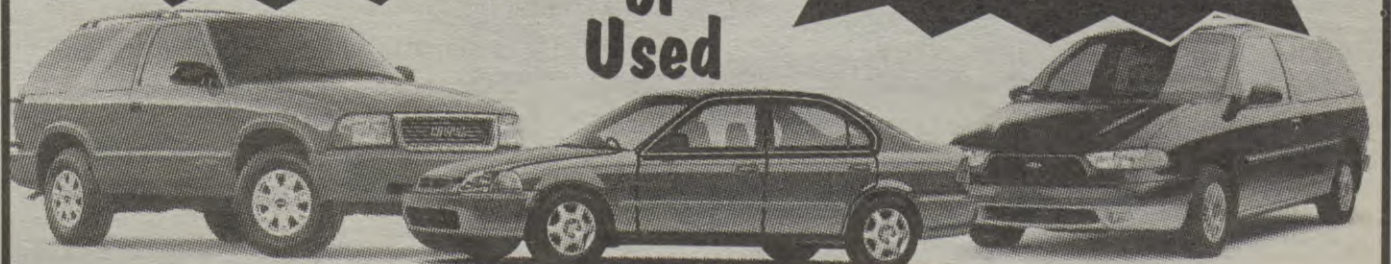
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## Our unusual step

An open response to Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine from *Windspeaker*:

First let me thank you for taking the time to respond to the editorial printed in the May 2006 issue of *Windspeaker*. (See letter entitled "Retribution not an issue.") Please know that it is an unusual step for us to respond to a letter to the editor. Our policy is to print the opinions of others on our letters page without comment or rebuttal. We take a different approach to your letter only because you ask for substantiation or retraction of some of the issues raised in the piece.

First, and perhaps a key point to be emphasized here, is that the first statement you make, that our May editorial was out of date by the time it was published, is incorrect. The May edition of *Windspeaker* was published April 20, almost three full weeks before the Conservative government officially gave the nod to the residential school compensation package. If our inability to see into the future puts us at fault in regard to an editorial position that was formulated based on the best information that we had at the time of publication, then so be it. However, many of the points on residential school compensation in your letter may best be seen through this lens.

On April 20, there was no government approval of the compensation package. No hint of it as a priority in the federal Speech from the Throne on April 4. On April 19, the prime minister announced that the deal was stalled. National chief, you admitted in late March that you too were worried at the slow pace forward on this file. (So perhaps our crystal ball isn't the only one that should be sent out for maintenance.) At the time of publication this slow movement was a source of considerable worry and frustration in the community. We said the agreement could not be considered historic until it could be counted in the win column. That day, happily and finally, has arrived, though it came months—four months to be exact—after you told survivors they would be receiving cheques "within weeks."

Success, however, should be given its due, and national chief, you did finally shepherd this historic residential school agreement across the finish line. We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge that fact now. We would also be remiss if we did not remind our readers that the status—historic or otherwise—of the Kelowna agreement remains in doubt, because the Conservative government has back-peddled away from this deal, as it has from other commitments made to Aboriginal people, including the Kashechewan relocation.

In regards to the issue of substantiating reports of a deal made between the Assembly of First Nations and the Liberal Party of Canada at the time of the last federal election, now let's make it clear: *Windspeaker* did not say the AFN had publicly endorsed any political party. What *Windspeaker* did say is that Ottawa insiders believed there was deal-making going on in our nation's capital. The AFN denies this is so, and that is its right.

You ask us to name our sources, and our answer is no. The secretive nature of First Nations politics is not something we created, but it is an environment in which we must function. There is a strong belief that retribution will be directed at those who choose to talk to the media about such things. That belief is real and impacts how we journalists do our work. The senior management of *Windspeaker* knows the names, political affiliations and titles of the people we used as sources for this material. The editor's job was to weigh their biases and look for hidden agendas. Reporters were quizzed and conclusions tested before we published. In this imperfect world of political reporting, those are the best and only checks and balances we can provide.

The AFN asserts that its relationship with the Conservative government is co-operative and constructive, and we applaud this if it is so, because the thrust of the May 2006 editorial was that no Canadian government should be using partisan anger as a foundation on which to punish hundreds of thousands of people. Over and over again in conversations with senior government staff, retired bureaucrats, highly experienced consultants and even former government ministers, we heard that the Conservative government was remaking Ottawa by removing those considered loyal to the Liberals. It should come as no surprise to you, national chief, that you are associated with the Liberals in the minds of many, many people across the country. To deny this would be disingenuous. We have been told by well-placed sources that because of this the AFN is no longer the government's favorite son. If that perception is untrue, it is for the AFN to dispel.

## Reader mistaken

Dear Editor:

Re: "*Windspeaker* should send reporters to witness CAP voting," May 2006

The assertion by your reader F. One Moon in the May 2006 edition of *Windspeaker* that "the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is a Metis organization" is incorrect and should have been more thoroughly researched by the author.

The congress was incorporated in 1971 as the Native Council of Canada to advocate on behalf of non-status Indians and Metis peoples across Canada. The council changed its name in 1994 to the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples following amendments to the *Indian Act* in response to the growing realities and needs of both status and non-status Indians and Metis peoples living off-reserve in this country.

Many past presidents of the NCC/CAP are not Metis, but treaty status Indians. This continues to this day. I am a status Indian from the Kitigan Zibi Reserve located near Maniwaki, Que. Many board members of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples are also status Indians.

This is not to say that Metis heritage is not every bit as important as that of status Indians. It is just as significant. However, for the author to claim that CAP is a Metis organization is an affront to non-status Indians, and to off-reserve status Indians.

In our view, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is an organization that promotes inclusion, recognition and accommodation of all Aboriginal peoples, regardless of status or place of residency.

As the national chief, Aboriginal peoples of all stripes and colors, including status and non-status Indians, and Metis peoples, elect me. The CAP executive is elected for three-year terms and the voting delegates at each annual general assembly are selected from grassroots people from across the country, who choose to get involved in organizations that advocate on behalf of their interests. Similar to Canadian mainstream political parties, our voting process is by means of a delegate system. There are 16 voting delegates from each province, which must include an Elder and youth from each said province. The entire process for elections in the congress are no secret either, and are featured at length on our Web site ([www.abo-peoples.org](http://www.abo-peoples.org))

Your reader contends that "CAP should and must have a public accounting of (its) membership, voters' registry, and an audited expense spread sheet of its national voting convention." On that assertion, the author is absolutely right; we do.

The answers to all your readers' questions are only a phone call, click of a mouse or a touch of a button away. We would welcome the opportunity to further enlighten anyone as to the works of the congress as we seek both recognition and accommodation of the needs and aspirations of "the Forgotten People."

Patrick Brazeau

National Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

## Hunt's to blame

Dear Editor:

The misfortune of the seal hunt is not the fault of Paul McCartney or animal rights groups, but on the hunt itself. Activists make great scapegoats but the hunt has been documented, the brutal chaos enshrined in photos, on video and in eyewitness accounts. Inuit economic devastation comes not from activists, but is a product of the larger commercial hunt. The senseless slaughter of hundreds of thousands of days-old baby seals is a crime to which all but the government and the slaughterers will admit. Seal is neither necessary nor desirable to much of the world. Combined with callous disregard for suffering, it is small wonder sealing is causing deep sorrow in Canada's north. So do not blame McCartney or the animal advocates whose compassion has grown to encompass all forms of life, but the commercial savagery that brings misery on us all.

Paul Glendenning

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the editor at 13245-146 St.  
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[ rants and raves ]

## Retribution not an issue

Dear Editor:

Re: "*A little retribution*," May 2006

It is unfortunate for your readership that your editorial was out of date by the time it was published. The editorial alleged that the final agreement on residential schools reconciliation was in jeopardy because of some perceived political pay-back by the Conservative government. This was immediately proven to be false and ill-informed when the government officially approved the agreement on May 10. The federal Minister of Indian Affairs, Jim Prentice, made this announcement in the House of Commons, and also announced that the early payment of \$8,000 to elderly residential school survivors would begin to flow immediately. I witnessed this announcement first-hand at the invitation of the minister. The first early payments went out May 29.

Your editorial states that the residential schools agreement, as well as the commitments achieved at the First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in Kelowna, were neither "agreements" nor "historic." The residential schools agreement is, in fact, both. This is the largest settlement of its kind in Canadian history. More importantly, survivors will at long last see justice, compensation and some measure of resolution in our lifetime.

I am always concerned when I see inaccurate media reports that misrepresent our people and our issues. This is made worse when inaccurate reports serve to foster a sense of hopelessness and despair among our citizens.

This inaccuracy undermines the broader point in your editorial: that somehow the AFN is being punished for not supporting the Conservative party during the federal election. The AFN did not endorse any political party during the election. Rumors of deals with any party are wrong and we ask *Windspeaker* to substantiate these unfounded and false allegations. No proof is provided to support this assertion in the editorial, and no names (or even job titles) are given of anyone able to verify the information. The only references are to vague, unidentified sources.

We flatly and categorically deny these rumors. They are not true. We would like *Windspeaker* to substantiate the allegations or issue a retraction. We understand the need to protect sources where necessary, but we trust *Windspeaker* also understands the need to back-up over-the-top allegations of this nature. We trust the editor—the gatekeeper of truth and accuracy—is not held to a lower standard than *Windspeaker* journalists.

The AFN works with the federal government, not with any one political party. Our co-operative approach of constructive engagement continues with the Conservative government, and with Opposition parties as well. If *Windspeaker* maintains there is punishment underway, they must account for the residential schools final agreement, our regular and on-going discussions and meetings with the Minister of Indian Affairs, and the joint announcements we have made such as that dealing with clean drinking water.

We do agree that the agreements from the First Ministers Meeting must be honored and implemented. It would be a mistake and a step backwards to abandon these historic commitments that are aimed at achieving social, moral and economic justice for First Nations. The lack of action by the current government is unfortunate, but cannot be seen as any move against the AFN because these agreements were achieved with representatives of the Metis and Inuit, as well as all provinces and territories. Are we all being punished?

Your editorial requires substantiation or a retraction. The editor of *Windspeaker* was clearly speculating based on bad information, and guessed wrong.

I believe we share similar goals: to foster better understanding between non-Aboriginal Canadians and the First Nations of this land and, ultimately, to improve the lives of First Nations people. We serve neither goal by playing to cynical speculation and innuendo. We must and should expect more of our media.

Phil Fontaine  
National Chief  
Assembly of First Nations

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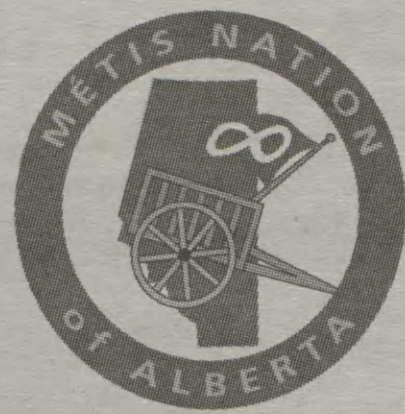


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# MNC leader seeks premier's help

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Metis National Council (MNC) leader Clem Chartier sent a letter to Saskatchewan Premier Lorne Calvert on June 6 in an attempt to get Aboriginal groups involved in the talks about the fiscal imbalance in Canada's regions.

The western premiers were about to meet in Edmonton to discuss how the federal transfer payment system could be made fairer. All premiers will gather for a First Ministers' Meeting on the subject in the fall. Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has been travelling the country trying to make the case that Ontario is paying too much into the \$11 billion annual fund that Ottawa collects and redistributes to so-called "have not" provinces.

The Edmonton meeting did not end harmoniously and the premiers will continue to work on the matter over the next several months in preparation for the First Minister's Meeting that will be chaired by Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Chartier is seeking a voice at the table with the assistance of the

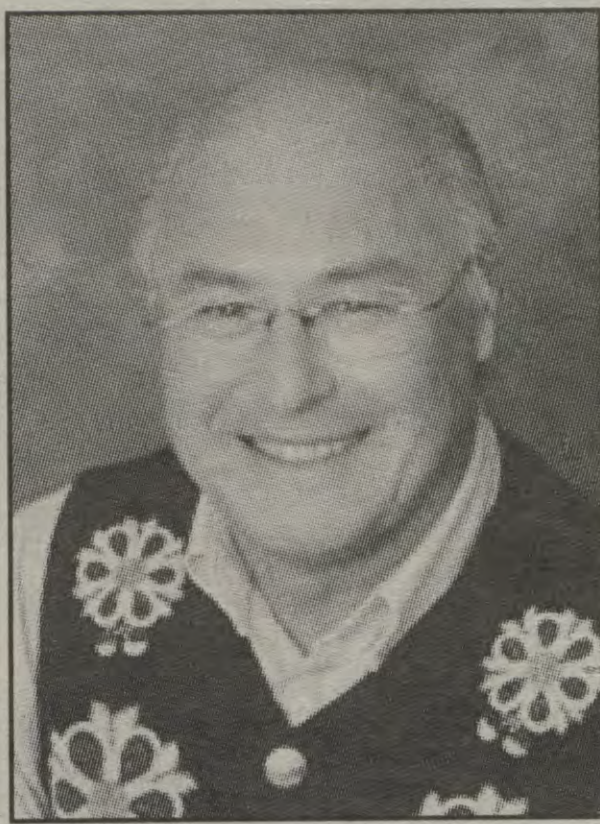
Calvert. His letter makes a simple request: Tell the Metis people where they stand by defining the federal responsibilities to the Metis and those of the provinces.

It's an issue the Conservative Party of Canada pledged to do something about when they held their policy conference in Montreal before they were elected in January. Legislating the exact limits of federal responsibility for Aboriginal issues would prevent federal bureaucrats from off-loading responsibility for programs and services for First Nation, Metis and Inuit people onto the provincial and territorial governments.

But Chartier wrote that he found the Harper government position paper on equalization payment reform, entitled *Restoring Fiscal Balance in Canada: Focusing on Priorities*, to be "troubling."

"Simply put, the current lack of clarity with respect to roles and responsibilities for the Metis people facilitates federal off-loading vis-a-vis Metis and creates a fiscal imbalance for all involved (except the federal government)," the MNC leader wrote.

He later noted that the Harper plan included federal and provincial governments but contained no mention of



Clem Chartier

Aboriginal governments.

"What we're essentially stating is that there is a commitment by the federal government, by Mr. Harper, to deal with the issue of restoring accountability to the clarification of roles and responsibilities," Chartier told *Windspeaker* during a June 7 phone interview. "We're saying 'Well, you can do this with the provinces but you also have to do this with the Aboriginal peoples and governments and involve us in a meaningful way.'"

First Nations have the Indian Act and Inuit have a 1939

Supreme Court of Canada ruling that states that Inuit are Indians for the purposes of Section 91-24 of the Constitution, the section that deals with the division of federal and provincial power. Those clearly place the jurisdiction and responsibility with the federal government. But the Metis have no such legislative support and are most prone to fall between the federal/provincial cracks, Chartier said. He said last November's Kelowna Accord saw federal and provincial officials beginning to work towards a solution to that problem.

"Kelowna sort of said, 'Let's park the issue of jurisdiction at the door and let's deal with how do we accommodate all Aboriginal people, including Metis.' So there were some solutions therein contained which we thought went a significant distance in accommodating Metis people. So, in a sense, the roles and responsibilities for all Aboriginal peoples were being worked out without dealing with the legal issue of jurisdiction," Chartier said.

In Kelowna, former prime minister Paul Martin said in his closing remarks and in response to questions from the media, that the federal government accepts its

fiduciary responsibility or jurisdiction for all Aboriginal peoples, including the Metis Nation.

"So that was a significant breakthrough for us, which I think would have gained momentum and eventually would have resolved this legal dilemma, this policy position of the federal government," Chartier added.

Noting the premiers still support the Kelowna agreement, Chartier said he was seeking their support to "press the prime minister to engage us within this new process, and within this process the Metis Nation would seek to deal with the whole issue of roles and responsibilities of all governments."

*Windspeaker* asked Chartier if he was alarmed that the Harper government document did not include Aboriginal governments.

"Yes, it is a bit disconcerting. It seems that the current view of whoever is developing this policy or this strategy is to relegate, again, Aboriginal peoples to the status of mere organizations, as opposed to either being governments or emerging governments with the inherent right of self-government with constitutional rights who should be at the table," he replied.

## Government direction remains murky

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

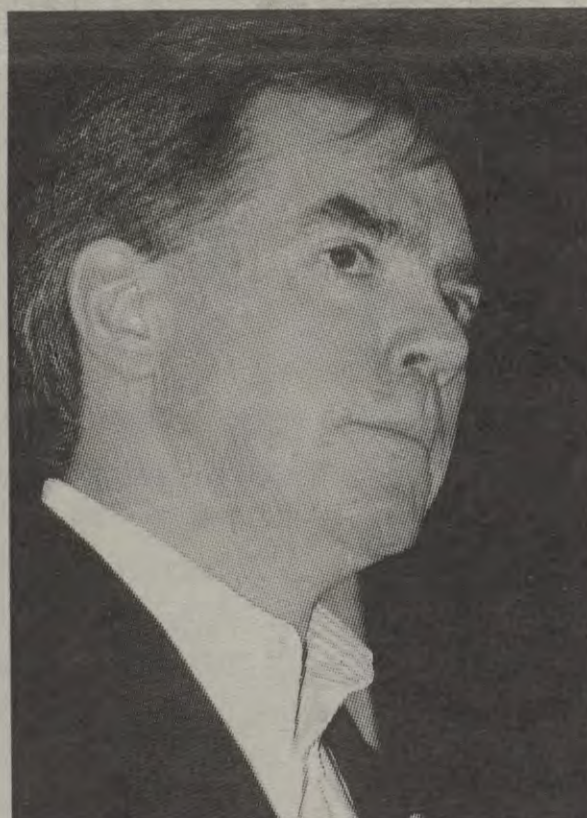
Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice was on the receiving end of criticism in May and early June as he hinted at a new approach by the new Conservative government in dealing with Aboriginal issues.

After six months of Conservative rule, specialists in Aboriginal Affairs are beginning to arrive at the position that the government has no political will to do any more than it must on Aboriginal issues, while at the same time trying to appear not to be anti-Aboriginal.

Long-time Lubicon Cree advisor Fred Lennarson said the recent controversy over the relocation of the flood-ravaged Kasheshewan First Nation in Northern Ontario is a case in point.

The battle over whether or not the Liberals budgeted funds for the move—the Conservatives say they didn't—skirts the question of whether or not the new government has the political will to actually spend money and take action on the matter.

The controversy over the lack of funding in the federal budget to implement the initiatives agreed to by provincial and territorial premiers and Aboriginal leaders at last November's First Ministers Meeting in Kelowna also adds fuel to the fire. Former Finance



Jim Prentice

Minister Ralph Goodale and current Liberal Indian Affairs critic Anita Neville say money for the Kelowna Accord was "booked" by their government. The Conservatives say there was no money committed.

Neville urged Prentice to retract his statement that the former Liberal government did not financially account for the \$5.1 billion in commitments stemming from Kelowna.

"I hope this was a case where Minister Prentice erred in speaking and not a deliberate attempt on his part to misrepresent the facts," she said, referring to comments made by the minister during question period on May 30. "He certainly knows that the Liberal government committed the Kelowna Accord dollars in the economic and fiscal update that was presented on Nov. 14, 2005."

In an interview, Neville told *Windspeaker* she believes Prentice

sincerely wants to help improve the lives of Aboriginal people. She's just not sure it's a priority for his party.

"We are all frustrated with the Conservative Party's stance on the Kelowna Accord and Aboriginal issues in general. Frankly so am I. So are the first ministers. So are Aboriginal groups from coast to coast. However that does not give Minister Prentice the justification to misrepresent the facts," she said in a release. "If he spoke inaccurately due to the frustration he is experiencing because of his party's apathy towards Aboriginal issues, he should simply clarify the record. If it was a more deliberate attempt to misrepresent the truth, then he owes all Aboriginal Canadians an apology."

Technicians in Ottawa believe the government, under Prime Minister Stephen Harper, is going to depart from the co-operative—and some say progressive—spirit that was demonstrated by the previous federal government at the First Ministers Meeting, in favor of something more dictatorial.

The minister appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs on May 31. Dr. Michael Posluns, a veteran Ottawa watcher who was, until recently, a Native Studies professor at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, went over the minister's remarks and attempted to deconstruct them.

He pointed to one quote as a sign that political considerations are getting in the way of action on the Aboriginal agenda.

"[B]asic democratic values must be promoted, such as transparency in governance structures among governments, accountability and responsibility of all elected officials to their members," Prentice told the standing committee, hinting at the return of governance legislation for First Nations.

"This is another way of disparaging First Nations, of course," said Posluns. "Far from supporting self-government, Prentice will introduce legislation that aggrandizes his own office and subjects First Nations to greater controls rather than fewer controls."

Posluns pointed to successive reports from auditors general that insist First Nations are required to provide far more reporting than any local government created by provinces.

"Ministers who jump up and down calling for more accountability are saying exactly the opposite of what the auditor general is saying."

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Phil Fontaine, appearing before the standing committee on June 7, "respectfully but vigorously" challenged Prentice's remarks.

"The minister spoke of some plans to address his government's priorities. He may have left you with the impression that First Nations have been consulted and support those plans," he said. "While the minister and I have ongoing discussions and share concerns on a number of

matters, such as education, housing and issues pertaining to women, children and families, we are not involved in any working groups. We do not agree that First Nations have been consulted on any plans and I have not given the AFN's support to those ideas the minister described."

So far, any criticism of Conservative policy made by the Opposition Liberals has been deflected. Fontaine challenged the wisdom of this strategy.

"I am deeply concerned that the current government is responding to criticisms about its lack of action on our issues by, in turn, pointing the finger at the previous government and its supposed lack of action. We should not be debating who's more inactive. We should be taking action. Real leadership means turning inertia into energy for the betterment of all Canada," he said.

Fontaine also took note of the fact that the Conservative Party has been lukewarm in its response to the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"Let us remember that Canadians are watching and the world is watching," he told the standing committee. "Canada's reputation as a beacon of Aboriginal rights has, frankly, always been built on shaky ground. And it has begun to collapse in recent years under the weight of international scrutiny by the United Nations, Amnesty International and other international organizations."



# Head to head for national chief

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

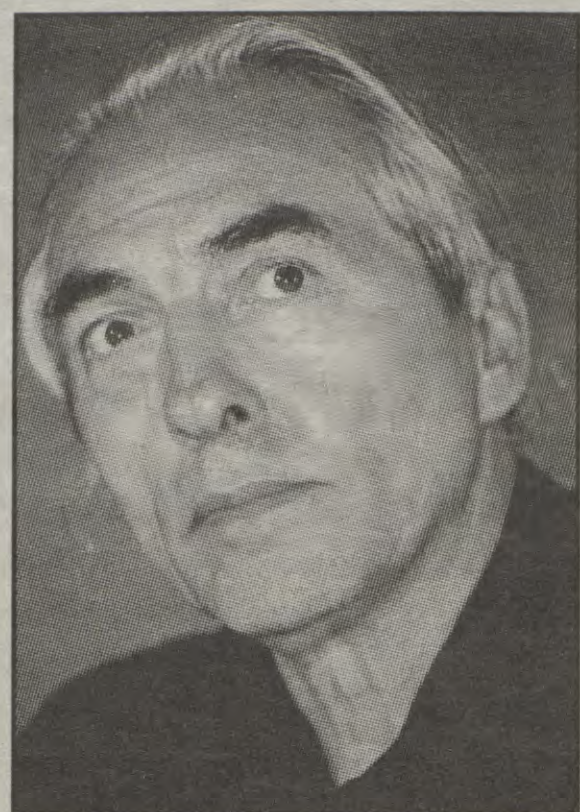
## VANCOUVER

It'll be Phil versus Bill when the election for national chief is held on July 12, the middle day of the three-day Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) 27th annual general assembly.

National Chief Phil Fontaine, a Seaulteux (Ojibway) from the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba, will be seeking his third term as leader of the AFN.

Fontaine will be opposed by only one other candidate, Bill Wilson, a hereditary Kwakwaka'wakw/Musgamagw chief from Cape Mudge on the West Coast.

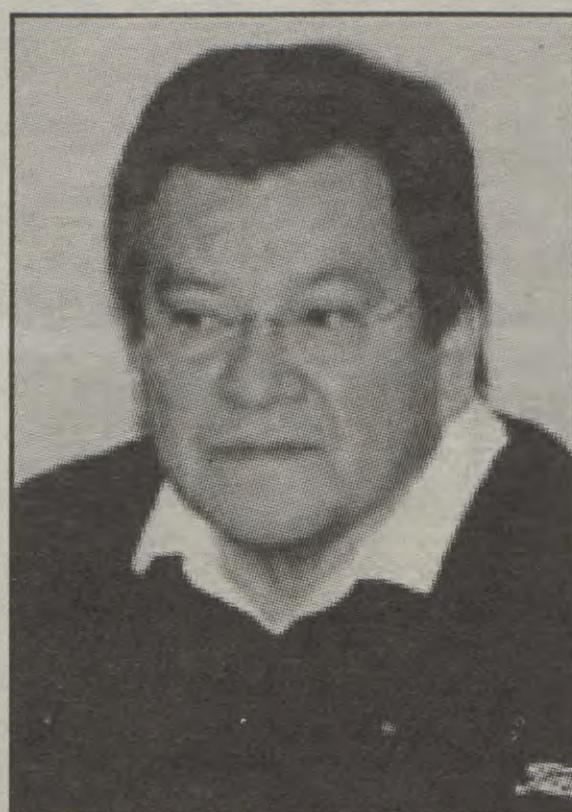
It's a homecoming of sorts for Fontaine, who was first elected at the site of this year's vote—the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre—in 1997. He was upset by Matthew Coon



Phil Fontaine

Come at the Ottawa Civic Centre in 2000 but returned the favor in Edmonton three years later to return to the national chief's office.

*Windspeaker* asked from both candidates a list of the 15 nominators that a candidate must have to comply with the AFN charter. Wilson provided a



Bill Wilson

complete list and in our interview with him had lots to say.

"The basic reason I'm running is that I really believe that things have to be said in regard to the political direction of the organization. I simply find, and I've said this on numerous occasions, and I guess that's why I'm in trouble in B.C. and around

the country, that an organization that seems to be dominated by white assumptions is not what our Aboriginal people require. I think the issues need to be discussed. We're putting aside the major issues our people should be dealing with instead of confronting them head on: child abuse, family abuse, spousal abuse, alcohol, drugs, sexual abuse in the communities. We don't talk about those things. It's pretty hard to think about those things when you're flying to Australia or Israel or wherever it is these guys are going to lately."

He believes there should be two structures within the AFN, one for programs and services and the other dealing with treaties and land claims, which he called "the most important issues."

"If you could decide the two, instead of mixing them as we've done since 1969, I think we might make more progress on the more important issues, of which Caledonia is one," he said.

"Obviously the communities need money. But if we're going to pursue the larger issues we're going to have to pursue them with a stronger political organization that isn't dependent on the existence of those handouts."

Wilson is seen as a controversial figure. He has been the centre of major storms because of past remarks he has made.

In an article in a Vancouver newspaper a few years ago, he criticized First Nation leaders.

"I referred to them as 'hang around the fort Indians.' I still believe that. I wouldn't change one thing," he said.

Earlier in his career he responded angrily to non-Native politicians.

"The exact quote was: You were nothing but a bunch of dirty, smelly white people on boats and if we'd known what you were going to do, we should have killed you all," he said.

(see Top job page 11.)

## Barricades come down around Six Nations

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

### CALEDONIA, Ont.

Days after Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty announced on June 10 that his negotiators would no longer participate in talks aimed at resolving the more than 100-day-old Caledonia land rights protest, the barricades in the town came down.

After the decision was reached (to dismantle the barricades) by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy Council, work began at about 10 p.m. on June 12 to remove obstructions to a railway line and a highway bypass that had been in place since April 20. An additional blockade of the main street of the town of Caledonia was lifted on May 16. Eyewitnesses report that a burnt-out van was removed from the bypass and provincial inspectors checked the road for damage. Fourteen Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) vehicles were observed parked near exits to the bypass to provide security. Inspectors were also looking over the railway line to see if train traffic could resume.

A local source said all routes were fully operational the next day. Negotiations were scheduled to resume on June 15 (after *Windspeaker* deadline).

The three routes were blocked in an angry response to an early morning OPP raid on the Douglas Creek Estates, a housing development under construction on disputed land that had been occupied by people from the Six Nations community in late February.

McGuinty issued his ultimatum after the latest of a number of violent confrontations resulted in injuries on June 9. An elderly man was taken to hospital after reportedly suffering a heart attack during a confrontation with Native protesters. A cameraman

for a Hamilton television station required stitches to a wound on his head after being confronted by Native men who demanded his tape, which he refused to surrender.

In a bizarre twist, two U.S. law enforcement officers in an unmarked Border Patrol SUV were involved in an altercation with Native protesters. The vehicle was taken behind the barricades and later returned. But documents bearing the home addresses of undercover OPP officers were found in the vehicle by occupiers.

Five townspeople were arrested, charged and released during the Friday night violence on June 9.

Dick Hill is seen in the Six Nations community as one of the main organizers behind the original occupation at Douglas Creek Estates. His wife Hazel Hill has been one of the main spokespersons for the occupiers.

Dick Hill said the Douglas Creek Estates occupation will continue.

"We're there," he said, during a phone interview on June 14, adding the number of people at the development "varies from time to time, anywhere from 15 to 500."

Hill has been described as a Warrior Society member and has led occupations in the past. One occupation of the Indian Affairs office at the Eagle's Nest business park in Brantford in the mid-1990s, ended when clan mothers told the occupiers to give it up.

Hill said some of the frontline people at the occupation were upset when the Confederacy council decided to call for the removal of the blockades.

"Some people are getting downhearted but we just explain the big picture and go from there," he said. "There was a little dissension there at first. You carry on."



JIM WINDLE

Ontario chiefs walk in solidarity with protesters on the eve of the 100th day (June 7) of the Six Nations occupation of Douglas Creek Estates in Caledonia.

He said police sources gave conflicting stories about the presence of the U.S. officials.

"We got about 10 different answers as to why they were there. The first one was that he was there visiting his friend and then his friend didn't materialize. And we asked what the hell he was doing with his damned U.S. car and all his equipment on if he just came up to visit his friend?" Hill said. "And that's an awful long visit. He's been there since before April 2."

Hill described the presence of sensitive papers in the Border Patrol vehicle as "not the most brilliant thing to do."

He pointed out that this first major Native rights confrontation in the day of cell phones and e-mail is starkly different from past confrontations.

"The world is watching. We get e-mails all day from all over the world. Every day the machine's just jammed up with e-mails from all over the place," he said.

*Windspeaker* asked how long the Douglas Creek Estates occupation will go on.

"We're there for eternity. It's our land. We're not leaving it. Bring in the body bags. If you take us out it's going to be filled up again, simple as that. That's quite

obvious," he said. "They came in on April 20 and took the guys out and an hour later they were right back there with 5,000 people. So what does that tell you?"

He said he was surprised at how the Six Nations community rallied behind the occupation in the days after the OPP raid.

"To tell you the truth, it shocked me. I was the happiest person in the world on April 20 when I saw all those people there. I mean, you had longhouse people, you had band council people, you had church people, everything was there and for the same reason," he said.

After the OPP issued arrest warrants for seven of the occupiers, the Haudenosaunee Council met on Saturday June 10.

"The individuals involved in these incidents were brought before the Confederacy chiefs and clan mothers on June 11 to discuss and understand the incidents. The Confederacy chiefs and clan mothers spoke with these individuals about the Great Law of Peace and how it is to guide our actions. Our investigation is continuing. It was decided that for the safety of all involved, these individuals would be removed from the site until our investigation is complete," April Powless, a Confederacy spokesperson, said.

The charged individuals have not been turned over to the OPP and may not be, something that will cause friction between the Confederacy and the provincial and federal governments.

"Under our treaties the only issues which fall under the Crown's jurisdiction are murder, rape and theft. According to the treaty Fort Albany made with the Crown there is an extradition process, which must be followed in order to address any of these three issues," Powless added.

Arrest warrants have been issued for Albert Douglas, 30, of Ohsweken, who is charged with robbery, failing to comply with his bail conditions (two counts), attempt murder, forcible confinement, dangerous driving, assault of a police officer and theft of a motor vehicle.

Audra Ann Taillefer, 45, of Victoria, B.C. is charged with intimidation (two counts) and robbery. Skylar Williams, 22, of Ohsweken, is charged with robbery. Arnold Douglas, 61, of Ohsweken, is charged with intimidation (two counts). Trevor Miller, 30, of no fixed address, is charged with robbery and theft of motor vehicle. Ken Hill, 47, of Ohsweken, Ont. is charged with assault (two counts).

(see Six Nations page 17.)

# Strike three for Canada at the UN

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

GENEVA

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice's remarks regarding a United Nations committee's judgment of Canada's performance under the covenant on economic, civil and political rights have caused a stir.

The remarks were made after the release of a UN report related to Canada's treatment of the Lubicon Cree people of Northern Alberta. The United Nations human rights committee has twice before cited Canada for violating the human rights of the Lubicons. On May 19, the UN committee on economic, social and cultural rights issued a third, similar ruling on the case.

Prentice portrayed the UN committee's findings in a way that Lubicon Cree Nation Chief Bernard Ominayak and several international observers say is misleading—or even false.

"All of these remarks are untrue. Either Mr. Prentice is misinformed or he is deliberately misleading the Canadian public," Ominayak said.

Ominayak said that Prentice's comments that "the position that the government of Canada has put on the table was described in a previous United Nations report as a fair and reasonable position" is based on false information.

Lubicon advisor Fred Lennarson explained. He said the comment refers to an offer the Mulroney government made to the Lubicon in January 1989.

"They did not tell the United Nations' committee that this was a take-it-or-leave-it offer. I talked to UN committee staffers and they said that the government made an offer and they're pleased that there are negotiations going on and what they're saying is that they're encouraging both sides to continue negotiating in good faith. The government turned around and said that the committee approved that offer as an appropriate settlement of

Lubicon land rights, not that they were saying to both sides, 'We're pleased to see that you're negotiating, keep it up.'"

The Lubicon negotiations have proceeded, off and on, for more than 60 years. Successive Canadian governments have failed to meet the demands of the Lubicon people. Lennarson said the Lubicons, who were missed by Treaty 8 negotiators in the late 19th century, can legitimately claim title to their homeland. But the government ignores that legal reality, he said, and tries to force the Lubicons to fit into the Indian Act system. Talks currently are on hold and there is no federal negotiator working on the Lubicon file.

"The government's position throughout has been normal government programs and services. You know the problem with that. Can you name one single Aboriginal community in the country that's economically self-sufficient under normal government programs and services? That's what's wrong with it," Lennarson said. "What the government is offering the Lubicons is a life on welfare. They've got that already. There is no motivation for the Lubicons to agree to that. There is no motivation to cede the heritage of their children and grandchildren in exchange for welfare, which they've got now and which they'll continue to get. The government's pleased to pay that price for taking billions of dollars in resources."

The UN committee's carefully worded remarks on the Lubicon matter urged Canada to do what it had to do to break the impasse.

"The committee strongly recommends that the state party resume negotiations with the Lubicon band, with a view to finding a solution to the claims of the band that ensures the enjoyment of their rights under the [economic, civil and political rights] covenant. The committee also strongly recommends the state party to conduct effective consultation with the band prior to the grant of licenses for

economic purposes in the disputed land, and to ensure that such activities do not jeopardize the rights recognized under the covenant."

In the bureaucratic and diplomatic world of the UN, the phrase "strongly recommend" is to be read as reflecting a certain amount of impatience and frustration, international observers say.

The Lubicons have support around the world. Amnesty International filed a report with the UN committee about the Lubicon situation entitled *It Is A Matter Of Rights*.

"In November 2005 the Human Rights Committee renewed its call for Canada to make every effort to resume negotiations 'with a view to finding a solution which respects the rights of the band.' In the absence of such a solution the culture and welfare of the Lubicon Cree remains in jeopardy," the report concluded.

Ominayak and Lennarson believe the minister's remarks are designed to mislead the Canadian public about what's really going on.

Prentice said that "in the time the Lubicon negotiations have been going on, the government of Canada and the government of

Alberta have settled nine other treaty land entitlement cases in the Treaty 8 boundaries."

"In fact, the Lubicon dispute is not a treaty land entitlement case," Ominayak said. "A treaty land entitlement dispute involves lands which should have been provided under mutually-agreed treaty terms but for one reason or another were not. The Lubicon people have never signed a treaty with Canada and therefore retain unextinguished Aboriginal title to our entire traditional territory. Under Canadian law, Canada must negotiate a treaty with the Aboriginal owners of a geographical area before assuming jurisdiction. Canada has never done that with our people."

Prentice said "the problem with the Lubicon has been the inability of the government of Canada and government of Alberta to meet the expectations that the Lubicon negotiators have set forth."

Ominayak said the Lubicons only expect just compensation for agreeing to cede title to their homeland, from which \$13 billion worth of natural resources has been extracted with no compensation for the Lubicons.

The Lubicon leaders are also angry that international human rights groups that have written to

Prentice out of concern for the Lubicons have received replies. Four letters from Ominayak to the Indian Affairs minister, the first dated the day after the Conservative Party of Canada won the federal election, had not received a response of any kind as of June 14. But at least three international groups that monitor human rights issues—from Germany, Belgium and Austria—have received hand-signed responses from the Indian Affairs minister.

A member of one of those groups, Dionys Zink of the Munich-based Aktionsgruppe Indianer & Menschenrechte, spoke to *Windspeaker* by phone in late May. Zink has visited Lubicon territory in the past and has followed the situation there for almost 20 years.

"As I sit here, I'm about 20 km away from Dachau [a former Nazi concentration camp] and I know we here in Germany have our own fair share of horrible history. But this is more about the present," he said.

He said Prentice's contention that the UN committee saw Canada's position as "fair and reasonable" is simply "not true."

He urged the minister to stop playing politics with the Lubicon people's human rights.



Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

## PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT

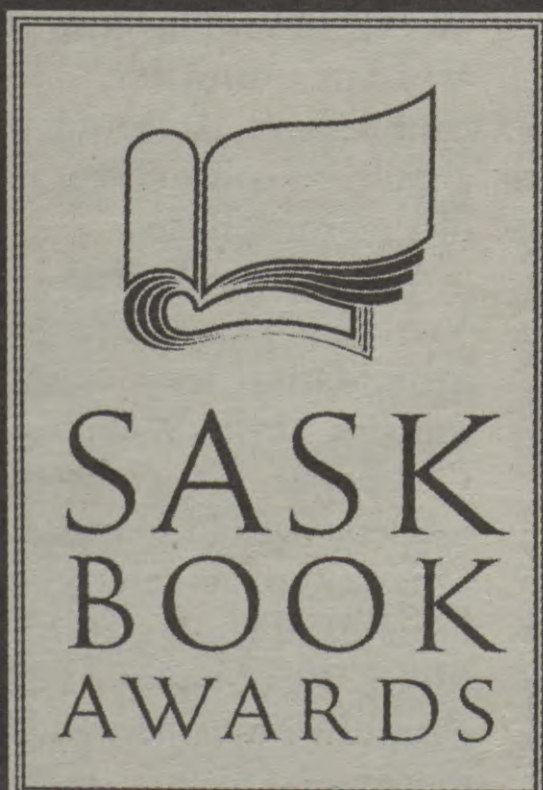
The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Notice of Public Hearing, available at [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), that it will hold a two-day public hearing on the application by SRB Technologies (Canada) Inc. for the renewal of its Nuclear Substance Processing Facility Operating Licence. SRB Technologies (Canada) Inc. has applied for a 3-year licence. The hearing will be held in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on **August 17, 2006, and October 25, 2006.**

The public is invited to comment on the application by providing a written submission and, if desired, by presenting an oral summary of the submission on Hearing Day Two. Requests to intervene must include a written submission and must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by September 25, 2006 along with the complete text of any oral presentation. Hearing documents (submissions) are not available on-line and must be requested through the Secretariat at the address below. For more information, instructions on how to participate in this public hearing process or the complete text of the official Notice of Public Hearing, see [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), and refer to Notice of Public Hearing 2006-H-07, or contact:

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

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

## Call for Entries:



### First Peoples Publishing Award:

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- This award is presented to the Saskatchewan publisher of the best book by an author of First Nations, Metis or non-status Indian descent.
- The award will be based on Aboriginal content, literary and artistic value, editing, book design and production.
- Authors or editors may reside anywhere in the world.
- Entries may be in any Aboriginal language used in Saskatchewan or French or English.
- The First Peoples Publishing Award is sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan.

See our web site, [www.bookawards.sk.ca](http://www.bookawards.sk.ca), for a complete list of awards & eligibility requirements.

Deadline for entries:  
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Saskatchewan Book Awards  
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## Windspeaker's Special Section Serving the Aboriginal People of Ontario



SGT. PETER MOON, CANADIAN RANGERS

Marie Anderson, daughter of Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow, Canada's most decorated Aboriginal soldier, is assisted by Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman as she unveils a cairn honoring her father at Canadian Forces Base Borden. The headquarters of the 3rd Canadian Rangers Patrol Group at the base was named the Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow, MM Building during a ceremony on June 6. Pegahmagabow, who served as a scout and sniper with the 1st Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First World War, earned a Military Medal and two bars for his courage under fire during the battles at Ypres, Festubert, Givenchy, Passchendaele and Scarpe.

### Rogers to receive commendation

Ray Rogers of Sarnia has been chosen to receive the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation, awarded to Canadians who have contributed to the care and well being of veterans and to the remembrance of their sacrifices and achievements.

Rogers, who is president of the First Nations Veterans of Canada Association, will receive the award in recognition of his work to increase awareness of the contributions made by Aboriginal veterans.

Rogers was a member of the Aboriginal Veterans Working Group that planned the Aboriginal Spiritual Journey and Calling Home Ceremony, held in the fall of 2005 to revisit the European battlefields of the First and Second World Wars and call home the spirits of fallen soldiers. He took part in the journey, sharing his knowledge about the wars and the role Aboriginal soldiers played in them.

Sixty-nine commendations will be given out this year, with three going to



Ray Rogers

Aboriginal veterans. Metis Veteran Ed Borchert from Calgary and Peter Irniq of Iqaluit, who built an inuksuit at the Juno Beach Centre as part of the Aboriginal Spiritual Journey, will also receive commendations.

### Stats show Aboriginal people more likely to become victims of violence

Aboriginal people in Canada are three times more likely to be victims of violence than are non-Aboriginal Canadians, according to *Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada*, a report released by Statistics Canada on June 6.

The report, which bases many of its findings on a general social survey conducted in 2004, showed that the risk of becoming a victim of violence was highest among Aboriginal youth, with individuals between the ages of 15 and 34 nearly two-and-a-half times more likely to be victims than individuals over the age of 34.

The statistics show that, in 56 per cent of the cases where Aboriginal people have been victims of violence, the violent act was committed by someone known to the victim—a relative, friend or acquaintance. For non-Aboriginal victims, the perpetrator was known to the victim 41 per cent of the time.

Aboriginal people are more than three times more likely to be the victims of physical or sexual abuse by a spouse than are non-Aboriginal people—with 21 per cent of Aboriginal

people and six per cent of non-Aboriginal people reporting being victims of spousal abuse in the five years preceding the survey.

The statistics around homicides show an even larger gap, with Aboriginal people seven times more likely to become victims of homicide and 10 times more likely to be accused of committing a homicide than non-Aboriginal people.

Living on reserve seems to increase a person's chances of becoming a victim of violence, the report shows. In 2004, the on-reserve crime rate was three times that of the rest of Canada. For violent crimes, the on-reserve rate was eight times that of the rest of the country.

The report highlights some of the possible reasons why Aboriginal people are more likely to become victims and offenders, including the relative youth of Canada's Aboriginal population. In 2004, the violent victimization-rate for Canadians between the ages of 15 and 24 was the highest of all age groups. According to stats from 2001, people in that age group make up about 17 per cent of the

total Aboriginal population, while only accounting for 13 per cent of the non-Aboriginal population.

Other factors that could have an impact, the report suggests, are disparities in levels of education between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, higher unemployment rates and lower incomes among Aboriginal people and the higher rate of single-parent families among Aboriginal populations. Aboriginal people living off-reserve are also more likely to live in overcrowded conditions—25 per cent of Aboriginal children living off-reserve live in conditions considered overcrowded, compared to 13 per cent for children overall.

The higher rate of mobility of Aboriginal people, which can make it difficult to provide social programming, was also cited.

Victimization and offending among the Aboriginal population in Canada was prepared by the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and was compiled using data from victimization, police and corrections surveys.

## Feds to develop another plan for Kashechewan

Community members and Aboriginal leaders were buoyed in May by an announcement that the Ontario provincial government had put its support behind plans to move the beleaguered community of Kashechewan to higher ground, but any optimism that relocation might become a reality sooner rather than later has been quashed by news that there is no money in the federal coffers to pay for the move.

The news came from Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice, who stood up in the House of Commons on June 2 and said that while the former Liberal government came up with a plan last year to relocate the community, no money was budgeted to pay for the move.

Spring flooding wreaked havoc in Kashechewan earlier this year and most of the residents were forced to evacuate because of rising

waters, an annual problem because the community is situated on a floodplain. The community was also evacuated last fall when problems with the water treatment plant resulted in E.coli contamination of its drinking water.

"We need to work together with the Kashechewan community and we will be doing that," Prentice said. "We will find a suitable alternative location and we will build a proper community."

On June 6, the minister announced the appointment of former Ontario cabinet minister Alan Pope as a special federal representative who will work with the people of Kashechewan, the provincial government and other affected parties to "find a lasting solution" to the community's problems. Pope is expected to report back to the minister on his findings in the fall.

## Beaucage acclaimed

John Beaucage will continue on in the role of Anishinabek Nation-Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) grand council chief for another three years after being acclaimed during the UOI election held on Sand Point First Nation on June 13 during the organization's annual general assembly.

Beaucage has held the post of grand council chief since October 2004. The 54-year-old politician is a member of Wasauksing First Nation and

served as that community's chief for eight years prior to his election as grand council chief.

While Beaucage faced no challengers in the election there were two candidates vying for the role of deputy grand council chief—Glen Hare of M'Chigeeng First Nation and Val Monague of Beausoleil First Nation. In the end, Hare was the victor.

Nelson Toulouse, the previous deputy grand council chief, did not run for re-election.

## Historic site to host Metis Day celebration

Metis culture and tradition will be celebrated and shared on Aug. 12 as the historic site Discover Harbour plays host to Metis Day.

Discover Harbour, located on Georgian Bay in Penetanguishene, features a reconstruction of the British naval and military establishment that existed on the site from 1817 to 1856. The area is rich in Metis history, as many voyageur families migrated to the area in the early part of the 19th century.

Metis artisans will be on hand

to demonstrate a variety of crafts including beading, candle making and construction of a capote, a traditional Metis coat made from Hudson Bay blankets. Performances by Metis musicians are also on the agenda, along with tours of the historic site.

Discovery Harbour is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. From July 1 to Sept. 3 the site will be open seven days a week.

For more information about Metis Day, contact Mary Mandley (705) 528-7693.

## Friendship centres get \$77 million in funding

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) will be receiving \$77 million in federal funding, it was announced on May 18.

The money, to be spread out over four years, will allow the NAFC to continue to manage

and deliver programming for friendship centres and urban multipurpose Aboriginal youth centres and to continue Young Canada Works for Aboriginal Urban Youth. Just under \$38.5 million has been allocated for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

## Events planned for treaty centennial

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) has officially begun the final summer of its two-year commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the signing of James Bay Treaty 9.

The James Bay Treaty 9 area takes in two-thirds of the province of Ontario and is home to about 45,000 First Nations people living on-reserve. Last year, each of the seven First Nations that signed the treaty in 1905 hosted events to mark the anniversary. This year, the eight communities that signed in 1906 will do the same.

This year's commemoration began on June 7 on Wahgoshig (Abitibi) First Nation. The second event of the summer took place on Matachewan First Nation on June 17.

Mattagami First Nation is scheduled to hold an event to mark the treaty-signing anniversary on July 7. Events are also planned on Chapleau Ojibwe First Nation on July 21, Chapleau Cree First Nation on July 22 and Brunswick House First Nation on July 25.

The main commemoration will take place on Ginoogaming (Long Lake) First Nation on Aug. 9, with local, regional and national dignitaries, provincial and federal government officials and Aboriginal leaders expected to attend. Ginoogaming was the last First Nation to sign James Bay Treaty 9 in 1906.

The focus of the commemorative events has been both to reflect on the past 100 years and to look to the future, working to build relationships and find ways to improve the lives of people living in NAN's 49 First Nation communities.

For more information on plans for the treaty centennial visit the NAN Web site at [www.nan.on.ca](http://www.nan.on.ca).

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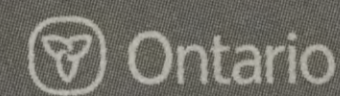
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For more information, please contact  
Cynthia White @ 450-635-4374 or  
visit our website at [www.ksdpp.org](http://www.ksdpp.org)

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## Ontario acts chosen for CD

Fifteen independent Aboriginal acts from across the country will be featured on the latest Dig Your Roots CD compilation. Representing Ontario on the disc will be the roots and blues duo Digging Roots from Barrie, the award-winning blues musicians of the Pappy Johns Band from Ohsweken and Toronto's Graeme Jonez, whose songs fuse storytelling with folk/rock melodies.

The artists selected to represent the Atlantic region on the compilation disc are Rez Villain from Bedford, N.S., Shirley Montague from Norris Point, Nfld. and Richard M. Gloade from Fredericton, N.B.

Artists from the Quebec/North region include Tagaq from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Jef Tremblay et les Elements from Quebec City and Sinuupa from Kuujujuaq, Que.

Representing the Prairie/North region are Eekwol from Muskoday First Nation, Sask., Leela Gilday from Yellowknife and Winnipeg's X-STATUS. Rounding out the lineup are three artists from the Pacific/North region—Sandy Scofield from Vancouver, Ed Peekeekoot from Crofton, B.C. and Elaine Jakesta from Watson Lake, Yukon.

Dig Your Roots—Aboriginal

is the fifth CD compilation in the series, a project of the National Campus and Community Radio Association. The goal of Dig Your Roots is to promote Canadian artists who specialize in musical genres that are under-represented in the commercial radio sector.

The CD was released on May 29. A series of concerts featuring the selected artists will take place in five locations across the country from June 17 to 29. Each of the shows will be broadcast live nationally on participating campus and community radio stations.

Ontario's featured artists will perform their live broadcast show on June 29 at the grad



Digging Roots members Shoshona Kish and Raven Kanataktka will be featured on the Dig Your Roots—Aboriginal compilation CD.

lounge at the University of Guelph's university centre from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

To find out where and when the other concerts will take place, go to [www.DigYourRoots.ca](http://www.DigYourRoots.ca).

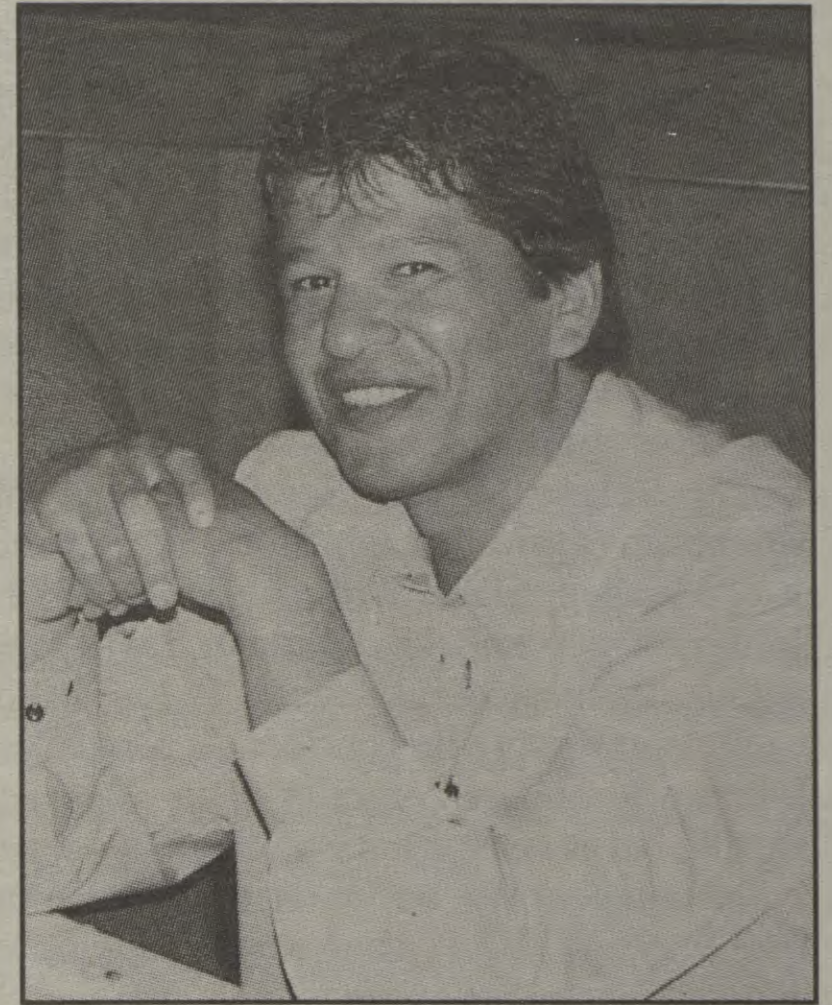
## New York Islanders get new head coach

It's been almost a decade since Ted Nolan sat behind the bench of a National Hockey League (NHL) team but that's just where he'll be next season.

On June 8, New York Islanders owner Charles Wang announced Nolan was the team's new head coach.

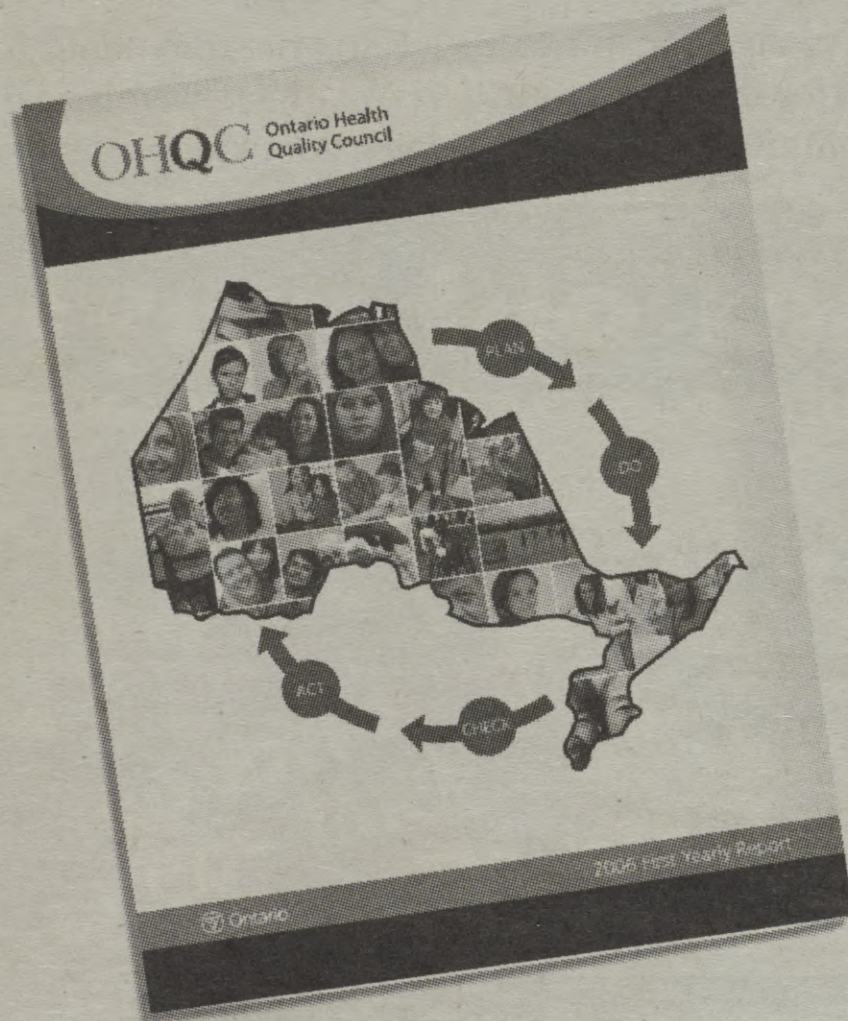
Nolan, who hails from Garden River First Nation, has had a long and storied hockey career, both as a player and a coach. He played in the Ontario Hockey Association and American Hockey League and spent three seasons in the NHL in the early 1980s as a member of the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Detroit Red Wings.

In 1988 he joined the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds as head coach and stayed until the end of the 1994 season, leading the team to three consecutive Memorial Cup tournaments and helping them win the cup in



Ted Nolan

1993. He spent one season as assistant coach with the Hartford Whalers before joining the Buffalo Sabres as head coach. In 1997, the Sabres took the northeast division title and Nolan was named NHL coach of the year. Nolan spent this past season as head coach and director of hockey operations for the Moncton Wildcats of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League where he led the team to its first-ever league championship.



## It's your health and your health system – the Ontario Health Quality Council reports to you.

We all want to know how well Ontario's health system is performing. The Council's first report is based on what Ontarians want their health system to be - safe, effective, patient-centred, accessible, efficient, equitable, integrated, appropriately resourced and focused on population health - and indicators by which these attributes could be measured.

We found that Ontario's health system is performing well in a number of areas. For example, survival rates for patients with cancer or heart attack are steadily increasing, and Ontario hospitals have shorter acute-care stays, use more day surgery and have lower costs per case than hospitals in most other provinces. There are promising initiatives underway in a number of areas; however, it is too early to evaluate them.

But in some respects, the system needs more work. We have found that inadequate information is limiting our ability to continuously improve quality, monitor performance and report on it. The Council believes investing in e-health — using information technology to manage health, arrange, deliver and account for care, and manage the health-care system — will do the most to improve each of the attributes of a high-performing health system.

The Ontario Health Quality Council is an independent agency funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The Council reports directly to Ontarians on access to publicly funded health services, health human resources in publicly funded health services, consumer and population health status, and health system outcomes.

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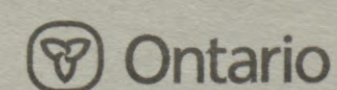
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# Singer-songwriter releases second CD

By LAURA STEVENS  
Birchbark Writer

TORONTO

Throughout her life, Nancy Johnson has had a love of music. Growing up on Caldwell First Nation, her home was often full of music, and she developed an appreciation for all styles, including folk, rock, blues and old time country. She counts Buffy Sainte Marie, Bruce Cockburn, Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell, Hank Williams, Johnny Cash and the Beatles among her musical influences.

Johnson would often perform for family and at community events, but it wasn't until after a car accident on an Ontario highway in 2000 that she decided to take her music to the next level and record an album.

"It ended up in the papers as I almost died. It was only a close call," she said. "After that happened, it really just made me think, 'You know what? We don't know how much time we have in this life. If I can't do anything else in my life, one thing I have to do is get the music down because everybody loves these songs. And that's why I do what I do.'"

In 2001, the singer-songwriter released her debut CD, *Pretty Good Sign*. She admits the album was an experiment, but it proved to be a good one, earning her a nomination in the Best Female Vocalist category at the 2002 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards.

The CD garnered a lot of attention, in part because of the lyrics in songs like *Cover Up*, which Johnson wrote about the 1995 death of Dudley George at Ipperwash Park.

"When I recorded that one I had to wait a couple years from the time it came to me to the time I recorded it because there was too much anger," said Johnson. "I couldn't even sing it to people without getting mad. I think it was good because I wanted it to raise awareness and I was supporting the inquiry into Ipperwash when I did that. I was pleased about doing that."

The songs on *Pretty Good Sign* were a blend of folk, blues and contemporary Indigenous music. With her second CD, *Water Song*, Johnson has created something quite different from her inaugural offering, she said.

Johnson describes *Water Song* as a more in-depth production with more layers compared to her first CD—more instrumentation and more background vocals, producing a sound that incorporates reggae, Latin, jazz and Cajun vibes into her original music.

"I was able to bring in a lot of fantastic musicians to the studio with me and do it as a professional endeavor," said Johnson.

The CD features Mark Keels on drums and percussion, George Kola on bass, violinists Ann Lindsay and Rick Hyssop, Carlos Del Junco on harmonica,

Denis Kelley on keyboard, Wendy Solomon on cello, Anne Werbitsky on dobro, Sameday Ray and KK Walsh of Loco Zydeco on accordion and rub board and Neil Paraffin and Yashushi on piano.

"The calibre is unbelievable of these musicians," said Johnson.

Johnson's only struggle with creating the new album was when it came time to write a duet called *Take You Gently*. In the end, the song proved to be well worth the effort once she brought in Hector Sturgeon, a young artist from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation.

"He's sensational," Johnson said. "He's got a George Jones quality in his voice. His voice is just beautiful and he writes his own stuff."

Johnson said a lot of the credit for the quality of new CD has to go to Eugene Boyer of Batchewana First Nation, who produced and recorded the album.

"I have to give him a lot of the credit because he sat me down and we worked out our arrangements together for each track and I tell you, he's a genius," said Johnson. "It's thanks to him that I really took the time to do it well. I'm really pleased with how it turned out."

Johnson said she wants *Water Song* to be inspiring to the listeners and to show them that Aboriginal people do many positive things.

"The whole purpose of the



Nancy Johnson

CD, of the music, for me is to share something positive with people because we have so much negative history and so much heavy stuff that we carry around with us as Native people, and there's so many good things, many wonderful things that go in our community," she said.

"That's what I try to do, is share the good stuff."

*Water Song* can be purchased from the Cedar Basket gift shop at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

For more info about Johnson, visit her Web site at [www.nancyjohnsonmusic.com](http://www.nancyjohnsonmusic.com).

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# Top job contenders will meet in Vancouver

(Continued from page 9.)

"I still believe that. If we'd have known what the white people were going to do and I was a chief at the time that's what I would have done," he said.

He says he's running a shoestring campaign with the help of volunteers and relatives.

Wilson fully expects the Fontaine team to outspend him and bring a large and sophisticated team to Vancouver. He hinted that candidates generally pay little attention to the \$35,000 spending limit prescribed in the AFN charter.

"I ran in '91 and that cost me \$25,000 of my own money and there was other money spent by other people. But then you have to report it. But if people take leaves for a month to work on the campaign, does their salary get included in it? It's an unrealistic figure unless you're into equalization across the board so that every candidate who qualifies gets, say \$50,000. There was no limit in those days but realistically the campaign cost \$60,000," he said.

Going head to head with the incumbent was not what he expected.

"I was very, very surprised that it's just Phil and I," he said. "Now they know it's one on one, people are telling me, and this is not my campaign slogan, that it is time for a change and if we are going to change we need a strong, aggressive

leader who can stand up to government."

Wilson reached out to the numbered treaty chiefs who have been criticizing the national organization for not paying enough attention to treaty rights. There's a message in their situation that applies in B.C. as well, he added.

"I know from my experience that the treaties that were signed on the Prairies are sacred documents to all of the people in the numbered treaty areas. All of them have been violated and none of them have been lived up to. So what does that say about the possibility of treaties in the province of B.C. if government is going to follow the same policy of betrayal?"

He commended the national chief for his residential school compensation agreement.

"I congratulate Phil for the work he did on residential schools. It sadly is too little, too late. For many people, it'll never happen because they're dead. The miniscule amount of money that is being offered, that's not Phil's fault. I think he did the best within his talent for our people. But it's time to move on now. We can set that aside and start to build a new future," he said.

At 62 years of age, Wilson has been involved in First Nations' politics for 48 years. Both candidates were born in 1944.

Wilson is six months older than Fontaine. Both have extensive and varied resumes.

The UBC law school grad said he is ready to sit down with the prime minister and move forward.

"The Kelowna Accord failed. I don't want to re-hash the Liberal promises or all the other things or whether it was a photo op or whether it was Paul Martin's last gasp. I want to talk about the reality that the problems that it was going to address are still there. Now, what are we going to do about it together? I think that with the authority of the national chief's office and no kind of bias—because Phil took a beating and he may still take a beating in terms of his affiliation with the Liberals which was a gamble that paid off for a period of time and I don't begrudge him that because I'm not a member of those political parties—I intend to sit down and say to Mr. Harper, 'What are we going to do now? What are you going to do now?'"

*Windspeaker* attempted to conduct interviews with both official candidates.

Fontaine promised an interview and set a time of 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time on June 13. When we called his cell phone, he answered and asked that we call back in half-an-hour.

"I'm driving right now. It would be better if we wait until I arrive at my destination," he said.

It was the last time we spoke to

him before our deadline, despite numerous calls to his cell phone and numerous conversations with Roland Bellerose, who is managing communications for the Fontaine campaign.

Bellerose set up another interview for 9 a.m. the next day, but the national chief did not answer his phone at that time or throughout the day.

Bellerose said the Fontaine campaign team would not be able to provide the incumbent's list of nominators.

"The point is that Phil Fontaine was asked to run by 60 chiefs plus the [campaign] chairman [Joe Miskokomon], whereas Bill Wilson is self-nominated. He had to go get the signatures himself," he said. "Yes, you could say we're too busy to go and get the permission from all 60 signatories to release their names."

*Windspeaker* held the presses for three hours past deadline, waiting while his staff prepared a press release that outlined the position Fontaine will take in the campaign.

"National Chief Fontaine's tough negotiating style has been the most effective we have witnessed.

Through tough negotiations, National Chief Fontaine derailed legislation that the federal government put forward that would have diminished First Nations' inherent right to self-government and was able to turn the government's attention toward

narrowing the gap of impoverished First Nations and Canadian citizens," the release stated. "The national chief's challenge to the prime minister and the premiers culminated in the development of the Kelowna Accord. Through this process, many of our political leaders have come to respect and consider National Chief Fontaine a statesman who is protecting the inherent rights of First Nations to choose. The advancement of these rights have come through co-operation and understanding."

Wilson's list of 15: Nominators—Chief Wayne Edwards of Nanoose and Chief Rose Dumont of Sooke in B.C. Endorsers in B.C.—Chief Charlie Williams, Gwawaenuk, Chief Russell Chipps, Scia'new (Beecher Bay), Chief Vince Harry, Malahat, Chief Chris Tom, Tsartlip (Brentwood Bay), Acting Chief Gary Albany, Songhees, Chief Bob Chamberlin, Kwicksutaineuk Ahkwa'mis (Gilford Island)

Other regions: Chief Susan Levi-Peters, Big Cove, N.B., Chief Ann Mary Simon, Bouctouche, N.B., Chief Ann Francis Muise, Pictou Landing, N.S., Chief Jeff Tomah, Woodstock, N.B., Chief David Peter Paul, Pabineau, N.B., Chief Candice Paul, St. Mary's, N.B. Chief Joe Knockwood, Fort Folly, N.B. Chief Wilbert Marshall, Chapel Island, N.S.

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[ youth entrepreneur ]

# Businessman gives back

By Cheryl Petten  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## RANKIN INLET, Nunavut

Hamish Tatty was four years old when his father Peter and aunt Angelina Mercer started M & T Enterprises. He joined the company in 1992 and now the 30-year-old is managing the family business.

When M & T first got started in 1979, the company off-loaded aircraft and made local deliveries, Tatty said. Over the years, the list of services M & T provides has grown to include off-loading baggage and freight from ships and barges, distributing fuel to aircraft, gas stations and residences, gravel hauling, snow removal and providing overland hauling services to mining exploration camps.

"Just about anything that is to be done, we can do it," he said.

His success with M & T has earned Tatty some national recognition, and some international notice as well. Last fall, he received the 2005 Business Development Bank of Canada's Young Entrepreneur Award for Nunavut. And in 2004, he was asked to make a presentation during an Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Moscow, to share his business expertise with Aboriginal people in Russia who were adapting to operating in a free market economy.

"That was a very exciting

experience," Tatty said. "Enjoyable. I got to meet different Aboriginal people there that I'd never met before."

He spoke to them about some of the challenges of running an Aboriginal business. In the case of M & T, he said, one of the biggest is finding employees.

"In a small community it's hard to find employees, good employees that are willing to work the hours that need to be done."

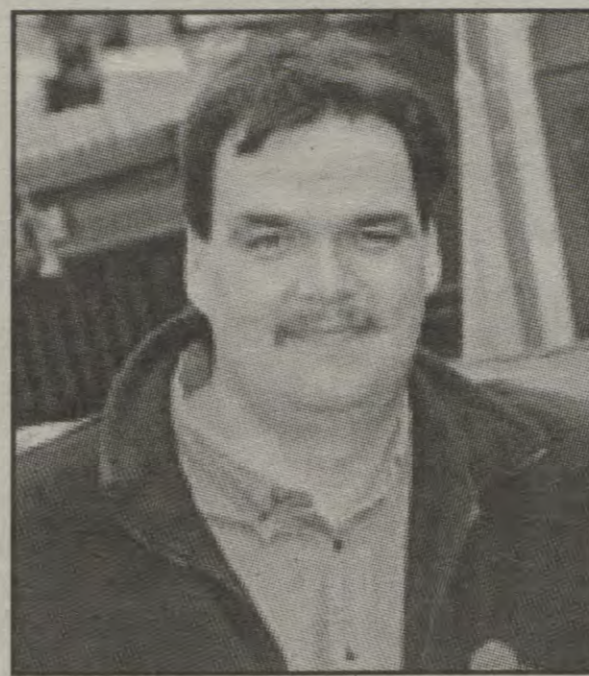
The company employs around 40 people, although that number can increase to as many as 55 during the winter months. About 85 per cent of the company's workforce is Inuit.

Maintaining a high percentage of Aboriginal staff is a priority at M & T, Tatty said. M & T's efforts to employ as many Inuit as possible has provided training and employment opportunities to Inuit people in the greater Rankin Inlet area and has helped the company remain competitive by demonstrating its commitment to the community.

The company also gives back to the community in other ways as well, Tatty said.

"During our anniversaries we'll have carnival-type games here in Rankin, just to give a fun day for the community. This year we're going to be giving out two ATVs."

Tatty's involvement in his community doesn't end with his work at M & T. He is chairman of Sakku Investment Corporation, the business arm of the Kivalliq Inuit Association,



Hamish Tatty

and is on the board of directors of the Nunasi Corporation, an Inuit-owned development corporation. For the past five years he has been a member of Rankin Inlet's council, the last two in the role of deputy mayor.

Tatty said he got involved in local politics to bring a youth perspective to the council.

"There's always been older people on the board and they keep on doing stuff the older way and I figure if I can get in there I can start doing stuff for the youth around Rankin."

He's had some success in those efforts, he said, "But there's still a lot of work to be done."

Tatty plans on staying with M & T for a few more years, but thinks he might choose politics over business further down the road.

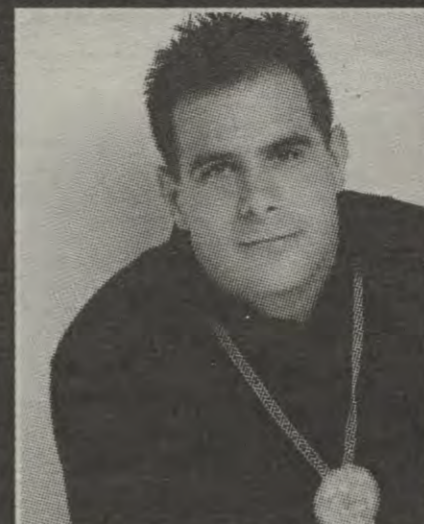
"I grew up here," he said. "This is my home. So any way I can make my community a lot better to live in and have more people enjoy it as well, that's a big goal of mine."



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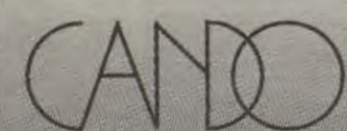
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# Longboat awards announced

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

AKWESASNE, Ont.

A world champion dragon boat racer and a member of the Canadian men's volleyball team have been selected as the national winners of the 2005 Tom Longboat Award.

Toronto's Marisha Roman, who helped Canada win five medals (three gold, two silver) at last year's world dragon boat championships in Germany, was chosen as the national female recipient. Dallas Soonias, who hails from Red Deer, Alta., was named as the male winner of the award for his performances with the national team as well as with the University of Alberta squad.

The Tom Longboat Award,

named in honor of the legendary Native runner, annually recognizes Aboriginal athletes in Canada who demonstrate a balance between athletics, commitment to healthy living and contributions to the Aboriginal community.

Each year there is a varying number of regional Tom Longboat Award winners representing different provinces or territories. The national winners are then selected from this group.

Roman, 39, is obviously thrilled at winning the award, especially because of the criteria recipients must meet.

"I don't paddle the boat by myself though," Roman said. "So I have some mixed feeling about that."

A dragon boat racing team usually consists of 20 paddlers, a drummer and a sternperson.

Roman is hoping her award win will bring some additional recognition to dragon boat racing.

"Any kind of raising awareness about the sport is good," said Roman, a lawyer who works as the Aboriginal Issues Coordinator for the Law Society of Upper Canada.

Roman, whose mother Patricia is Ojibway, has been participating in dragon boat races since the mid-1990s.

Last year she was a member of the Canadian contingent that competed at the International Dragon Boat Federation (IDBF) world championships in Berlin.

The Canadian women's side won gold in all three of its races, in the 200-metre, 500-metre and 1,000-metre events.

Roman was also part of the Canadian mixed (women and men) squad that won silver medals in its 200-metre and 500-metre races.

For Roman, it marked the

fourth time she had competed in the IDBF world finals. She had also won medals at her previous three global meets.

Roman first competed at the IDBF world championships in 2001 in Philadelphia.

The world meet is supposed to be held every two years. The '03 event was originally scheduled to be held in China, but it was moved to Poland due to the worrisome SARS outbreak.

Since China was still keen on playing host to the IDBF world meet, officials opted not to wait two years between events and allowed the Chinese to have the '04 championships.

The 2005 Germany meet still went ahead as planned. The world championships are now back on a two-year cycle. The '07 event will be held in Australia.

As for Soonias, he's won his share of awards in recent years, but said none have been bigger than this latest accolade.

"I'd say this is the award I feel most proud of," Soonias said of his Longboat Award. "When I look at the people who've won the award and when people congratulate me, I just want to push harder with my sport."

The 22-year-old Soonias is 6-foot-8 and has been a member of the national men's volleyball squad since 2004. Prior to that he was on the Canadian junior men's national club from 2002-03.

In '05 he helped the Alberta Golden Bears win the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship.

Soonias is also hoping to be a good role model for Native youth.

"Even though I forget about it time to time when things get really busy or upsetting, I'm trying to set something like a good example for younger people starting to take sport more seriously," he said.



## Alan Pratt Law Office

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On May 08, 2006 *Ms. Theresa Bananish* became the newest associate of Alan Pratt Law Office.

Ms. Bananish is an Ojibway from the Pic Mobert First Nation in northwestern Ontario. She graduated in law from the University of Ottawa in 2004 and was called to the Ontario Bar in 2005. She practices in Aboriginal law, including Aboriginal rights, land claims, Treaty rights and Aboriginal taxation. Ms. Bananish is developing a particular focus on corporate, trust and Constitutional law as they relate to First Nations.

*We are proud to welcome Theresa to our team.*

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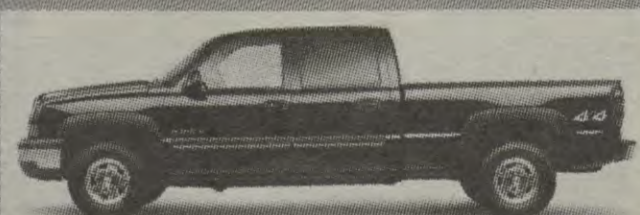


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# Accomplishments set in stone

Five luminaries of the Indigenous film and communication arts community were celebrated at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Dreamspeakers Film Festival in Edmonton on June 10.

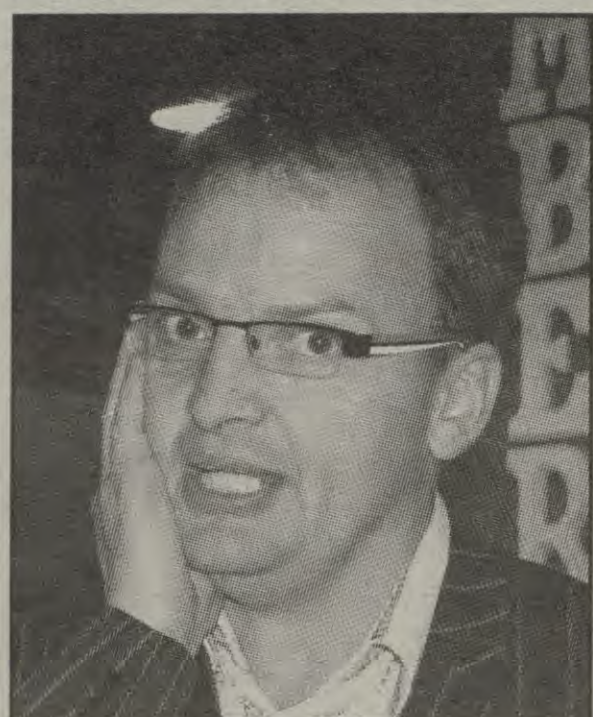
Their hands and signatures were cast in cement as the second set of inductees into the Dreamspeakers organization's Walk of Honour.

Producer/director Alanis Obomsawin smiled broadly as she planted her hands in the wet cement and asked for a glass of champagne to celebrate the honor. She teased a member of the RCMP honor guard saying it was unique to have a police officer be nice to her. Obomsawin perhaps is best known for her documentaries surrounding the events in Oka, Que. during the land rights confrontation in 1990.

The accomplishments of film and theatre actress Tantoo Cardinal were also commemorated. She quipped, as she signed under her handprints, that her grandmother had given her her unusual first name. When asked what Tantoo meant, she said it was the brand name of a mosquito repellent.

Documentary and feature film director Gil Cardinal, Maori director Barry Barclay, and publisher and Aboriginal radio trail blazer Bert Crowfoot rounded out the honorees. As film and television crews recorded the event for a variety of broadcasters, Crowfoot said he recognized eight former staffers of the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA), the organization he heads, among the journalists working the story, a testament to the impact the AMMSA organization has had in the world of communications arts.

A brass plaque that details the accomplishments of each of the inductees will be attached to the hand casts and will be on permanent display as of August in Winston Churchill Square near Edmonton's City Hall.



Aaron James Sorensen

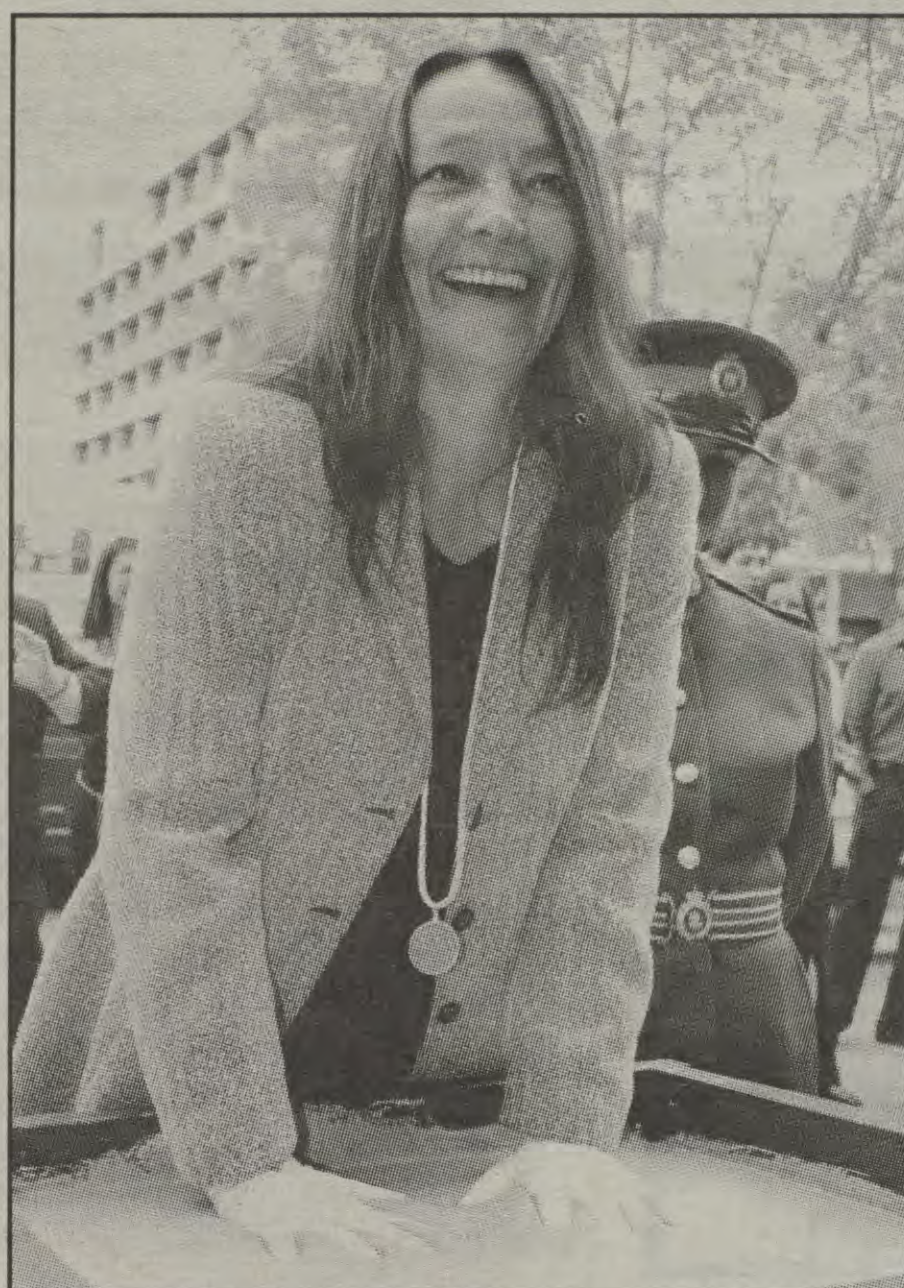


Brent Michael Davids

The Walk of Honour gala was attended by film and television industry heavy weights, including one of last year's Walk of Honour inductees, Jimmy Herman. Directors and actors associated with the 23 films shown during the four-day Dreamspeakers festival also attended, including director Marie Burke of the film Spirit Doctors and Pigeon Powwow director Ken Williams, who was doing double-duty reporting on the event for APTN. Both Burke and Williams are former AMMSA employees.

Gil Cardinal's two-part mini-series Indian Summer: The Oka Crisis opened the festival. Cardinal also received special honors on gala night for best feature film.

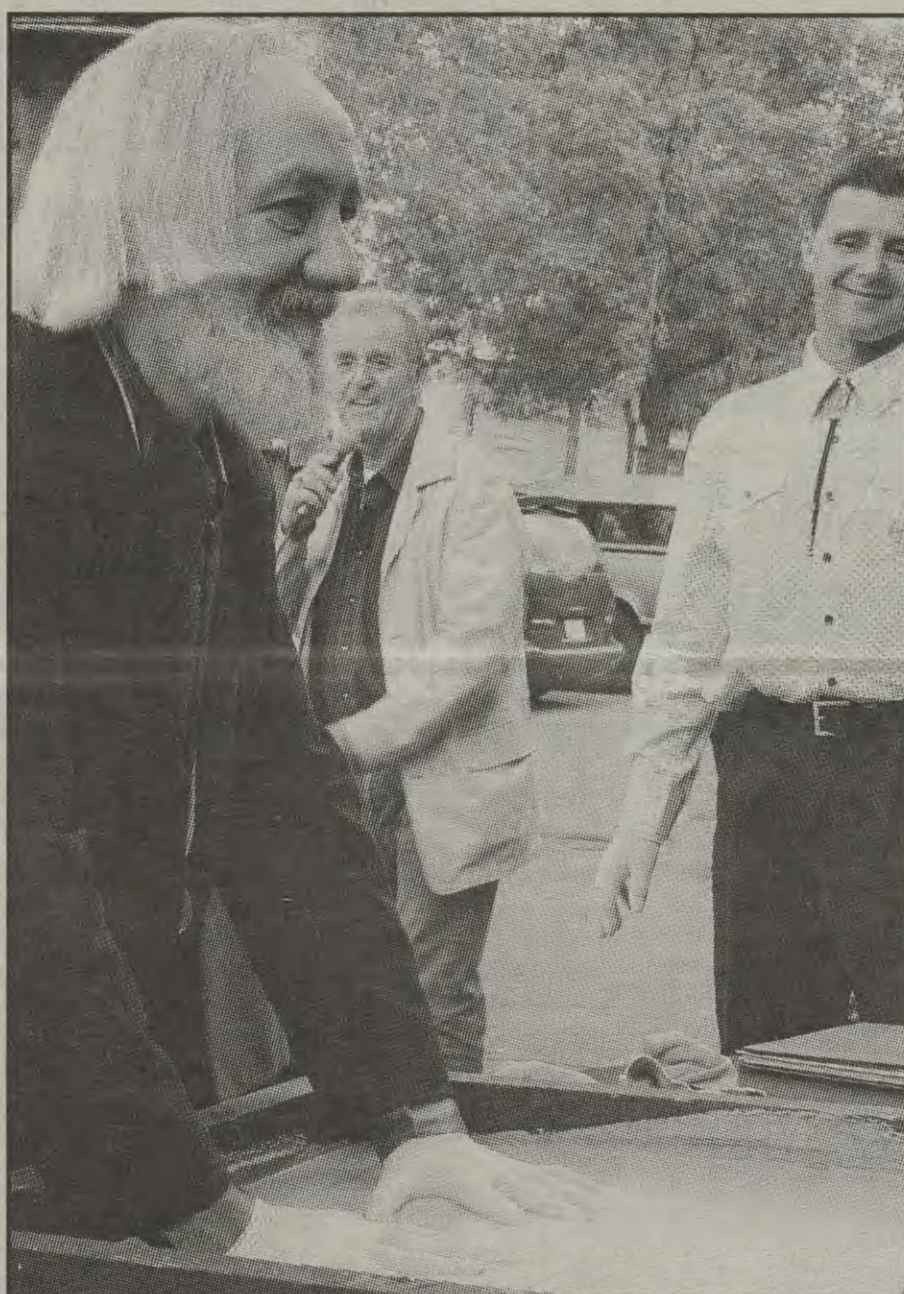
Composer Brent Michael Davids, who held a workshop earlier in the day on film scoring, attended the gala decked out in an impressive top hat and purple crushed-velvet tails. His work to rescore the 1920's Hollywood



Tantoo Cardinal—Actress Film/Theatre



Bert Crowfoot—Communications



Barry Barclay—Director Film



Gil Cardinal—Director/Writer Film

version of the Last of the Mohicans was one of the films on the Dreamspeakers agenda.

Other workshop presenters were writer director Aaron James Sorensen. His workshop

was entitled How to Make a Movie When You've Never Made One Before. His first film Hank Williams First Nation is one of the highest grossing Canadian features in 2005,

playing in every major market in Canada and at festivals across the United States. He is currently developing the Hank Williams First Nation story into a television series.



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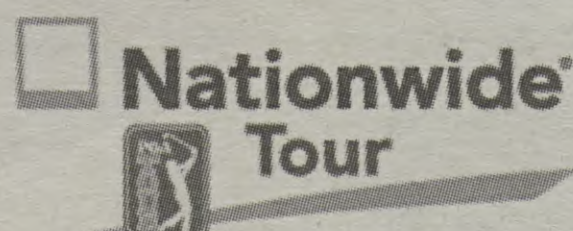
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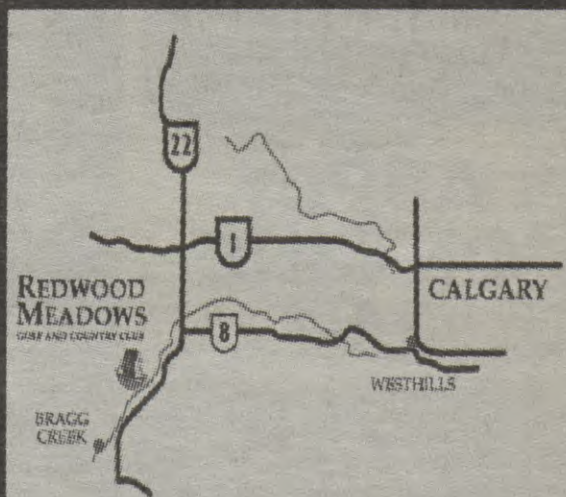


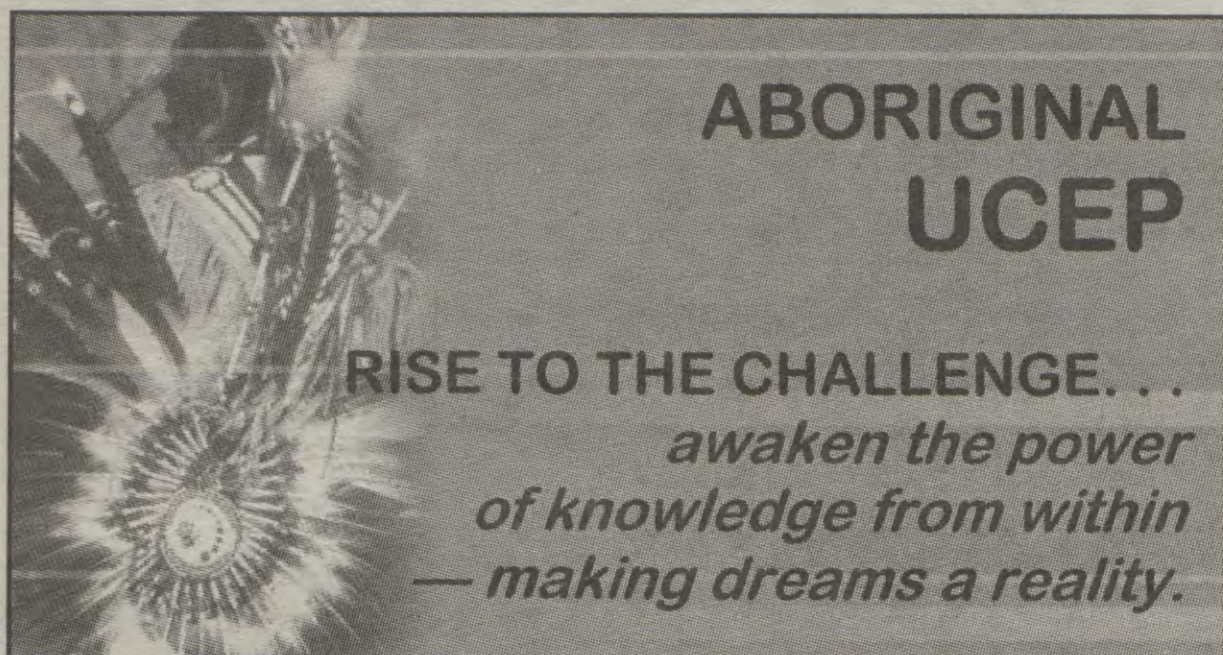
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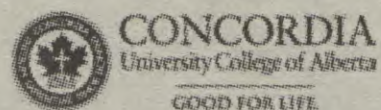
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### College of Arts, Social & Health Sciences First Nations Studies Program

#### Chair Position (Tenured or Tenure-Track Position)

The University of Northern British Columbia, in conjunction with the First Nations Studies Program, invites applications for a Program Chair position at the rank of an Associate or Full Professor (tenured or tenure-track position) with an expected start date of January 1, 2007 (subject to budgetary approval). UNBC has long established partnerships with many First Nations Bands and Tribal Councils. Federal and provincial initiatives in First Nations teaching and research are expanding, and UNBC is poised to play a significant role in many of these, including being the node for the National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health. There is a strong support system for students, including the First Nations Centre, an innovative Peer Support Network, the Northern Advancement Program and other academic and cultural bridging programs. Teaching and research on issues relevant to, and in partnership with, First Nations communities are

undertaken throughout many of the UNBC academic programs. The regional dimension to First Nations programming is also a critical component to providing students enrolled in more than 40 undergraduate and graduate UNBC degree programs throughout northern BC, and UNBC has one of the highest percentages of students of Aboriginal descent among Canadian universities.

We expect to appoint a senior scholar with a strong academic and research background and experience in the discipline. The successful candidate will have demonstrable skills in administration, mentoring faculty and students and providing a vision for First Nations Studies. Experience in innovative curriculum development, in working in an interdisciplinary environment and especially in working with aboriginal communities is important. A doctoral or equivalent degree in any discipline with First Nations content is required.

Please forward your curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three references (including telephone, fax, and email information) quoting competition #FAFN18-06(Q) to: Dr. J. Howard Brunt, Vice-President Academic & Provost, University of Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way, Prince George, B.C., V2N 4Z9. Please direct inquiries to: Dr. James Randall, Dean, College of Arts, Social and Health Sciences, at Telephone 250-960-5823; E-mail jrandall@unbc.ca Electronic submissions of CVs can be forwarded to: FacultyRecruitment@unbc.ca Applications received on or before July 31, 2006 will receive full consideration; however applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Northern British Columbia is committed to employment equity and encourages applications from women, aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities and members of visible minorities.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POSTING



### PROJECT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER

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- Provide technical advisory services regarding all aspects of Project Development including planning, design and construction.
- Prepare and assist in developing the Terms of Reference for each phase of project development.
- Assist in the preparation of project schedules and budgets.
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- In-depth knowledge of technical, financial and economic aspects of project development.
- Knowledge of operations of infrastructure systems including; water & wastewater treatment systems, drainage system, roads schools, public buildings, and community housing.
- Willing to travel through out Ontario.
- Reliable and insured vehicle.
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- Preference will be given to First Nations applicants.

**CLOSING DATE: Thursday July 6, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. (e.s.t.)**

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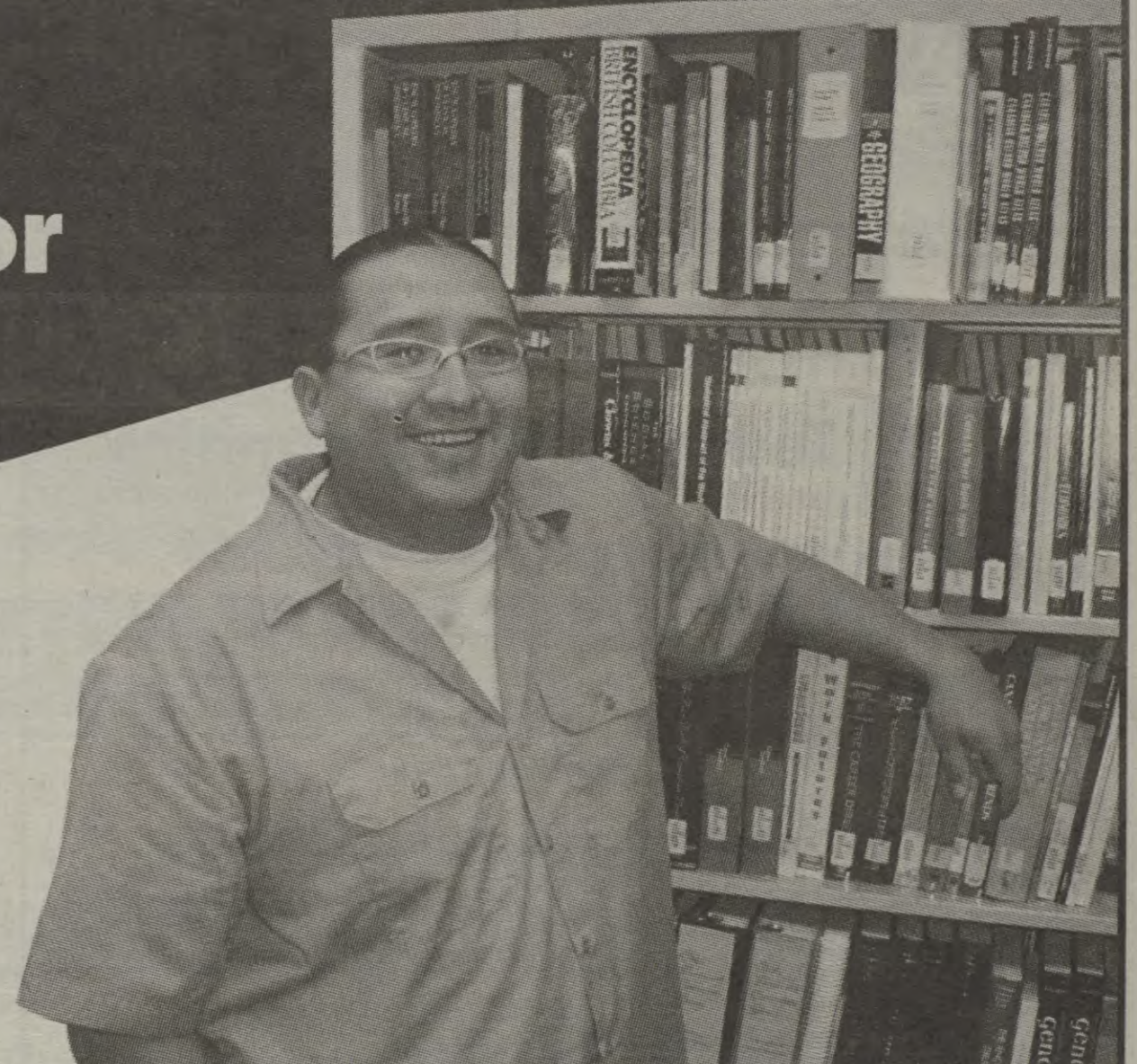
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# Potential realized

By Laura Stevens  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

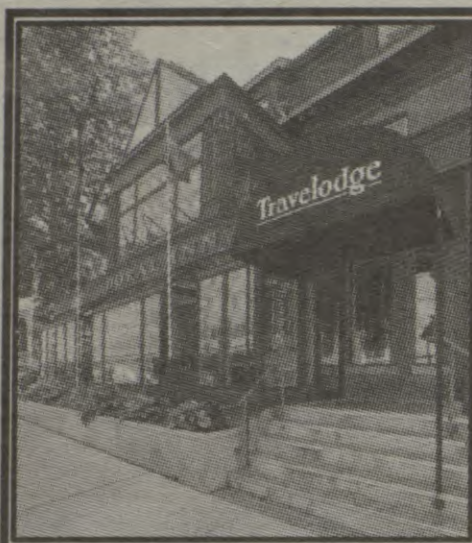
### MOUNT CURRIE, B.C.

First Nation high school students in British Columbia learned the art of entrepreneurship this spring with the guidance of volunteer college students and a program called Opening Doors.

Mount Currie high school students managed businesses that included Lil'wat Cinema, a T-shirt company called MC Wear and a drop-in soccer night. Students at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), who spent 14 weeks working with the Mount Currie students, created Opening Doors. They collaborated with Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE), a national organization that organizes college students to practice and teach others the principles and values of entrepreneurship. ACE is located on the BCIT campus.

Sam Macmillan, a marketing management major at BCIT, travelled three hours a week to work with the Mount Currie students, who live about 40 minutes north of Whistler. The Grade 12 students were initially confused as to why he and the other BCIT students were there. (see Opening Doors page 16.)

[ careers and training ]



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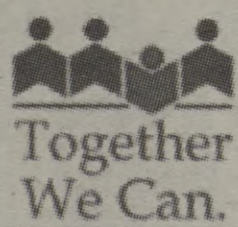
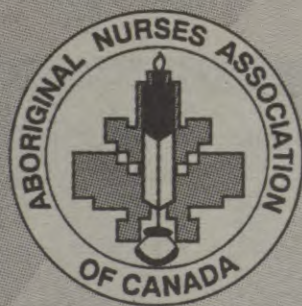
**Holistic Health and Spiritual Wellness  
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Please submit your oral or poster presentations for the above categories by the **Deadline, July 7, 2006.**

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**Quesnel School District**

**Teaching Opportunities**

School District No. 28 (Quesnel), a public school employer K-12, invites applications from persons of Aboriginal ancestry for a variety of classroom positions and teacher on call employment, anticipated in the 2006-07 school year. Posted teaching vacancies can be viewed at <http://www.sd28.bc.ca/district/postings/teaching/>.

Situated on the unsundered territory of the Dakelh and Tsilhqot'in, First Nation and MÈtis students make up 20% of the Quesnel School District enrollment. The Aboriginal Education Council in School district No. 28 is well established and is engaged in an Enhancement Agreement <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/agreements/quesnelframework.htm>

Applicants in possession or eligible for BC College of Teachers certification are asked to submit full resumes including copies of post secondary transcripts; applicable certificates, diplomas, and degrees; practicum or teaching reports, and the names of at least three reference contacts to:

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# Opening Doors to youth

(Continued from page 15.)

"We told them we wanted to show them that there are opportunities available outside their comfort zone," Sam Macmillan said.

It took time for the high school students to realize the BCIT students were involved with Opening Doors as volunteers and that they could be trusted.

"Once that relationship was developed they started to open up a bit more," Macmillan said. Macmillan and 14 other BCIT

students contributed their time to Opening Doors.

"We taught the students business skills, like how to deal with cash, inventory and things like that," he said.

For the first five weeks, groups of four to five BCIT students brainstormed ideas with the Mount Currie students. Together they developed the three businesses the high school students operated in Mount Currie during the last half of the project.

"In the last few weeks, we provided guidance," said Macmillan.

"By the end of the program, the students essentially were running the businesses by themselves."

At the conclusion of the program, the BCIT students presented the Mount Currie students cash awards based on how well they demonstrated initiative, how well they worked together, how well they faced challenges and the revenue they brought in.

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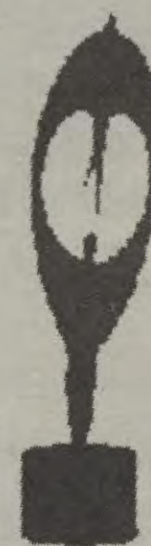
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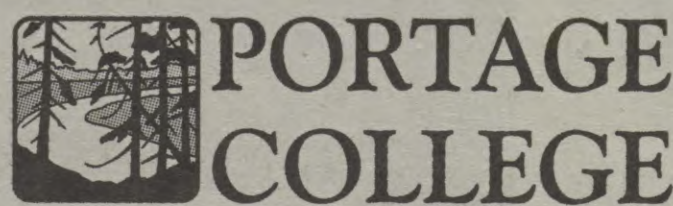
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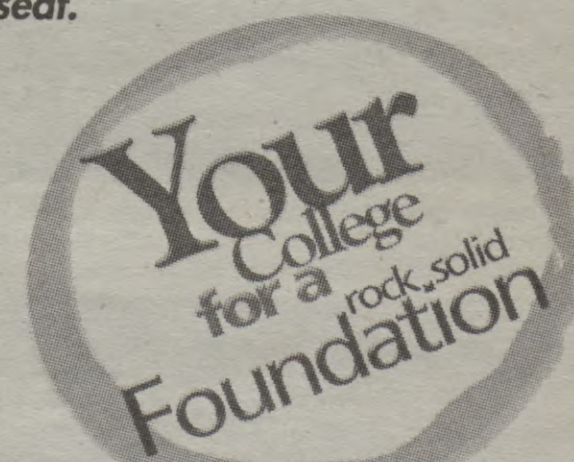
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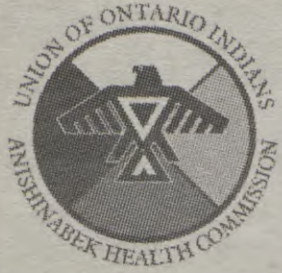
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UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS  
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requires a

**HEALTH DIRECTOR**

The Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) is a First Nation political territorial organization that provides advocacy and secretariat support for 42 First Nations in many areas including health, education, social services, self-government. The UOI Health Department is currently in need of a Health Director.

**POSITION:**

Reporting to the Director of Operations, the Health Director will be responsible to plan, organize and direct daily operations of the Union of Ontario Indians' (UOI) Health Department. As well, the Health Director will assign and co-ordinate a staff of 9 people, who provide support and policy analysis on First Nation health issues. Strong leadership, management and administrative skills are required to provide political, technical, operational, strategic and advisory support services to the Anishinabek Health Commission (a First Nations Advisory Body), the UOI Board and Chiefs.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Develops, manages and monitors budgets and expenditures;
- Manage staff who provides policy analysis on federal and provincial health legislation, programs, and initiatives;
- Consults with First Nations' leadership, communities and health workers to assist with health planning, need assessments, training, negotiations and analysis of health issues;
- Develops health projects, policies and initiatives;
- Liaisons with federal and provincial government agencies;
- Supports regional Chiefs' meetings, assemblies and forums on health related issues;
- Performs other professional duties as required by the Board of Directors, the Anishinabek Health Commission and the Chief's committee on health.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

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- Degree in Health Administration or Studies plus 5 year's management experience;
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- Holds a valid Ontario driver's licence; Insurable and available to travel extensively;
- Ability to speak Ojibwe a strong asset.

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Satellite Office, Curve Lake First Nation, ON

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Union of Ontario Indians  
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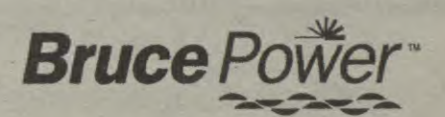
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[ footprints ] Walter Perry Deiter

# Leaders strength lay in ability to make people believe in themselves

By Cheryl Petten

Walter Perry Deiter was born May 31, 1916 on the Peepeekisis reserve in southeastern Saskatchewan. Although both his parents could speak their traditional languages—his father Cree and his mother Saulteaux—they did not encourage their children to do the same. But what his parents did encourage in Deiter and his siblings was a belief in their abilities, and the abilities of all Aboriginal people.

That attitude was one that guided Deiter throughout his life, and became a message he worked to get out to others across the country. He spent many years working on behalf of Aboriginal people, and a large part of the success he achieved came from his ability to help people believe in themselves, and in each other. Many changes were needed to improve the lives of Aboriginal people, he knew. And he knew that by working together, Aboriginal people could work to make those changes happen for themselves.

Like most Native children of his generation, Deiter attended residential school, first at File Hills and later in Brandon, Man., where he completed his studies to Grade 10. When the Second World War broke out in 1939, like many other Treaty Indians, Deiter volunteered to fight. Provisions in the treaties meant they were exempt from conscription. He joined the Regina Regiment and completed basic training, but before he could be sent overseas he tested positive for tuberculosis.

He spent close to four years at the Fort San Hospital, during which time he completed his Grade 12 and earned a certificate in business administration.

He also met Inez Wuttunee from Saskatchewan's Red Pheasant reserve, who in

1951 would become his wife.

The early years of their marriage proved difficult because of Deiter's problems with alcohol, but he turned things around after his wife threatened to put their children in residential school unless he stopped drinking. He joined Alcoholics Anonymous in 1956 and remained sober for the remainder of his days.

While he was from an agricultural community—the reserve he grew up on was home to the File Hills Colony, created by the federal government to encourage Native people to become farmers—his health problems kept Deiter from a career in farming. Instead he became a truck driver and eventually started his own landscaping business.

In 1958, he and Inez worked to establish the Saskatoon Friendship Centre. In 1959, the family relocated to Regina and in 1963, Deiter became the first Native person to hold the position of president of the Regina Friendship Centre, a post he continued for a number of years.

In 1964, Deiter was hired by the Saskatchewan Bureau of Alcoholism, which worked to promote sobriety on Indian reserves. The following year he joined the board of directors of the Indian and Eskimo Association of Canada and was appointed to the Regional Indian Advisory Board established by the department of Indian Affairs to provide advice to the minister on policy issues.

From 1966 to 1968, Deiter served as chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians (FSI), now known as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations.

Deiter's accomplishments during his time as FSI chief included successfully pressuring the federal government to provide money to the FSI to help cover

the organization's operating costs. Thanks to his efforts, the FSI became the first Native organization in the country to receive government funding. With that money in place, Deiter was able to hire staff to go out into communities and organize Indian governments at the local level. He and his staff also provided assistance to help in the formation of Native organizations in neighboring provinces—the Indian Association of Alberta and the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood.

Deiter believed Native leaders needed to demonstrate traditional leadership by dedicating themselves to their people and doing what was best for those they led, not for themselves. This was the type of leader he chose to be and throughout his career he demonstrated his commitment to improving the lives of Aboriginal people through his personal sacrifices. His work often kept him from his wife and children, and when funds to run the FSI were in short supply and there was a danger that staff would not be paid, he mortgaged his home—not just on one occasion, but three times—to ensure the organization could continue on.

During his time as leader of the FSI, Deiter was appointed to the board of the Canadian Council on Rural Development and to a national task force set up to review the Indian Act. He was also among a group of Native leaders who created a national organization to represent First Nations people. Those efforts resulted in the National Indian Brotherhood (NIB), the precursor to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). The NIB was formed in 1968, with Deiter as its first national chief.

In 1969, under Deiter's leadership, the NIB began its battle against the Indian Affairs White Paper that outlined the federal government's plans for

assimilation of First Nations people. The fledgling national organization rallied support from Aboriginal people across the country and successfully fought the government's plans.

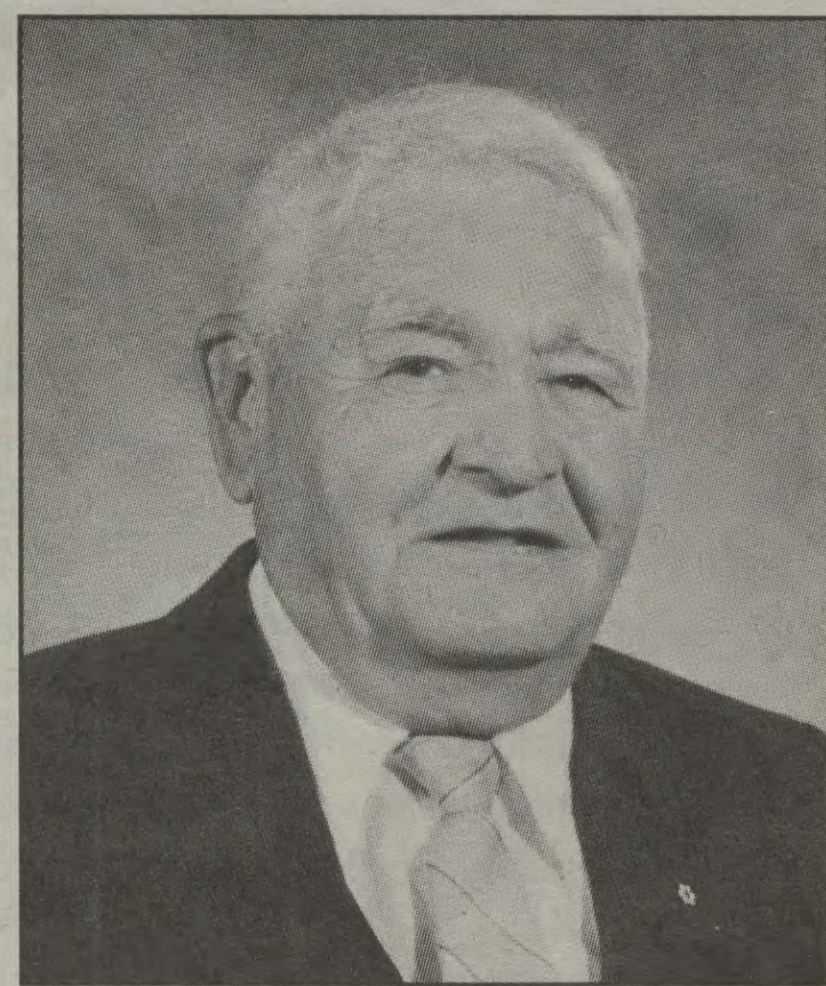
When he lost his bid for re-election as national chief of the NIB in 1970, Deiter returned to Saskatchewan where he worked to establish the Native Alcohol Council and began efforts to create

rehabilitation centres for Aboriginal people within their own communities. He also went into business again, starting a small sand and gravel operation. In 1973, he began working with the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, acting as a consultant for the organization in the area of Aboriginal rights.

In 1977, Deiter made a return to politics when he was elected to the band council of Peepeekisis First Nation. The following year he helped to organize the National Indian Veterans Association to try to pressure the federal government to provide Native veterans with the same benefits afforded to non-Native veterans. Deiter served as the association's first president.

His years of work on behalf of First Nations people were recognized that same year when he was appointed a senator of the FSI.

In his role as senator, Deiter acted as advisor as Aboriginal leaders attempted to fight to have Aboriginal rights enshrined in Canada's proposed new Constitution. In 1979, Deiter was one of five leaders chosen to make a presentation to the British



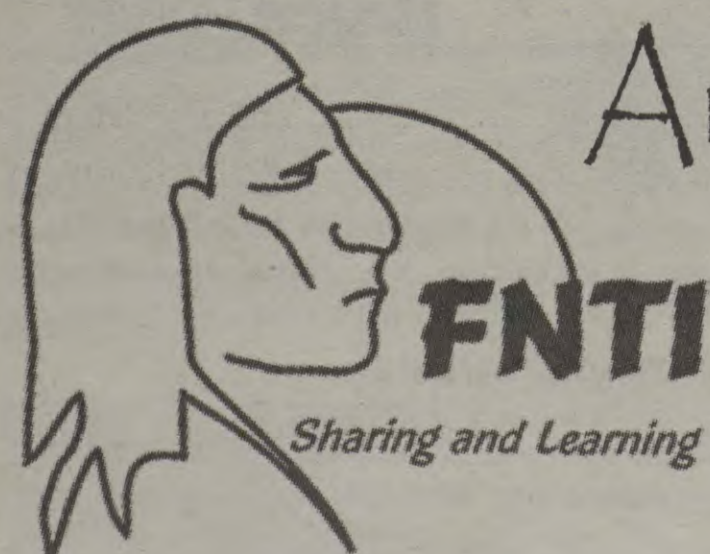
Walter Perry Deiter believed strongly in the ability of the Native community to work together to accomplish goals.

parliament on the concerns of Aboriginal people in Canada. In the end, their efforts were successful, helping to ensure Aboriginal people were included in future constitutional discussions.

In 1980, Deiter was named an officer of the Order of Canada in recognition for his ongoing efforts to improve the social conditions and educational opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Deiter died of cancer on Sept. 7, 1988 at the age of 72.

Each year the AFN commemorates the many contributions Deiter made to Aboriginal people by giving the Walter Deiter Memorial Award to a social work student who has excelled academically and has demonstrated a commitment to extracurricular or volunteer activities. His legacy also lives on in the many organizations he helped to create, and in his enduring message to Aboriginal people: By believing in themselves and working together, there isn't anything that can't be done.



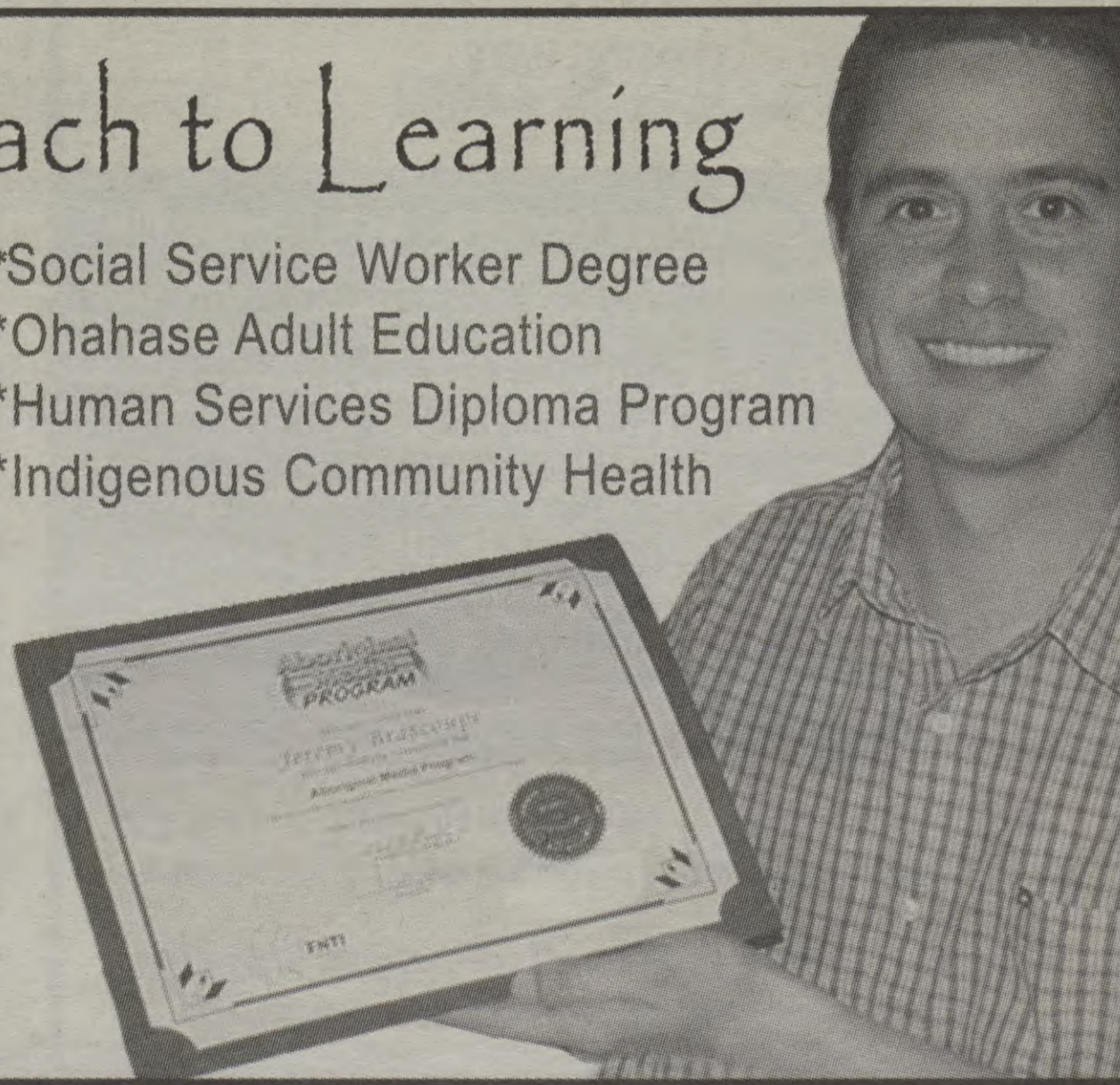
## An Aboriginal Approach to Learning

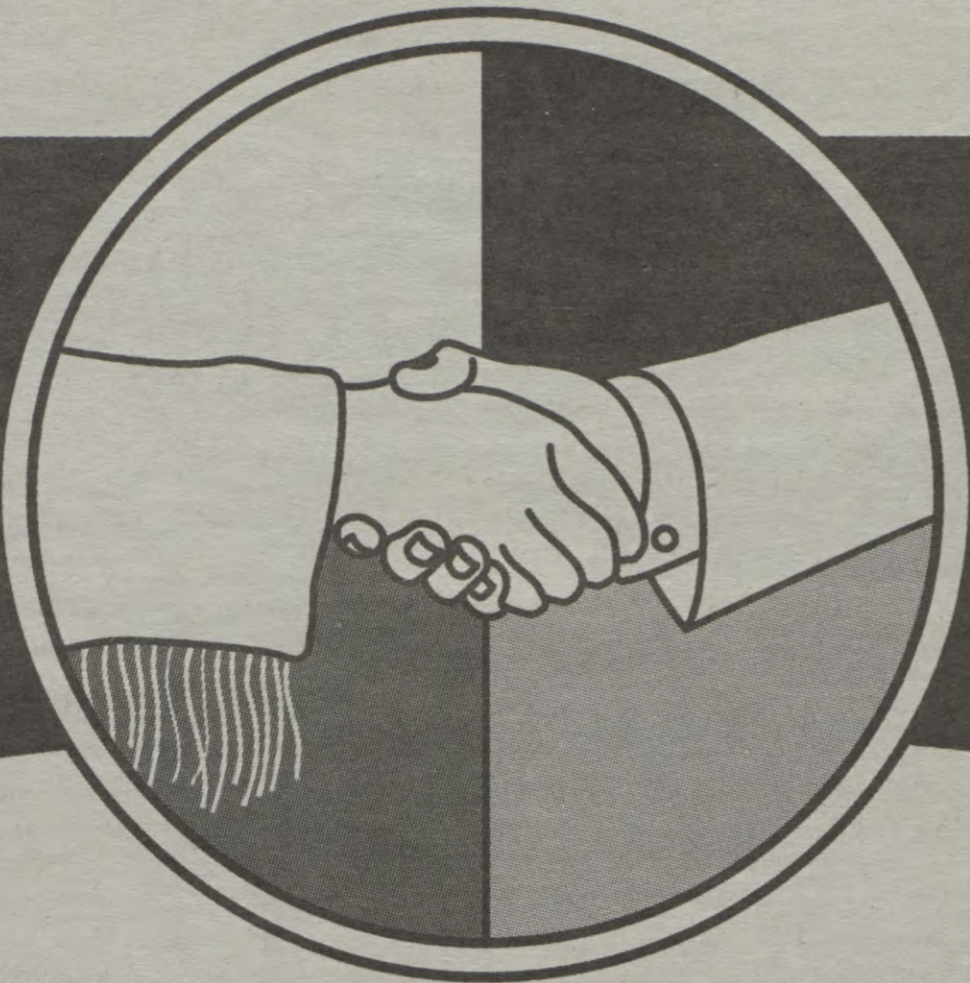
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**September 26-29 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
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## CONTACT:

Natasha Wesley,  
National Cree Gathering Coordinator  
Moose Cree First Nation  
P.O. Box 190 Moose Factory, ON P0L 1W0  
Tel: (705)658-4619 Ext. 262 Fax: (705)658-4734

Email: [natasha.wesley@moosecree.com](mailto:natasha.wesley@moosecree.com)  
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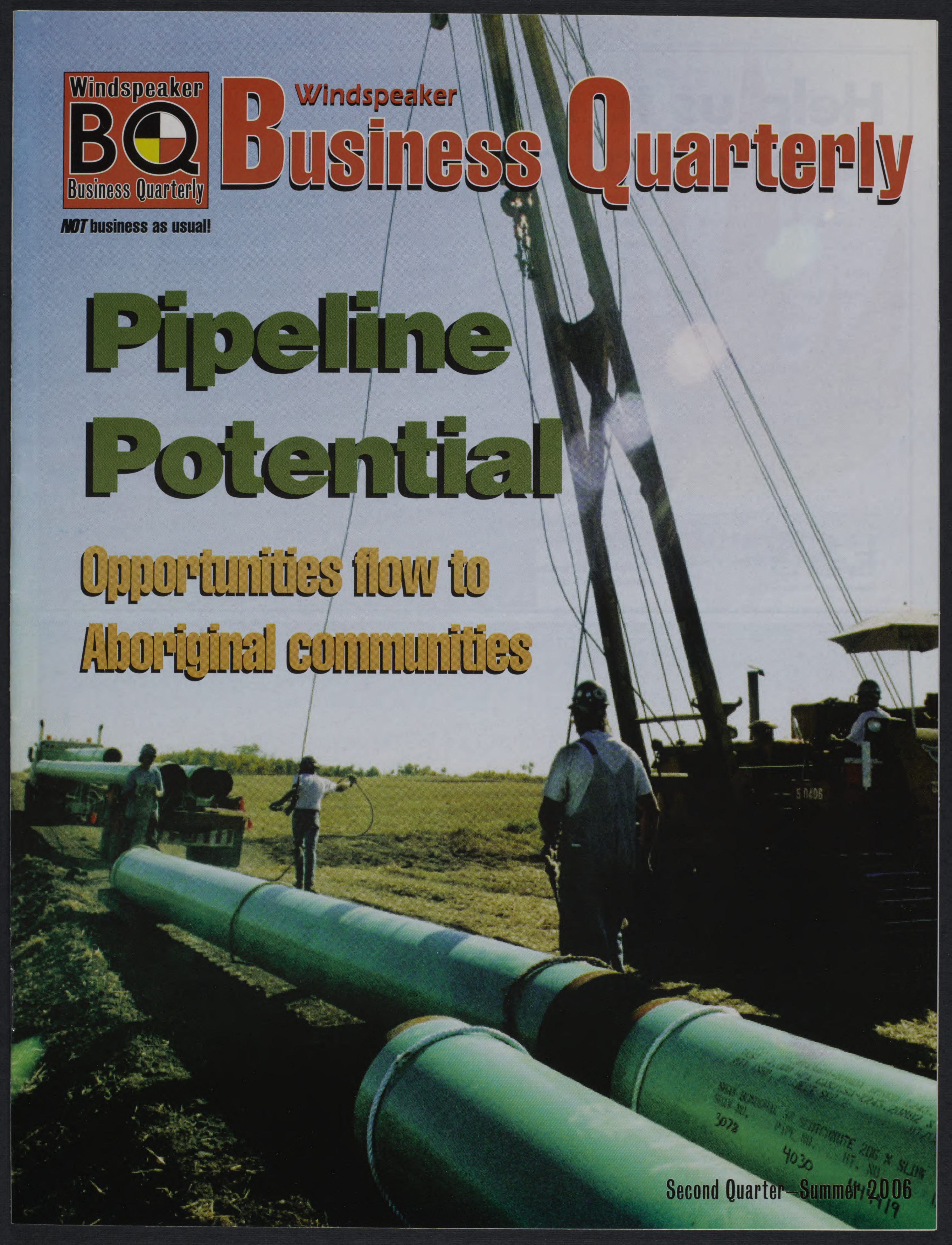


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Second Quarter—Summer 2006

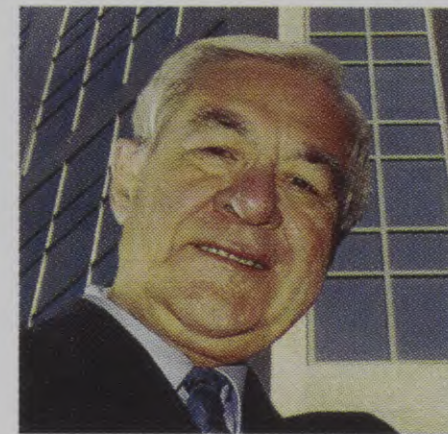
# Help us to honour Aboriginal business leaders.

Their success is a beacon, lighting the way for a new generation of young Aboriginal entrepreneurs. Every year, the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business welcomes new laureates into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Please send in your nomination by **September 1st** for the inspirational individuals who will join the Hall of Fame at our Toronto Gala Dinner on February 13th, 2007.

They will be in excellent company, joining our most recent laureates: Fred Carmichael from Inuvik, NWT, and the late Suzanne Rochon Burnett from Welland, ON. Watch their video profiles at [www.ccab.com/abhf](http://www.ccab.com/abhf).

If you know an Aboriginal business leader who deserves to be recognized, let us know. Download a nomination form at [www.ccab.com/abhf](http://www.ccab.com/abhf), or call us at 1-866-566-3229.

## 2006 Hall of Fame Laureates



Fred Carmichael



Suzanne Rochon Burnett

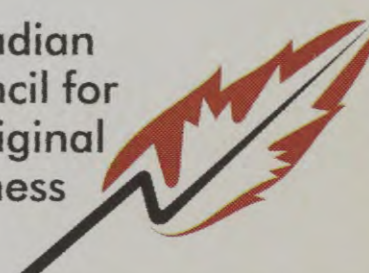
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Entries may be colour slides or prints (no Polaroids, please), not larger than 8" x 10". Subject of photos must be Aboriginal. A maximum of four (4) photo entries per person. Photographs that have been previously published or won a photographic award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

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

Submissions deadline: October 2nd, 2006

## On The Agenda

### July 11-13

#### Aboriginal Youth Business Summit (Fredricton, N.B.)

This event will bring together Aboriginal entrepreneurs to network and engage in various workshops. Participants will learn about business skills, including production, marketing, finance and quality control.

Call (506) 453-4840 for more information.

### July 11-13

#### Assembly of First Nations (Vancouver)

This will be the 27<sup>th</sup> annual AFN Annual General Assembly and will include the election of national chief. The AFN trade show will provide an opportunity to network among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations, businesses and government.

For information go to [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca).

### July 17-20

#### Economic Opportunities Conference (Sydney, N.S.)

This conference will identify ways that Indigenous groups can support each other through trade and other levels of contact. Daily discussions will focus on targeted industries, including mining, banking and land development. There will be discussions about developing international trade and focuses on tourism, the arts and communications sectors.

Go to [www.ibaconference.com](http://www.ibaconference.com) for details.

### July 19-21

#### First Nations Leadership Forum and Golf Tournament (Waterton National Park, Alta.)

The forum will discuss governance roles and responsibilities, financial management and the Indian Act tax framework. The event will bring together Aboriginal professionals working in finance, administration and management. A fundraiser golf tournament is scheduled.

For information call (403) 734-5446.

### July 20

#### Tribal Council Investment Group Golf Tournament (St. Andrews, Man.)

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Contact (204) 947-1916.

### Sept. 10-13

#### NAHO Annual Training & Continuing Education Conference (Bismarck, N.D.)

Participation is open to anyone interested in administrative law training balanced with cultural experiences. For information call 1-800-333-3333.

### Sept. 20-22

#### Leading Change Conference (Fort McMurray, Alta.)

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Call (780) 460-1336.

### Oct. 2-5

#### CANDO National Conference & Annual General Meeting (Saskatoon)

The Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers has partnered with Saskatoon Tribal Council to host this year's 13th annual conference. Participants will network with other First Nations in interactive workshops and at the trade show.

Call 1-800-463-9300 for information.

### Oct. 2-6

#### Technical Services Corporation Conference (Niagara Falls, Ont.)

In conjunction with the 12th annual general assembly and training conference for the Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario, the Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation Conference will address areas surrounding the industry, with a focus on capital building, operations and maintenance, housing, infrastructure, water/wastewater, environment and fire and safety.

For details call (416) 651-1443 ext. 223. Call 1-800-557-8242 for information.

### Oct. 19-21

#### Indigenous Bar Association Conference (Saskatoon)

The theme this year is "Making Aboriginal Policy: A Conference Ten Years After the Final Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People." There will be several professional development workshops designed for members of the legal profession.

Call (604) 951-8807 for more information.

## Business Quarterly

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Second Quarter – Summer 2006

## Honors

### On June 9, Thompson Rivers University conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree upon Aboriginal leader and innovator C.T. (Manny) Jules,

who has devoted more than 30 years of his life to the betterment of First Nations entrepreneurship and self-government. Born and raised on the Kamloops Indian Band Reserve, Jules went on to become chief of the community. He developed, negotiated and signed a Statement of Political Relationship between the Kamloops Indian Band and the City of Kamloops, created the Kamloops Indian Band Heritage Policy, implemented a First Nations sales tax on fuel, tobacco and alcohol, and co-founded the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council. He was the driving force behind the passage of Bill C-115 in 1988, which created the modern form of First Nation property tax authority and led to the creation in 1989 of the Indian Taxation Advisory Board (ITAB). In 1996,



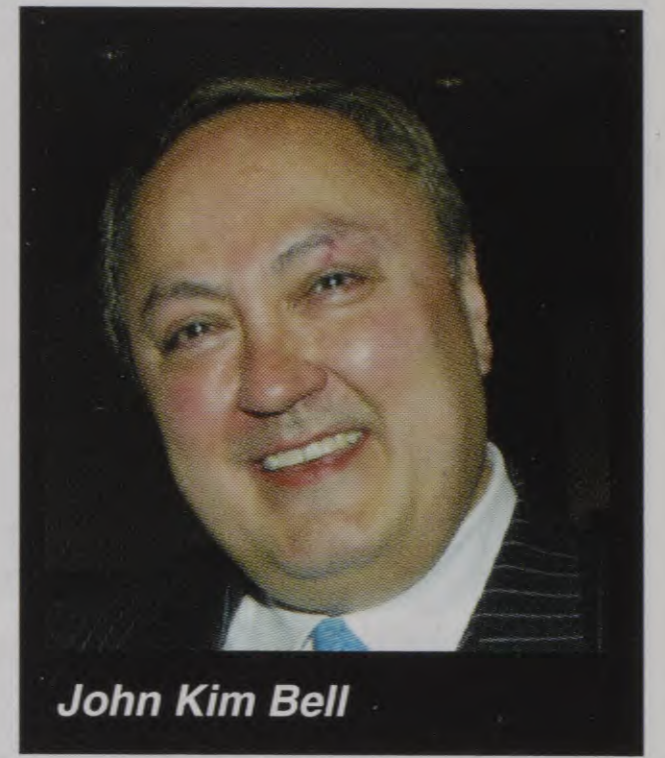
Manny Jules

Jules co-founded the Centre for Municipal-Aboriginal Relations with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and was awarded the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) Economic Developer of the Year and Recognition awards. In 1997, he co-founded the First Nations Gazette, which publishes notices and text of First Nations laws. Jules led the creation of the Financial Management Board and Statistics Institute through the National

Table on Fiscal Relations in 1999, the same year he saw the successful reclamation through purchase and negotiated settlement of 45,000 acres of reserve lands. In 2000, Jules retired as chief to devote his full attention to leading the drive to establish the First Nations fiscal institutions. He continued as ITAB chair until 2003, when he became lead spokesperson for the First Nation Fiscal Institutions Initiative and focused on leading Bill C-19, the First Nation Fiscal and Statistical Management Act, which was passed by Parliament in 2004 and received Royal Assent in March 2005.

### On April 22, John Kim Bell, president and CEO of Bell & Bernard Ltd.,

a company that specializes in working with Aboriginal leaders in business and the arts focused on providing a secure economic future for Aboriginal



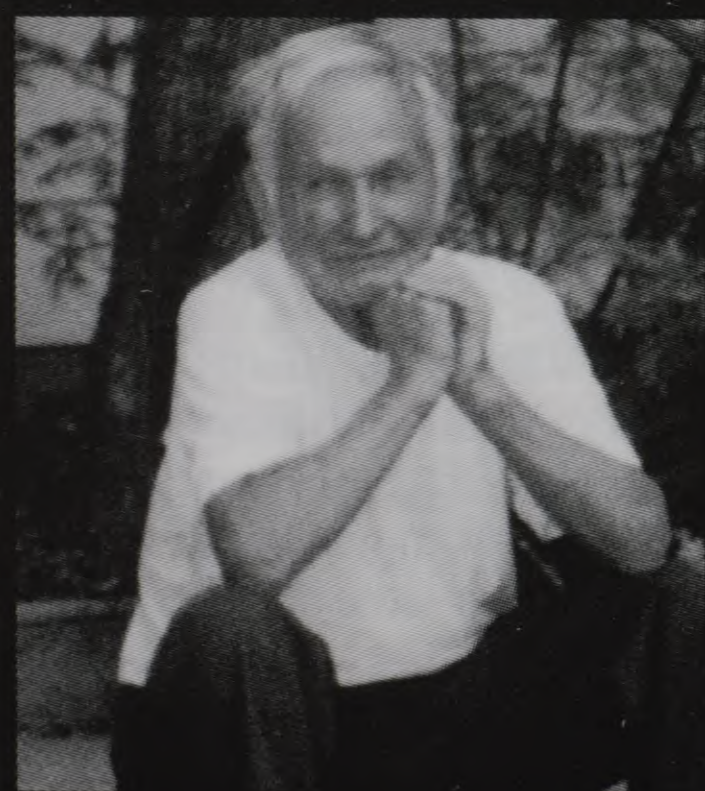
John Kim Bell

peoples, was honored by The Royal Conservatory of Music and its arts-based education program Learning Through The Arts with a lifetime achievement award. The award celebrates the contribution of an artist or educator who has dedicated his or her life's work to the arts and education.

Bell has studied music since the age of eight and was conducting Broadway musicals at the age of 18. In 1985 Bell founded what is now the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and in 1993 the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. "The arts and music are under-supported in Canada," said Bell, "and we need to make social change in regard to its importance. The very basis of my success in all my endeavors, whether it has been as an activist, businessman or fundraiser, has been built upon my training as a musician."

## In Passing

Sid Commandant, former chief of the Wahta Mohawks whose vision for economic prosperity for his community launched the Iroquois Cranberry Growers in the 1970s, passed away on March 30. He was 79. It was



Commandant's idea to cultivate the cranberries from the nearby marsh in the Muskoka community near Gibson Lake in Ontario. The product is now sold in fine food shops in Canada, the U.S. and in Europe. The idea was Commandant, but he quit as chief before the first harvest of the product. He went back to grow his own sand and gravel haulage business, serving area cottagers.

## In Passing

Metis business woman Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, the woman who launched the SPIRIT 91.7 radio station in Welland Ont., passed away on April 2 at the age of 71. Rochon-Burnett was a pioneer of Aboriginal rights and worked her life through to improve opportunities for Aboriginal people. She was the founding vice-president of the Metis Nation of Ontario, and created a business



called Kakekalanicks, which helped launch the careers of many successful artists. She received much recognition for her work, including an honorary degree from Brock University in 2002. This year she was named to the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame.

To demographer Dr. David Foot, author of *Boom, Bust and Echo: How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift*, First Nations communities in Canada look today like the rest of the country did in the 1960s, a burgeoning population flocking to urban centres.

Today, with 40-odd per cent of the First Nations population under the age of 20, Foot's message to the leaders of Canada's big cities is that Aboriginal youth from on-reserve and rural areas are coming, get used to it. In fact, embrace it and accommodate it, because you can expect the influx to continue for at least the next 10 to 15 years.

Why? Because First Nations youth are no different than other kids their age. All of them want noise and action, and the experiences that come when they get away from their parents, who they perceive as boring and dry. And all these young people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike, need opportunities — education, employment or other pursuits — *or they will tear the community apart.*

"I hate to see the waste of young talent, as most of our elders do, most of our leaders do. None of us wants to see that happen, right?"

Foot was sharing his insights with participants at the *Shaping Our Future: The Transformation of Western Canada's Economy* Conference held in Calgary April 28. The conference organizer, the Canada West Foundation, brought the professor of economics in to lead off a brainstorming session with 150 invited guests who gathered in small groups to discuss such things as the factors that will determine western Canada's economy over the next 20 years. The demographics of Canada and other countries around the globe will have a significant role to play, Foot said.

To see the future, one must look to the past, and understand that economies act differently from place to place and time to time because of demographics.

To understand the stresses or opportunities in a population, one only has to look at the

make-up of the community. If a population is young it needs action and noise. An older population wants quiet and quality service. Why is the eyeglass industry profitable today? Because that massive population known as the Baby Boomers, those folks between the ages of 40 and 59, are losing their eyesight, and there are lots of them doing it.

Windspeaker Business Quarterly talked with Foot about the young

Aboriginal population and what that meant for Canada and First Nations communities. His message was clear.

"Create opportunities for your young people or they will leave, or tear your community apart."

And we are seeing the exodus today, in large number. The problem, however, with young people going off to see the world, whether that world is

San Francisco or Africa or downtown Winnipeg, is that they tend to leave behind the social supports needed to keep them on a productive level keel, he said.

"And if you run into difficulties, and that can be difficulties getting a job, that could be difficulties of racial discrimination of some sort in the social milieu or the workplace, then it's awfully useful to have a social support system to turn to."

Foot thinks it's extremely important for cities to recognize that need and to develop outreach back to the community, and that might mean support of a community centre

where young people can get counselling or information in a way they can trust.

There is also a role for the community college and the universities to be involved in that outreach, he said, by providing innovative programs that keep young students connected to their culture and their people.

And it's important, Foote said, for Aboriginal communities to be part of the outreach. Keep track of your young people when they leave.

"You've got to let people go in their twenties, because that's when they are going to get their experience, but the important thing is to stay in touch with them, because when they choose to settle down in their thirties and start families, you can remind them then of how much the community meant to them when they were young."

By Debora Steel



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# Aboriginal tourism award honors entire community

Photo Credit: Steven Kazlowsk

**D**oug Neasloss, an ecotour guide at Klemtu Tourism, accepted the Young Adult Achievement Award during the 2006 Aboriginal Tourism BC Awards gala held in Vancouver on March 25.

The 23-year-old from Klemtu, B.C. has been working with Klemtu Tourism for the past four years and although he doesn't have any formal training in ecotourism, he has proven to be an accomplished guide and cultural interpreter.

"I was absolutely not expecting the award," said the assistant manager at Klemtu. "I didn't even know I was nominated for the award, so it was definitely a huge surprise. I think it was just a lot of hard work over the last five years."

A lot of his experience was gained on the job by being thrown into doing community walking tours. Over the years he has obtained industry certification, which includes wilderness first aid and CPR. He has also gained much experience as a boat operator and kayak guide.

His love for the outdoors started as a child when he would fish with his family almost everyday. He grew up in Klemtu surrounded by water and forests.

Klemtu is located in the heart of Great Bear Rainforest on Swindle Island.

Neasloss spends most of his time learning about the culture and history of the two nations, Kitasoo and Xaixais, that are located there. Klemtu is home to the Spirit Bear, which is the white variation of the black bear. Klemtu is also home to grizzlies, black bears, mountain goats, eagles and grey wolves.

He said he "really enjoys" the cultural aspects of his job because "I get to educate

visitors about the history of the First Nations people and where they came from," he said.

"I absolutely love this job and I don't think I would trade it for anything," said Neasloss. "I just enjoy meeting people and working with wildlife."

Neasloss' responsibility as a guide is to lead bear viewings and other ecotours. He also teaches technical skills for kayaking and wilderness travel and safety management, and serves as the assistant manager where he carries out the administration and sales duties.

The idea of the Aboriginal tourism awards is to recognize individuals, such as Neasloss, and organizations, like Klemtu Tourism, that develop unique Aboriginal tourism experiences.

Neasloss was one of eight recipients of the Aboriginal tourism industry awards.

The Inspirational Leadership Award was given to Chief Sophie Pierre of the Ktunaxa Nation. The Coast Hotels and Resorts Ambassador Award was presented to Ernie Philip of the Quaaout Resort and Conference Centre at Little Shuswap Lake in Chase. The Xa:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre owned by Sto:lo First Nation in Mission received the Power Of Education Award. The Cultural Authenticity Award was given to Sasquatch Tours of Harrison Hot Spring. The Strength in Marketing Award was presented to Takaya Tours in Tsleil-Waututh First Nation situated in North Vancouver. The Tourism Conservation Award was presented by BC Hydro to Homalco

Wildlife Tours, Xwemalhkwa (Homalco) First Nation, Vancouver Island. The Excellence in Customer Service Award was given to Dolly Watts, Liliget Feast House and Catering located in Vancouver.

Neasloss said his award is a good sign that the Klemtu community is moving in the right direction.

"It means a lot more than just an award for myself, but I think for our community it means a lot as well," said Neasloss. "I know it has my name on it but I think it's a good step for us and I think I just want to give my community support for that or just give them thanks. It's just as much theirs as it is mine."

Klemtu Tourism began offering cultural ecotours in 1996 when a passenger ferry stopped at their harbor.

"I think tourism is a good alternative to fish farming and other things," said Neasloss.

To learn more about Klemtu Tourism visit [www.klemtutourism.com](http://www.klemtutourism.com).

By Laura Stevens



Photo Credit: Adam Stein



# Old attitudes get in way of new technology

**E**rland Campbell is more than a little frustrated. After spending the last several years trying to interest Aboriginal entrepreneurs in Internet-based marketing, he's getting very few takers.

The 49-year-old citizen of Manitoba's Fisher River First Nation now lives in Montreal but, thanks to the Internet, the world is his workplace. He has educated himself on the fine points of creating Web sites that get noticed by the major search engines and sees it as an inexpensive way for residents of remote communities to create and promote profitable businesses.

"I've been learning on my own for the past six years from the top Internet marketers, copywriters, salespeople on the Web. I'm learning from these top-notch people around the world," he said.

But there seems to be a lot of reluctance when it comes to taking a chance on relatively new technology.

"I keep hearing the word 'funding.' It's sort of a mentality based on funding. You know, 'I've got to go check with the band office.' You don't have to go that way because a domain name costs \$8.88 US for a year. A server space, the one I use, I pay a dollar a month. So for, let's say \$25 a year, you've got a domain name and server space," he said. "A couple of digital photos and some written material describing your product or service and you're open for business. You could do all that yourself for very little cost."

That's where Campbell's specialty, Web site optimization, makes the difference. Search engine algorithms, called "robots" or "spiders" are computer programs that rapidly comb through massive amounts of data to meet the requirements of the search engine users. When you optimize your Web site, you are simply making sure that the words used on your Web page attract the attention of these programs and give your page a high rank, that is, show your page ahead of others.

It's a quick and relatively inexpensive way to

set up a profitable business no matter where you are located, but government agencies and First Nation economic development organizations seem to be stuck in a rut and haven't yet fully embraced this opportunity, Campbell said.

"I don't know what it is but what I noticed about the Aboriginal tourism conference in Quebec City this past March was everybody had boxes of brochures, pamphlets, pens and all kinds of other marketing paraphernalia. I never really saw anything about using the Internet to market products. Not one speaker was talking about using the Internet. And I thought, 'Something's wrong here.'"

His business, EC Web Marketing, has several non-Native success stories.

One client, a non-Native lawyer in Montreal, has used Internet search engine optimization to get contracts from across Canada and beyond for a legal translation (English to French and vice-versa) sideline business. One contract was with a company in Japan.

Campbell recently ran into a former employer who owns a moving company. That man pays \$7,000 a month for advertising for his business. Campbell said he could cut that cost significantly by setting up a Web site. And it's a trend that will only get more pronounced over the next few years, he added.

"I told him you've got to use the Internet. People are not using the Yellow Pages anymore. People just don't have time. They'll go to a search engine and type in what they need and there it is," he said.

He'd like to see more of his own people taking advantage of this technology. While remoteness has been considered a problem for First Nation businesses, with a presence on the Internet, remote First Nation businesses can make money because of the fact they are far from the mass markets of large cities in the south or the United States or any other international location, Campbell added.

"A lot of these First Nations, they're sitting on gold," he said. "Dig a hole, call it campsite

**Erland Campbell's presentation on Internet marketing and search engine optimization at the Aboriginal tourism conference in Quebec City in March was well attended and covered in the local media. But he did not gain a single customer afterwards. He believes a shift in attitudes could make a huge difference in First Nation economic development.**

number one, have the customers canoe up. There's beautiful places I've been to across Canada. Hunting, fishing, cultural tourism, beautiful beaches everywhere. People are looking for these things on the Internet. It's such a powerful tool at our fingertips that can reach the world. I'm just not seeing enough Aboriginal tourism businesses embracing it."

While business has been slow, he's made enough money to keep going as an actor. He plays Bob Antone, a Mohawk negotiator, in the newly released *Indian Summer: The Oka Crisis* directed by Gil Cardinal and produced by Claudio Luca, who also produced *The Boys of St. Vincent* in 1992.

And if there's no opportunity north of the 49th parallel, he'll look south.

He's been invited to speak at the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association annual conference in Ocean Shores, Washington near the city of Olympia this fall.

"The American Indians are more pro-active. They think like Americans. They're always on the go. They get it done. If they see potential for success, for sales, they're in there right away," he said. "Up here, people want to talk about funding."

By Paul Barnsley



Photos courtesy of Enbridge

# Aboriginal communities prepare for flow of opportunities

It'll be more than a year before the National Energy Board (NEB) rules on whether a proposed 1,150 kilometre-long pipeline running from Bruderheim, Alta. to Kitimat, B.C. can go ahead, but Aboriginal communities located alongside the pipeline's planned route have begun preparing to take advantage of the economic opportunities the project would offer.

The Gateway Project is proposed by Enbridge, an energy transportation and distribution company that has been in operation for more than 50 years. If it goes ahead, Gateway would build upon Enbridge's existing North American pipeline system—13,500 kilometres of pipe used to deliver more than two million barrels of crude oil and liquids a day.

Plans for Gateway call for construction of two pipelines within the same right-of-way.

One pipeline would transport oil from a location near Bruderheim, just outside of Edmonton, to Kitimat, where the oil would be loaded onto tankers for shipment to the U.S. and the Pacific Rim. The second pipeline would transport condensate, a light petroleum product used to thin crude oil so it flows more freely through pipelines. The condensate would be unloaded from tankers in Kitimat

then transported east via the pipeline.

Building a marine terminal in Kitimat where the tankers can load and unload is also part of the Gateway project. It's estimated the capital cost of the entire project would sit at somewhere in the neighborhood of \$4 billion.

The route proposed for Gateway takes the pipeline through or near a number of Aboriginal communities, so Enbridge began working to include those communities in plans for the project early in the process, said Lyle Neis, Gateway's manager of Aboriginal Affairs.

"The work we do, whether that's in project development or in our operations, is guided under our Aboriginal Peoples Policy. And that policy, one of its fundamentals is based on forthright and sincere consultation so that we work towards a shared understanding and interest and whatnot with all Aboriginal communities and other people along our route," Neis said.

"The Gateway Project started as a study back in 2002. And early in that study, Enbridge recognized the real need for communication with communities. Let them know what our plans and activities are. Try to figure out issues that are important to communities and get a good understanding of how we can work with them."

The company started by talking with more than 170 communities, eventually narrowing that number down to around 50 once plans progressed and the area that would be impacted by the project became clearer. That consultation has included meetings with chiefs and councils. Enbridge also hosted 10 open houses across B.C. and Alberta.

"We build these projects. They happen very quickly, then they're in operation for a very long time," Neis said. "So my own philosophy is that we're going to be basically operating out of people's backyards for many, many decades, so it's very important that we have good relationships; relationships that are based on trust and goodwill."

In late 2005, the company submitted a preliminary information package on the Gateway Project to the NEB and expects to file a regulatory application with the board during the current quarter. A hearing process involving the NEB and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is expected to begin next year, with a decision expected by the end of 2007.

If the NEB approves the plans for Gateway, and if the conditions the board attaches to its approval are acceptable to Enbridge, the company would proceed with

the project very quickly, Neis said. Construction would likely be in 2008, with a goal of having the pipeline in operation by mid-2010.

If the project does go ahead, it will mean a real boost to the economies of the Aboriginal communities along the pipeline right-of-way, Neis said.

"I think the possibilities for Aboriginal communities along the way are somewhat endless. I mean, we're going to be building very close to a lot of communities and I believe there'll be a lot of opportunities for people to work in both the construction as well as the operation of the pipeline after it's built."

It's estimated that construction of the Gateway pipeline and marine terminal would create about 49,000 person years of employment—22,000 in B.C., 19,000 in Alberta and 8,000 for the rest of the country.

Construction of the pipelines will likely be broken up into a dozen separate segments or spreads, Neis said. That means there is a potential for a dozen different pipeline construction contractors to benefit directly from the project.

Somewhere between 400 and 1,400 workers will be needed to complete construction on each spread, and about 40 to build each of the 11 or so pumping stations

needed to keep the oil and condensate flowing. Another 450 workers will be needed for construction of the marine terminal and related infrastructure in Kitimat.

"So, at its peak, construction would require about 5,700 workers. That's a big workforce," Neis said.

Once the construction is completed, it's estimated about 85 employees will be needed to operate and maintain the pipeline and related facilities.



"Those jobs would be in the trades, such as electrical, mechanical, instrumentation, welding, pipelines maintenance, tank farm and terminal utility maintenance and operations. We need people working in

our control rooms that operate the pipeline, engineering, administration and management. We will also require service support contractors for things like light and heavy equipment, electrical, mechanical, excavation, etc."

A number of communities along the proposed pipeline route are already gearing up to take advantage of the opportunities that will come if Gateway is a go, and Enbridge is working to give them a hand, Neis said.

Enbridge plans to work with regional trades training institutions to put programs in place that meet the needs of both the company and the communities along the Gateway corridor. And the company has recently

continued on page 17...

**If Enbridge chooses to go ahead with its proposed Gateway Pipeline, 41 Aboriginal communities and organizations would be affected due to their proximity to the pipeline right-of-way.**

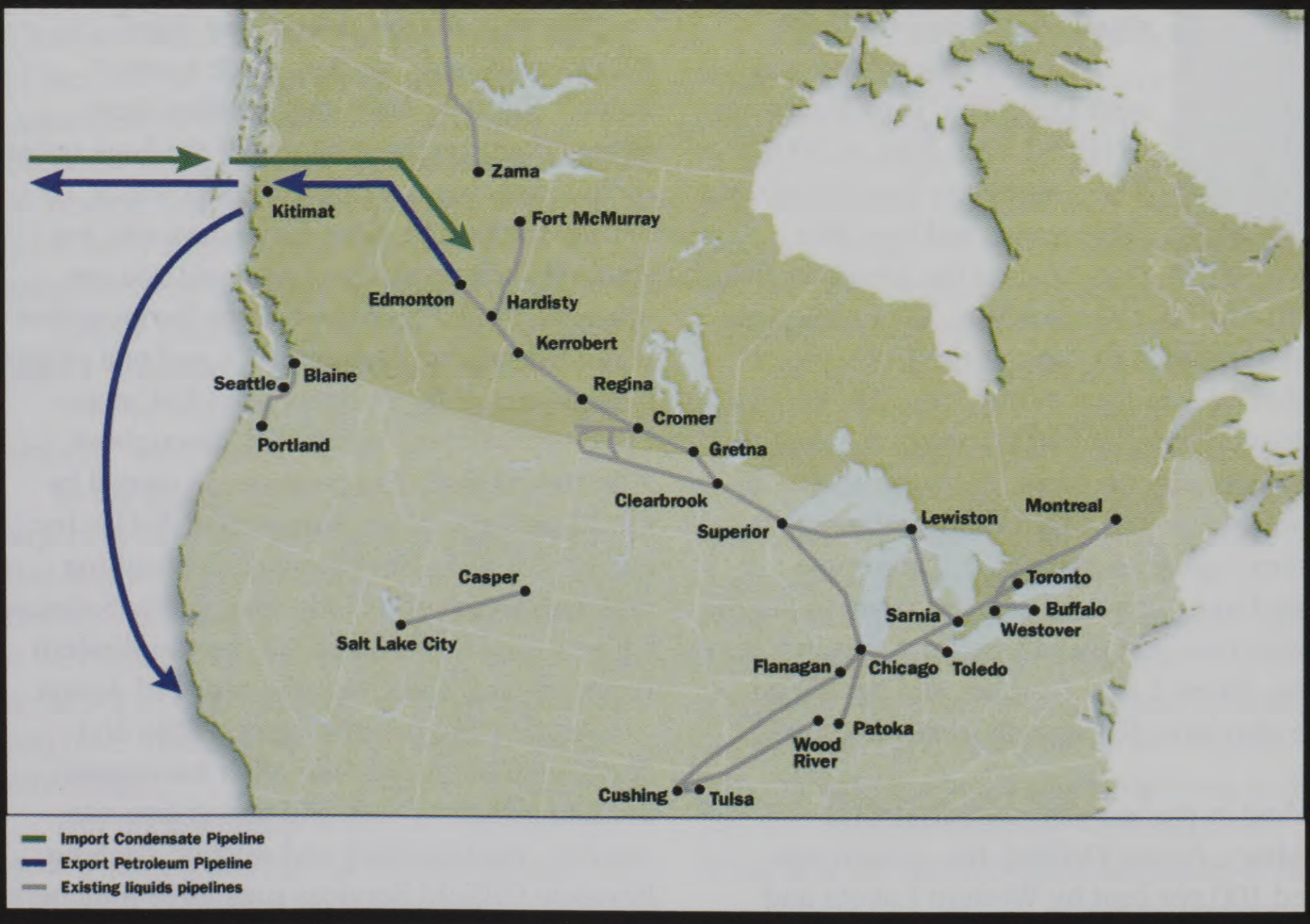
**Alberta communities and organizations**

- Alexander First Nation
- Alexis First Nation
- Aseniwuche Winewak Nation
- Driftpile First Nation
- Duncan's First Nation
- Enoch Cree Nation
- Grande Cache Metis Local #1994
- Horse Lake First Nation
- Kapawe'no First Nation
- Metis Regional Council-Zone IV
- Paul First Nation
- Sawridge Band
- Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
- Sucker Creek First Nation
- Swan River First Nation

**British Columbia communities and organizations**

- Burns Lake Indian Band
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation
- Fort George Metis Association
- Kelly Lake Cree Nation
- Kelly Lake First Nation
- Kitamaat Village Council (Haisla First Nation)
- Kitselas Indian Band
- Kitsumkalum Indian Band
- Lake Babine First Nation
- Lheidli T'enneh Nation
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Nadleh Whut'en Band
- Nak'azdli Indian Band
- Nee Tai Buhn First Nation
- New Caledonia Metis Association
- Northwest B.C. Metis Association
- Office of the Wet'suwet'en (Wet'suwet'en Nation)
- Saik'uz First Nation
- Saulteau First Nation
- Skin Tyee First Nation
- Stellat'en First Nation
- Takla Lake First Nation
- Tl'at'zen Nation
- West Moberly First Nation
- Wet'suwet'en First Nation
- Yekooche First Nation

**New Market Access - Gateway Pipeline**



# IndigeNations:



Photos courtesy Western Lakota

**T**he brokerage community wouldn't give him the time of day. The investors were wait and see. His competitors said 'What are you doing? Why bother?' And now he's making a tremendous amount of money and so are the Aboriginal communities that he's formed partnerships with.

"I don't know what all we are doing right, but it's sure working," said Elson McDougald, president and founder of Western Lakota Energy Services Inc.

It all started back in 2001 when McDougald was launching his third oil drilling company. He was contracting with EnCana Corporation, an oil and gas company that had a strong interest in supporting positive relationships with the Aboriginal community. After discussing what EnCana was hoping to accomplish and then meeting with Aboriginal leaders to discuss their goals, McDougald set out to design a company where his shareholders could prosper, and Aboriginal people could participate and get the long-term sustainable business and employment benefits they desired.

The first two years was rough, he admits. There was a lot of skepticism in the oil and gas community. A lot of them felt not only that it couldn't be done, but that it shouldn't be done.

"Everybody was pretty comfortable and there was a lot of lip service being paid to this

sort of thing without any real action and they were getting away with it, and keeping themselves, or their corporations, in a power position with token involvement. And what we were bringing to the table was real involvement, and that probably frighten some people."



Elson McDougald

The predominant feeling was that Aboriginal people would want something for nothing, said McDougald. "I said 'No, no, no, give it a chance.' I think if you provide good business opportunities... it should work for everybody."

The first partnership was with Dene Tha' First Nation up in High Level, Alta. in 2002. The community bought into two drilling rigs and now that participation has grown to five,

a multi-million dollar venture. That same year the Metis Nation of Alberta (MNA) scraped together \$4.5 million to buy a rig. They purchased the rig out-right, unlike the deal that was struck with the Dene Tha' who took a 50 per cent share. The MNA then contracted Western Lakota to manage it. Then came Saddle Lake, with a 50 per cent share in one rig and now two, and then came the Samson Cree Nation. Horse Lake, Duncan, and the Blood Tribe also have 50 per cent stakes in one rig each.

"And in the last year we formed the subsidiary, Acuna Drilling Inc., which was owned 100 per cent by Western Lakota and

we've brought 29 bands into it in Alberta and Saskatchewan to participate in the heavy oil, the delineation drilling, and everybody seems to really like what's happening," said McDougald.

Today, Western Lakota has 40 rigs in the field and has plans to construct 19 more. The Samson Cree Nation has sold its three rigs back to Western Lakota in return for a bigger piece of the pie, hundreds of thousands of shares in the publicly-traded company. Samson purchased its 800,000-plus shares of Western Lakota at a cost of \$7.50 per.

"We're well over double that now," McDougald said, "so they made a smart move." Not only have they doubled their money, Samson did it on top of the huge return on the investment it made while it was a partner in the rigs. Now the community has spun off their profits into other oil and gas ventures. Under Samson Energy Services five water trucks, one vacuum truck and one picker is kept busy with contracts from EnCana, Fairbourn Energy and CNRL throughout Alberta and B.C. The company is owned by the community under Samson Oil & Gas Inc., and envisions an environmental consulting division as part of its long-term goals. Samson Chief Victor Buffalo now sits on the Western Lakota board, and chairs the board of Acuna.

Saddle Lake has also spun off the dividends paid on its rigs into other businesses, including right-of-way and power line site clearing, road building and seismic slashing. Peyasew Oilfield Services runs three mulchers,

# Making believers of the skeptics

one operating in Heart Lake and two in Red Water, Alta., and is expecting delivery of two more at a cost of about \$500,000 each. Peyasew also has two Cats operating at Suncor in Fort McMurray, Alta., and has a grader at Cold Lake, Alta.

"We run the mulchers for about 15 days, and average about \$300,000 to \$350,000 [invoiced] per unit," said business manager Cameron Delver. He confirms that the equipment is running constantly and each of the other units in the fleet invoices a similar amount. And the business is expanding beyond the purchase of the mulchers. Peyasew is awaiting another track hoe and four more Cats. Peyasew also runs firefighting contracts for forestry, and currently employs about 80 people, though that number has been as high as 144, said Delver.

The main goal of the band-owned business is to create employment opportunities and wealth for its members. At the core of that wealth are the two rigs, which have been performing well beyond expectations, said Charlie Wood, chair of the five-person board of the O-Trust, which looks after the community's investments to maximize benefits. Wood credits the good management of Western Lakota for the success. "They've been fairly aggressive in promoting the capabilities of the rigs," he said.

Saddle Lake's first rig was guaranteed 100 days drilling over the first two years.

"We've surpassed that many times over already," said Wood.

In the beginning there were a lot of naysayers in the community who were critical that Saddle Lake would consider getting into a business that would affect Mother Earth. But it was finally decided to go along for the ride, so as not to miss the boat on a good opportunity, one where others would surely take advantage.

But it's not cheap to get into a rig, Wood said. Today, a drilling rig would cost between \$10 and \$12 million, a huge increase from

Saddle Lake's first rig, which cost \$6.4 million.

"The industry right now is really on a high," said Wood. "There's not enough drilling rigs to meet the demand. And the oil patch keeps saying that this scenario is going to remain for several more years."

In fact, at the recent Meet The North conference held in Edmonton, EnCana's vice-president of Aboriginal relations, Andy Popko, said the company is currently drilling 4,600 wells a year, but could be drilling 46,000 if the equipment and manpower were available.

So there is enormous potential for other First Nations to become involved, said McDougald.

"We are being approached by more communities everyday, in Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C., predominantly. I've had the odd call from Manitoba, Ontario and further east. They all are hearing about what's happening. Not from us, but from the other chiefs and wondering how they might become involved or apart of it," he said.

An organization that got in on the ground floor of the Western Lakota success story is the Metis Nation of Alberta. The goal of the MNA was as much about training their people as it was about creating wealth, said President Audrey Poitras. Part of the beauty of the Western Lakota design is a component where the company trains community members so they can find meaningful and well-paid employment in the energy sector.

"We have a training platform, that is a model," said McDougald. "It's just a trailer model of a rig... and we take it right out to the community and do selections right on the community of recruits and do drug and alcohol testing, physical fitness testing and extensive interviews, then we put them through a two-week course. The first week is the expectations, what they should expect arriving at the job, and what the company will expect of them, and that seems to be a large part of the

continued on page 14...



## Obstacles & Opportunity



Photo courtesy Western Lakota

(Continued from page 13.)

success. We get close to 80 per cent retention on the young recruits that have gone through the course.”

Of Western Lakota's 700 employees, 23 per cent are Aboriginal. “We've got two rigs that are Aboriginal right from top to bottom, all the crews, the manager and everything. . . and they are two of our best performing rigs in the company,” said McDougald. And Western Lakota estimates it will require another 300 people between now and the end of the year.

“We trained as many, or more people than we originally anticipated,” said Poitras, all the while generating revenue for the MNA and its regional offices.

It was difficult for the MNA to find the initial investment dollars to make the purchase, but some of the key people involved had a deep belief in the organization's capabilities. EnCana guaranteed a firm number of drilling days, and Western Lakota, as the MNA's management team, was a proven entity and built credibility into the plan.

McDougald said the decision to back the Metis Nation was a good one. “Metis Nation, particularly, has been really successful on their investment,” he said.

In January, MNA converted its rig into 244,000 shares in Western Lakota and 568,000 units of Acuna. When the initial four-year contract with EnCana was to end, it gave MNA an opportunity to think about other business

goals.

“What we saw [the trade in] doing is still having our investment, but sort of having it more liquid. If we decided we wanted to move into some other type of business, we have the shares that we could cash in or use as collateral,” said Poitras. “We believe we did very well in the oil and gas industry, but we also know that in Alberta there is lots of opportunity.”

“We are happy if they want to stay a partner, and we are happy if they want to become a shareholder,” said McDougald. “Whatever fits their desires the best.”

Another component of the Western Lakota venture was the opportunity for individual Metis to sub-contract on a variety of projects, from water truck rentals to mat making to emergency medical support in the field. And the benefits have gone beyond business.

“It has provided the opportunity for us to have people know who the Metis Nation are, and also have them understand some of the other things we do, such as promoting who we are and the cultural side of it. And a lot of oil and gas industry have come on board with our Metis Crossing cultural initiative that we are developing out on the North Saskatchewan River so I think there are lots of different opportunities that have presented themselves,” said Poitras.

Over the last five years, the skepticism that initially greeted Elson McDougald and his plan

to invite the Indigenous populations of Alberta into the oil and gas industry has been beaten down by success.

“We just can't get over how well it is working and how well it's received by the big institutional investors in Eastern Canada and Eastern United States,” said McDougald. “When I'm in Boston and New York and places like that, lots of the big, multi-billion dollar funds will spend half-an-hour talking to me about the figures and they'll spend an hour, if I've got the time to stay, talking about the social aspects of what we've accomplished.”

“It really feels good to meet the young people that are out there working and hear their stories as well about how proud they are of what they are doing and how they are buying a new truck and how a lot of them tell us how it has turned their lives around, that they were heading down the wrong road, and now they feel productive, they feel good about themselves.”

And the investment community can now also feel good about themselves.

“There is good in everybody, and they want to see people do well, and become productive and that's just really part of human nature that's coming out. They never, most of them never, ever knew how to go about it, or how to become involved in it until we came along, and now they can see what can be done and what can be accomplished.”

By Debora Steel

# TCIG...

## On the move and growing

**T**he purchase of Winnipeg's Radisson Hotel by the Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd. (TCIG) has drawn attention to the unique goals of the organization. In January, the group acquired the four-star downtown icon, the largest and tallest hotel on the skyline.

"We partnered with a hotelier, which is experienced in the operation of hotel management, so it's a good combination," said Allan McLeod, president and chief executive officer of TCIG. "Already we have had 100 per cent occupancy on many nights, and before we acquired it there were many nights when it was half that. It's a tough hotel market here but we've experienced real growth."

In 1990, the seven tribal councils of Manitoba, representing 55 First Nation communities with a population of 100,000 people, combined resources to establish themselves in the corporate community. Offices were set up with operations centred in Winnipeg through an initial investment of \$25,000 from each tribal council. The combination of these resources was expected to result in greater investing opportunities than could ever be accomplished by individual tribal councils and the long-term vision of TCIG was to generate enough wealth to contribute towards First Nations self-sufficiency by being a major player in the Canadian and international economies.

That the organization has succeeded is beyond question.

"We are creating our own services so we don't have to rely on government funding. We are now considered part of the mainstream Manitoba and western Canada business communities," said Sam Anderson, director of corporate communications. "We are working towards self-sufficiency by investing wisely in such vehicles as the fund that owns Perimeter Aviation and Keewatin Air, and we have purchased Big Freight trucking company as we need to ship a lot of goods into the northern part of the province."

More than 87 per cent of the employees at the executive offices are Aboriginal, he continued.

"A primary area of improvement has been with employment. Through our acquisitions, we have been able to supply and open up numerous employment opportunities, but it's ongoing as we have not had the success we would have liked in finding First Nations people to take advantage of these opportunities."

For example, Big Freight has more than 100 job opportunities and Aboriginal drivers would be great candidates. TCIG has numerous employment opportunities in other areas as well. Positions for professional engineers, administrative staff, investment professionals, pilots,

continued on page 17...



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Photo supplied by TCIG.

**TCIG president Allan McLeod meets regularly with business and industry personnel to discuss investment and employment opportunities for the seven member tribal councils that make up the organization. Left to right, Graham Stremer — President & CEO Manitoba Chamber of Commerce; Joe Paletta — President & CEO Paletta Corporation; Allan C. McLeod — President & CEO Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba Ltd.; Jim Carr — President & CEO Business Council of Manitoba.**

# Cross-cultural business communication 101

By Lee Ahenakew

To have a successful meeting between people from downtown Canadian city X and people from an Aboriginal community, you must remember they are places that are as different as two countries on opposite sides of the globe. Misunderstandings over differences in meeting and correspondence protocols can create frustration, and ultimately unsuccessful and unproductive encounters.

To avoid poor communication between Aboriginal people and mainstream Canadians it is important to recognize the differences in the way mainstream society and Aboriginal people conduct themselves when setting appointments, keeping appointments, and the general flow of meetings. Being aware of the differences will help you avoid frustrations and have a more productive meeting.

Rule number one is to remember there is great diversity among Aboriginal people and mainstream Canadians. Some Aboriginal people are more traditional than others. Some mainstream business and government workers have more aggressive type-A personalities.

The most extreme cultural difference is between a very traditional Aboriginal person who grew up in their home community versus someone who grew up in a downtown big city. It is important to always consider the unique perspective of the person with whom you are trying to communicate.

The concept of time varies between Aboriginal communities and downtown cities. Canadian corporate culture values productivity every minute and reacts expeditiously to requests. In the city, appointments are normally close together. Business moves quickly in one of the most socially conservative business atmospheres on the planet. Mainstream business people often have their calendars divided into 15 minute time periods and have tasks assigned to every minute. Appointments are expected to begin right on time.

Aboriginal people from communities must travel long distances so travel variables often cause delays to meeting start times. Aboriginal people are more comfortable being flexible with meeting start times. The atmosphere on the reserve is laid back and friendly in a close knit community. Everyone knows everyone and social protocol is not

very rigid.

Therefore, a reminder to Native people: remember to call ahead if you're going to be even a minute late. Corporate sharks and government whips: leave a little extra time around your meeting so you don't get all fidgety and anxious because you have to get to your next meeting.

There is a difference in the time taken to respond to correspondence between the two cultures. Aboriginal people are more laid back returning phone calls: phone calls are returned today or tomorrow; whenever the important issues in the community are dealt with, or after a long drive with little cell phone reception.

On the other hand, corporate Canada's culture highly values quick responses to phone calls and e-mails: at Xerox Canada where I used to work, for example, the most important conduct rule is to return every phone call within three business hours.

So business development guy: remember the chief not returning your phone call for a few business days is not necessarily an indication of avoidance or that you are not a priority. And Native people: keep in mind that not returning a message immediately may be perceived as a lack of interest.

There are differences in the speed with which conversation is conducted. Listening and humility are highly valued virtues in Aboriginal culture. Native culture has a great respect for words. In a society that did not

have books, verbal communication was law. Words have the ability to change the world and you use them carefully. Native people will spend some time to contemplate how they will react to a question or statement. Silence is OK.

On the contrary, in the city people are taught it is a virtue to be aggressive with your ideas and it is your social responsibility to always keep the conversation going. Silence in conversation is very uncomfortable. These differences create communication problems because one side talks too much and the other side does not jump in to communicate their opinion.

A piece of advice to urban dwellers in government or business: leave some time for silence and reflection in the conversation. A tip for Aboriginal people: you may have to summon the warrior within and butt into the sentence to get your opinion on the table.

I have two closing suggestions:

- Always phone a day ahead to confirm your meeting.
- Open the meeting with some light conversation to find out a little about each other, and get comfortable with how interesting the differences between your cultures are.

**Lee Ahenakew is the Principal of 4Sight, a management consulting firm that helps Corporate Canada do business with First Nations. [www.4sightconsulting.ca](http://www.4sightconsulting.ca)**



Lee Ahenakew



(Continued from page 15.)

mechanics, managers and customer service representatives are also available to First Nations candidates.

Arctic Beverages, the world's only Aboriginal-owned Pepsi bottler, is a project of TCIG, which has warehouse delivery depots located in three northern communities and offices at Flin Flon, all employing First Nations workers. In downtown Toronto, another operation known as First Canadian Health with more than 70 employees, boasts of a 40 per cent Aboriginal work force. Other businesses operated by TCIG include the First Nations Bank of Canada, True North Sports and Entertainment Ltd, and Bieber Securities Inc.

Allan McLeod agrees that self-sufficiency is the goal, and answer to many of the ongoing problems faced by Aboriginal people in North America.

"We have First Nations people in significant management positions and the performance of the company shows that our track record is paying real dividends," he said. "And we are investing in the First Nations communities that we serve as all of our money flows back to them."

TCIG entered the real estate market by acquiring a significant interest in Westfield Real Estate Investment Trust last year. The investment has provided excellent returns, as 60 per cent of the 180 western Canadian buildings are commercial and the balance are shopping centres.

"We also formed a fuel distribution company this year to provide bulk and retail fuel to independent gas stations. Through an agreement with Domo, we are in the process of signing up dealers and delivering fuel to wholesale operations in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and northwestern Ontario," he added.

Future plans include the continued but controlled acquisition of other companies, as well as an attempt to expand within those already existing in TCIG's portfolio.

"We are excited about upcoming growth," said McLeod, who was recognized as one of the 40 under 40 top achievers in Canada by Report on Business Magazine in 2004. "We have a good solid foundation and have another two deals which are going to be accomplished this year, a pace we hope to continue."

Keeping the 100,000 people the organization represents focused takes lots of hard work and energy, he concluded. "They have diverse interests and we work together creatively to fulfil their goals." From 1990 through to 2002 TCIG only had two companies, but in the last four years 10 have been added, so the organization is on the move, he said. "When asked about plans for the future, I can only say watch us grow, watch our people prosper and watch us become self sufficient."

By Heather Andrews Miller

**Windspeaker Business Quarterly**

## Flow of Opportunities

(Continued from page 11.)

welcomed a new member to the Gateway team who will work on Aboriginal business relations and skills development.

"That will be a full-time position who will be spending a lot of time in each of the communities, trying to get a good understanding of what existing capabilities are there and then, working with communities, developing some workforce planning," Lyle Neis said.

A number of Aboriginal communities are supportive of the proposed project, but there are communities and organizations that have serious concerns about the pipeline. Some are worried about the potential environmental impacts of the pipeline, and of having upwards of 120 tankers full of crude travelling through coastal waters each year.

Some communities are calling for more inclusion in Enbridge's consultation process, while others are asserting that, because the pipeline would cut through their traditional territories, they need to have a larger role in making the call as to whether or not the project can go ahead—a seat at the table and the same decision-making powers as the NEB and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

Neis admits not 100 per cent of communities that would be impacted by the pipeline are supportive of the project, adding that that could be said of any project.

"But I think that all communities have a genuine interest in knowing about the project. We have some shared issues that we're all trying to work through, such as things that we know are important and we feel are important too—education and training, how the workforce will be deployed, what those jobs are going to look like. The whole issue of Crown consultation is another important issue," Neis said.

One leader who is definitely on board with the project is Ray Arcand, chief of Alexander First Nation, who believes Gateway would be good for his community. The proposed pipeline route runs directly through the First Nation, located near Morinville, Alta., which means Alexander would be ideally situated to take advantage of economic spin-offs from the project.

The First Nation has signed a memorandum of understanding with Enbridge that outlines the economic benefits the community can expect from Gateway and, although Arcand didn't want to elaborate on the contents of the agreement, he did say he expects opportunities for employment, training and business development to come to the community if the project goes ahead.

By Cheryl Petten



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**C**rystal Favel, a.k.a. DJ KWE, had always wanted to be an entrepreneur, but said it wasn't until recently that she realized her potential and started Urban Indian Productions (UIP). It's a music and entertainment business that offers graphic design and layout, music production and engineering, CD mastering and audio/video installation consulting. She also does photography, Web design, newspaper and magazine writing and event planning. And in her spare time this Renaissance woman offers youth workshops created and conducted for people she describes as the spiritually connected.

At age 32, she takes a life that's been full of hard knocks and refocuses it to help others.

"I didn't exactly grow up with parents. I lived in a youth shelter for battered teens. My father was convicted of abusing me, and I was taken away from my mom," said KWE, who has come to terms with the cruel hand that fate had dealt her. "If it didn't happen, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today."

And what she's doing today is making music. She just released a CD entitled *The Electronic Drum*, which KWE describes as a unique set of teachings she has developed during her own introspection.

"It's so unique and unlike anything you'll ever hear. I've created traditional treasures using contemporary measures and that's what I like to express. That's my proudest moment being able to bring all those thoughts, ideas and sounds together into one product."

She also finds satisfaction in sharing those teachings during the motivational talks and workshops she does for youth. She talks about radio—she hosted and produced DJ KWE's *WAX WARRIORS*, a two-hour program on Aboriginal Voices Radio (106.5 FM) in Toronto. She talks about women and technology—KWE's husband, Craig Klemme, a.k.a. DJ Kwest, built a studio in their home. And she talks about employment equity, integrity and honesty, and whatever else she believes will help others on their journey thought life. She uses aspects of her own life's journey to foster the debate.

# Blazing a Trail:

"I'm helping youth today because I needed help when I was young and there wasn't too much available to me," said KWE. "I can kind of give them hope by setting an example that leadership really comes from within no matter what circumstances you come from. I go in-depth. I actually use my life as an example because it shows people really how far you can go by honoring where you come from, and I think that's really important. I use my healing experiences, my experiences on the street, my experiences with music, and my experiences as a woman. Whatever I can share, I try and bring that to the forefront."

KWE was born in Vancouver, but was raised in Toronto. She didn't know a lot about her background, but through an extensive search discovered she is half Cree and half Irish and her nation is located in Manitoba.

She likes to chart her own course,

"because it's there to be discovered and I'm that kind of person," said KWE. "I am a frontline kind of warrior who will fight for what I believe in and I'm also that buffalo that will run off the cliff for what I'm passionate for. So, when it comes to blazing trails, if I can humanly do it, consider it done."

DJ KWE has been chewed up and spit out a number of times over her short life. Sometimes through no fault of her own, and sometimes because of the decisions she's made that have led to missteps in her life and career. But each time she stood proud, followed her dreams and she now is reaping the rewards of that determination.

"The greatest reward from my hard work has been the music product and life-long friendships that electronic drum music has brought together," she said. "The rewards have been more than I had ever expected. I went from living on the streets and not knowing where my next meal was coming from, to

travelling Canada and meeting young faces everywhere," she said. "If I was to pick out the greatest reward it would be to see someone who has been hurting for a long time smile and shake my hand because they were so grateful that I shared my story."

For a copy of DJ KWE's new CD, please e-mail her at [djkwe@hotmail.com](mailto:djkwe@hotmail.com). For more information about the trailblazer, her accomplishments and her music visit [www.djkwe.com](http://www.djkwe.com).

"What an accomplishment. I'm a dot com now."

By Laura Stevens



Photos supplied by Crystal Favel.

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# E-Spirit — Fanning the entrepreneurial



Gold prize winners were Jessica Bricklin, left and Latoya Thompson of Winnipeg's R.B. Russell Vocational School.



Silver award winners Marcel McKenzie, left, and Michael Black devised Water Management Solutions Ltd., a water purification business for small communities. They are students of Winnipeg's Technical Vocational High School. Also assisting in the project was Robert Fontaine (not shown).



Bronze prize winners were Cassandra Lum, left, Kate Russell, and Naomi McLeod (not shown) of Grand Forks Secondary School in Grand Forks, B.C.

Photos courtesy of BDC.

**M**arcel Mackenzie and Michael Black, Aboriginal youth attending Technical Vocational high school in Winnipeg, were appalled by the news that came out of Kashechewan, Ont. last fall. The community of about 1,100 people were evacuated from their homes because their water was unsafe to drink. E-coli had been discovered there.

When the boys realized that many other First Nations communities were under boil-water advisories because their water was unsafe to drink, they were inspired to create Water Management Solutions Ltd., a company they developed for E-Spirit, a

competition for aspiring Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

"Our business would be the solution to the water problems in many remote areas," said Mackenzie. "We relied on our Grade 11 chemistry course to help us develop our project." The business won a silver medal in Quebec City in May, where hundreds of Aboriginal young people gathered for the sixth annual E-Spirit awards.

E-Spirit is a 16-week competition in which students experience the challenges involved in starting up businesses and discovering the many opportunities entrepreneurship can bring. The E-Spirit initiative focuses on

education through the Internet and traditional classroom training, as well as peer and community resources networking.

"They worked in groups of two to four with a teacher or counsellor, meeting after school and during lunch to develop a business plan," said Cheryl Watson, an E-Spirit project manager with Business Development Canada (BDC) whose national director of Aboriginal banking, Jim Richardson, envisioned the event in 2000.

BDC is a financial institution wholly owned by the government of Canada. It delivers financial, investment and consulting services to Canadian small business.

# flame in Aboriginal youth

"Since last October when we mailed out information to 850 schools across the country, these young people have worked with Aboriginal mentors and technical advisors to turn a business concept into a concrete business plan."

In all, more than 400 qualifying students, chaperones and teachers were present for the final phase of the award selection in Quebec. With 97 teams, the number of participants was the largest since E-Spirit began, when 21 teams competed.

There were three milestones during the 16 weeks that the youth had to meet to qualify for the competition, each with a strict deadline. "They were right on schedule, and often early, for each closing date," Watson said.

A trade show was held at which the youth's projects were featured. These displays represented the final element in the competition. Presentations were made to a panel of judges as well.

Both Mackenzie and Black credited teacher Kerry Raffey and advisor Jimmy Marnoch for coaching them to a successful business plan. Black designed an in-depth computer presentation using the popular PowerPoint software.

"We have to be able to present a good plan to prospective customers," he said. "The government wasn't stepping in to address the water problems so we decided we'd come up with a solution on our own. We can see where people from communities across Canada would be interested, so the potential is there and the need is great."

The next step will be to travel to the reserves and communities.

"We plan to personally meet with the people we're going to be working with. It won't be faxes, phone calls, or e-mails," he said.

The two were competing in E-Spirit for the second year, so felt confident in their abilities to design a business concept and implement it. And while they didn't take top prize, they earned a respectable second place finish and a \$1,500 prize.

The gold award and \$2,500 was presented to RB Russell Vocational School, also of Winnipeg. Students Jessica Bricklin and Latoya Thompson, coached by Cora Bell, designed Eagles Nest Store, which offers their fellow high school students healthy alternatives, such as fruits and vegetables, at an inexpensive price, as well as everything

from snacks, drinks and sandwiches to school supplies and health and beauty items.

The bronze award and \$750 was given to Grand Forks Secondary School of Grand Forks, B.C. where students Kate Russell, Cassandra Lum and Naomi McLeod were coached by Anna Groeneveld to design Indian Paintbrush Collective. The business is a Web portal making Aboriginal art available to global audiences, and artists can customize the page featuring their art and information with images and sound bites.

"The E-Spirit judging panel was very impressed with the presentations from participating teams. Business plans and booth displays showed a high level of quality," said Jean-René Halde, president and CEO of BDC.

"E-Spirit is a great way to introduce youth to the benefits and challenges of being a real-life entrepreneur," said E-Spirit Elder, Grand Chief Max Gros-Louis. "All participants have acquired priceless experience and will not go home empty-handed," he added.

Watson seems to agree. She comes from Ochapowace First Nation in Saskatchewan and is enthusiastic in her support for the E-Spirit competition and how it reaches out to students even in the most remote communities of Canada. Watson remembers climbing on buses to go to neighbouring towns for everything, leaving her with a feeling that her home community had nothing to offer.

"If the E-Spirit initiative had only been in place at that time, it would have made a positive and inspirational impact on students from my small community."

She believes E-Spirit connects with students at a grassroots level and encourages them to envision a future without having to leave home.

Watson said the E-Spirit awards program has touched many lives in a positive way.

"Some start developing business plans in Grade 10 and participate every year, and they learn that the world doesn't stop at their front door, but is out there waiting to be embraced," she said. "They learn so much along the way that gives them life skills and confidence and helps to ensure a successful future."

For more information on BDC and the E-Spirit program visit [www.bdc.ca](http://www.bdc.ca) or call 1-877 BDC-BANX (232-2269).

By Heather Andrews Miller

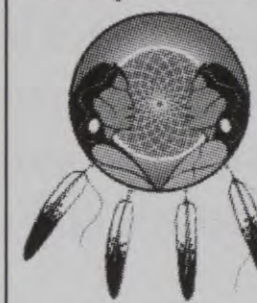
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# Glen Nipshank

## — potter at top of his game

**P**ottery begins with earth and water, transformed by fire. But it needs a worthy soul to breathe life into it. Glen Nipshank is this animator, and his contemporary pots are standing the international art world on its head.

Having recently agreed to display his pieces in an exclusive U.S. art gallery, the Bigstone Cree from Slave Lake, Alta., will see his major pieces double in price from \$6,000 to \$12,000. No stranger to high-end markets, Nipshank, who's made his mark in Santa Fe, New Mexico — also his adopted home — can't hide his excitement when he talks about his new art gallery partnership.

"I was approached by a scout looking for artists," said Nipshank. Teck 17, in Providence, Rhode Island, wants exclusive stuff. It's the land of Lear jets and movie stars. I agreed to have some knockout pieces for a one-man show this time next year."

Nipshank stacks and sculpts ropes of clay into suggestive forms that scream sensuality. One memorable piece echoes the curves of a voluptuous female posterior, while a set of wavy vases lock into each other in an everlasting embrace. And there are other designs too. A German collector snaps up Nipshank's masks as fast as he can make them, and his "four directions" pots are perennially popular.

Working as an apprentice potter, Nipshank put in his time for about 10 years. Then, in 2001, he crafted a polished tall, red and white piece commemorating 9/11. He won an award with it and over the next five years he continued scoring hits and garnering attention. Now he's hard-pressed to form and fire his work fast enough.

Though his pots are, or have been, featured in prestigious museums like the Museum of Arts and Design, New York and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Nipshank refuses to be a snob. In fact, he recently visited Edmonton to share the secrets of his craft and teach his personal process to about 20 students at a Sun and Moon Visionaries Aboriginal Artisans Society workshop. Without the use of a wheel, he demonstrated how he hand-builds each pot, glazes them with clay-based paint, and painstakingly

burnishes them with a smooth stone until they shine like polished gems.

"But even then, you're not done," Nipshank warns. "Now comes the real test, putting your pot into the fire and hoping it doesn't crack."

Firing is a tough science that can only be learned by experience, but Nipshank builds his pots well and perhaps his spiritual teachings have something to do with his success. Or is it his humility? It's clear he's come to respect the elements he works with, and he's vocal about remaining grounded in the high-stakes art world.

"You can't have a big ego in this business. If you're a 'lone tree' you'll get nothing but trouble. I think I'm on the right track because I'm focused and I work hard. I love the art shows. That's where I get to meet people. It's not just the artist who gets famous, there's always a whole bunch of people surrounding them and helping them get there.

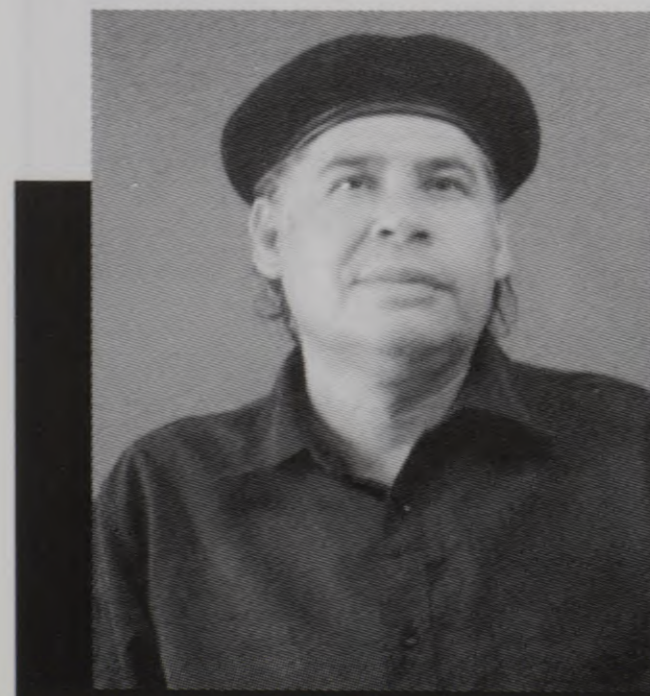
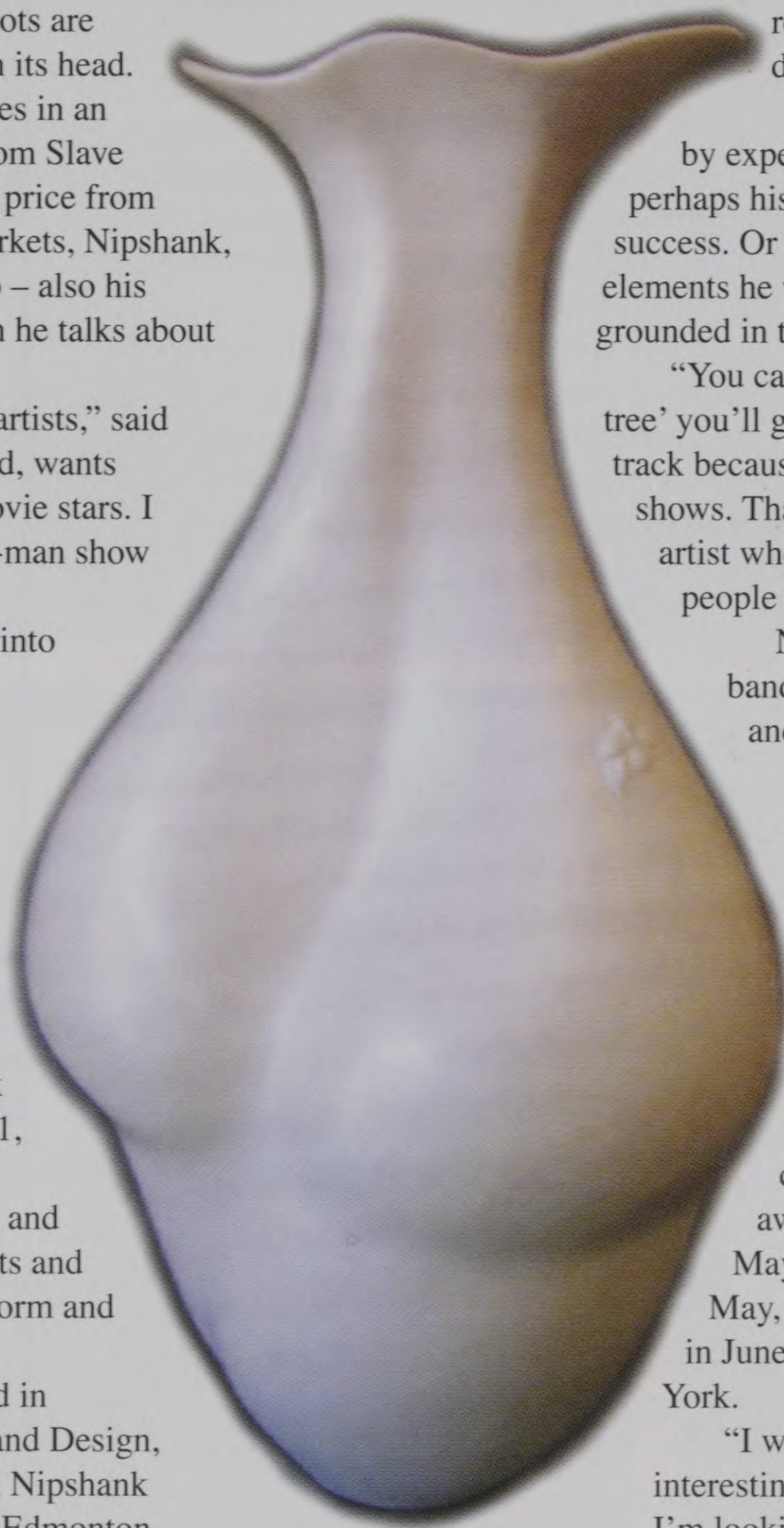
Nipshank has obviously arrived. His name is bandied about in European and American art circles and the New York Times has praised his work.

"But do you know how long it takes to get this kind of exposure? It's a long and narrow ladder. And when you're in the spotlight you have to work hard to keep the art coming. If you quit, it all stops cold. You face burnout. I'm glad I can always run away to Canada and hide in the bush," he jokes, speaking from his Santa Fe studio.

Nipshank seems to have everything under control. He's decided to put one extraordinary piece away each month, so he'll be ready for Teck 17 next May. When Business Quarterly had called him in May, he had also almost finished his line-up for a show in June at the Lincoln Centre For Performing Art in New York.

"I went down to Roswell (New Mexico) and saw an interesting artifact from the UFO that crashed back in 1947. I'm looking at these hieroglyphics etched into it and thinking 'this is extraordinary. This writing is not of this earth.' So, I incorporated some of those symbols into my pots. I find inspiration everywhere. Even from other galaxies," he laughs.

*By Dianne Meili*





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Imagine where we are going.

From the beginning, Syncrude has continually invested in and worked with the communities and peoples of our region. Creating opportunities and building relationships that will help us continue securing Canada's energy future. A future made that much more promising because of those who are helping us build it. People like the many Aboriginal entrepreneurs, leaders and stakeholders who have contributed to Syncrude's success—and that of our shared communities—for generations. Their vision and energy will continue to drive ours for generations to come.

You can learn more about how in our 2005 Aboriginal Review. For a copy, call 1-800-667-9494 or visit [www.syncrude.com](http://www.syncrude.com)

**Syncrude**  
Securing Canada's Energy Future



1985

RBC® opens its first on-reserve branch in Ohsweken, Ontario

1991

RBC launches its Aboriginal Student Awards Program

1992

RBC introduces its Aboriginal Stay in School Program

1993

RBC launches its On-Reserve Housing Loan Program

1999

RBC becomes co-chair of the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada

2001

2006

**We are committed.  
To learning.**



To learn. Together. To create opportunities for Aboriginal peoples, communities and businesses.

At RBC Royal Bank® we have a strong history of support for Aboriginal peoples across Canada. From stay-in-school programs to supporting programs that create jobs and enhance economic and community well-being... these are just some of the ways we put you first.

The power of learning together.

To find out more about our commitment to Aboriginal communities, visit your local branch or our website at [www.rbcroyalbank.com/aboriginal](http://www.rbcroyalbank.com/aboriginal).

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Financial  
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