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# Wind speaker



Canada's National Aboriginal News Source

Volume 24 No. 7 • October 2006

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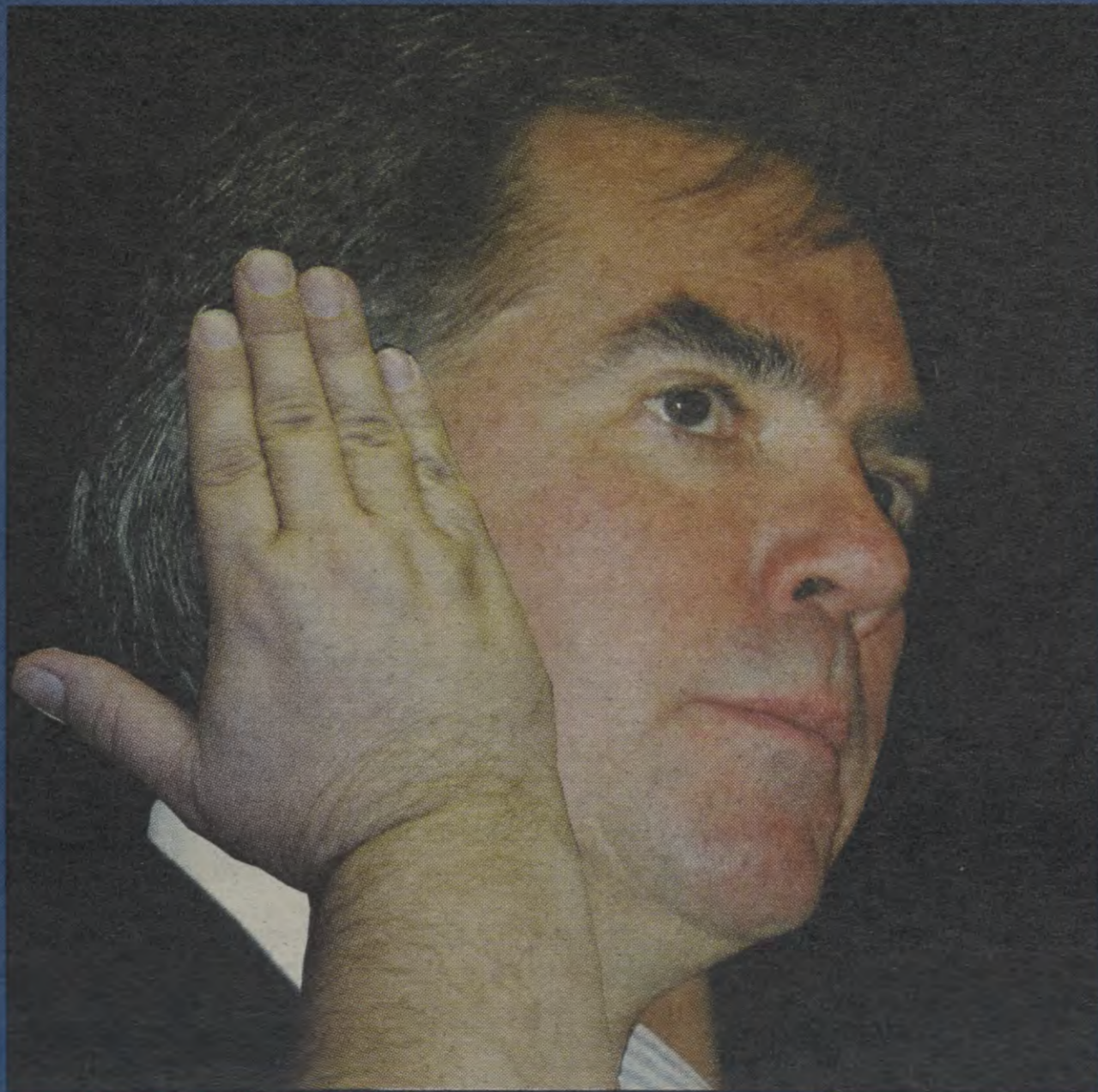
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Aboriginal Multi-Media Society (AMMSA)

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ISSN 0834 - 177X

Established 1983



## Minister Jim Prentice

### Won't Listen

(says an AFN regional chief)

## Minister Tony Clement

### Won't Speak

(says a deputy grand chief)



## And Prime Minister Stephen Harper

### Doesn't See

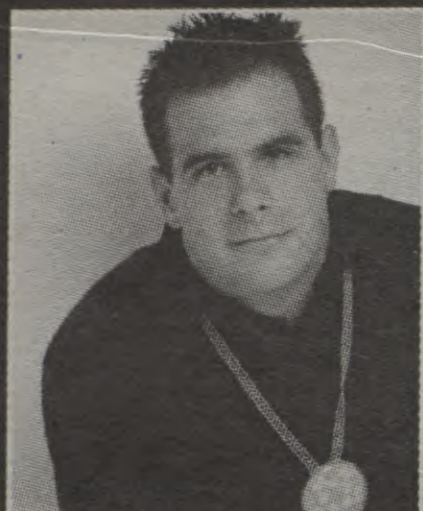
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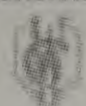
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The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has issued an official Revised Notice of Public Hearing, available at [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), announcing the new dates for a two-day public hearing on the application by SRB Technologies (Canada) Inc. for the renewal of its Nuclear Substance Processing Facility Operating Licence. The hearing will be held in the CNSC Public Hearing Room, 14<sup>th</sup> floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, Ontario, on **October 25, 2006** and **November 27, 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 November 16, 2006 at the address below 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 Revised Notice of Public Hearing, see [www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca), and refer to Revised Notice of Public Hearing 2006-H-07 (revision 2), or contact:

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

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- must demonstrate previous experience serving on Policy Governance Boards and provide contacts for reference purposes;

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Preference will be given to Aboriginal applicants.

Application must reference file #BDA - 06. Send hard copies only, postmarked no later than midnight (ET), November 3, 2006, to the following address:

ATTN: File #BDA - 06  
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### Aboriginal Correctional Program Officer

#### Locations: Various Locations, Prairie Region

The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) has employment opportunities to provide Aboriginal services to federally sentenced offenders. Duties include: delivery of Aboriginal specific Elder assisted Healing Programs, assessing the impact of programs, and providing written reports as part of the case management team. Positions are anticipated in various locations across the Prairie Region. In addition, we offer competitive salaries, an excellent benefit package and superannuation plan.

If you are interested, please apply on-line at the Public Service Commission Website (<http://www.jobs.gc.ca>) from October 09/06 to 23/06 indicating which position and location you are applying for.

\* Applicants are advised to review information on the Statement of Merit Criteria and Conditions of Employment for these positions and clearly demonstrate how they meet the essential qualifications. This information is also available on the Public Service Commission Website or by calling 1-800-645-5605.

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#### Locations: Various Locations, Prairie Region

The Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) has employment opportunities to provide Aboriginal services to federally sentenced offenders. Duties include: development and creating Elder assessments, healing plans, and working as part of a team on the CSC Healing Units. Positions are anticipated in various locations across the Prairie Region. In addition, we offer competitive salaries, an excellent benefit package and superannuation plan.

If you are interested, please apply on-line at the Public Service Commission Website (<http://www.jobs.gc.ca>) from October 09/06 to 23/06 indicating which position and location you are applying for.

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

**Canada**

## Features

### Regional chief sounds alarm 8

Assembly of First Nations regional chief Angus Toulouse has sent a letter to the chiefs of Ontario warning them that their issues are falling on deaf ears in Ottawa and, in particular with, the Minister of Indian Affairs Jim Prentice, who Toulouse says is uninterested in any concerns that do not fall within the Conservative government's narrow agenda.

### Automaker, Lubicons at odds over Jeep 8

DaimlerChrysler is about to get an award for making a big difference in the lives of Aboriginal and minority individuals and communities, but one Alberta First Nation tells Windspeaker to put the brakes on the celebration of the company's achievements.

### DNA testing limited for status claims 9

The technology exists to help prove the claims of a mother that both her children should be registered as status Indians, but the Indian Affairs department hasn't caught up with the appropriate DNA testing. A stroll across the hall to Immigration Canada, which is currently allowing the testing, should be in order.

### Health minister must step up 10

A group of Ontario First Nations say the health premiums that are deducted from their paycheques amounts to a tax, which flies in the face of two Aboriginal treaty rights, the right to be tax exempt and the right to health care. Federal Health Minister Tony Clement has been asked to rectify the situation, but so far the minister has been silent.

### Residential school claims rejected 12

As many as 500 residential school survivors across Canada have recently received letters from the federal government telling them that their application for the \$8,000 early payment has been rejected. Windspeaker finds out why.

## Departments

[ rants and raves ] 5

[ what's happening ] 7

[ small business ] 13 to 16

[ radio's most active ] 17

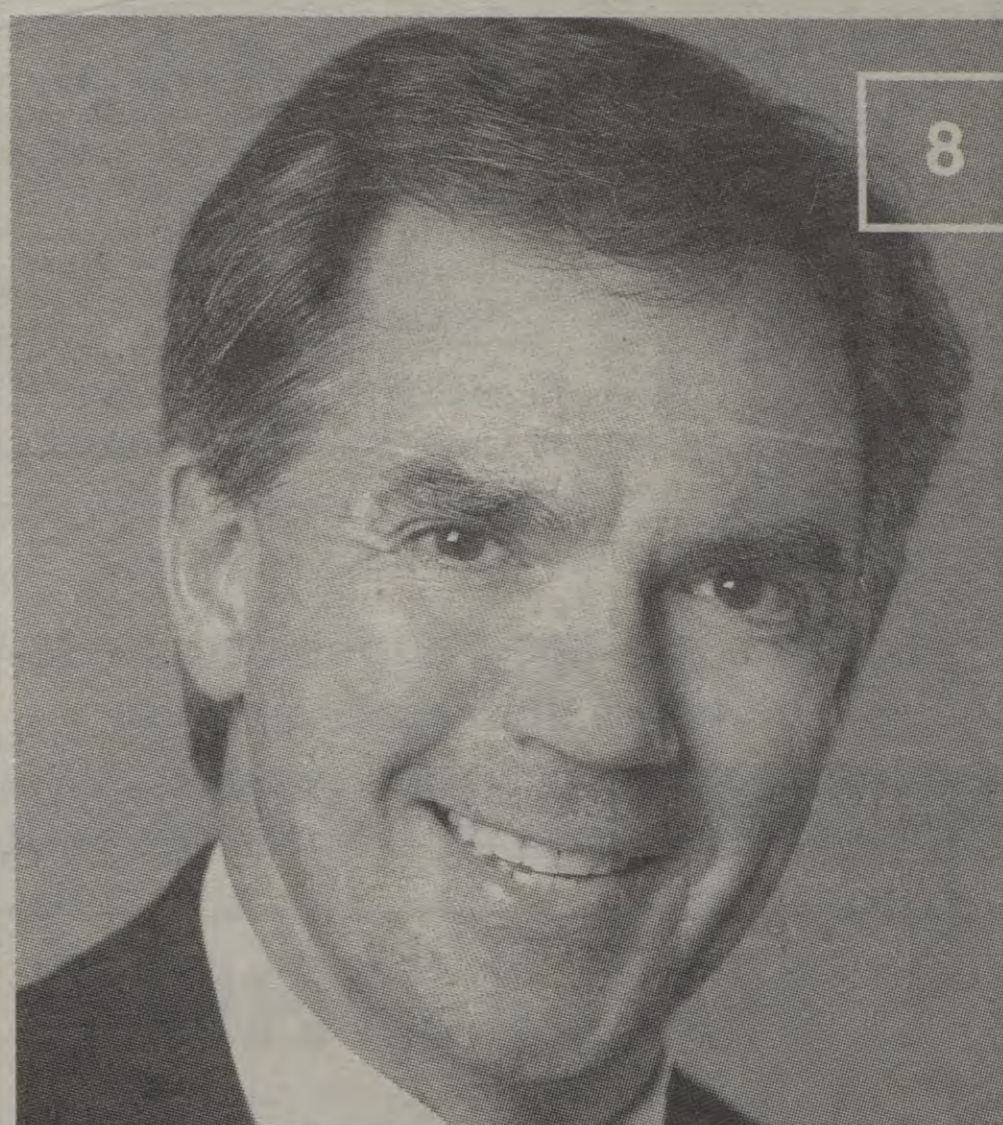
[ windspeaker confidential ] 19

[ strictly speaking ] 21

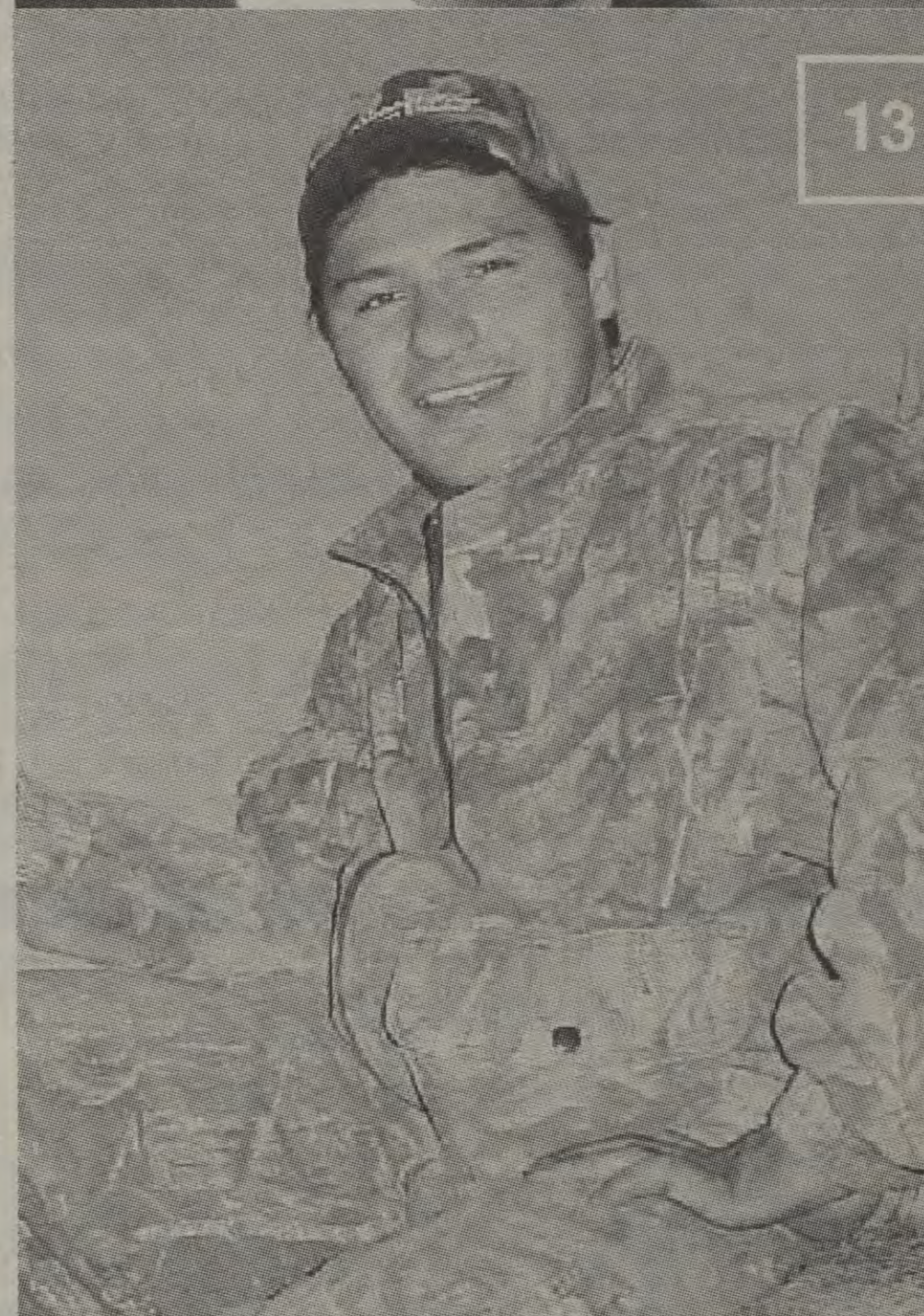
[ careers & training ] 22 to 25

[ footprints ] 26

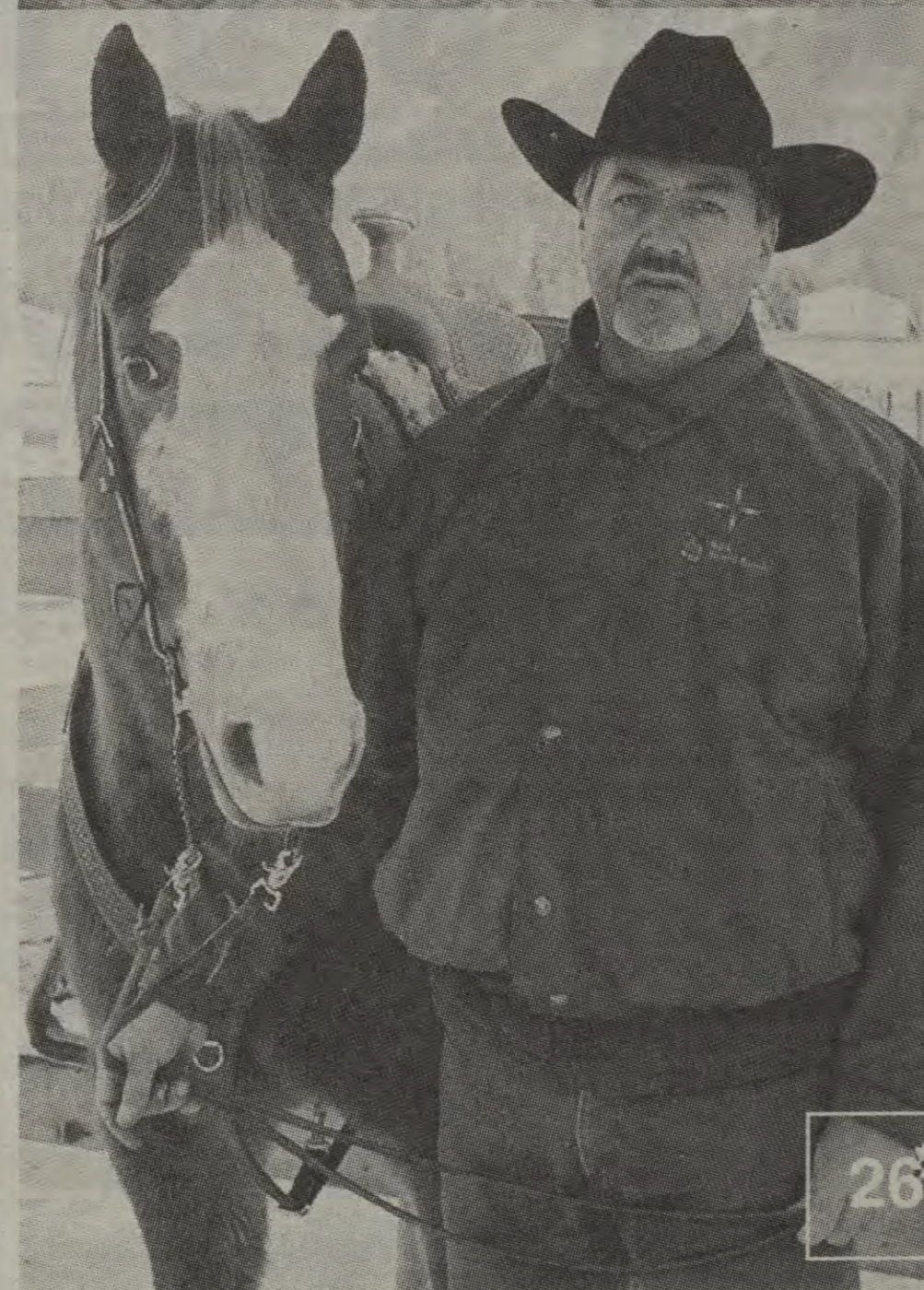
Chief Roy Mussell worked to build bridges and create understanding between peoples. He was taken at a young age, before he could see the fruits of his labor on a number of fronts, but his efforts are remembered by a number of organizations, and through a variety of programs that bear his name.



8



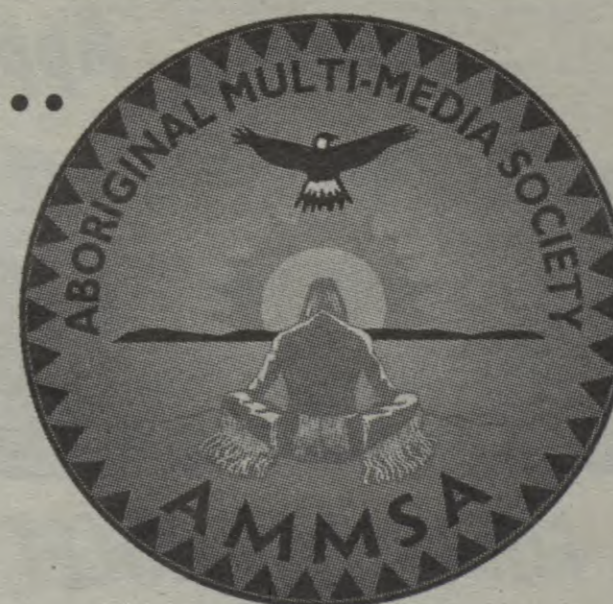
13



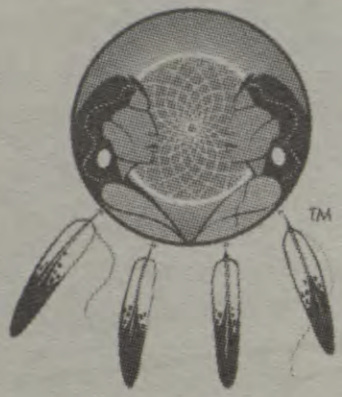
26

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## Wanted: One sign we matter

As one First Nation leader after another takes note of the federal government trend of moving away from constructive engagement and towards top-down authoritarian paternalism, we see, as Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine said on Sept. 26, a pattern emerging. It's an old pattern; one that will not lead in a positive direction for Aboriginal peoples.

Reliance on fine points of law or murky and ever-changing bureaucratic processes and policies to avoid doing the morally right thing has always been a Canadian hallmark when it comes to dealings with Indigenous peoples. And it's something that hasn't changed under "Canada's New Government."

Get used to seeing that term, by the way. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has decreed that all government correspondence must contain those words: the Conservative Party of Canada is "Canada's New Government" and they don't want anyone to forget it, even for a second. And they certainly aren't even a little bit liberal, are they? Here's a list of the un-liberal things our new federal government has done just recently.

- Cut funding for education about the dangers of tobacco use to a group that uses tobacco more than mainstream populations.

- Made Elders feel like liars if they can't prove they attended the residential schools that Canadian law forced them to attend half a century ago.

- Refused to intervene when both the treaty right to health care and the treaty right to be tax exempt went under fire in Ontario.

- Showed little enthusiasm for the idea of employing the same level of DNA testing to verify Native status than is allowed for immigrants to Canada.

- Cut the court challenges program that allowed those with no money to bring forward legitimate legal challenges of a government position. (Guess who will be hurt most by that one?)

So the approach to public policy and governance in this country is now being marketed like breakfast cereal or laundry detergent. The term "new and improved" has often been seen as salesman's puffery, as marketing gimmickry that is supposed to be swallowed with a healthy dose of skepticism.

And we are growing increasingly skeptical as each day passes.

The only thing that's "new" about the efforts of the Indian residential schools office officials demanding proof from students who last saw the inside of a school a half-century ago (when those records were at all times in the hands of federal authorities) is that the dishonesty and heartless behavior of federal officials seems have hit an all time "new" low.

All that's old is new again in Ottawa. Ish Theilheimer, the founder of the alternative on-line news site Straight Goods, invited Dr. George Lakoff, an American linguist and cognitive scientist, to a conference in Merrickville, Ont. in early September. Lakoff spoke about how right wing politicians frame issues by appealing to deep-seeded, almost unconscious values.

"Lakoff explained how his scientific research led him to his theory of political framing. He was bewildered at how right-wingers like George W. Bush could link up seemingly unconnected issues like gun control, abortion and opposition to environmentalism. The clue he came upon was repeated references to family, family values, and family metaphors," Theilheimer wrote.

The common theme in most right wing messages appeals to the image of the strict-father family, Lakoff believes. Ah paternalism, we know it well. It looks like the great White father is making a comeback.

"This family model is founded on strict discipline, order, hierarchies, male dominance and an unfettered business climate in which 'deserving' people with discipline can get their just rewards without the interference of government regulation, unions or environmental laws," Theilheimer wrote.

We've been holding out hope that the Indian Affairs minister wouldn't buy into this way of looking at the world, that his Progressive Conservative pedigree would mean that he wouldn't subscribe to more Reform Party-like thinking. We're starting to wonder if it's time to put away that torch. Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse's account of a meeting with the minister (see page 8) makes us wonder if the paternalism of the past isn't new again.

—Windspeaker

## Stop stigmatizing

Dear Editor:

There is a widespread belief that there is an epidemic of FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) in Aboriginal Canada. This is based on the assumption that large numbers of Aboriginal people in general, and Aboriginal women in particular, drink to excess. The problem is there are no systematic scientific studies to bear this out; specifically, there are no nationwide, community-by-community surveys that have properly assessed alcohol use among Aboriginal North Americans.

Some teachers, social service workers, addictions counsellors and community health paraprofessionals, most having limited or no medical training, have been embracing the category of prenatal alcohol exposure as an explanation for a myriad of physical and behavioral anomalies they see exhibited by their clients and pupils in the Native communities they serve. This informal or non-medical labelling is becoming more and more widespread and it is based on the misperception that FAS is rampant in many Aboriginal communities.

With more than 500 tribes and 200 distinct languages, Aboriginal North Americans have dissimilarity in customs, values and histories that differentiate them more than the citizens of many European countries. The only firm conclusion that can be made about their alcohol consumption is that it varies widely.

What has been statistically verified is, fewer Aboriginals (70 per cent) compared with the total population (81 per cent) choose to drink alcohol (The Aboriginal Peoples Survey APS, Statistics Canada, 1993). And further to this, we know Aboriginal women are more likely than Aboriginal men and non-Aboriginal women to abstain from alcohol use. Despite some rather obvious scientific shortcomings, there is a consensus of certainty FAS is rampant in Aboriginal communities across Canada. And this consensus of certainty exists despite the reality that "Canadian research has yet to establish whether any Native population is a high risk for FAS" (Bray & Anderson, 1989).

The stigma associated with labelling disorders such as FAS, whether it be medical or non-medical, formal or informal, a true diagnosis or a misdiagnosis, is really all the same: FAS is a stigmatizing illness. Simply having been suspected of having FAS can be equally stigmatizing. And any formal or informal, warranted or unwarranted assignment of a stigmatizing illness, by definition, gives the labelled individual an inferior moral status.

—Mark Rota

## Epileptic inmate not getting meds

Dear Editor:

I've been incarcerated for the past eight months. I'm a 40-year-old Native Indian from Mnjikaning First Nation in Ontario. I'm also an epileptic. I've taken Epival and Rivotril for the past 20 to stabilize my disease. Since my incarceration I've been held at the American-owned Central North Correctional Centre in Penetanguishene, Ont. I've been denied my one medication (Rivotril).

In the past 20 years I've had eight to 12 seizures. Now, I have them two to three times a week. The medical treatment here is so ridiculous. They treat us like a herd of cattle: ship in, ship out.

I'm also writing in regard to smudging. We smudge once or twice a week, if we get lucky. There are six brothers on the wing and it's difficult to smudge if one of us feels down or family members are sick. We like to pray our way, not the white man's way.

Anyway, in conclusion, in this lock-down wing, we are lucky to get showers three times a week. I've complained to captains and get no response. What happened to our Native rights? Does the keeper of man think we are dirty Indians? Please help guide us in the right direction. That's why there is so much anger among us. What happened to our Native rights?

—Cal Sharpe (Smoke) and Bill Sharpe (Big Dog)

E-mail us at

edwind@ammsa.com or write to  
the editor at 13245-146 St.  
Edmonton, AB T5L 4S8

[ rants and raves ]

## AFN-free zone

Dear Editor:

Combed through the September *Windspeaker* and not one mention of Phil Fontaine or the Assembly of First Nations. Come to think of it, none of the other national Aboriginal organizations or their leaders either. Yeehaw!

Almost as refreshing as a Parliamentary recess when we are spared the daily ramblings and puerile behavior of those "other politicians."

Sincere congratulations and profound thanks.

May your omissions last as long as the rivers shall flow and ... you know the rest.

—Robert Gairns

## Heads must roll

Dear Editor:

What bothers me about the Maher Arar case is not so much the incompetence, inaccuracy and violations of policy by the RCMP. A mistake can be understood. A mistake can be corrected. A mistake can be forgiven. What bothers me is the acquiescence by the RCMP, by the Canadian Security and Intelligence Service, and by Foreign Affairs in the U.S./Syria kidnapping and torture of a Canadian citizen, and the RCMP's feeding of questions for Syria to ask Mr. Arar under torture.

All the Canadian officials involved should at the least lose their jobs, and at most face charges of conspiracy to torture. These people have moral flaws that will take a lifetime to correct.

—Tom Trotter

## Fed up at home

Dear Editor:

I've been back to my community for eight years now. I grew up in the "white world" and the only lessons I got about Native culture were on CBC with shows like *Indian Legends*. I remember another show called *The Rez* and it gave me this insight that all Native communities were scenic landscapes with wise Elders, hopeful youth and a real sense of direction and calm.

Then I moved to my community.

As a full-blooded Ojibway I feel almost disgusted by what I've seen, heard and lived through thus far. Like I said before, I've only been back eight little years. I know this isn't just where I live, but pretty much everywhere. We, as First Nation people, just don't seem to get it. We whine about land, then fight with each other over it. We ask for compensation for residential schools, then blow it at casinos. We kill each other for the most stupid reasons, yet we talk about our future together. We hire chiefs, not because they are the best person for the job, but because it's a popularity contest and he or she might get us some liquor or booze or a new addition for our homes.

Am I stepping on some toes? Probably with those who know I'm right but don't want me to say this. We go on the news declaring our intentions to fix ourselves but meanwhile it's getting more and more obvious we can't. How long are we going to say the same things over and over? I'm sick of hearing it already. Imagine how the politicians in Ottawa are seeing this. Do you think they make bets on how we'll screw up again? How many reserves are gonna go to Third Party because we can't be responsible for the little bit of government cheese we're handed?

It's time to smarten up. Now. Not next week, year or century. Let's not use the old 'We are a struggling race' line or 'The White man took our land.' Let's all get over it and start to get to work. Am I being a hypocrite? Do I say something then don't back it up? No because I used to be a partier, a womanizer, a welfare bum and those around me can vouch for that and then some. I'm now a single dad to a four-year-old. It took a lot of work to get my son into my custody. I've worked full time in Winnipeg and paid for my rent and hydro out of my own pocket. Now I'm back in Ontario to settle down and raise my boy out here. I had a bad upbringing but I don't use it to get sympathy. I've had stumbles in life, but I use the positive not the negative. So no one can say 'What do you know?'

But right now I'm wondering if living with my fellow Neeches is a good thing or not.

—sent by e-mail, no name attached



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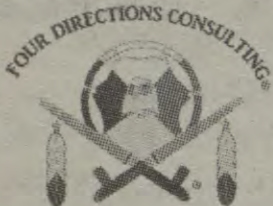
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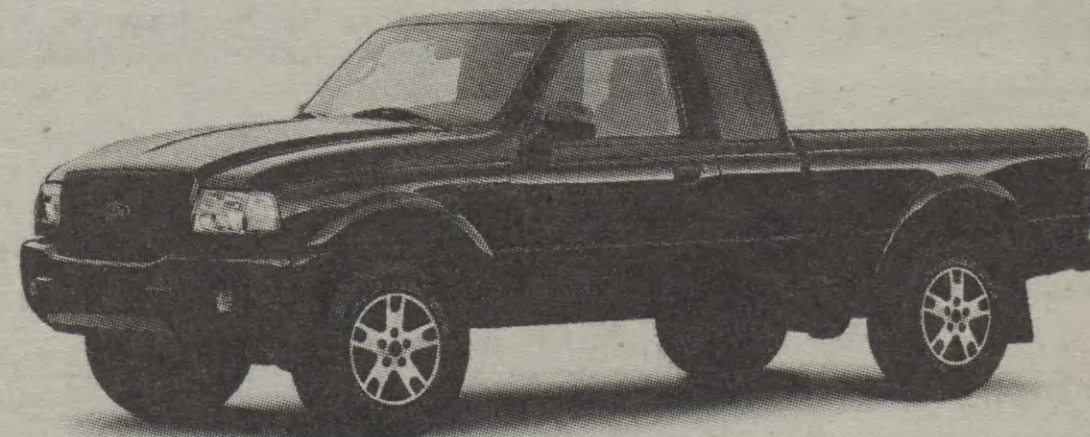
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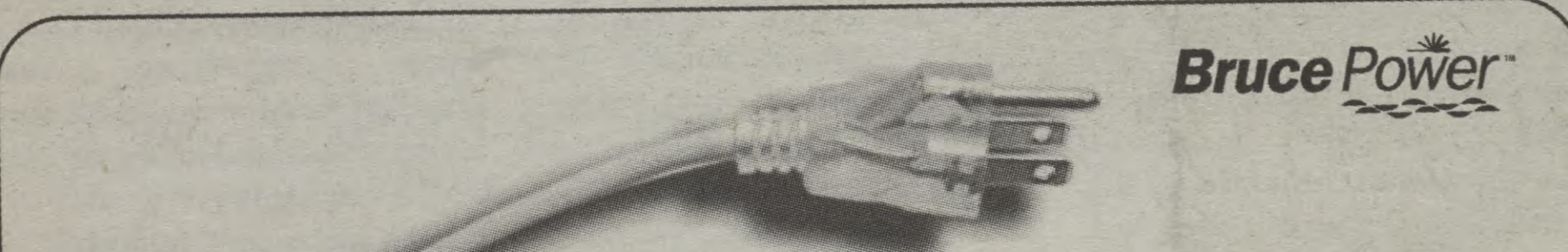
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Prentice isn't listening, says Toulouse

## Regional chief sounds alarm on minister

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

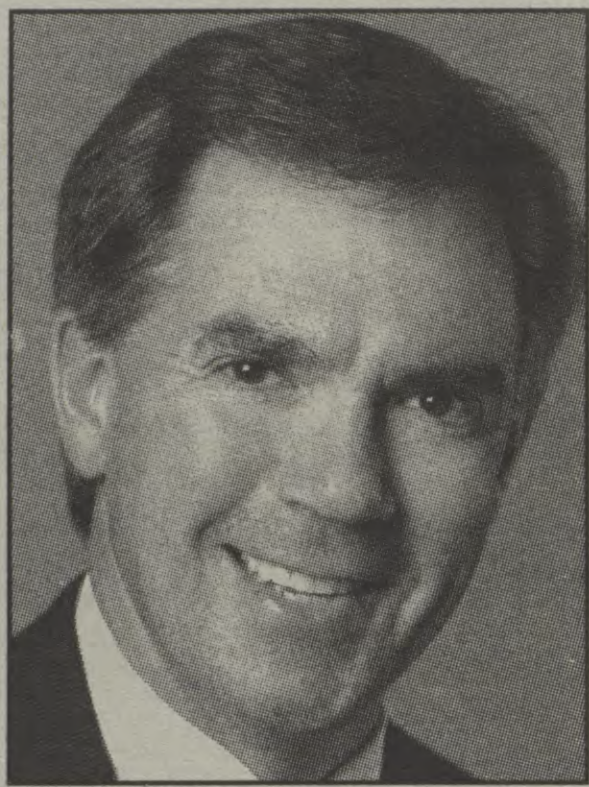
TIMMINS, Ont.

Ontario Regional Chief Angus Toulouse sent out a letter to the 139 Ontario chiefs on Sept. 20 that warns that the Conservative Party of Canada government is not prepared to listen to First Nations as it moves forward with its "narrow agenda."

The letter, which was leaked to this publication without the regional chief's knowledge, was sent to Ontario chiefs a week after Toulouse met with Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice in Timmins.

"It has been approximately eight months since this government was elected into power by a slim minority. I believe we have a clearer picture of what we are dealing with and what the government's agenda is with regard to the First Nations' population," the regional chief wrote. "This is a government that will divide us to their political advantage. Given my meeting with Minister Prentice and the substance of it—or lack thereof—it is apparent that now, more than ever, First Nations in Ontario need to clearly present our priorities with a strong, united voice."

Sources say the meeting did not go smoothly and the minister was clearly not interested in hearing Ontario's position on a number of issues. While political staffers at the Chiefs of Ontario office would neither confirm nor deny



*"Chief Toulouse was complaining during the meeting so I guess I shouldn't be surprised he was complaining after the meeting."*

—Minister Jim Prentice

that assertion, Toulouse's letter makes it clear that he did not feel he had the minister's attention.

"My meeting with Minister Prentice ... further reinforced to me the inflexibility this government has toward First Nations' priorities. I am concerned that if our priorities are not consistent with the stated priorities of this government, we will have a huge challenge in getting attention and action on them," Toulouse wrote.

Toulouse, the Ontario representative on the Assembly of First Nations national executive board, started his two-page report to the chiefs by saying that after he requested a meeting with Prentice, he waited several months.

"Unfortunately, it would appear that the length of time that it took to secure a meeting with the minister is reflective of the federal government's priorities,"

he wrote. "Essentially, Minister Prentice's response was consistent with the line that we have heard time and again from this Conservative federal government—'We have our priorities.'"

Toulouse then listed the federal priorities as described by the minister.

"The priorities include consultation and legislation with respect to matrimonial real property; the formation of an expert panel on water to make recommendations on standards leading to the development of legislation; education—Minister Prentice is particularly supportive of the British Columbia tripartite agreement and would like to see First Nations in Ontario pursue a similar model; and lastly, housing," he wrote.

Toulouse warned the chiefs that the Indian Affairs minister and his

government appear to have made up their minds about housing.

"The specifics regarding [Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's] plan for housing are not yet clear, although it would appear to include institutional developments and a push for market housing," he wrote.

Shortly after the letter was written, Prentice told the Saskatoon *Star Phoenix* that his government believes private ownership of property on reserves is something to be pursued. That strategy has been rejected by First Nation leaders and experts who point to the checkerboard reservations in the United States, where land was privatized and then lost if mortgage payments were defaulted. Many academics say the goal of privatizing reserve land has been sought by many assimilationists during Canada's history.

Twice in his letter, Toulouse felt it important to tell the chiefs that issues he raised with the minister received no reply at all.

With the occupiers at Caledonia getting ready for their second winter on the site, Toulouse told Prentice that the need to settle land claims quickly and fairly was a pressing issue.

"I emphasized that 'speeding up the process' will not result from hiring more lawyers to invalidate claims quicker," Toulouse wrote, later adding that an acceptable solution will "require fundamental changes in the way in which claims are dealt

with, including a review of the federal government's role as judge and jury in the settlement of claims.

"There was no response from the minister on this issue," Toulouse added.

When the minister was asked about reductions to funding for a First Nation special education program, Toulouse reported that Prentice "had no response and did not express any concern."

In a follow-up letter written to the minister, Toulouse made it clear that he is not pleased with the heavy-handed approach being employed by the Conservatives.

"Minister, to be completely frank with you, I was quite disappointed to hear that the federal government does not appear to be willing to engage in discussions relating to First Nations' priorities if they do not correspond to the stated priorities of the government," he wrote. "I find this approach inflexible and certainly not First Nations driven. I believe that you have spoken to First Nations about their priorities but rather than allow the First Nations to set the priorities, the government has instead been very selective in choosing which issues to pursue for reasons known only to yourselves. For years First Nations have been saying a unilateral, top-down approach will not work. This approach will not result in a narrowing of the gap between First Nations people and the rest of Canada."

(see Response page 21.)

## Automaker, Lubicons at odds over Jeep

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Lubicon Lake Indian Nation supporters in Stuttgart, Germany are knocking on the door of Dr. Dieter Zetsche, the chairman of the board of management of DaimlerChrysler and head of the Mercedes car group.

Dr. Z, as he's called in the aggressive \$250-million (US) North American media campaign to promote Chrysler sales and build confidence in the Chrysler product, is being lobbied by Dionys Zink of the Munich-based human rights group Aktionsgruppe Indianer & Menschenrechte [Action Group on Indian and Human Rights]. Zink wants Dr. Z to get involved in a dispute between the Lubicon Cree Nation and an Edmonton-area dealership that may eventually end up in court.

And now that DaimlerChrysler Canada has won a Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC) business achievement award celebrating Canadian companies that have

made a big impact in Aboriginal and minority business development, Canadian executives who sit on the CAMSC board will also be hearing from the Lubicons.

The second annual CAMSC awards gala will take place on Oct. 12 at the Toronto Hilton Hotel. DaimlerChrysler Canada, a CAMSC founding member, will be recognized as corporation of the year.

"A true champion of Aboriginal and minority business development, the automaker has made a big difference in the lives of individuals and communities through its ongoing initiatives," the CAMSC release stated.

There's just one problem. It's been more than five years since the Lubicon Cree Nation paid in full for a brand new Jeep that was purchased at a Chrysler dealership in Alberta. As of Sept. 27, the Lubicons still haven't received their vehicle.

"The Lubicons are the proud owner of a bill of sale," said Fred Lennarson, advisor to Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak.

Lennarson said First Nations in Alberta and across Canada will be watching to see if the

Lubicons are treated fairly. He has suggested to various DaimlerChrysler executives that First Nations people might decide not to buy Chrysler vehicles if the matter is not addressed and addressed soon.

Because of confusion over whether the dealership's management or a former sales manager who was recently convicted of fraud are responsible for the Lubicon's situation, *Windspeaker* will not name the dealership nor the people involved in management there at this time. But, based on documentation provided to this publication and an interview with an investigator who looked into the matter, it appears certain that the Lubicons did pay for a vehicle they never received.

During an interview, Dieter Poschmann, a retired RCMP major crimes investigator who looked into the matter while working for the Alberta Motor Vehicle Industry Council (AMVIC, the provincial government body that oversees the automotive industry and has investigative powers), confirmed that the Jeep was indeed sold twice.

"Oh yes, that's the long and the short of it, yes. The Native

band gave them money for this vehicle and never, ever received a vehicle. The vehicle sat on their lot for a period of time and then it was sold to another individual living in Edmonton who still has that vehicle," he told *Windspeaker*.

On June 28, after going back and forth with the dealership, Lennarson faxed a 20-page letter to Steven J. Landry, then chairman, president and chief executive officer of DaimlerChrysler Canada (DCC). The letter described the Lubicon situation in detail and asked that Landry intervene. A day later, a staff member at DCC's Windsor, Ont. corporate headquarters called to confirm receipt of the letter and to assure Lennarson that it was being looked into. Eventually DCC officials informed him that it was a contractual matter strictly between the dealer and the customer and that corporate headquarters would not be getting involved.

That message was reiterated in response to our inquiries about this story. Stuart Schorr, the senior manager of communications for DCC looked into things and provided this response.

"I have investigated the matter," he wrote in an e-mail. "We have responded to Mr. Lennarson and advised that it is a matter between the customer and the dealership, but that we have contacted the dealership on behalf of Mr. Lennarson. Further concerns on this matter must be addressed to [the dealer]."

Having already received a similar message, Lennarson replied angrily in a letter to Reid Bigland, the new CEO of DCC, again suggesting that DaimlerChrysler would be seen as sitting back and doing nothing while an impoverished First Nation was treated unfairly.

In response to Lennarson's allegations, Edmonton lawyer Jerry Flaman sent the Lubicon advisor a letter, demanding he retract comments he made in the letter to the Chrysler CEO. Lennarson refused.

Flaman set a deadline of Aug. 11 for the Lubicon advisor to retract his "defamatory" statements. Six weeks after the deadline, no lawsuit has been filed against Lennarson, but Flaman told *Windspeaker* that doesn't necessarily mean a statement of claim won't be forthcoming.

(see Matter page 11.)



## A mother's lament

# DNA testing to prove Indian status limited

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

PENTICTON, B.C.

Michelle Wootton has been busy the last couple of months trying to get her youngest boy registered with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

The James Bay Cree woman lives and works on the Penticton Indian Band territory in the British Columbia Interior. Like so many other First Nation people, she is wrestling with the complex process of gaining recognition of her son's Native ancestry by working with a government official called "the Indian Registrar."

Since the infamous amendment to the Indian Act known as Bill C-31 was passed in 1985, Native people have had to learn to navigate through a complex world designed by government officials, some say, to reduce the number of status Indians and by extension the government's legal obligation to that dwindling few. This complex world was created where the amount of Native ancestry you can prove becomes essential in passing on your heritage to your children. If you're considered "Native enough" to pass on your heritage, you're a 6(1). If you aren't, you're a 6(2). And if a 6(1) marries a 6(2), things get interesting.

## Same parents, different status

Bill C-31 was an effort to address the acknowledged discrimination against Native women who lost their status if they married non-Native men. Native men did not lose their status for "marrying out." In fact, before C-31, women with absolutely no Native blood gained status if they married Native men.

Wootton believes her two-and-a-half-year-old son has a right to have his Native heritage acknowledged by the government. But getting there has been a problem.

"I have two sons who share the same father. My eldest son is registered with INAC as a 6(1). My youngest son is not registered because his birth certificate is silent on paternity, and I am only considered a 6(2) and therefore cannot pass down status by myself. The father, who is also a status Indian, is nowhere to be found," she wrote in an e-mail message obtained by *Windspeaker*.

The usual INAC practice when there is unstated paternity, when the father is not identified on the birth records, is to assume the father is non-Native. The child is not granted status nor the rights that go with it. It's not an official, written policy, but First Nation officials who deal with this issue say that it may as well be. Since the father of the two boys is estranged from his wife and is not available to state that he is the

father, things were going slowly for Wootton. Then she came up with an idea.

## Immigration Canada

"I recently asked Indian Affairs if they would recognize DNA testing, specifically Y-chromosome testing, so that I could prove that my two sons share the same father," she wrote. "Since I already have one child registered, if I can prove the relationship between my children then I figure INAC should register my youngest son as well."

At first, she got the old bureaucratic runaround.

"An INAC registry representative responded to me with permission for a full sibling test with a requirement of a 90 per cent or more positive result," Wootton wrote. "Unfortunately, with a full sibling test, results can only be given in a likelihood ratio, and therefore it would be impossible for me—or anyone else—to meet the percentage result requirement. I again requested permission for a Y-chromosome test, which is definitive in its results: either a match or no match. INAC responded to me by stating that they were new to DNA testing and that they needed time to come up with definitive policies in regard to DNA testing for the purpose of registration."

Since INAC has told her they don't yet do the definitive Y-chromosome testing, she wondered if that was common practice throughout the federal government.

"After a bit of research of the subject of DNA testing and federal government agencies, I have come to find out that Immigration Canada accepts a variety of DNA testing, including the type of test that I have requested (Y-chromosome) to establish the identity of persons wishing to enter Canada," she wrote.

Intrigued by her situation, *Windspeaker* contacted Wootton by phone on Sept. 25. She said the new Indian Registrar, Allan Tallman, has been helpful in guiding her through the

bureaucratic quagmire.

But she believes the fact that the Y-chromosome test is not readily available to help First Nation persons is a sign that the rules within the system are set up to reduce the chances that people will be granted status.

"Yes, they are for sure. In the situation that my youngest son is in with unstated paternity, according to some reports I've read there's like 50,000 kids in Canada that should be status but are not," she said. "I've seen Natives who are... Native, full-

DNA testing. So he's given me permission on an interim basis now to do it," she said.

The limits of DNA testing at INAC will not be pushed in this case, however, because she got the declarations and will soon submit them.

## The last status Indian

Meanwhile, an Ontario band councillor is leading the charge to bring attention to the decline in the number of status people. Councillor Wayne Beaver of Alderville First Nation (located 15 minutes north of Cobourg) has been sending letters all over official Ottawa.

Alderville belongs to the Ogemawahj Tribal Council. Marc Manatch, a tribal council employee, told *Windspeaker* the member communities want to increase the visibility of the issue and get something started to correct it.

"Over the last few years we have done some demographic studies on our communities and we've become alarmed

by our findings that the number of status Indians is declining," he said. "This seems to go against the latest theories that First Nations'

## Second generation cutoff

populations are growing based on the youth. Our projections show that in some cases the last status Indian could be born on one of our communities within the next 30 years. This is cause for great concern of course. We feel it is important enough to hold a national conference on the issue, which is planned for Nov. 22 to 23 in Toronto."

Beaver's July letter to parliamentarians identified the "second generation cutoff," as one of the main roots of the problem. This is explained as parents who are not full-blooded but have status under Section 6(2) of the act can pass on status to their children, but their children's children will not have status,

He also pointed out that INAC will allow First Nations to decide who is a member of their band, but the department reserves the

*"I have two sons who share the same father. My eldest son is registered with INAC as a 6(1). My youngest son is not registered because his birth certificate is silent on paternity, and I am only considered a 6(2) and therefore cannot pass down status by myself...I've read there's like 50,000 kids in Canada that should be status but are not. I've seen Natives who are... Native, full-blooded, that don't have their status because of stupid rules."*

Michelle Wootton

right to decide who has or doesn't have status.

"This generation cutoff has the effect of legislating registered, or status, Indians out of existence at most, if not all, First Nations in Canada," Beaver wrote.

He pointed to a long history of attempts by Canadian authorities to assimilate Native people and end the so-called "Indian problem."

Beaver quoted former Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs Duncan Campbell Scott's infamous 1924 remark:

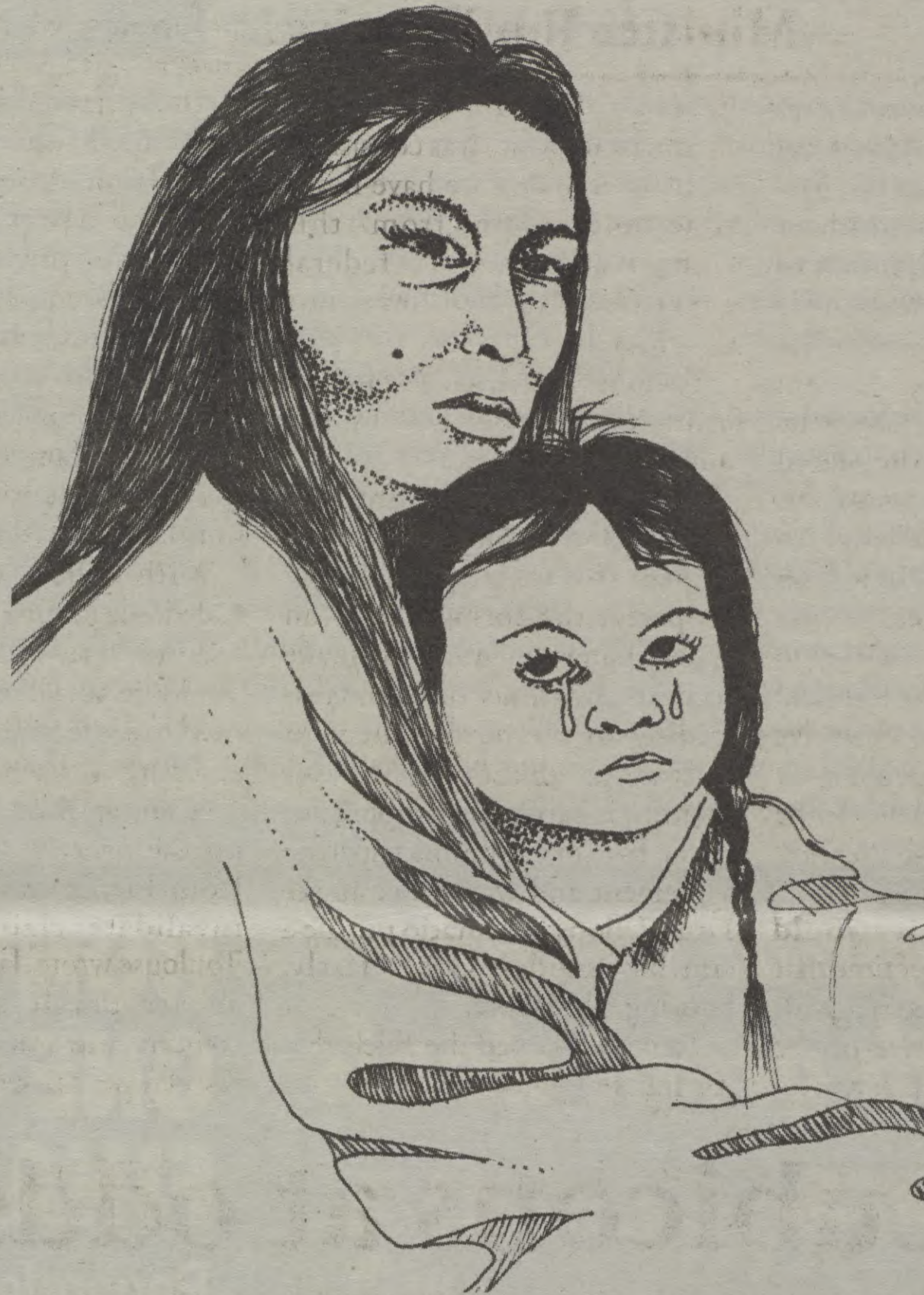
"Our object is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada who has not been absorbed into the body politic, and there is no Indian question and no Indian department."

"While it would be difficult in today's climate of political correctness to find a government official who would be willing to accept ownership of such a policy, it survives nonetheless," Beaver wrote.

He also pointed out that a joint 1998 study conducted by INAC and the United Anishnaabeg Councils concluded that the last status Indian will be born at Alderville in 2032. Scugog Island, another community in the tribal council, will see its last status birth in 2013, according to that same study.

Beaver invited parliamentarians to conduct their own research.

"An issue of such importance must be dealt with," he said.



# Federal health minister won't help

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

TORONTO

Ontario chiefs have hit a wall in their efforts to assert a couple of treaty rights for First Nations people in the province.

The Ontario Health Premium (OHP) is collected by the federal government's Canada Revenue Agency as part of an agreement with the provincial Ministry of Finance.

Chris McCormick, deputy grand chief of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI), a London, Ont.-based political/territorial organization (called tribal councils in other parts of the country), took on the task of seeking to change the system so that First Nations people are not charged the premium, which he says is a tax.

He maintains First Nations people have a treaty right to health care and a treaty right to be tax exempt and this arrangement violates both those rights.

"There are three provinces that have health premiums, British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario," McCormick said. "In British Columbia and Alberta, the residents of the province are

*"AIAI's argument is that our health coverage is a treaty right and that this is universal for all status Indians across Canada. It is also our argument that if the premiums had been processed through the Ministry of Health instead of the Ministry of Finance we would not find ourselves in this situation and our treaty right to health would have been upheld."*

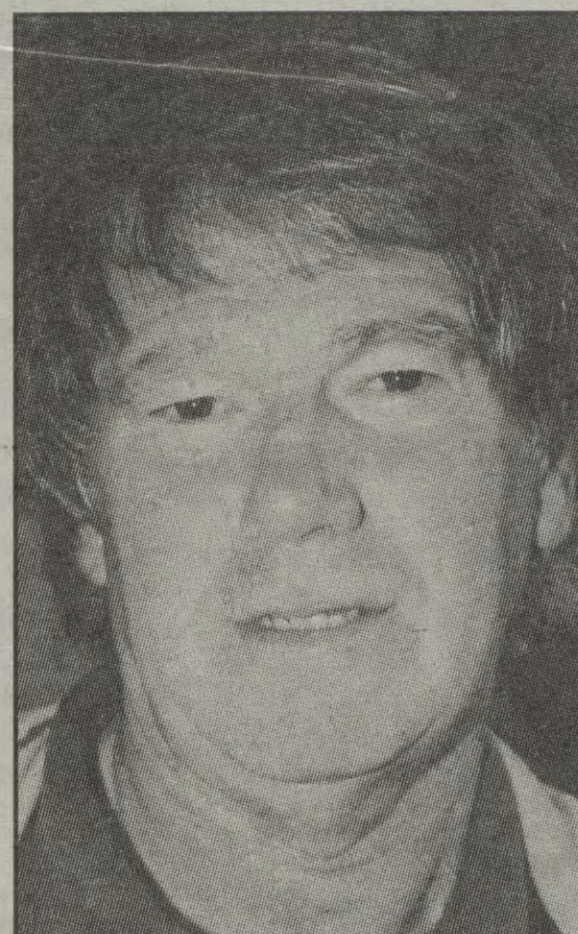
—Chris McCormick

invoiced the amount that they would be required to pay towards the health premium. Status Indians in those provinces living on or off reserve call in their status card information and the invoices are sent to Health Canada and are paid."

According to information compiled by AIAI researchers, the federal government paid \$11.7 million to Alberta for health care for the approximately 87,000 status Indians in the province in 2002-03, the most recent year for which statistical information was available at the time of the study. B.C.'s more than 112,000 status people received health care for

which the provincial government received more than \$12 million from Ottawa. In both cases, Native people did not pay for the service and were not charged premiums, McCormick said.

But in Ontario, the almost 160,000 status people pay, through payroll deductions, as much as \$900 a year for health care and the province receives that money back from Health Canada. The rates vary according to income: those earning less than \$20,000 do not pay any premium; those earning between \$20,000 and \$36,000 pay \$300 a year; those earning between \$36,000 and \$40,000 pay \$450 a year and



those earning more than \$200,000 annually pay \$900.

Ontario began having the federal government collect the health premium through payroll deduction in 2005. McCormick took note shortly afterwards that it was then considered a tax and levied against First Nation people in Ontario even though First Nation people in other provinces do not pay it. He began a lobby effort that has taken him to Ottawa and Toronto, the Ontario capital, on several occasions. It was only after he was rebuffed by federal Health Minister Tony Clement that he contacted this publication.

"The argument that Health Canada is making is that in Ontario the premiums are processed through the Ministry of Finance and are labeled as a tax rather than a health premium. The process for paying the premiums is by direct deduction from pay cheques for all residents including status Indians working off-reserve," he said. "AIAI's argument is that our health coverage is a treaty right and that this is universal for all status Indians across Canada. It is also our argument that if the premiums had been processed through the Ministry of Health instead of the Ministry of Finance we would not find ourselves in this situation and our treaty right to health would have been upheld."

The Ontario finance minister, Dwight Duncan, acknowledged in a letter to McCormick on Dec. 15, 2005 that he was willing to look into the situation.

"If you decide to engage the federal government in discussions about developing an arrangement whereby the federal government pays the OHP of status Indians in Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Finance would be happy to participate in those discussions," Duncan wrote.

(see Health page 11.)

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## Matter could end in court

(Continued from page 8.)

"First let me say that I know everything I say to you is on the record and the first words out of my mouth are 'No comment,' Jerry Flaman said when contacted by phone. "My client is not in the city at the present time and I have absolutely no authority to discuss anything with anybody about my client's business."

He said he's waiting for instructions from his client.

"This is a very complicated dispute that's been going on for some time that I don't even have all the information on because I have not been involved in this with my client. And before he left to go overseas he provided me with this information and the result is the document that you referred to," the lawyer said.

Lennarson doesn't think that DaimlerChrysler should be held out as some kind of example of a good corporate leader, Lennarson said, when asked for a reaction to the CAMSC award.

"Willingness to talk to Aboriginal and minority business suppliers does not absolve DaimlerChrysler from responsibility for the actions of

DaimlerChrysler dealers any more than a church-going slum landlord can distance himself from the actions of the goons he uses to manage slum properties."

## Health premiums

(Continued from page 10.)

But efforts over the summer to get the federal government to the table have resulted in mixed messages.

An unsigned and undated letter prepared for signature by the federal health minister said Tony Clement was "in favor of entering into the required discussions with the federal and provincial governments to resolve this issue."

But a letter signed by Clement, dated in a handwritten scrawl July 26, contradicts that message.

"Health Canada does not have the authority or mandate to pay income-based taxes on behalf of First Nation and Inuit clients," he wrote.

After that rejection, Chris McCormick headed back to Ottawa to lobby opposition

members. New Democratic Party (NDP) Leader Jack Layton and NDP Aboriginal Affairs Critic Jean Crowder wrote a letter to Clement on the matter.

"We are writing to raise an issue of inequity among status Indians and their treaty right to health care," they wrote.

"We would like to hear from you directly, when will you enter into discussions with the province of Ontario to deal with this situation and remedy this injustice?"

In a phone interview on Sept. 26, Layton said his party will be raising this issue in Parliament.

"A clear injustice is being perpetrated here," he said. "Treaty rights are not being respected and this government appears unwilling to take on its fiduciary obligation."

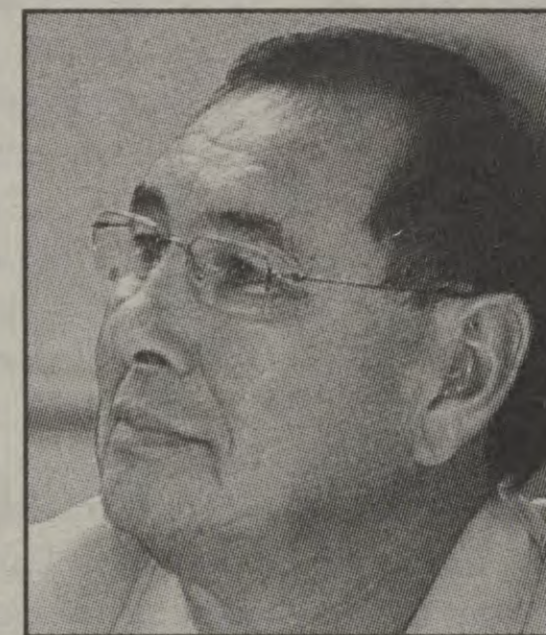
## UN veteran seeks Alberta AFN post

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Willie Littlechild hopes to become the Assembly of First Nations' Alberta regional chief on Oct. 6. The retiring member of the United Nations permanent forum on Indigenous issues will face off against incumbent Jason Goodstriker and others rumored to be interested in the job.

Only two candidates for the position were confirmed as our publication deadline arrived on Sept. 27. Others have until Sept. 29 to enter the race.



Willie Littlechild

Goodstriker will be seeking his second three-year term when the Alberta chiefs hold their fall session in Calgary. Littlechild, one of eight Indigenous members appointed to the permanent forum when it was created in 2000, has completed his second three-year term and there is a two-term maximum.

A citizen of the Ermineskin Cree Nation (located about 80 km south of Edmonton), he was already a fixture on the UN scene before his appointment to the permanent forum. A lawyer by training, Littlechild has represented First Nation interests at the international level for many years.

Windspeaker attended a special meeting of the Confederacy of Treaty 6 chiefs at a West Edmonton hotel on Sept. 22 where Littlechild was scheduled to provide an update on recent developments at the United Nations. During an interview, he confirmed that he was running, saying he was responding to "a very strong request from our leaders in Alberta that I get involved at home."

It's the first time in years the world traveller has had time to deal with issues in his native Alberta.

"As you know I was asked to run for [AFN] national chief, but I had already made some very strong commitments to my own community that I didn't want to breach. So this opportunity here is more fitting, I think, to try and meet those commitments that I've made at home as well."

Littlechild served as a backbench MP in the Conservative government of Brian Mulroney, representing the

Wetaskiwin riding from 1988 to 1993. And he went to law school with Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice.

Windspeaker asked if that would assist him in building a relationship with the current federal government.

"Not only with the minister of Indian Affairs, but with all ministers. I think I have the fortunate experience of having been in Parliament. Some of the current members of Parliament I still know because they were there at the same time. I think that's an advantage," he said.

United Nations update

Littlechild said the Draft Declaration on Indigenous

Rights was expected to go before the UN general assembly for final approval sometime in November.

"But prior to that, there are plans under way to have a session in New York around Oct. 16, to have a meeting on the declaration while all the states are present and have Indigenous leaders come and express their views as well in terms of seeking support for its adoption," he said.

He had just returned from UN headquarters in New York City after a week of meetings. He said he'd met with Bolivian President Evo Morales, who along with outgoing Mexican President Vicente Fox, has urged that the draft declaration be approved by the UN general assembly, a call that has since been echoed by the European Union.

"When you look around the world there's actually support from every region of the world to the point where I think, at least my early estimation is that the general assembly will adopt the declaration at this session," he said.

While 12 states abstained and two states—Canada and Russia—voted against the declaration when the draft was approved by the UN Human Rights Council earlier this year, Argentina has been trying to broker an agreement that will allow the general assembly to approve it.

"Argentina will be coming with a proposal to amend the resolution that calls for the adoption of the declaration in a way that they think will bring those that abstained or those that voted against it to come onside," Littlechild said.



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### Public Notice for Canadian Producers

#### Cover Crop Protection Program (CCPP) extends application deadline due to high demand

Agricultural producers who were unable to seed commercial crops in the spring of 2005 and/or the spring of 2006 due to flooding and excessive moisture may be eligible for federal assistance through the CCPP. Coverage will be provided to all eligible producers, regardless of whether they are covered under production insurance.

In 2007, the CCPP will begin operating as part of a long-term solution to spring flooding across the country and will only be available to producers enrolled in production insurance. In the interim, assistance is available to help offset the costs of restoring and protecting agricultural soil damaged by excessive moisture.

The extended deadline for 2005 and 2006 claims is October 31, 2006.

#### Eligibility

##### Applicants:

- Canadian agricultural producers or entities who were unable to seed commercial crops in the spring of 2005 and/or the spring of 2006 due to flooding and excessive moisture.

##### Land size:

- All affected acreage in excess of 10 acres (four hectares) will be eligible for program payments.

#### Payments

Eligible applicants will receive \$15 an acre.

CCPP application forms have been directly mailed to production insurance clients who made claims concerning field flooding in 2005 and/or 2006. Applications are also available upon request by calling Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at 1 800 667-8567. Program information can be obtained by calling the toll-free line or by visiting the web site at [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)

Canada

# Rejection letters alarm school survivors

By Paul Barnsley  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

**VANCOUVER**

As many as 500 residential school survivors across Canada have recently received letters from the federal government telling them that their application for the \$8,000 early payment has been rejected because the government cannot find records that prove they attended a residential school.

Since the early payment is only available to survivors who were 65 years old or older as of last spring, there's been a lot of alarmed phone calls to Sharon Thira's office in Vancouver. Thira is the executive director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society (IRSSS), a not-for-profit agency that provides information, referral, crisis counselling, training, workshops and networking for survivors, communities and regions throughout British Columbia.

Thira sent a letter to Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice on May 30, asking for clarification. Prentice has recently taken over responsibility for Indian Residential Schools Resolution

Canada, which Prime Minister Stephen Harper originally put under the management of Heritage Canada Minister Bev Oda.

While subsequent inquiries by *Windspeaker* have shown that many of the worrisome scenarios described in Thira's letter were mistakes that have been corrected, a number of issues remain to be sorted out.

In her letter to the minister, she pointed out that "records no longer exist in cases where: schools burned down; incomplete records were kept in the first place; records were routinely purged; or records have been lost or misplaced."

"At no time were these records under the care of the former students. Records have always been housed in church or government archives," she added. "Until recently, Canada had assured IRSSS that, in cases where records could not be found for a former student, an affidavit from fellow classmates would be accepted as confirmation of attendance."

But bureaucrats recently informed Thira that affidavits were no longer being accepted. She asked the minister why that change in policy was made. *Windspeaker* asked the same

question during a phone interview with the minister on Sept. 27.

"I'm not sure I'd call it a policy change," he said. "In going through the approvals process with my cabinet colleagues, it was decided that the previous government was not performing adequate due diligence in verifying claims and the verification process was strengthened."

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Phil Fontaine, reached by phone on Sept. 22, said the Liberal government felt that testing five per cent of the claims at random would be sufficient to guard against false claims. Prentice said that wasn't good enough for his government and now all claims are being verified.

Fontaine also said that his staff was analyzing all the cases where rejection letters have been issued and he has secured an agreement with the government that no more rejection letters will be sent.

Luc Dumont, director general of Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada, confirmed that.

He said the rejection letters were part of the growing pains associated with starting up the early payment process. He

acknowledged that in some cases the sending of a rejection letter was simply a mistake.

Thira detailed a number of those scenarios. Among the people in B.C. who received rejection letters were people who had possession of records that prove the provincial government had sent them to a residential school. One claimant had already secured a judgement for physical abuse at a school in court and yet was told that there were no records confirming his attendance in a residential school.

In a couple of cases, different searches of records for one student produced different and contradictory results.

Dumont said mistakes were made and they're being corrected. "We were overwhelmed by the volume of the applications. We didn't expect so many people would apply so early," he said.

He said the early payment to those over the age of 65 is a good-faith gesture by the government of Canada, "an ex gratia payment" and the government is being as careful as possible to ensure that only qualified applicants receive the \$8,000 cheque.

"But let's put this in perspective," he said. "Of the

11,713 applications received as of Sept. 25, only about 500 of them have been rejected for lack of records."

In cases where records can't be found at this point, the case will "be put on hold rather than rejected."

And new sources of information are coming in as records are found in church and historical society archives around the country and many of the files on hold may be able to proceed.

"And keep in mind the churches are not obliged to allow us access to their archives until the agreement comes into force," he said.

As for those cases where records never are found, Dumont said a strategy would be devised to deal with that.

"Affidavits may be possible in the future. We're not ruling it out," he said.

Thira pointed out that in 1922, the government passed a law requiring Native children to attend residential school. She believes that asking people who went to school in the 1940s and 1950s to provide proof of school attendance is not only unreasonable, but also unnecessary.

(see Residential page 23.)

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# Entrepreneur makes it his business to give back

By Cheryl Petten  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EAST PRAIRIE, Alta.

While many people in northern Alberta are hoping to cash in on the booming oil and gas industry, Jerry Cunningham is building his business around another of the province's natural resources.

Cunningham is the owner of Cunningham Outfitting Ltd., which operates on the East Prairie Metis settlement offering guided hunts to clientele.

Starting an outfitting business was sort of a natural choice for Cunningham, who said he has been hunting as long as he can remember. And the same goes for the people he employs as guides.

"I think Metis people, Native people, you know, hunting is our lives, so to speak. So it's something that just comes natural," he said.

The company is very much a family business. The guides include Cunningham's father, Gerald, his brother, Jerrod, and his cousin, Bruce.

"And then my mother is one of the cooks," he said. "She usually hires a couple other people to help cook and clean and do all the other stuff, so that's kind of her department. I just oversee everything and make sure everyone's doing their job."

Cunningham Outfitting's on-site hunting lodge offers clients all the modern amenities, including satellite television and Internet access, and can accommodate up to 10 hunters at a time.

Clients come to Cunningham Outfitting to hunt a variety of animals, but the biggest draw, and the reason the majority of the company's American clients come to East Prairie, is to hunt whitetail deer.

"Spring bear is definitely big ... moose and elk are definitely of



Jerry Cunningham of Cunningham Outfitting.

interest, but the whitetail deer is pretty much everything for us," Cunningham said.

He started the business as a way to boost the economy of East Prairie.

"That was one of the biggest things, that it would be right on the settlement," he said. "So settlement members that can't leave or that don't want to leave can work right on the settlement and be home."

Cunningham Outfitting employs between eight and a dozen people at any given time, but these employees aren't the only community members who benefit from the company's operations.

"Settlement members have their own land, and so, for me to access their land, I give them kind of an access fee ... so that helps out people as well ... They get paid for clients I have on their land," Cunningham said.

"I've got people calling me already [saying] 'Are you going to put a stand in my land this year?', looking forward to getting that income ... because in my community there's not a lot of economic development out there. And I know, in a lot of Aboriginal communities throughout Canada, there isn't."

Cunningham also ensures the

Elders of East Prairie share in his company's good fortunes. He's created a game return policy under which the meat from any animal his clients harvest from the community stays in the community.

"I'll take it into the butcher shop and have it cut up and made into steaks and hamburger and whatever else that's needed to be done and it goes out to the Elders of the community."

That policy helped win Elders over to the idea of having an outfitting business in East Prairie, Cunningham explained, helping to overcome their concerns about outsiders coming to hunt on Metis land.

Getting the business up and running hasn't been without its challenges. Before he could get a provincial license to operate, Cunningham first had to spend one year working under another outfitter. The next challenge came when he had to convince the settlement's councillors that this was a good industry in which to get involved.

Then came trying to find the right employees.

"When we first started, we went through a lot of people, because we start at four o'clock in the morning," he said.

(see Building page 15.)

## First Nation reaps reward in business

The Canadian Aboriginal and Minority Supplier Council (CAMSC) announced the winners of its Business Achievements Awards in Toronto on Sept. 26. The awards celebrate Canadian companies that have made a great impact in Aboriginal and minority business development.

The Small Business of the Year Award will be given to Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLO), an Aboriginal business community located 50 km east of Dryden, Ont. The company, which is 100 per cent owned by the community, produces a variety of innovative, eco-friendly products, including organic Wild Rice Health Bars, extreme outer apparel and environmentally-friendly cleaning products. Thanks to heavy investment in research and development, WLO's product line increased from five to 19, and its sales grew 105 per cent over the last two years. Its products are listed in the Acklands Grainger national catalogue, the leading source for industrial supplies in North America.

The Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative (AWPI) is the winner of the Partnership Award, which is presented for excellence in partnerships or strategic alliances intended to facilitate procurement opportunities with Aboriginal and minority-owned businesses. AWPI is an initiative launched by the federal government to promote increased participation of Aboriginal peoples in the Canadian economy. AWPI has been working to promote Aboriginal procurement and has made significant strides toward the development of an Aboriginal Benefits Policy that would apply to the federally regulated sectors of the Canadian economy.

Charles Gastle, adjunct professor, Osgoode Hall Law School, will be honored with the Procurement Business Advocate of the Year Award. Dr. Gastle has conducted extensive research into the economic importance of Aboriginal and minority business integration. He is a widely published author, and was recently commissioned by the Canadian government to write a paper on Aboriginal culture and international trade. Dr. Gastle also mentors and encourages his law students to advance Aboriginal, minority and social justice causes.

The Supplier of the Year Award will be given to Metro Label, a Scarborough, Ont.-based South Asian success story. The company leads the North American market in the production of pressure sensitive labels, generating \$60 million in sales this year, including \$3 million in export sales, an increase of 91 per cent over the past two years.

DaimlerChrysler, a CAMSC founding member, will be recognized as Corporation of the Year.

"In highlighting the successes of these companies, we are showcasing some of the forward-thinking businesses that have recognized the tremendous positive impact Aboriginals and minorities have in the development of the Canadian economy," said Orrin Benn, president, CAMSC. "We are incredibly proud of these organizations and we sincerely commend their efforts towards building a truly diverse and productive Canadian business community."

The awards will be given at a gala dinner on Oct. 12 in Toronto.

CAMSC is an independent, non-profit organization that aims to boost economic development efforts, employment and inclusion for Aboriginal and visible minority businesses through business relations and mentoring. For more information, visit [www.camsc.ca](http://www.camsc.ca).

[www.smallbusinessweek.ca](http://www.smallbusinessweek.ca)

Small Business Week, which will take place from **October 15 to 21, 2006**, is an opportunity for entrepreneurs to share success stories and talk to experts interested in small and medium-sized business and dedicated to its growth and development.

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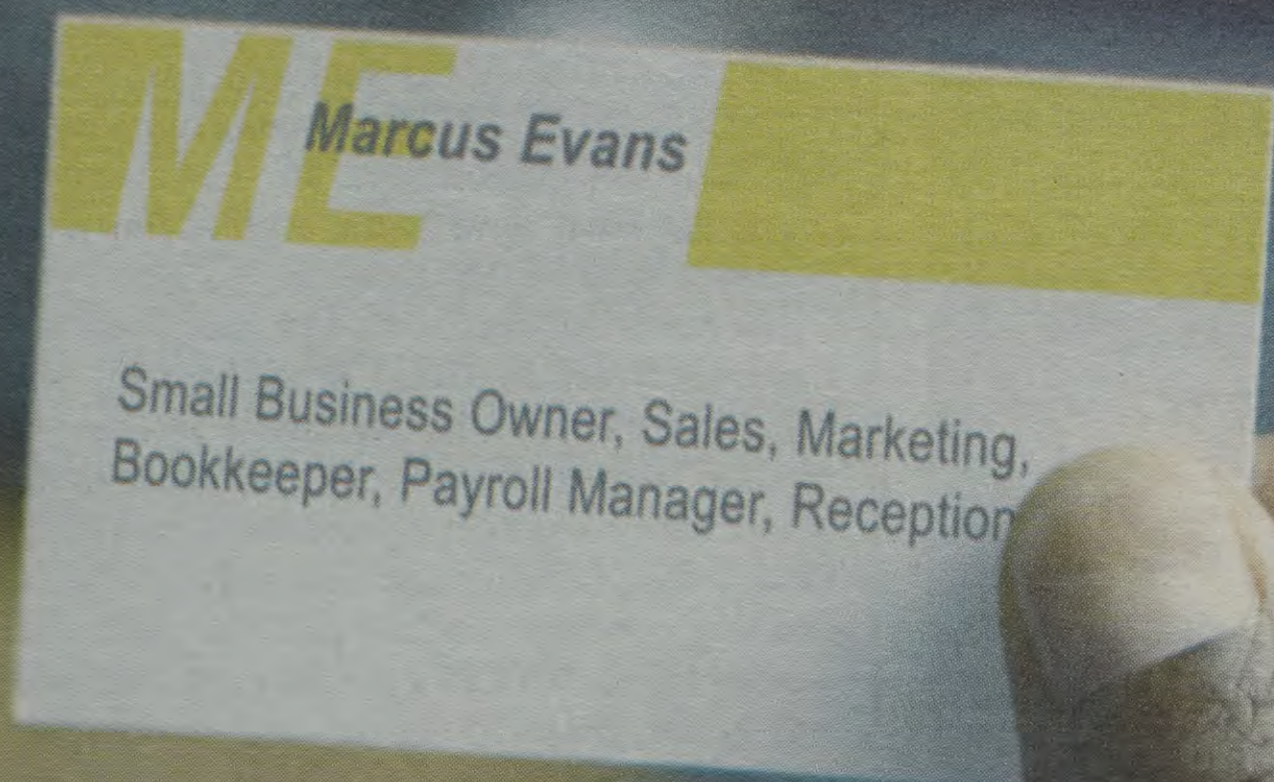


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## Business awards nominations open

Nominations have opened for the Alberta Business Awards of Distinction, which celebrate success in the province's thriving business community. Deadline for entries is Nov. 14.

Among the categories is the Alberta Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction, which recognizes outstanding achievement by Aboriginal women entrepreneurs who best exemplify effective leadership, innovation, capacity building and sustainability; who demonstrate cultural, social and environmental awareness; and who demonstrate commitment to enhancing the well being of the larger Aboriginal community.

There is also the Aboriginal Relations—Best Practice Award of Distinction, which is given to a non-Aboriginal business that demonstrates outstanding achievements in Aboriginal relations, including economic development, employment and training, and Aboriginal community support. The award recognizes a non-Aboriginal business that best links these pillars and is recognized by the Aboriginal community as such.

The Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Eagle Feather Business Award of Distinction is given to a First

Nation's owned business that demonstrates outstanding achievement in business and has incorporated entrepreneurial and cultural concepts into its operation for long-term success.

The Syncrude Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneur Award recognizes outstanding achievement by young Aboriginal entrepreneurs. The award is given to the business that best exemplifies the qualities of effective leadership, innovatively applied know-how, and excellent potential for growth; that shows a high level of social, cultural and environmental awareness and a demonstrated commitment to the wider Aboriginal community; and that engages in continuous learning or other improvement opportunities designed to advance the economic, social and environmental prospects of the enterprise.

The Alberta Business Awards of Distinction is the province's premier business awards program, which the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and its sponsors are hosting for the sixteenth year.

Businesses are encouraged to visit the Web site ([www.abbusinessawards.ab.ca](http://www.abbusinessawards.ab.ca)) to learn how to apply or nominate another business or organization for an award. Every finalist also becomes eligible for the Premier's Award of Distinction.

## Building business

(Continued from page 13.)

Another challenge was, and continues to be, attracting clients.

"There's thousands of outfitters in Canada, and trying to sell your place is definitely one of the biggest concerns you have every day."

One of the ways Cunningham has been working to get the word out about his business is through sportsman shows. Cunningham Outfitting has a booking agent that travels across the United States attending these shows on its behalf. But a surprising amount of business also comes in through word of mouth.

"Word of mouth is the biggest thing that you could ever imagine," Cunningham said. "I've got guys calling me from Pittsburgh, saying, 'Ya, we heard about you through so and so,' and I'm like 'Oh my God, that's cool.' ... So it's amazing how it works."

The company has been in business for three years, and last year was the busiest by far.

"Last year was definitely our break-out year," Cunningham said. "We had 32 clients that came and hunted with Cunningham Outfitting."

Part of that growth comes from the amount of repeat business the company gets. The fact that Cunningham Outfitting operates on a Metis settlement is one of the reasons clients keep coming back year after year, Cunningham said.

"Because we're on a Metis settlement, you don't have pressure on the deer," he said. "Nobody can just come on the settlement and hunt."

When asked what the most rewarding thing is about running his outfitting business, Cunningham doesn't hesitate before answering. It's seeing a satisfied customer.

"So when the client shoots a deer that's the biggest that he's ever shot in his life, that look in his face, well, it's priceless. That's the biggest thing for me, is just making people happy. Providing a service that makes them happy."

With three years under his belt, Cunningham is looking at opportunities for expansion and has begun talks with other Metis settlements about opening up outfitting operations within their communities. The people of those communities would realize the same economic development opportunities that Cunningham Outfitters has brought to East Prairie, Cunningham said.

Cunningham said he's in the business for the long haul.

"I can guarantee that Cunningham Outfitting will be around for a very long time," he said.

For more information about Cunningham Outfitting, visit the company Web site at [www.cunninghamoutfitting.com](http://www.cunninghamoutfitting.com).

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# Atlantic entrepreneurs honored

The stage was set and the stars were out as chiefs, business leaders and community representatives from across the Atlantic region were on hand for the second annual Atlantic Aboriginal Entrepreneur Awards Gala.

This event was hosted by Ulnooweg Development Group on Sept. 12 in Sydney, N.S. More than 300 people attended. Well-known Mi'kmaq celebrities Jimmy Augustine and Candy Palmater performed masters of ceremonies duties. Augustine was one of the recipients of the Export of the Year award at last year's inaugural event for his recording studio Thunder Spirit. Candy Palmater's talents are far ranging, but her incredible gift of humor is by far one of the most magical gifts of all.

There were 12 awards given out in 10 categories. The top award, Entrepreneur of the Year, was presented to John Bernard, president of Donna Cona, the largest Aboriginally-owned IT company in Canada. He is a member of the Madawaska First Nation in New Brunswick where he started his company, which is now nationally known. His sister, Chief Joanna Bernard, was with him as he received the award, presented to him by Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy.

Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to basket maker Caroline Gould of Waycobah First Nation and gas and convenience store owner Ben Sylliboy of Eskasoni.

The Band Enterprise award was awarded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to two recipients, Metepenagiag Adventure Lodge in New Brunswick and Eskasoni



John Bernard, president of IT company Donna Cona, receives the Atlantic Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2006, presented by Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy.

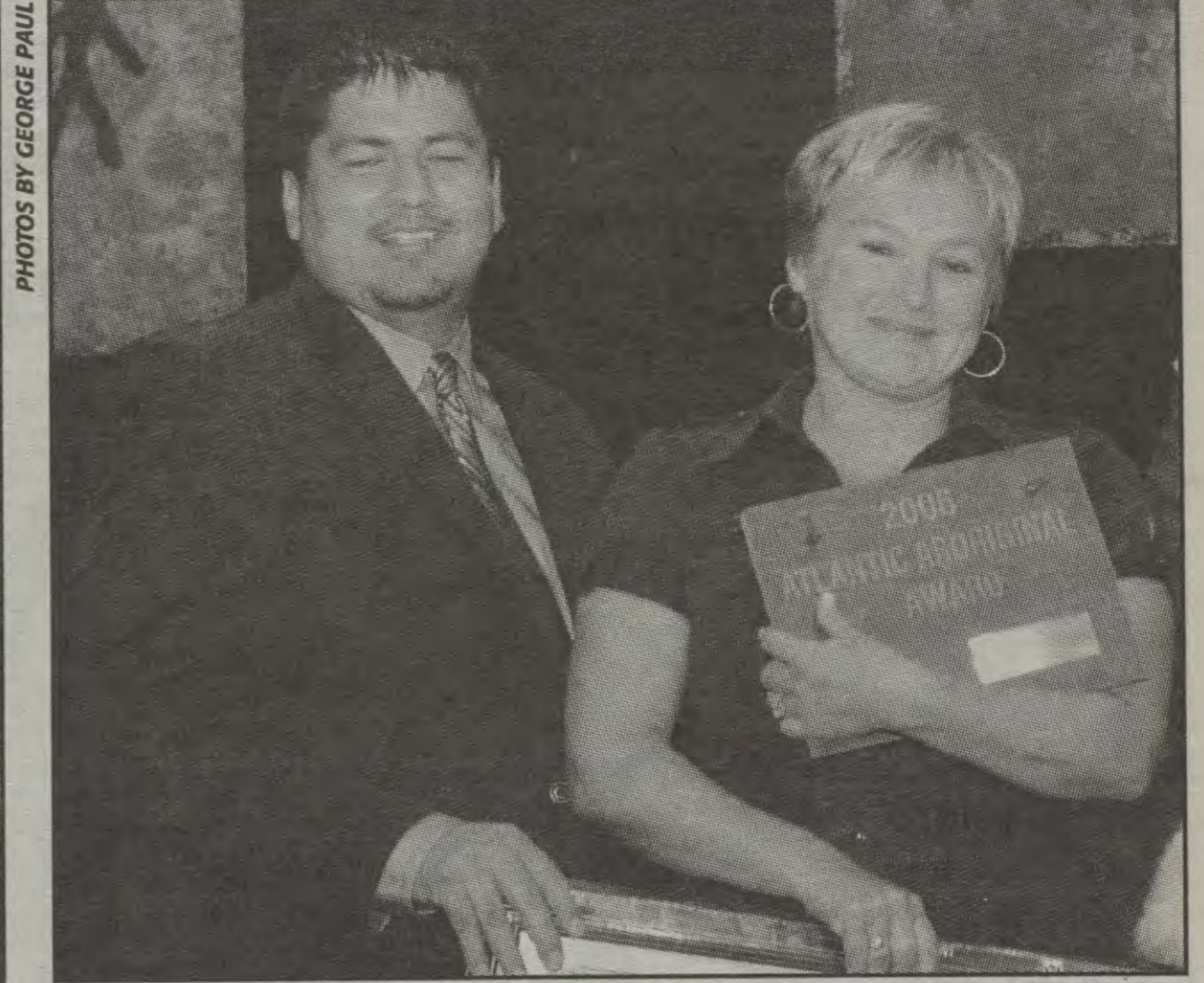
Supermarket in Eskasoni, N.S. The Youth Entrepreneur of the Year was presented by Aboriginal Business Canada to Tammy Belanger for Greenleaf Enterprises in Wilmot, N.S.

The Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award was presented to Margaret Pelletier of Waycobah First Nation for her award winning basketry business.

The Economic Development Officer of the Year Award went to Anita Boyle of Metepenagiag First Nation, recognizing her long-time commitment to the entire region. The four provincial awards were also handed out. The Prince Edward Island awards went to Jacob Jadis for his ink cartridge refill business, Ink Isle in Charlottetown. The Nova Scotia Award went to Robin

Googoo's Mi'kmaq Gas and Convenience Store in Membertou First Nation. The New Brunswick provincial award went to Barbara Calderone's Pabineau powwow business in Pabineau Falls First Nation and the Newfoundland and Labrador prize went to Mary Jane Edmonds of Labrador for her company Innu Med in partnership with FGI World.

All recipients received engraved stone slate award sdesigned by Paul and Anne Martin of Sunflower Slate in Tatamagouche, N.S. and a limited edition print entitled Mi'kmaq Worldview by Mi'kmaw artist Teresa Marshall of Millbrook First Nation. Bernard, also received an original painting presented to him at the show by Marshall.



Chris Googoo, general manager of Ulnooweg, presents Anita Boyle with the Economic Development Officer of the Year Award.



Margaret Pelletier of Waycobah, N.S. presented the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award by Ian Gray, associate regional director of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

## Declaration

(Continued from page 11.)

Willie Littlechild said he's seen the amended resolution and "would not oppose such an amendment."

He said work will continue amongst Indigenous delegates to eventually convert the declaration into a UN convention.

"That may be long term, but this is a very important step," he said.

Indigenous leaders in Canada were harshly critical when Canada voted against the declaration at the human rights council. And many observers believe the Harper government is indifferent at best to Indigenous issues.

"Certainly, it may be an uphill battle," Littlechild said when asked if getting Canada onside would be difficult, "but it's one we need to climb. In that regard we have tried to address all of their concerns, the express concerns that they have as to the reasons why they voted against it. We have tried to address it from a very carefully researched legal basis to try and address the concern that they have."



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Travaux publics et  
Services gouvernementaux  
Canada

### Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME)

Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) wishes to announce that the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises (OSME) has expanded to open six new regional offices across Canada. The OSME regional offices are being located in PWGSC regional headquarters in: Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton, and Vancouver.

The regional offices are part of the OSME's overall effort to make procurement more accountable and cost-effective by ensuring small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have access to compete for government opportunities. The OSME will ensure this access through collaboration with industry associations and individual businesses on procurement policy changes, and through the delivery of training, information, and support tools to SMEs.

For more information, please visit the following website: [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/sme](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/sme), or e-mail: [osme@pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:osme@pwgsc.gc.ca), or call: 1 800 811-1148.

### Bureau des petites et moyennes entreprises (BPME)

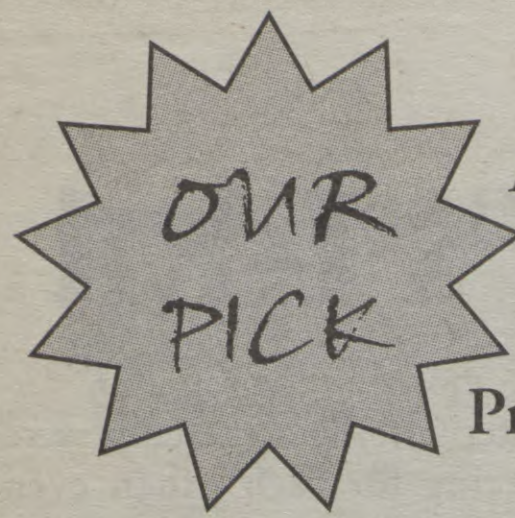
Travaux publics et Services gouvernementaux Canada (TPSGC) souhaite annoncer que le Bureau des petites et moyennes entreprises (BPME) prend de l'expansion et qu'il a ouvert six nouveaux bureaux régionaux au pays. Les bureaux régionaux du BPME sont situés dans les bureaux régionaux de TPSGC à Halifax, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton et Vancouver.

Les bureaux régionaux participent à l'effort global du BPME visant à rendre le processus d'approvisionnement plus rentable et efficace en veillant à ce que les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME) aient la possibilité de participer aux occasions de marchés publics. À cette fin, le BPME consultera les associations sectorielles et les entreprises sur les modifications des politiques sur les achats et il offrira du perfectionnement, de l'information et des outils pour appuyer les PME.

Pour plus de renseignements, consultez le site Web [www.tpsgc.gc.ca/pme](http://www.tpsgc.gc.ca/pme), ou communiquez avec le BPME par courriel, à l'adresse [bpme@tpsgc.gc.ca](mailto:bpme@tpsgc.gc.ca), ou par téléphone, au numéro 1 800 811-1148.

Canada

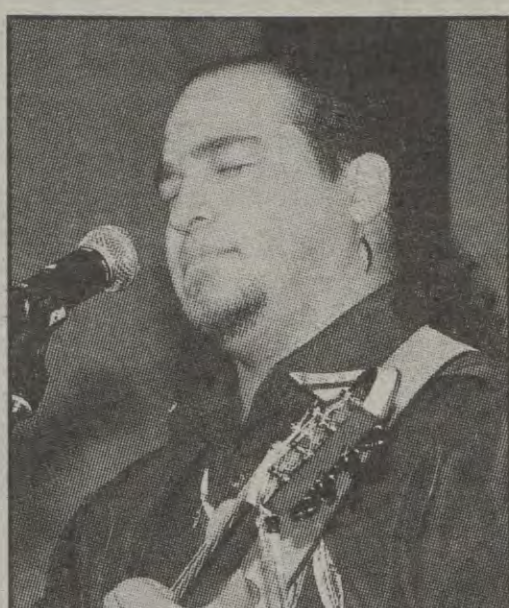




Artist—Jared Sowan  
 Album—Eclectically yours  
 Song—Treat Me Nice  
 Label—Sunshine Records  
 Producer—Jared Sowan and  
 Shane Ward

## Sowan hits the high notes on CD

His distinctly gritty sound will leave listeners remembering the name Jared Sowan. The 13 tracks of his CD *Eclectically yours* are bluesy and soulful, with lyrics, though simple and straightforward, filled with emotion and stories to tell. This album is indeed eclectic, with a mix of styles from country to pop thrown together, but it's Sowan's jazzy/blues chops that hold appeal, with the help of bluesman Billy Joe Green, who is featured on lead, electric and steel guitars throughout the CD. There is an air of the David Clayton-Thomas and the Ray Charles in Sowan's voice on such tracks as Gift of Life, To Be With You and in the closing moments of Be Free. Sowan's got real power in the upper register on these tracks; a power lost when he dallies in the basement. Sowan wears his heart on his sleeve with the song Being Adopted Sucks. "It's a chance for us to look back and laugh at the situations that we went through and look to our future full of other crap to deal with," he says in some patter between refrains, but the song, along with The Way and Broken Wing, sounds a little Back-To-School Special for this reviewer. The track Mother begins with the traditional vocals of Ray "coco" Stevenson and tells the tale of our disrespect for the land and the beings that live here. The CD wraps up with a pure southern blues treatment on Treat Me Nice, a good showcase song that demonstrates the strength of this album.



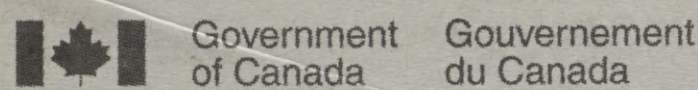
# ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Phyllis Sinclair	Hard-Time Hannah	Fence Posts and Stones
Shane Yellowbird	They're All About You	Single Release
Derek Miller	Never Gonna Get Enough	Single Release
Art Napoleon	Good Red Road	Miyoskamin
Susan Aglukark	I Will Return	Blood Red Earth
Los Lonely Boys	Diamonds	Sacred
Janet Panic	Blink	Single Release
Nancy Johnson	Run Away	Water Song
Stephen Kakfwi	Northern Woman	In The Walls Of His Mind
Leela Gilday	Rage	Dig Your Roots—Aboriginal
Edward Gamblin	Your My Everything	Cree Road
Andrea Menard	100 Years	Simple Steps
Donny Parenteau	Country Calling Me	What It Takes
Ashley Robertson	A Letter	Single Release
Priscilla Morin	Already Gone	Single Release
Gerry McIvor	Anishenabe Ikwe	Single Release
Terry McCaffrey	Phoenix	Single Release
C-Weed	Not Myself	Hey!
Digging Roots	Going Back	Dig Your Roots—Aboriginal
Jared Sowan	Kissing You	Eclectically Yours

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



## IMPORTANT NOTICE



### Reforms to Firearms Laws

To make it easier for firearm owners to comply with current laws, the Government of Canada has made the following changes to the Firearms Program:

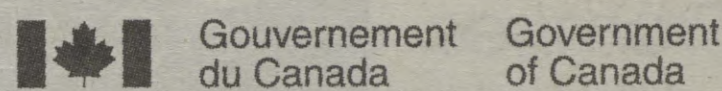
- Until May 17, 2008 all licence renewal fees have been waived;
- Licence renewal fees already paid are being fully refunded;
- The need to physically verify non-restricted long guns has been eliminated; and
- A one-year amnesty until May 17, 2007, gives previously licensed firearm owners time to comply with re-licensing and registration requirements related to non-restricted firearms, without the worry of possible prosecution under the *Criminal Code*.

**You still need a valid firearms licence to possess any firearm and to purchase ammunition.**

The Government of Canada has announced plans to remove the requirement to register non-restricted long guns. These changes still require Parliament's approval before they can be implemented.

For more information and to find out how these measures apply to you, visit the RCMP Canada Firearms Centre's web site at [www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca) or call 1 800 731-4000.

## AVIS IMPORTANT



### Réformes relatives aux lois sur les armes à feu

Pour aider les propriétaires à respecter les lois présentement en vigueur, le gouvernement du Canada a apporté les changements suivants au Programme des armes à feu :

- Une dispense a été accordée pour tous les frais de renouvellement de permis, et ce, jusqu'au 17 mai 2008;
- Les frais de renouvellement de permis déjà payés seront remboursés entièrement;
- L'obligation de faire vérifier physiquement les armes d'épaule sans restriction a été éliminée;
- Une amnistie d'un an donne aux propriétaires d'armes à feu qui étaient déjà titulaires d'un permis le temps de se conformer aux exigences relatives à l'obtention d'un nouveau permis d'armes à feu et à l'enregistrement. Les personnes bénéficiant de cette amnistie ne peuvent être condamnées en vertu du *Code criminel* pour possession non autorisée d'une arme à feu sans restriction, et ce, jusqu'au 17 mai 2007.

**Vous devez encore détenir un permis d'armes à feu valide pour posséder des armes à feu et acheter des munitions.**

Le gouvernement du Canada a annoncé qu'il a l'intention de supprimer l'obligation d'enregistrer les armes d'épaule sans restriction. Ces changements doivent encore être approuvés par le Parlement avant d'être mis en application.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements et pour savoir comment ces mesures s'appliquent à vous, visitez le site Web du Centre des armes à feu Canada de la GRC au [www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca) ou composez le 1 800 731-4000.

Canada

Canada

# Singer's career takes off after CTV's Idol

By Heather Andrews Miller  
Windspeaker Contributor

EDMONTON

Alberta's Sheldon Elter wasn't too upset when he was eliminated from the 2006 edition of CTV's Canadian Idol on July 12. The young Metis man had made it into the top 22 finalists on the talent show, an accomplishment that few fame-seeking singers achieve.

"The national exposure the talent show gave me resulted in a ton of phone calls, including one from APTN to star in Hank Williams First Nation, the series based on the hit movie of the same name," he said.

The Hank Williams series kicks off in November, so filming was about to start when he joined the cast. The six half-hour episodes will continue to develop the unique characters that the movie introduced. Produced by Peace Country Films Ltd., in partnership with the Woodland Cree First Nation, the series was shot in Peace River country.

"I'll be playing Huey Bigstone, who was played by Bernard Starlight in the movie. He was phenomenal, so he'll be a hard act to follow, and that was recognized



Canadian Idol contestant Sheldon Elter has wrapped up shooting of the APTN series Hank Williams First Nation.

in a subsequent Genie nomination," said Elter. "I feel really lucky to be picking up where he left off." A day of shooting at West Edmonton Mall was also enjoyed in mid-August when a stunt sequence was filmed in the deep sea adventure lake.

Popular actor Gordon Tootoosis again leads the cast as Adelard Fox, and the writers of the movie, Aaron James Sorensen and Jordan Wheeler, are writing the series, explained Elter. Filming took place in Peace River, Grimshaw, Bear Lake, Dixonville and Cadotte Lake and wrapped in late August.

The original film was nominated for five awards by the Alberta Motion Picture Industry Association and won best original music at the Nashville Independent Film Festival, as well as best director at the American Indian Film Festival. Sorensen, who still makes his home in Dixonville, Alta., has said he has made minimal changes for the small screen version. For the APTN production, well-known series writer Larry Mollin of *Beverly Hills 90210* fame has been retained as story editor.

Elter was born in Peace River and attended high school in

Grimshaw. He came to Edmonton in 1998 and attended Grant MacEwan's Theatre Arts program, enjoying the training that made him a well-rounded singer, actor and playwright. He has written an award-winning play called *Metis Mutt*, which has been published in the NextFest anthology of plays and has toured throughout Canada and New Zealand after premiering in Edmonton at the Roxy Theatre. What started out as a 10-minute scene became a full-length play, sold-out at the Fringe in 2002.

The 27-year-old former construction worker said appearing on the Canadian Idol competition and reaching the top 22 was a life-altering experience.

"I felt absolutely privileged to be amongst the other competitors. It gave me a lot of confidence about my ability to sing, because they were top-notch performers and very talented."

He especially enjoyed his friendship with fellow Idol contestant Rob James, as they are both of mixed heritage. "Rob is half Jamaican, and a prairie boy too as he's from Winnipeg. We had lots of fun, talking about our shared experiences and planning a possible musical theatre project together. We became good buddies, right from the time we

were chosen in the top 200."

Elter said the contestants were cheering for each other, even while wanting to win themselves. "It was hard to see anyone eliminated. The judges, the producers, the other contestants, everyone wanted each of us to succeed and we felt that support."

His mother, Pat L'Hirondelle, who still lives in the north near Grande Prairie, has been his greatest fan.

"She has encouraged me and supported me every step of the way. She got out of an unstable alcoholic relationship to raise me and my brother on her own, and our life got better after that. I have her to thank for everything," he said.

Elter paid for her ticket to Toronto when Canadian Idol was in progress. "She'd never flown, and she'd never left Alberta, and seeing her excitement was as much fun as the Idol experience was." His girlfriend Kristi Hansen has also been a major factor in his success, supporting him every step of the way, he said.

Currently, Elter has a play in progress, writing when he gets the time. He plays in a ukulele band, covering everything from Johnny Cash and Neil Young to Guns and Roses. "We enjoy busking wherever we can.

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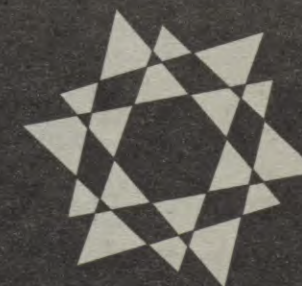
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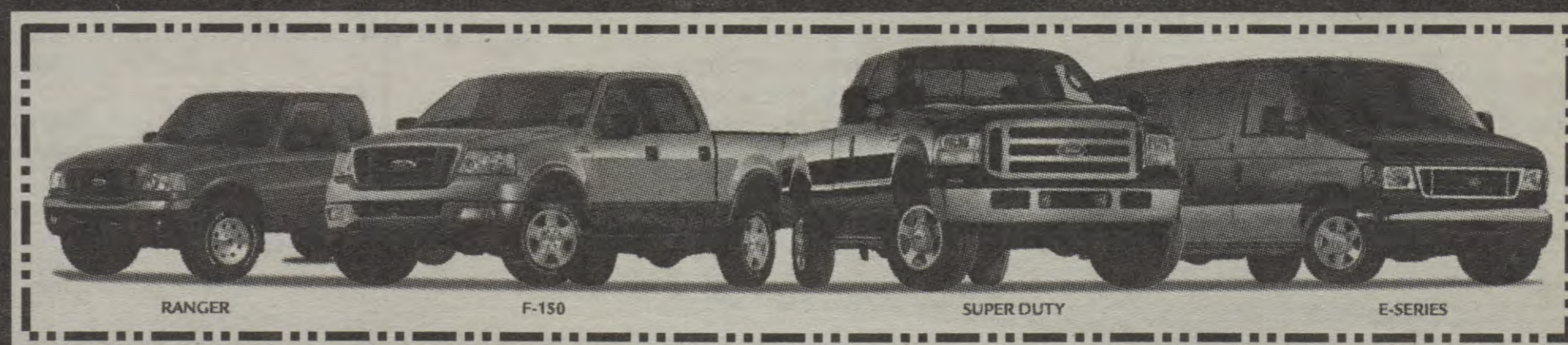
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# Tasha Hubbard — [ windspeaker confidential ]

**EUB** Alberta Energy and Utilities Board  
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Alberta  
ENVIRONMENT

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION NOTICE OF HEARING

500 KV TRANSMISSION SYSTEM REINFORCEMENT  
EDMONTON - CALGARY AREA

ALBERTA ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD  
ALTALINK MANAGEMENT LTD.-APPLICATION NO. 1478550  
EPCOR TRANSMISSION INC.-APPLICATION NO. 1479163

ALBERTA ENVIRONMENT  
ALTALINK MANAGEMENT LTD.-APPLICATION NO. 001-00223682

**Take Notice** that AltaLink Management Ltd. (AltaLink) applied to the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) for approval of a 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Edmonton to Calgary, along with associated facilities. Also, EPCOR Transmission Inc. (EPCOR) applied for an amendment to its approvals in order to modify the existing Genesee Substation 330P to accommodate the connection of the applied-for 500 kV transmission line.

**Further Take Notice** that AltaLink has applied to Alberta Environment (AENV) for approval of the same 500 kV transmission line from Edmonton to Calgary. **Further Take Notice** that pending and subject to the outcome of the ongoing review and variance proceeding with respect to *Decision 2005-031* (related to the Alberta Electric System Operator application for approval of the need for the 500 kV system reinforcement), the EUB will hold a hearing on the subject applications at Capri Centre, Red Deer, Alberta, commencing on December 11, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. The proposed location of the transmission line is shown on the attached map.

### Nature of AltaLink's Applications to the EUB and AENV

In support of its proposal, AltaLink has prepared and submitted the following documents:

- Application No. 1478550 to the EUB, pursuant to Sections 14, 15, 17, and 18 of the *Hydro and Electric Energy Act*
- Application No. 001-00223682 to AENV, pursuant to Sections 50 and 66 of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA)
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report to AENV (the EIA report forms part of the application to the EUB)

AltaLink's applications include the following major system additions and modifications:

- Construct and operate about 240 kilometres (km) of new single-circuit 500 kV transmission line from existing Genesee Substation E330P to the Lochend area north of Calgary
- Construct and operate about 90 km of new double-circuit 500 kV transmission line with one circuit strung from the Lochend area to the existing Langdon Substation 102S
- Construction of approximately 911 towers, utilization of 3 existing industrial construction yards, and access to tower locations via existing right-of way
- Alter the existing Langdon Substation 102S to accommodate the new 500 kV transmission line

### Nature of EPCOR's Application to the EUB

EPCOR's application to the EUB is to alter the existing Genesee Substation E330P to accommodate the new 500 kV transmission line. All the applied-for alterations will take place within the boundaries of the existing substation.

### Additional Information

To obtain additional information or a copy of AltaLink's applications and the EIA report (CD version also available), contact

Mark Johns

AltaLink Management Ltd.  
P.O. Box 20, Station M  
1035-7 Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 2G9

Telephone: (403) 267-3478

Facsimile: (403) 267-4426

E-mail: mark.johns@altalink.ca

Details of AltaLink's applications, including the EIA, are available on AltaLink's Web site [www.altalink.ca](http://www.altalink.ca).

To obtain additional information or a copy of EPCOR's application, contact

Scott Marsh

EPCOR Transmission Inc.  
10065 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3B1

Telephone: (780) 412-3334

Facsimile: (780) 412-7916

E-mail: smmarsh@epcor.ca

Copies of the applications and the EIA report are available for public viewing at the following locations:

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board  
Information Services  
Canada Bldg.  
Main Floor, 640 - 5 Avenue SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4  
Telephone: (403) 297-8190

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

Red Deer Field Centre

Assessment Info.  
Millennium Centre  
202, 4909 - 49 Street

Red Deer, Alberta T4N 1V1

Telephone: (403) 340-5454

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board  
10th Floor, Hong Kong Bank of  
Canada Bldg.  
10055 106 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2Y2  
Telephone: (780) 427-4901

Alberta Environment

Register of Environmental

111, 4999 - 98 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3

Attention: Melanie Daneluk

Telephone: (780) 427-5828

Copies of AltaLink's applications are also available at several public libraries and other locations. To find out about these locations, contact AltaLink at 1-866-451-7817 or by visiting the AltaLink Web site [www.altalink.ca](http://www.altalink.ca).

The applications and related material are available for viewing through the EUB's Integrated Application Registry (IAR) Query system via the following links.

AltaLink's application:

[https://www3.eub.gov.ab.ca/eub/dds/iar\\_query/ApplicationAttachments.aspx?AppNumber=1478550](https://www3.eub.gov.ab.ca/eub/dds/iar_query/ApplicationAttachments.aspx?AppNumber=1478550)

EPCOR's application:

[https://www3.eub.gov.ab.ca/eub/dds/iar\\_query/ApplicationAttachments.aspx?AppNumber=1479163](https://www3.eub.gov.ab.ca/eub/dds/iar_query/ApplicationAttachments.aspx?AppNumber=1479163)

### AENV REVIEW PROCESS

**Further Take Notice** that pursuant to Section 73 of EPEA, any person who is directly affected by EPEA Application No. 001-00223682 may submit a written statement of concern to

Alberta Environment

Director, Central Region

Regulatory Approvals Centre

5th Floor, 9820 - 106 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6

Telephone: (780) 427-6311

Fax: (780) 422-0154

### To File a Statement of Concern with AENV

Statements of concern under EPEA must be submitted by November 16, 2006. Failure to file a statement of concern may affect the right to file a Notice of Objection (on appeal) with the Environmental Appeal Board. Please quote Application No. 001-00223682 (EPEA) when submitting a statement of concern. If no statements of concern are received, the EPEA application may be approved without further notice. Note that any statement of concern filed with AENV regarding this application is a public record accessible by the public.

### EUB HEARING PROCESS

**Further Take Notice** that pending and subject to the outcome of the ongoing review and variance proceeding with respect to *Decision 2005-031* (related to the Alberta Electric System Operator application for approval of the need for the 500 kV system reinforcement), the EUB will hold a hearing on the subject applications at Capri Centre, Red Deer, Alberta, commencing on, December 11, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. The hearing is to consider AltaLink's Applications No. 1478550 and EPCOR's Application No. 1479163 and the submissions of interested parties.

For information about EUB procedures, contact

Mr. S. Lota

Utilities Branch

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

640 - 5 Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4

Telephone: (403) 297-3589

Facsimile: (403) 297-6104

E-mail: [sat.lota@gov.ab.ca](mailto:sat.lota@gov.ab.ca)

### To File a Submission with the EUB

Please state in writing your reasons for objecting to or supporting Application No. 1478550 by AltaLink and Application No. 1479163 by EPCOR. Send one copy of your submission to the applicant at the name and address above. File another copy with the EUB to the attention of

Mr. S. Lota

Utilities Branch

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board

640 - 5 Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4

Telephone: (403) 297-3589

Facsimile: (403) 297-6104

E-mail: [sat.lota@gov.ab.ca](mailto:sat.lota@gov.ab.ca)

### Proposed EUB Schedule

The following is a proposed schedule for the hearing process:

Information Requests (IRs) to Applicant	October 18, 2006
Responses from Applicant to IRs	October 25
Intervener Evidence	November 6
IRs to Interveners	November 14
Responses from Interveners	November 27
Rebuttal Evidence, if any	December 6
Hearing Start Date	December 11

Note that in accordance with Section 12 of the *Alberta Energy and Utilities Board Rules of Practice*, all documents filed in respect of this proceeding must be placed on the public record unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

Issued at Calgary, Alberta, on September 22, 2006.

Douglas A. Larder, Q.C., General Counsel



Saskatchewan film-maker Tasha Hubbard has made quite an impression with her first solo project as a director. Her documentary *Two Worlds Colliding* earned her and National Film Board producer Bonnie Thompson the Canada Award at last year's Gemini Awards.

*Two Worlds Colliding* chronicles the freezing deaths of three Aboriginal men on the outskirts of Saskatoon and the growing rift between the Aboriginal community and the city's police force.

Earlier in 2005, the film, written and directed by Hubbard, won the Golden Sheaf Award at the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival.

Hubbard completed her master's degree in English at the University of Saskatchewan earlier this year and is now working towards her PhD at the University of Calgary.

*Two Worlds Colliding* is part of the lineup at the fourth annual Global Justice Film Festival taking place at the University of Winnipeg on Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 and is also scheduled for screening at the National Museum of the American Indian during the 13th Native American Film and Video Festival taking place in New York City from Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.

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

**Tasha Hubbard:** Loyalty.

**W:** What is it that really makes you mad?

**T.H.:** Dishonesty, both in my personal life and especially in the media.

**W:** When are you at your happiest?

**T.H.:** When I stop being hard on myself and appreciate where I'm at.

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

**T.H.:** Stressed out.

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

**T.H.:** Alanis Obomsawin, for being one of the first Indigenous film-makers to not be afraid to make waves and inspire change.

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

**T.H.:** Find the courage to do the same: Overcome my fears to make a film that attempts to rock the boat of complacency that exists in this country around Indigenous issues.

**W:** What is your greatest accomplishment?

**T.H.:** See above answer.

**W:** What one goal remains out of reach?

**T.H.:** Finding true balance in my life ... but I get closer every day.

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

**T.H.:** I have a hard time imagining doing anything else.

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

**T.H.:** Don't apologize for who you are and what your different experiences have been ... even if they don't fit peoples' expectations of the "norm."

**W:** Did you take it?

**T.H.:** I take that advice more now than I did when I was younger.

**W:** How do you hope to be remembered?

**T.H.:** As a good woman! And as someone who found her voice to add to those who call out and demand change.



Ryan Constant was relaxed and confident during his tryout with the New York Rangers in September.

## Ready to go pro, but where?

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

Ryan Constant is fairly confident he'll be playing professional hockey somewhere this season, but as of late September, the 21-year-old defenceman just wasn't sure in which league he'd begin his pro career.

Constant originally thought he'd be playing at Boston's Northeastern University this season after accepting an athletic scholarship offer from the American school. Due to some botched up paperwork, however, Constant was told he wouldn't be allowed to start at the school until the following semester in January.

As it turned out, that news turned out to be a blessing in disguise. That's because Northeastern's coach contacted the National Hockey League's New York Rangers who decided to invite Constant, a free agent, to their training camp.

Attending a NHL training camp is quite a step up for Constant, a member of Manitoba's Opaskwayak Cree Nation. For the past four years he has toiled for the OCN Blizzard in The Pas, Man. in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL).

Constant didn't even play in the highest level of junior hockey in Canada. The MJHL, part of the Canadian Junior A Hockey League, is viewed as a step below the Canadian Hockey League, which includes the Western Hockey League.

"Every kid dreams of playing in the NHL," Constant said. "But I didn't think this opportunity would come so early for me."

Constant's first taste of life as a pro began in Traverse City, Mich. That's where the Rangers participated in a seven-day, eight-team NHL rookie tournament in

early September.

Constant appeared in three out of the Rangers' four games in the tournament. And he earned a pair of assists in his appearances.

From there, Constant reported to the Rangers' main training camp in New York City.

He stayed in the Big Apple for about a week, where he trained on the same ice as NHL superstars Jaromir Jagr and Brendan Shanahan.

So what was it like skating alongside such big-name NHLers?

"It was something else, I guess," said Constant, adding he didn't really have any opportunities to talk to the NHL stars. "I was really excited about it. But for some reason I was pretty relaxed out there on the ice. I don't know why."

Constant stayed in New York City for about a week before he was cut and told to report to Hartford, Conn. That's where he could try and earn a roster spot with the Rangers' American Hockey League affiliate - the Hartford Wolf Pack.

Constant was a bit surprised he did not receive any feedback from the Rangers' coaching staff before or after he was released. He discovered he was being dispatched to Hartford from a list posted in the dressing room.

"Actually I was expecting the coaches to call me in and give me an insight to what's going on," he said. "But that never happened. They didn't say anything at all to me."

Constant added he was in limbo as he didn't know what was in store for his immediate hockey future. He was expecting to get into some exhibition matches with Hartford.

"I'm trying to prove myself here and hopefully get a spot on the team," he said. "They haven't told me much so I'm kind of hanging around for now until I hear something."

(see Rangers page 22.)



Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire



### 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 one-day public hearing to consider the results of an Environmental Assessment Screening (EA Screening) of Hydro-Québec's proposed modifications to the Gentilly radioactive waste management facilities and refurbishment of the Gentilly-2 nuclear generating station. The hearing will be held at the Auberge Godefroy, 1725 Bécancour Boulevard, Bécancour, Quebec from November 7 to 10, 2006 (to be confirmed on the Public Hearings Agenda).

The public is invited to comment on the proposed EA Screening Report by providing a written submission and, if so desired, by presenting an oral summary of the submission. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission by October 6, 2006 at the address below along with a request, if so desired, to make an oral presentation. They must include a written submission and, where applicable, the complete text of any oral presentation to be made to the Commission. 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-13, 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)



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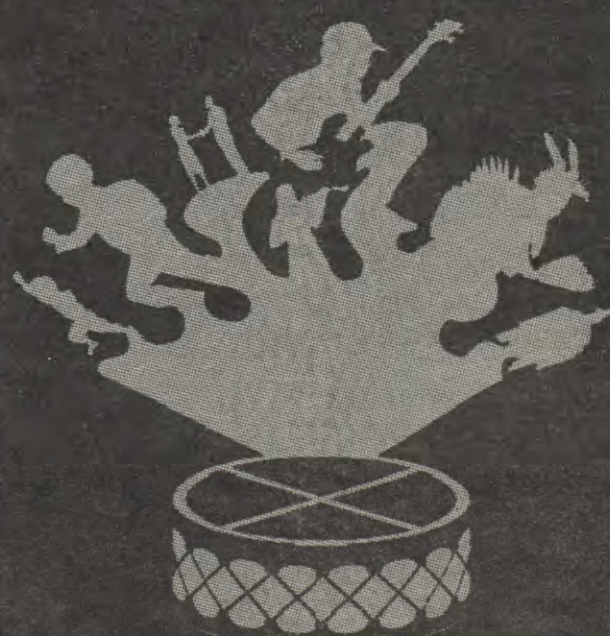
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Exhibitor and Vendor registration forms are available  
online or contact: 1.613.220.7170

For all other information please call our office.  
Office Phone 1.204.956.1849

Vote online at: [www.aboriginalpeopleschoice.com](http://www.aboriginalpeopleschoice.com)

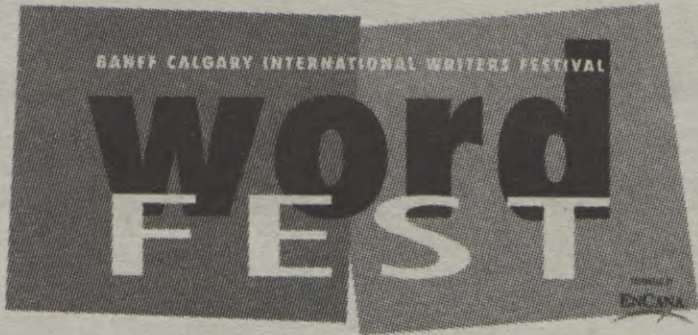
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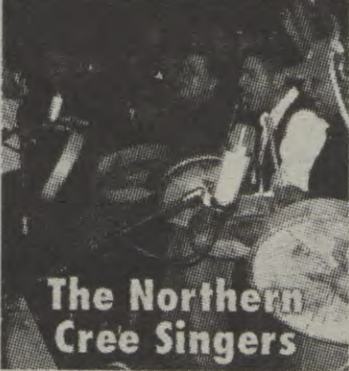


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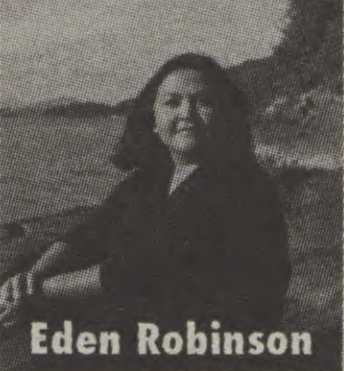
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**Dr. Dale Auger**



**Michael Aarvaarluk  
Kusugak**

[ strictly speaking ]

# I am Aboriginal

## THE URBANE INDIAN

### Drew Hayden Taylor

At a powwow recently, I saw a Native person walking the grounds wearing one of those "I AM CANADIAN" T-shirts that are so popular these days, several years after the similarly popular television commercial of the same topic. On the shirt were a series of pithy and semi-humorous observations about the Canadian lifestyle, as opposed to the American way of life.

Yet, most First Nations people would argue that they are first and foremost (insert own First Nations here) before they are Canadian as a matter of Indigenous pride. Except, of course, when travelling abroad. In places like China and Cuba, when I say I'm Ojibway, I get blank stares. "Canadian" cuts the explanations down quite considerably. So, in order to achieve a kind of cultural pride parity, I would like to substitute this humble alternative for the "I AM CANADIAN" T-shirt campaign.

- I have a dream catcher, but it was given to me by a white person.
- I do not own a canoe, but I know somebody who does.
- I have lived here forever, but have only been a citizen since 1960.
- I've never rubbed noses as a sign of affection, but I'd be more than willing to try.
- I do not personally have a land claim, but I have not ruled out the possibility.
- I have enjoyed watching Graham Greene on television, and reading the other Graham Greene's novels.
- I have lived on the reserve and in the city.
- I watch APTN and CNN.
- I am Ojibway/Cree/Iroquois/Haida/Inuit/etc., but I am also Canadian.
- I personally have never worn buckskin, but I do support that Indigenous right.
- I am not from India, but I do like their food.
- I am better with a video game, than with a bow and arrow.
- Contrary to popular belief, I do pay taxes and like you, I find it annoying.
- I was at Oka, if not in body then in spirit.
- I have ridden a horse, if not in body then in spirit.
- My great great grandmother was part white, but that doesn't change anything.
- I have never hunted buffalo, but I've eaten their wings.
- Contrary to popular belief I prefer my baloney raw, not fried.
- I love going to a powwow as much as I love going to a hockey game.
- I am glad you had a Native friend once, but I'm sorry, I do not know all of the approximately one million people of Aboriginal heritage in Canada.
- Yes I have seen Dances With Wolves, but it is not my favorite movie.
- I drive a Chevy pickup, a Ford Escort, a Kia Sportage, a Hyundai Tucson, and a Kawasaki.
- I listen to country music, rock, rap, blues and opera.
- I have blonde/brown/black/red/grey hair.
- I have a university degree.
- I own my own house, and it is not a tipi.
- I AM ABORIGINAL

## Response from minister

*(Continued from page 8.)*

Reached for comment on the regional chief's remarks on Sept. 27, Minister Jim Prentice said "Chief [Angus] Toulouse was complaining during the meeting so I guess I shouldn't be surprised he was complaining after the meeting." The minister said he would have listened to any initiative Toulouse wanted to put in front of him if there'd been a specific and detailed plan.

"I like to take a business-like approach. If there's something specific to talk about, I'll listen, but Chief Toulouse did not put anything specific in front of me," he said.

The minister was clearly annoyed

at the allegation that he didn't care about speeding up the settlement of land claims.

"That's just nonsense," he said. "We are working on the claims process. I'm working very closely with the national chief to see what can be done to improve the Indian Specific Claims Commission. Chief Toulouse will be proven wrong over the next six months."

The minister rejected claims he is not interested in listening to chiefs, saying he recently met with all the Manitoba chiefs and stayed for four hours rather than the scheduled one hour. And he said the chiefs there told him it was the first time an Indian Affairs minister had met with them in 12 years.

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# Rangers tryout

(Continued from page 20.)

Ryan Constant is confident he does have what it takes to play in the AHL this season.

"I think I could play here," he said. "I wouldn't be a top-end player. But I could be a regular guy."

If the Wolf Pack does not sign him to a contract, Constant could be sent to the Charlotte Checkers,

in the East Coast Hockey League. Like the Wolf Pack, the Checkers are also a Rangers' affiliate.

And if neither the Wolf Pack or Checkers is interested in having Constant in their lineup this season, he said he will head to the even lower calibre. The Central Hockey League has informed him a roster spot will be available if he is interested.

# Res-school claims rejected

(Continued from page 12.)

"We have for example one 96-year-old Elder who has no age peers. He went to residential school, you can tell that just by talking to him. He's able to tell you what his number is; he's able to tell you what the hallways looked like; he's able to tell you what bed he slept in in the dorm. So you know he went to residential school but he's got a letter back saying 'We don't have records for you.' And he feels like he's not believed," Sharon Thira said. "How do you explain that?"

You've got to remember too that many people haven't talked about residential school before. Then, when they put in this application form, they feel, 'Wow, I'm finally being recognized.' And then they get the rejection letter. They read that as someone telling them that they're lying. That's not what the letter says, of course, but that's sort of how it's interpreted and we think that's a shame."

There will be a 150-day opt-in, opt out period once the various courts have approved the AFN-federal government residential

school compensation plan, which is expected to happen a few weeks after court hearings wrap up in mid-October. Those whose records have been lost need to know whether their claims to the \$10,000 plus \$3,000 per year compensation payment will be affected, Thira said.

She has been warning survivors that if they agree to submit claims and then wait for an appeals process contained in the agreement, they will be giving up their right to sue the government outside the agreement process.

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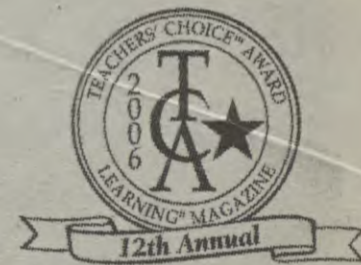
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University  
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The University of Victoria is committed to increasing the number of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students graduating from all Faculties and building on our commitment to, and our unique relationship with, Indigenous communities. The University of Victoria is recognized as one of the leading universities in Canada and is characterized by the integration of rigorous scholarship, inspired teaching and real-life involvement in an engaging and dynamic environment. The University has an international and interdisciplinary perspective and has created an environment rich in diverse cultures, talents and ideas in a location where natural beauty and quality of life intersect.

The Director of Indigenous Affairs has broad leadership responsibilities for promoting and supporting academic programs, activities and services that respect Indigenous values and address Indigenous student needs. Reporting to and through the Associate Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs, the Director will be responsible for: policy development, strategic planning and management responsibilities for the evolving Indigenous Affairs Office; liaison with, and provision of advice to, senior University administrators on Indigenous issues and concerns; and expanding and strengthening partnerships and collaboration with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and organizations.

The Director will also provide consultation on the inclusion of Indigenous content, perspectives and knowledge in curricula; foster the development of sensitivity and capacities in relation to Indigenous peoples and ways amongst faculty, staff and students; oversee implementation of special projects for Indigenous students such as the LE, NONET Project; and further planning, development and management of the First Peoples House. For further information relevant to this position, go to: <http://web.uvic.ca/vpac/committees/>.

To learn more about this and other opportunities available at the University of Victoria, interested individuals are invited to visit our website at:

[www.uvic.ca/postings](http://www.uvic.ca/postings)

The University of Victoria is an equity employer and encourages applications from women, persons with disabilities, visible minorities, aboriginal peoples, people of all sexual orientations and genders, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of the University.

In accordance with the University's Equity Program and section 42 of the BC Human Rights Code, this position is limited to Aboriginal peoples. Candidates from these groups are asked to self-identify.

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# Assembly of First Nations

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### ■ SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST COMPETITION NUMBER 06-09-019

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is seeking a professional and highly skilled researcher who will be responsible for designing and implementing the national-level research framework, including sampling, questionnaire development and other methodological components of Phase III of the First Nations Regional Longitudinal Health Survey (RHS). The research analyst's role includes supporting the development of First Nations' control and capacity in health research and working in collaboration with First Nations regional research teams.

Candidates must possess a master's degree or a minimum of 10 years professional experience in epidemiology, public health, statistical research or a related field. Candidates must have extensive experience with survey research design including sampling techniques, questionnaire design, peer reviewed research and preparation of reports, briefing notes and presentations. Ideally, candidates should have experience conducting research with First Nations communities or organizations, liaising with government officials and academic institutions. Candidates must have a minimum of five years experience in quantitative research as well as strong computer skills. The incumbent will have extensive experience with analyzing large datasets using SPSS and/or SAS. Experience should include multivariate analysis, measurements of statistical precision, and preferably, work with longitudinal data. Ideally, the incumbent will have a strong understanding of First Nations health, health information management and research ethics are preferred.

Preference will be given to Aboriginal candidates who meet the above requirements. Remuneration will be dependent on experience and education, within limits of the salary grid.

The closing date for applications is October 10, 2006, 5 p.m. EST.

### ■ DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMPETITION NUMBER 06-09-020

The Assembly of First Nations is seeking a highly committed professional to oversee the Human Resources functions of the organization. The Human Resources Director will work with a strong AFN Management Team as the organization adjusts to new priorities and challenges.

This is a leadership role where extensive experience and knowledge in all facets of Human Resources Management is required. A proven track record in strategic planning and organizational design is a must.

Applicants should be self-directed with excellent interpersonal, managerial, presentation and writing skills as well as strong analytical thinking abilities. The successful applicant must have extensive management experience, as well as direct experience working with First Nations personnel at a band, tribal council or other levels of First Nations administrations or governments.

Candidates must have a minimum of 10 years experience in the field of Human Resources. Post-secondary education in a related field with a CHRP designation is preferred.

Applicants must be of Aboriginal descent. Remuneration will be dependent on experience and education, within limits of the salary grid.

### ■ SENIOR DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC PLANNING, POLICY AND LAW COMPETITION NUMBER 06-09-021

The Assembly of First Nations is seeking to fill this key senior position with a highly qualified and experienced leader. The successful candidate will be a major contributor to the overall strategic and tactical thinking, planning and policy development activities of the organization. He or she will also oversee the AFN's work with regard to First Nation Treaties, Governance and Laws.

Applicants will have a post-graduate degree(s) in Economics, Law, the Humanities or Social Sciences or exceptional relevant experience. Highly developed analytical thinking, planning, negotiating and influencing skills are essential requirements. The candidate must also be experienced at the senior management level with a reputation for building strong teams, productive networks and positive relations. Superior verbal and written communication skills are required.

Preference will be given to Aboriginal candidates who meet the above requirements. Remuneration will be dependent on experience and education, within limits of the salary grid.

### ■ DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION NUMBER 06-09-022

The Assembly of First Nations is seeking a dynamic and team-oriented individual to direct and control the communication activities and strategies for the organization. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing all aspects of communications and public education programs to communicate the perspective, goals and aspirations of First Nations citizens.

Applicants should possess a university degree in Public Relations, Communications or Journalism. Equivalent combinations of education, training and experience will be considered.

Several years experience working as a media relations officer, communications officer or public relations officer is required. Experience working with media and in the political environment would be a strong asset. Journalism experience is also an asset. Managerial experience and experience working in a First Nations environment is essential.

The successful candidate will have superior verbal and written communications skills, be a strategic thinker and in tune with First Nation and political issues, and will have a good understanding of Canadian, international and Aboriginal media.

English is the working language, although the ability to communicate effectively in French would also be an asset.

Preference will be given to Aboriginal candidates who meet the above requirements. Remuneration will be dependent on experience and education, within limits of the salary grid.

*All positions will be located in Ottawa, Ontario.*

To apply for one of these exciting opportunities, please forward a resume and cover letter, including three work-related references (and quoting the appropriate competition number) to:

Assembly of First Nations  
Human Resources  
473 Albert Street, Suite 810  
Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4  
Fax: (613) 241-6870  
E-mail: [humanresources1@afn.ca](mailto:humanresources1@afn.ca)

The closing date for applications is October 20, 2006, 5 p.m. EST with the exception of the Senior Research Analyst (Competition number 06-09-019) which closes October 10, 2006.

No applications will be accepted beyond the closing deadline. Interviews will likely be held in Ottawa. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

The French versions of the employment postings are available on the AFN website at [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca).

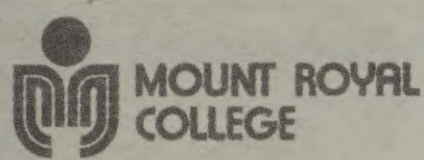
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Competition: #W18308HH

## ABORIGINAL CENTRE DIRECTOR

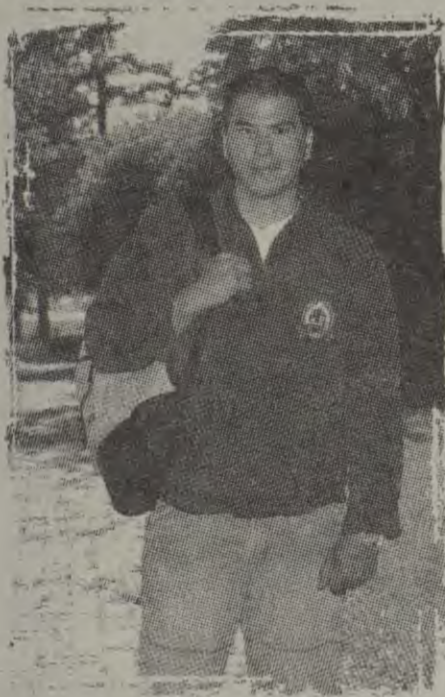
Reporting to the Provost and Vice-President, Academic, this position provides senior leadership in the newly created Aboriginal Centre which will provide programs and services to support Aboriginal students in attaining their educational goals. This management position is responsible for advocacy and leadership for Aboriginal academic initiatives at Mount Royal, liaising with external communities and building awareness, both internally and externally.

Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree in a related field (Master's Degree preferred) and demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with many Aboriginal communities, associations and post-secondary institutions to develop and implement successful education programs and support services.

For more information and application procedures, please visit our website at [www.mtroyal.ca/HR/careeropp](http://www.mtroyal.ca/HR/careeropp). Click on "Management" and "Director, Aboriginal Centre."

Closing date: October 27, 2006

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**PROFILE:** White Swan Treatment Centres Inc. provides residential addictions treatment for First Nations and Inuit Youth from the Alberta Region and across Canada. The clients typically stay in treatment for six months and reside at the Centre.

**SUMMARY:** The Treatment Counsellor will provide supervision and utilize existing programs for the clients. Work with the Treatment Manager in providing a safe, nurturing environment for the delivery of programs and services oriented toward personal development, cultural enhancement and healing for youth empowered with addictions.

### ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TREATMENT COUNSELLOR:

- Provides supervision to the clients on a daily basis
- Ensures "Programs and Services Manual" is adhered to
- Provides support to the Treatment Manager
- Provides reports on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis
- Provides guidance and support to the Youth

### REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES:

- Diploma or Certificate in Aboriginal Addictions Services, Youth & Child Care
- Diploma or Certificate in Mental Health and/or Social Work
- Certified Addictions Counsellor (CAC II)
- General knowledge in office management and tasks
- Proven ability to organize and manage youth, projects and deadlines
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must be energetic and motivated to work with Youth in this setting
- Must have a valid Driver's License and a willingness to obtain a Class 4 License
- Experience in addictions counseling/treatment or mental health is an asset
- A lifestyle that can serve as a positive role model with a minimum of two years of sobriety
- Knowledge of Aboriginal people, culture and language is definitely an asset

Please submit resumé  
along with a current Child  
Welfare Information  
System Record and a  
Criminal Record Check to:

The Hiring Committee  
White Swan Treatment  
Centres Inc.

P.O. Box 25  
KINUSO, Alberta  
T0G 1K0

Phone: (780) 775-2555

Fax: (780) 775-2552

E-Mail: [wstc1@msn.com](mailto:wstc1@msn.com)

**Closing Date:  
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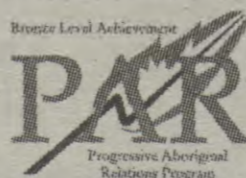
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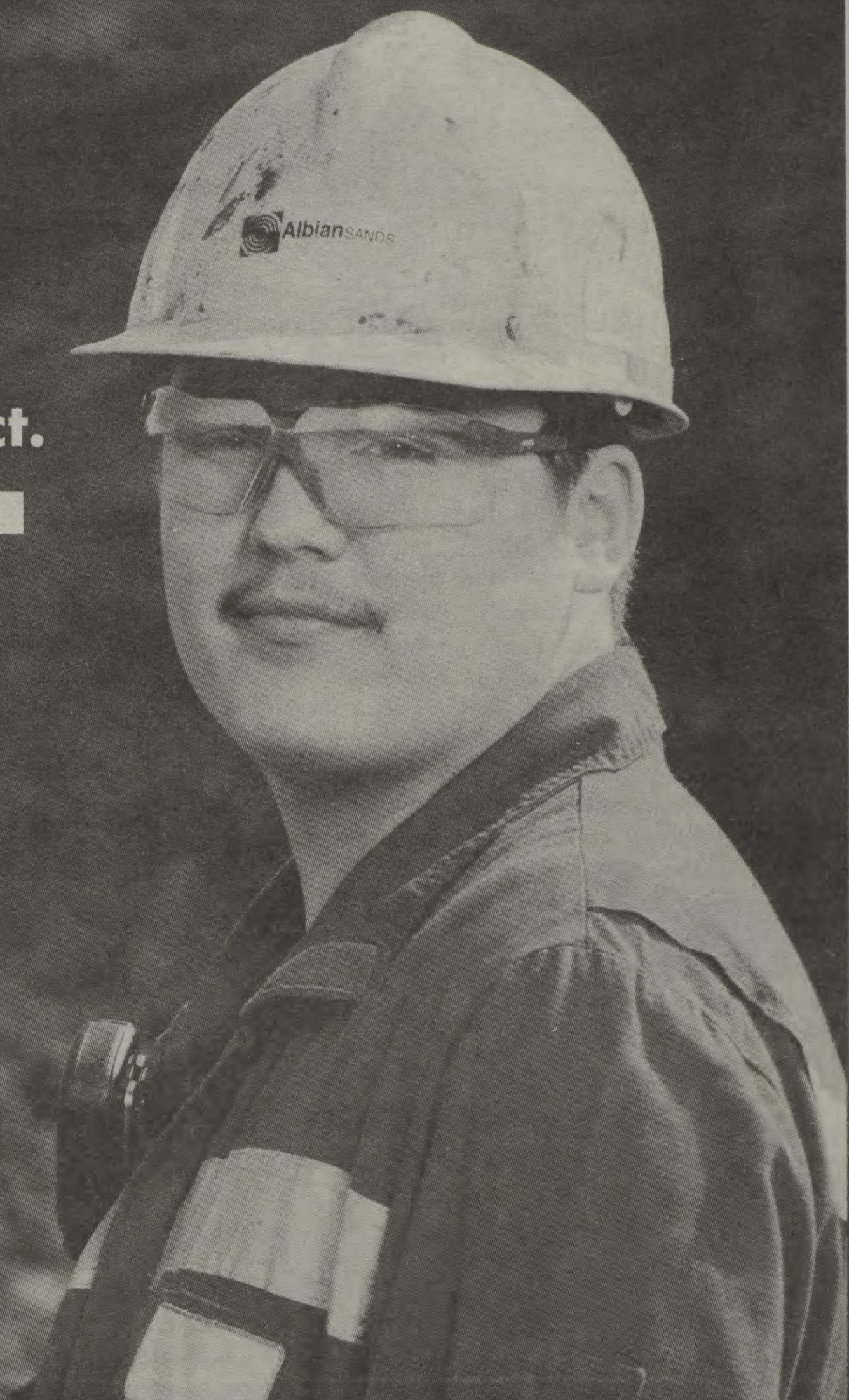


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[ footprints ] Roy Leonard Mussell

# Visionary leader's work built bridges and provided inspiration to others

By Cheryl Petten

Roy Leonard Mussell was serving his fourth term as chief of the Skwah First Nation when he died of cancer on March 5 at the age of 57, but the impact of his life's work went well beyond the boundaries of the small community he'd led for close to a decade.

In addition to his role as Skwah chief, Mussell was involved with a number of other organizations—some regional, some provincial and some national in their scope.

There seemed to be no end to the areas Mussell concerned himself with, working on environmental issues, human resource development, economic development and toward the attainment of self-sufficiency for First Nation communities.

He was also keenly committed to opening doors for Aboriginal youth, working to ensure the next generation had access to education and training and the supports they needed to be successful.

Throughout all he did, Mussell also worked to build bridges between Native and non-Native communities, believing that strong partnerships were the key to making things happen. And he had a knack for building those partnerships, in large part because of his ability to listen to various points of view and then help people find common ground.

Mussell served as president of the Fraser Basin Council Society and was a vice-chair and founding director of the Fraser Basin Council, created in February 1997 to promote sustainable development of the Fraser River and its basin, an area the size of California that two-thirds of British Columbians call home. The council, a partnership between First Nations, federal, provincial and local governments, was a

working example of the types of relationships Mussell worked to cultivate.

On the human resource development front, Mussell co-chaired the B.C. First Nations' Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements Management Committee and the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs' Committee on Human Resources Development Agreements. He represented the AFN on the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy Renewal Committee and was a director of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Council of Canada, an organization that works to increase the number of Aboriginal people within the Canadian labor market.

Mussell served as president of the Aboriginal Policy Institute, which works to support Aboriginal capacity building, and also worked to make it easier and more attractive for Aboriginal people to get into construction trades and apprenticeships. He was also involved in the B.C. Aboriginal Training and Employment Association and was a member of the Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiatives' national steering committee.

On the economic development side of things, Mussell was manager of the Sto:lo Nation's resource development department. He also chaired the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Forestry Limited Partnership (CFLP), comprised of eight First Nation communities—Aitchelitz, Kwaw Kwaw Apilt, Skowkale, Skwah, Skway, Squiala, Tzeachten and Yakweakwoose. In May 2005, the CFLP entered into a \$12 million joint venture partnership with Probyn Log Ltd. that would see members of the eight communities working with Probyn to manage and run the First Nations' forestry operations.

Through the partnership, community members would receive training in forestry operations, and employment opportunities would also be created.

While the many organizations he was involved in kept him busy, Mussell always found time for his family—his wife Maryanne, daughters Tana, Lara, Elyse and Madison and granddaughters Paige and Jade. Despite all the other demands for his time and attention, family always came first and he loved the time spent with them. He also filled his leisure time with other favorite pursuits, like cooking, playing golf and riding horses.

In December 2005, Mussell received recognition for the many hours he'd dedicated to improving the lives of First Nation people when the Sto:lo First Nation held a naming ceremony and gave him the name Sxela:wtxw till, after the region where he was born and where he spent most of his life.

That same month, Mussell was diagnosed with the cancer that within months would claim his life.

During his battle with cancer, attempts were made to have Mussell awarded the Order of British Columbia, the highest form of honor the province can bestow on its citizens. Although dozens of letters in support of his nomination for the honor were gathered, Mussell died before the process could be completed.

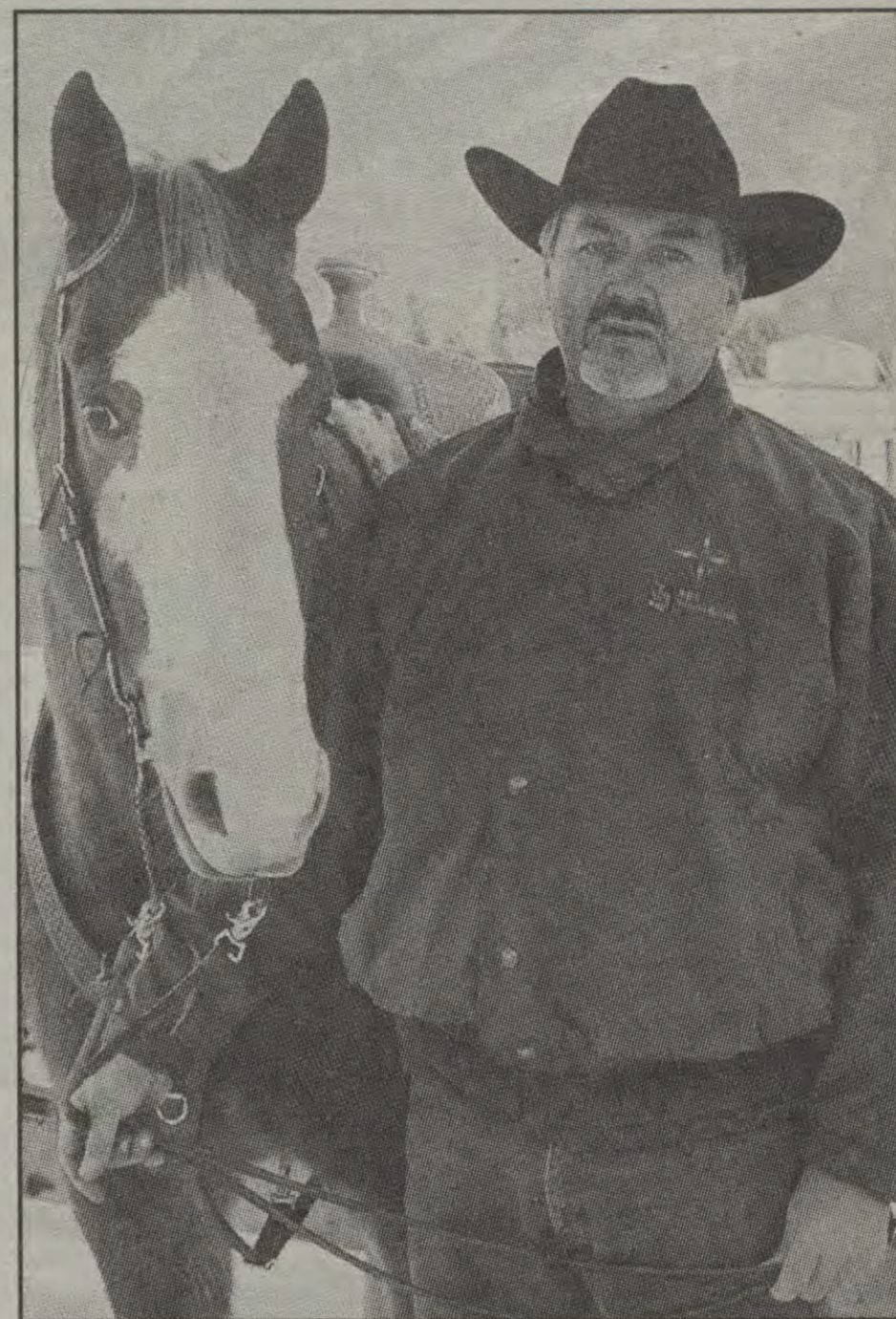
Even after his passing, the work done by Mussell continues to reach fruition. Shortly after his death, two projects that Mussell had been involved in came closer to becoming reality when, on April 7, the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe Society announced the purchase to two properties in the Chilliwack River Valley. The properties, located within traditional Ch-ihl-kway-uhk

territory, are the sites of two former correctional facilities. The Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe Society plans to develop an Aboriginal resort and conference centre on one of the sites, and an Aboriginal healing and wellness centre on the other.

Mussell has been described as a kind man, a wise man, a self-less man. He's been called a diplomat and a visionary, and was

known as a man who demonstrated passion, commitment and determination in all the work he took on. And he was a man that got things done. Over the years he touched many people, inspiring them to do what they could to improve the opportunities available to Aboriginal people. Now that he is gone, it will be up to those that remain to continue the work he began.

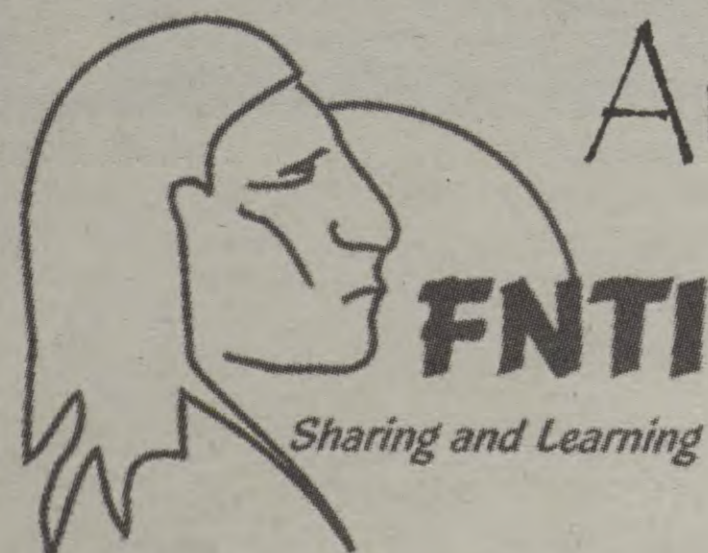
As a lasting memorial, the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada has created the Roy Mussell Annual Dialogue, which will continue Mussell's efforts by bringing partners together to discuss ways to help Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal youth reach their full potential. And, at Mussell's request, the



The legacy of Roy Leonard Mussell is found in two programs — the Roy Mussell Fund for Aboriginal Youth and the Roy Mussell Annual Dialogue.

Fraser Basin Council has established the Roy Mussell Fund for Aboriginal Youth, which will support leadership capacity building among First Nation youth.

"Chief Mussell was a great leader, businessman, environmental advocate, academic and humanitarian whose work has made true positive differences in the lives of First Nations people," British Columbia's First Nations Leadership Council said of the late chief in a letter of condolence sent to his family. "We are confident that Roy's achievements will serve as an inspiration both to us as First Nations people, as well as to many others across the country, for many years to come."



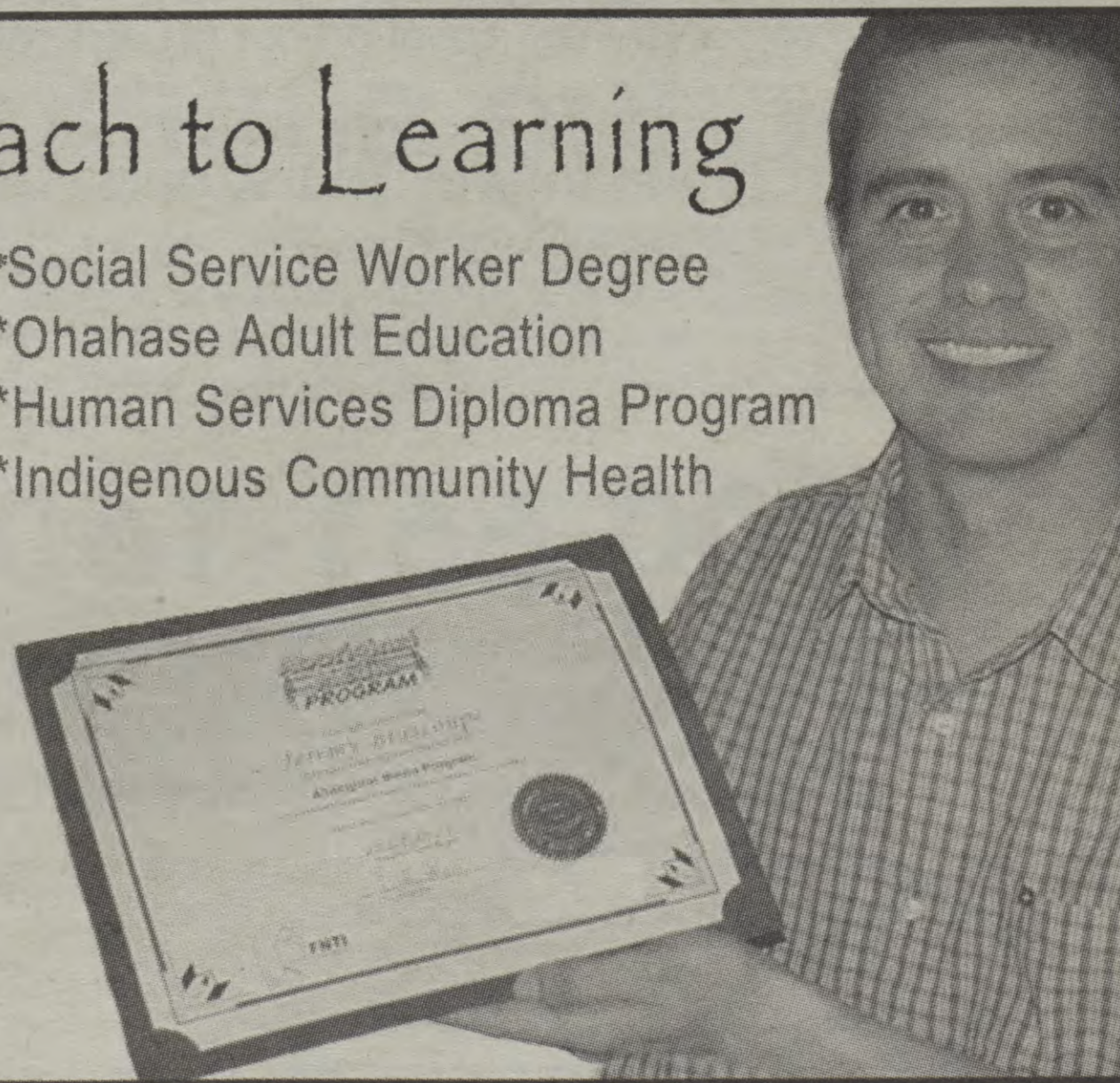
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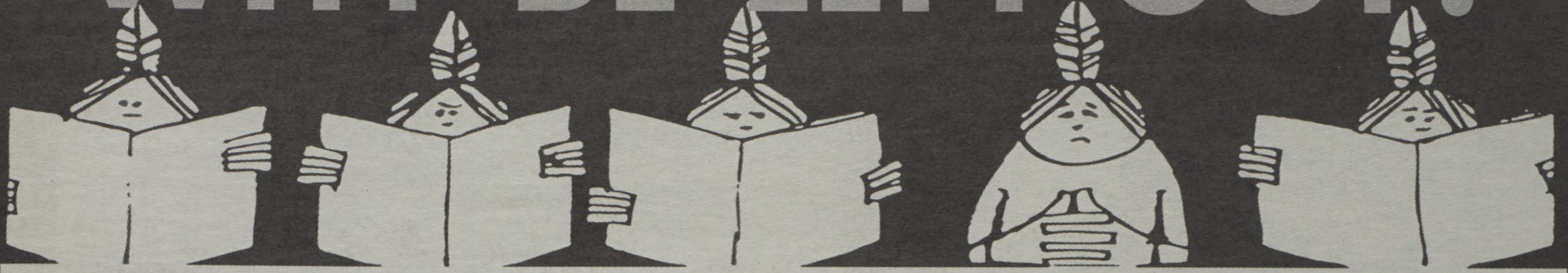
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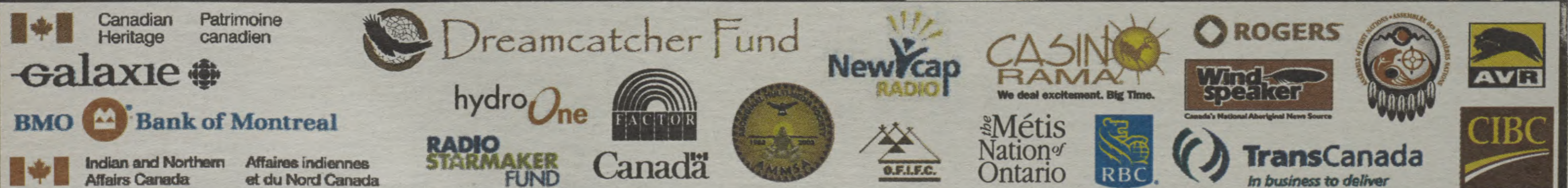
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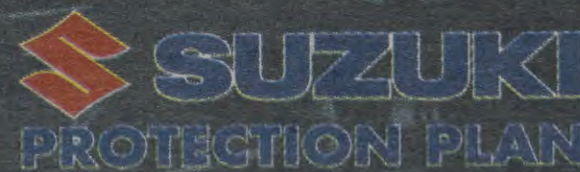
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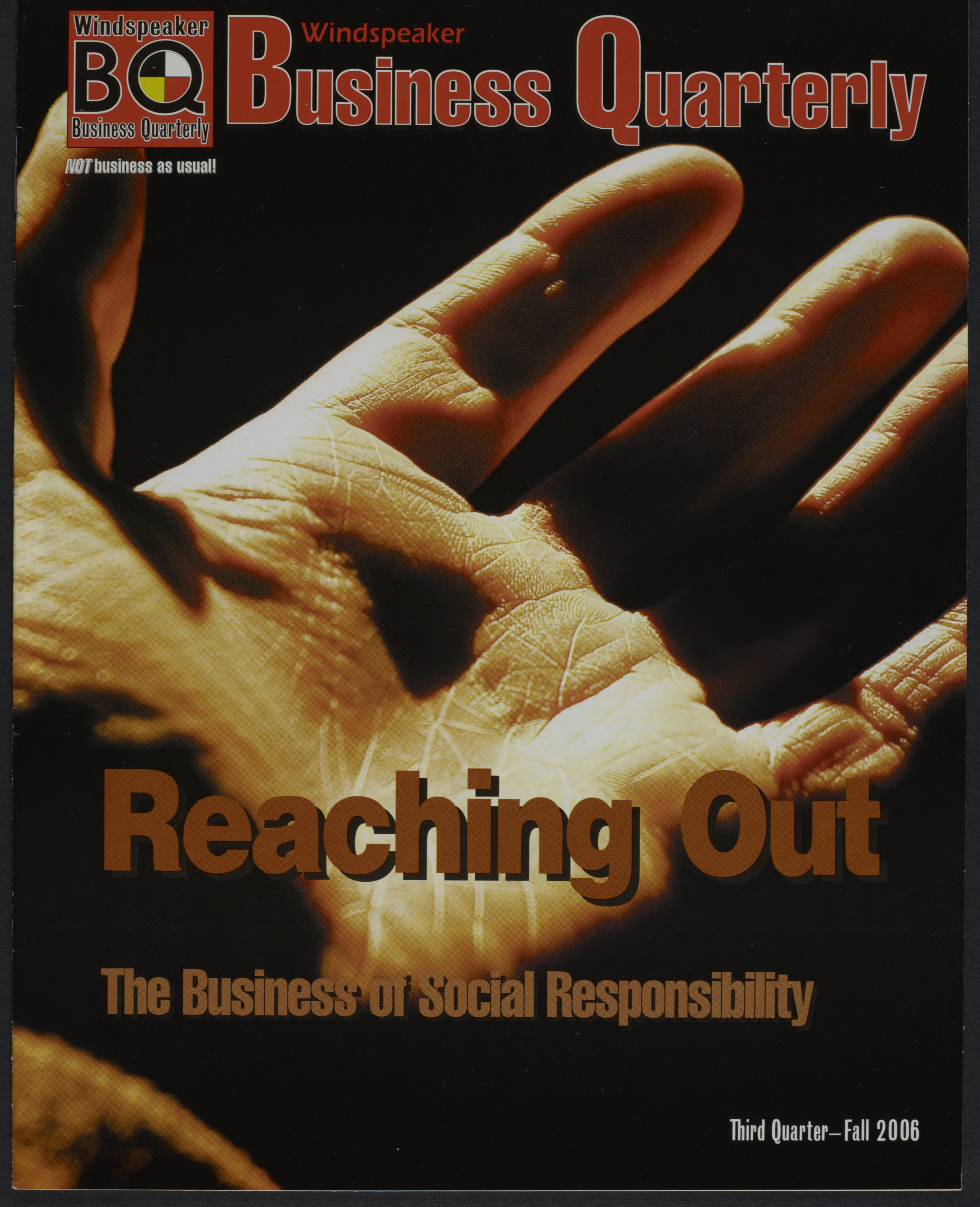


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Third Quarter—Fall 2006

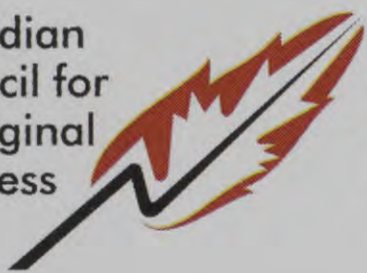
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Vancouver Gala Dinner     *September 25, 2007*

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## On The Agenda

### Oct. 13-15

#### 2006 Dreamcatchers Aboriginal Youth Conference (Edmonton)

This conference is designed for Aboriginal youth 14 to 17 to interact in as many educational workshops that will enhance cultural awareness, leadership opportunities and help youth deal with everyday issues.

For details: [www.dreamcatcher.macewan.ca](http://www.dreamcatcher.macewan.ca)

### Oct. 23-24

#### It's All About Opportunities (Edmonton)

The theme of this fourth annual conference is "Growing Communities through Business." This event will include many sessions about practical business information to help with new and existing businesses.

This conference will be held at The Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel.

Email [sarjas.Stephanie@cbsc.ic.gc.ca](mailto:sarjas.Stephanie@cbsc.ic.gc.ca) for information.

### Oct. 24

#### First Annual Circle for 2015 Calgary Gala Dinner (Calgary)

Celebrating Aboriginal business, the evening features a networking reception, dinner and a performance by Shane Yellowbird of Hobbema, Alta. For tickets call (416) 961-8663 ext. 222.

### Oct. 24-27

#### CIBA 2006 Economic Development Conference (Edmonton)

This event will bring together business executives, Aboriginal leaders, government representatives and officials.

The conference will also have a trade show with more than 100 industry, business and Aboriginal booths and entertainment throughout the four-day gathering at Mayfield Inn.

For information call (780) 483-8601.

### Oct. 26-28

#### National Aboriginal Women in Leadership Training Conference (Vancouver)

Speakers and workshops will examine some of the issues that will affect the future of Aboriginal women, children, and communities including poverty, housing and homelessness, family violence, education, employment and childcare.

Call (250) 652-7097 for more information or visit [www.firstpeoplescanada.com](http://www.firstpeoplescanada.com).

### Nov. 6-7

#### Aboriginal Land and Resource Management Conference (Vancouver)

Participation is open to anyone interested in networking and keeping up-to-date with new developments in a variety of areas.

Call 1-888-777-1707 or register online at [www.insightinfo.com](http://www.insightinfo.com).

### Nov. 20-21

#### Aboriginal Law Forum (Toronto)

For the fifth year, Insight Information has developed an event to increase participation in networking luncheons, question periods and to assist delegates in gaining information that will benefit them in achieving their objectives. This event will be held at the St. Andrew's Club and Conference Centre.

Call 1-888-777-1707

### Nov. 22-23

#### Resource Expo 2006 (Calgary)

Participants will network and gain information on topics about energy, alternative energy, minerals and mining and forestry.

Also on the agenda is a trade show and gala dinner.

For more information call (604) 275-6670.

## Business Quarterly

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Canadian Council for Aboriginal  
Business (CCAB) – page 2

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Magazines Canada – page 7

Casino Rama – page 15

Casino Rama – page 17

Alberta Economic Development  
– page 19

Syncrude – page 24

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Third Quarter – Fall 2006



### **Ulnooweg Development Group of Truro, N.S. will receive a \$2-million contribution from Industry Canada through Aboriginal Business Canada.**

The contribution will enhance Ulnooweg's current lending capacity for developmental financial services for Aboriginal business clients throughout Atlantic Canada.

"Aboriginal financial institutions, such as Ulnooweg, are playing an important role in the development and growth of a key driver in Canada's economy—small and medium sized enterprises," said Industry Minister Maxime Bernier. "This investment will help to generate new Aboriginal-owned businesses and fuel further job creation across the region."

### **A new educational tool called the Mining Information Kit for Aboriginal Communities**

will help people make more informed decisions and take advantage of opportunities offered by the mining industry in Canada. The kit describes the mining cycle and identifies opportunities that exploration and mining can bring. It is the product of a partnership among the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, the

### **A new report by the Canada West Foundation, called Building on Success: BC Economic Profile and Forecast, was released on Sept. 6.**

"Everyone from residential homebuilders to transportation infrastructure developers are finding B.C. a good place in which to invest right now," said Todd Hirsch, the foundation's chief economist and author of the report. The biggest downside for B.C.'s economy will continue to be the flagging forestry sector, Hirsch said. A slowing U.S. economy will push down housing and lumber demand. The negative effects of lower lumber prices, the high Canadian dollar, and high energy prices will add to the pain in the forestry sector. As well, the tourism sector could face some turbulent conditions in 2006 and 2007.

Mining Association of Canada (MAC), the Canadian Aboriginal Minerals Association and the federal government. "Canada's mining industry has become the largest private-sector employer of Aboriginal Canadians. This information kit is designed to help Aboriginal communities prepare for, and effectively engage in, new opportunities offered by our sector," said Gordon Peeling, president and chief executive officer of MAC. It is available on each of the partners' Web sites.

### **The Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO) and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) will partner to deliver the Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow workshop series.**

Using training materials developed specifically for Aboriginal women, the series of workshops covers topics such as building confidence, communication and job search skills, entrepreneurship, personal and financial management, and board participation skills. "The new Aboriginal Women for Tomorrow program will increase the labor market, leadership and business-readiness development of Aboriginal women through a combination of needs assessments, skills development and mentoring," explained Bob Dickson, vice-president, National Services for CESO. Beverley Jacobs, president of NWAC, said the partnership offers a holistic, culturally sensitive program that will increase economic and political participation of Aboriginal women in their communities. For more information, contact Delia Scribeac, CESO project manager at 1-800-268-9052, ext. 252 or by e-mail at [dscribeac@ceso-saco.com](mailto:dscribeac@ceso-saco.com).

### **For the last 10 years, radio station CFWE has turned Monday and Thursday nights into a social event in many Alberta homes.**

With transmitters scattered across the province, the station broadcasts bingo games into thousands of houses, many in remote locations where attending the popular and fun game at a bingo hall is impossible.

"One of the biggest challenges was getting a network of distributors set up in the communities so listeners could purchase their bingo cards locally," said Carol Russ, director of finance for the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (AMMSA). "But we've got a dedicated number of sellers now. The players are enthusiastic as our prize money gives them a chance to win big money, as much as \$10,000 twice a month, so that makes for some very happy people."

On Oct. 7, 1996 the first game was broadcast with \$2,998 in sales. Prize money amounted to \$2,720, Russ said, but the tiny profit was enough to convince the non-profit company there was potential in the project. "Since then we have sold more than \$8 million worth of bingo cards and given back to the community \$4.99 million in prizes, with many happy winners," she explained.

With AMMSA's portion of the profits, the number of satellite transmitters has been increased so the station could reach more listeners.

"One of the biggest projects we accomplished was at Moose Hills in the Bonnyville/St. Paul area where we erected a 400-foot tower, with almost half-a-million dollars spent at this one location. Since then, we've also invested considerable funds upgrading existing towers, going from transmitters as small as 10 watts to powerful signals of 100,000 watts, which allowed listeners as far away as 200 kilometres to receive the station." Being

able to extend its broadcasting capabilities into every corner of the province allows AMMSA to continue its goal of bringing Aboriginal culture and news to every Albertan and to increase Aboriginal peoples' ability to communicate their concerns and interests with one another and with the non-Native community. "Our anniversary year will be celebrated by giving away over \$100,000 through October, with eight Super Bingos producing \$14,000 in winnings. Our listeners are excited at this big news," said Russ. Many years ago, Bert Crowfoot, AMMSA's CEO and general manager, was attending a meeting in Ottawa where another broadcaster, Native Communications Inc. from Manitoba, was relating how the proceeds from its radio bingo were helping the station expand. "I got the idea to try to duplicate that success here in Alberta," he said. "We had some growing pains at the beginning, but we fine-tuned it to a successful format that was efficient for the station to handle."

# All eyes to the business horizon

In the past, much of the focus among Canadian businesses has been on increasing productivity. That is an important, but only a single element in a well-managed company, said Jean-René Halde, president and CEO of Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC).

“What is absolutely essential is the ability to compete,” he said. “You often hear entrepreneurs say global competition has no impact on them, no relevance. That may be true today, but what about tomorrow?”

“While all companies should continue to improve internal processes, increase efficiency and streamline management, they must also look outward,” Halde said.

“If I had a single message for Canadian businesses it would be to lift your eyes towards the horizon. Understand that we can no longer afford to focus within our own boundaries and within the boundaries of North America.”

Granted the United States is Canada's

largest trading partner; 40 per cent of Canada's GDP comes from North-South trade. But vast new opportunities are opening for Canadian companies, especially in Asia.

China — with nearly 1.5 billion people — is a prime example, said Halde. Today the Chinese personal and corporate savings rate equals 47 per cent of that nation's GDP. The central government, however, has said its goal is to reduce that to 40 per cent. The result will be an unprecedented demand for consumer goods.

India also affords unique opportunities, as do the former Soviet Bloc nations. Canadian companies are finding both new markets and new sources of production in Latin America, Asia, the Mid-East and Europe.

“There are vast new markets opening up and terrific opportunities to reduce production and operating costs,” said Halde. “The first step is to look around and identify potential opportunities. The next step is to investigate, to do research. BDC can help with that.”

It can also provide the necessary financing.

Take for example the case of CWC Modular Industries. Customers for the modular furniture produced in the Richmond, B.C. factory were pleased with the mid-range workstations, desks and bookcases the company produced, but they also wanted low end products, which would mean going head to head with chain operations such as Staples.

CWC Modular Industries looked west to China and is now in the first stages of becoming an importer, as well as remaining a manufacturer. That meant expanding the Richmond factory to physically handle containers full of imports. It also meant initial financing of the import operation, which was provided by BDC.

The result is a new form of company, one that

is a hybrid of manufacturer and importer, a company with a foot solidly in Canada and another in a major global marketplace.

CWC Modular is just one example of what Canadian companies can do to become international players.

“Our focus and our mandate is to help create Canadian success stories. In past our nature was not to be international traders. That has to change,” Halde said. “BDC has committed itself to helping small and mid-market companies make the transition. We want all of them to be able to reap the benefits of becoming global companies.”

Importing is only one way to think in the global market. Exporting is another.

According to Edmée Métivier, executive vice-president, Financing and Consulting for BDC, Canadian manufacturers can be broken into three basic categories. Those born as exporters; those who grow to be exporters and those that have exporting thrust upon them.

What all share is a basic understanding that the nature of doing business in Canada is changing, in some cases changing dramatically. Markets are increasingly global, she said, as is competition.

“In past, the traditional path was to serve a local or regional market and then to expand perhaps across Canada, perhaps into the United States or even into Western Europe,” she said. “While those types of companies still exist, there are those new companies, especially in technology and bio-medicine, that are born global.”

“Even among existing companies there is a fast growing number who have found Canada a small pond, a limiting environment for growth. In past, the natural path led to the United States. Today it leads all over the world — China, India, the former Eastern Bloc countries.”

Making the switch from domestic to international trade can be a difficult transition, she warns. Success will depend on intensive research, a detailed go-to-market strategy and a willingness to monitor activities regularly and adjust operations according to changing circumstances.

“What you have to do is stay on top of trends and changes at both the micro and macro levels,” said Métivier. “Then have in place strategies to meet these challenges.”

“While the risks may be great so too can be the rewards.”





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Lloyd Chartrand (in white hat) has a contract with Manitoba Hydro to maintain 10,000 hydro poles in the province's north. L & B Pole Maintenance Co. is the only Aboriginal-owned and operated business of its kind in North America.

Photo Credit: L & B Pole Maintenance

**H**e had had enough with taking orders from other employers, so Lloyd Chartrand began his own business, and with the establishment of L & B Pole Maintenance Co. of Duck Bay, Man., made history by becoming the only Aboriginal pole maintenance company in all of North America.

"Now that's an accomplishment," said Chartrand. "I own my company. I did everything on my own. I did it from scratch and I borrowed my own money."

It was Lloyd's dream to start a business that would not only benefit himself and his wife Betty, but also help generate jobs for Aboriginal people. Yet it was difficult to find the financial backing to realize the dream.

The Chartrands tried to access financial help from Aboriginal Business Canada, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) and other financial sources and "none of them would help me. They didn't believe in me," he said. "They said that if you don't have backing from any white person, so to speak, they said that I wouldn't be able to make it, but here I am," said Chartrand. "I'm working, so I guess I proved them all wrong."

After three years of planning and determination, the Chartrands finally had a business to call their own. Manitoba Hydro believed in the

company, and awarded Lloyd and Betty with a contract to inspect and service 10,000 hydro poles in northern Manitoba.

It's a two-year contract that will keep the L & B crew busy, servicing poles and keeping them in a healthy condition. The poles are maintained every 10 to 15 years to protect against numerous diseases, infections and natural decay.

After each service, Lloyd and his crew of 18 record their work and tag it with a bar code, which is traceable on any computer.

"Any poles that we've done, I can put you within three feet of them anywhere in Manitoba," said Chartrand.

They began work on July 24, which was the Chartrand's 25th wedding anniversary.

"My wife is a big part of this company," said Lloyd.

In the early stages of planning, they both admit there was a lot of financial stress, but Betty said she helped Lloyd stay strong.

"I've supported my husband on this for three years," said Betty. "I stood by him and let him do his thing to try and get it going. I supported him through some really hard times and even though the financials weren't always there, I stood by him."

The L & B crew began work on the first

section of 5,000 poles. Then the crew will move camp to the Riding Mountain district to service the remaining 5,000 poles, which will fulfill the contract.

"The focus of L & B Maintenance Company is treating hydro poles and employing Native people. Actually that is my main focus is to employ Native people," said Chartrand.

The Chartrands are in hiring mode and welcome applications from men and women with knowledge of how to maintain hydro poles and who meet the necessary qualifications.

"They need to have their WHIMIS, transportation of dangerous goods, structural pesticide certificate, CPR, First Aid and they pretty much have to be rocket scientists," Lloyd said, laughing. "They need to have about 10 certificates to do this work."

And expect the boss to be by your side while on the job, because Lloyd works alongside his crew doing everything from digging, drilling and inspecting.

"I just don't let my men work. I work with them. They don't work for me. They work with me," said Chartrand.

For more information or to apply, call (204) 638-4628 or (204) 647-1958.

By Laura Stevens

# PM does flip flop on fisheries

Anita Neville, the Liberal Party of Canada Indian Affairs critic, has been having some fun at Prime Minister Stephen Harper's expense recently, but the uncertainty left hanging over treaty negotiations is no laughing matter.

In a Sept. 5 news feature entitled Harper rewrites book on being PM, respected Toronto Star Ottawa bureau chief Susan Delacourt wrote that the new prime minister is displaying a political style that is reminiscent of one of his Liberal predecessors.

Under the heading "Retreat, but never admit retreat," Delacourt wrote that backing away from mistakes while not acknowledging that a mistake has been made is a classic Jean Chrétien strategy that Harper has obviously borrowed.

"Its corollary is: Learn from your mistakes but don't publicly acknowledge them," she added.

The very next day, Neville issued a press release congratulating Harper for reversing position on Aboriginal fishing rights.

Neville jumped to the conclusion that two recently concluded agreements with British Columbia First Nations are proof that Harper has in fact backed away from comments he made in a letter to the editor of the *Calgary Herald* that appeared on July 7. In that letter Harper announced he would seek to bring an end to Aboriginal only fisheries.

"Let me be clear, in the coming months we will strike a judicial inquiry into the collapse of the Fraser River salmon fishery and oppose racially-divided fisheries programs," Harper wrote.

But a few weeks after Harper's letter appeared, the Prince George area Lheidli

T'enneh First Nation reached a \$65 million agreement with federal negotiators that includes land, cash, logging rights, and the right to harvest 6,000 Fraser River sockeye annually for commercial sale.

Shortly after that, the Tsawwassen First Nation worked out a similar agreement that



Anita Neville,  
Liberal Indian Affairs critic

provides the Vancouver-area First Nation with approximately one per cent of the annual Fraser River catch.

Neville figures that if federal negotiators were agreeing to these fishery provisions after Harper's letter

appeared, the prime minister must have reversed his position.

"This is clearly a reversal of the prime minister's stated goal of eliminating Native-only fishing rights. I am pleased that Mr. Harper has ended his opposition to Native-only fishing rights," she said. "He and his party have finally fallen into line with the Supreme Court and Canada's Constitution, accepting a fundamental First Nations' right."

But Neville also noted that all parties, including the federal cabinet, must now ratify the agreements and she urged the Conservatives to support the deals.

"All those who have been working for so long on these agreements deserve to know whether they will be upheld," she said. "The prime minister must clarify whether he intends

to overrule his negotiators and scuttle the provisions regarding fisheries, or let his cabinet approve these treaties in their current state. The provisions of the treaties were negotiated in good faith by all parties, and the federal government must approve them under the same good-faith basis."

The Liberal critic called on Harper to make his position clear but as of Sept. 15 no response had been received from the prime minister's office, said Neville's parliamentary assistant Drew Mindell. Other Ottawa sources say it's too early for the government to comment on the matter.

Indian Affairs Minister Jim Prentice had to bear the brunt of First Nation anger when he addressed the chiefs on July 13, the final day of the Assembly of First Nations' annual general assembly in Vancouver. His comments then may provide a bit of a hint as to what the future will bring.

"I can assure you that the position of Canada's new government is clear: We stand for equality and fairness for all in managing the B.C. fisheries."

Prentice told the chiefs "Fisheries must be managed in the public interest; so participation will be negotiated in the context of sound science and conservation of the resource. Of course, the government will respect treaties and court decisions; and we will continue with our plans for the current fishing season."

But Prentice didn't rule out the kind of changes set out in the prime minister's letter.

"For the future, we will move to an integrated approach, for example, using the purchase and reallocation of commercial licenses to ensure equality and fairness for all."

By Paul Barnsley

# Enoch counts down the days



The canopy at the entranceway to the River Cree Resort and Casino was built large enough to accommodate the tour buses expected to journey to the site located on the fringes of Edmonton near West Edmonton Mall.

Photo Credits: Debora Steel

It's taken \$180 million, and 15 years of squabbling neighbors, government arm-twisting, cajoling, criticism and just plain hard work, but the Enoch Cree Nation is about to realize a dream when the River Cree Resort and Casino opens its doors to the public in October.

Media types were given a sneak peek of the facility, located on the fringe of West Edmonton, on Sept. 6 while the finishing touches were being put on casino amenities, including bars and restaurants, and the adjacent 255-room Marriott Hotel.

The general look of the facilities springs from the natural world theme with marble, stone and wood featured prominently, and earth tones the primary palette, but the words "sexy" and "high tech" were bandied about plenty by executives on hand as the phalanx of reporters were herded around the worksite by resort VP and general manager Brian Lee.

The Mystic Ultra Lounge, for example, will be a "sexy" space for up to 300 guests to "let loose and have fun" while they mingle about in the up-market, LA-style bar with furniture designed to dance on.

Tap 25 is a "high tech" sports bar/restaurant combo with bleacher seating looking onto one



**Robert Morin,**  
President of Enoch Community Dev. Corp.



**Richard Main,**  
General Manager of the Marriott Hotel

of two NHL-sized hockey rinks built and managed by Canlan Ice Sports. The bar will feature a number of televisions throughout, broadcasting an array of events, including live feeds from the rink. Twenty-five varieties of beer, many produced by micro-breweries in Canada, will be on offer to patrons.

High tech also describes the 600 slot machines that will grace the casino floor, with

100 per cent ticket in-ticket out technology that rids the need for coin exchange and hopper fills. The machines will produce a ticket for redemption at one of four kiosks or with a cashier. The machines will also be able to read the tickets so patrons can move from one slot to another around the floor without cashing in. The machines accept bills as well.

The gambling area is set within a large circle

that radiates out from a centre bar to the 36-table games to the slots to a marble circulation path where patrons can move about freely. Bars and restaurants are set up on the outside of the marble path.

The inspiration of the resort is that it will appeal to a wide demographic, said Lee, and the restaurant areas are a reflection of that from the top-end steak-house called Sage, with a wine list sporting as many as 150 high quality wines, to The Kitchen Buffet-Bistro, which will also provide 24-hour room service to hotel guests.

Sage will feature high-end wines purchased by the glass, and a menu of reasonably priced Alberta beef dishes, as well as premium beef products, including the expensive Wagyu or Kobe Beef, the intensely fat-marbled delicacy of Japan. Sage will also feature a raw bar with a variety of Pacific seafood dishes, including fresh clams, oysters and crab, and sashimi quality fish, another Japanese delicacy similar to sushi.



**Brian Lee,  
Resort VP and General Manager**

As a nod to the Native partners, bannock will be part of the bread offering to its customers.

The Kitchen offers a more "straightforward" menu that will appeal to the more moderate diner for breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus snacks. The buffet is expected to run about \$13 for a dinner meal.

Robert Morin, president of Enoch Community Developments Corp., was on hand during the tour to speak about the final steps of the long journey the First Nation has taken to see the project through to fruition.

"In 1991, Enoch Cree Nation put forward a proposal to get into the gaming market, the gaming business. It didn't work out. Of course we had to negotiate with the province. It was a longer process than we thought . . . The third partner, Paragon Gaming, came forward and really gave us the administrative discipline to go forward with the gaming deal, which you see the culmination of, the beautiful resort that we built together as partners," Morin said.

In the early days, the partners faced down fiery disapproval by a group of neighbors upset that the project would be allowed, but as the September sun shone down on the large canopy built over the doors of the casino entrance, Morin was philosophical, with no grudge to bear.

"In retrospect, they stood up for a purpose. We said all along that we would be good neighbors and we've demonstrated that, and we will continue to demonstrate that."

Morin said the band soon hopes to begin hiring the 800 employees needed for opening, tentatively set for Oct. 25. Rumor has it 5,000 applications have been received, many from the residents of Enoch itself. Morin hopes that of those 800 employees, 200 will be of First Nations descent.

About 30 per cent of the crew hired for the construction phase were Aboriginal, said Ledcor vice-president Bob Walker, who was proud of the fact that the project was coming in more than two months ahead of schedule.

He said many of those employees were "keepers" and would see work on other Ledcor jobs.

Lee said the effort to hire from the Aboriginal population would continue into the post-construction phase, with a focus on identifying staff with management potential and providing training for key people.

Richard Main, GM of the four-star Marriott Hotel, was proud to tour reporters through a guest room and the larger of the two hotel

ballrooms. A mural depicting the divisions of farmland as Alberta is seen from the air provides a border around the Enoch Ballroom, an area that can be broken down into six meeting spaces. The River Cree Ballroom can be divided into four.

The guest rooms feature Aboriginal-inspired art above the beds, high-speed Internet, and are priced between \$99 to \$450 a night. Main said the suites on the east side on the top floor of the nine-floor hotel give a spectacular view of Edmonton. The hotel features an indoor pool, hot tub and fitness facilities. This is the first full-service hotel for the Marriott group in the city. Other holdings include the Ritz-Carlton Hotel chain, one of the world's grandest names in accommodation.

Profits from the project will be split 55/45 in favor of the band, with 15 per cent of band profits going into an Enoch charity. That charity will fund education and training projects, problem gambling programs and other social services initiatives. Profits from the resort are also earmarked to improve housing on reserve and provide economic development opportunities, but Morin said it will be a couple of years before Enoch can begin to see a return on its investment. In the meantime, he is looking forward to the resort opening, and conscious of the responsibility going into the future to provide the most exciting and successful entertainment complex in Western Canada.

*By Debora Steel*



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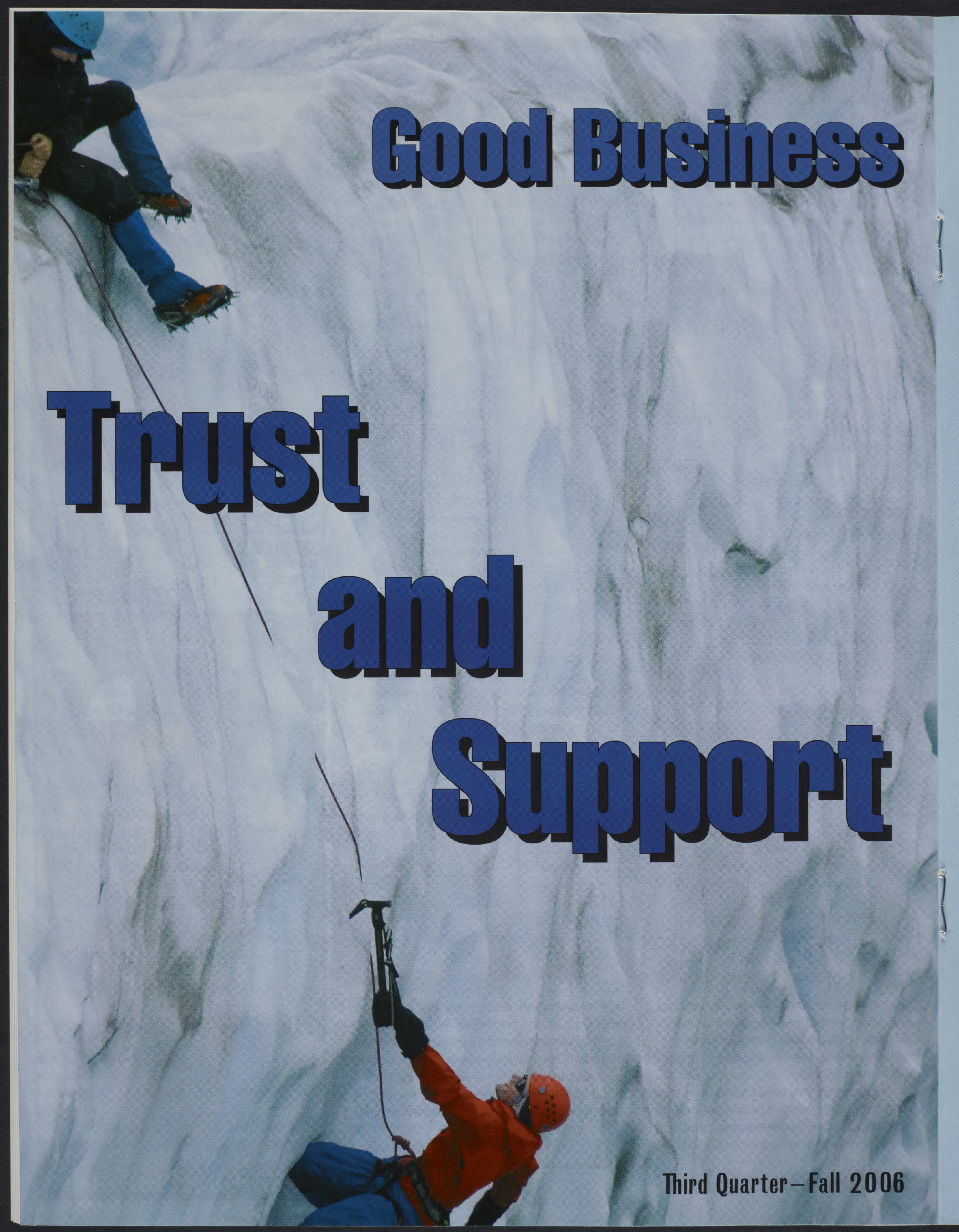
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A photograph of two ice climbers on a snowy mountain peak. One climber is at the top left, wearing a blue helmet and dark gear, with a rope extending down. Another climber is at the bottom center, wearing an orange jacket and a red helmet, reaching up. The background is a vast, textured expanse of snow and ice.

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Third Quarter – Fall 2006



# Means Doing Good

**S**ustainable development, good corporate citizenship, triple bottom line accounting, corporate social responsibility—whatever term is used to describe it, more and more companies are making it part of the way they do business. But what is corporate social responsibility? And why does embracing the concept make good business sense?

Myrna Khan is vice-president of Canadian Business for Social Responsibility (CBSR), a non-profit organization that works with companies to improve their social, environmental and economic performance. Her organization defines corporate social responsibility, or CSR, as “a company’s commitment to operating in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner,” Khan explained.

“Looking at not just the financial bottom-line, but looking at the social and environmental bottom line as well.”

The trick for companies implementing CSR plans is to find a balance between doing the right thing and doing what best benefits the company financially, explained David Greenall, senior research associate, governance and corporate social responsibility with the Conference Board of Canada.

“The reality for publicly-traded companies that face real pressures to manage money in the best interest of shareholders is that it’s a real tension for them to go out and do the right thing, but at the same time be generating the kind of returns that investors are expecting from their money. So that’s really why, over the past probably 15 years, there’s been a real evolution in thinking about corporate social responsibility and looking at it through a business lens and understanding that, by doing good, it’s also good business,” Greenall said.

Judging from the number of companies that are becoming CBSR members, more and more businesses are recognizing the benefits of CSR.

“Year over year, we’ve seen our membership grow between 50 and 75 per cent,” Khan said. The organization currently has 70 companies on its members list, including some of the country’s biggest players in the retail, manufacturing, natural resources, information and communications technology, pharmaceuti-

cal, food and beverage, business services and financial services sectors.

There are a number of reasons why so many companies are jumping on the CSR bandwagon. One, of course, is purely philanthropic in nature. This fact is borne out by some of the research currently being conducted by the CBSR that looks at trends in corporate social responsibility.

“One of the very interesting findings, when we asked companies what was driving CSR implementation in their companies ... an extremely high percentage said basically it’s the right thing to do,” said Deborah Sommerville, CBSR’s director of Signature programs.

“As we progress into the new century, I think it’s increasingly becoming part of the consciousness that social responsibility is another aspect of the business and it’s the right thing for companies to be engaged with.”

But beyond the desire to “do the right thing” there are also outside influences that can push a company toward CSR.

“Philanthropy is one part of corporate social responsibility and a lot of companies do practice that, but they are seeing that now corporate social responsibility isn’t just about giving money away, it’s actually how you make the money that you can give away,” Khan said.

Environmental and social issues are becoming increasingly important to investors, Greenall said, which in turn has resulted in an increase in the number of investors who choose to put their money into socially responsible investments.

“They’ll put money into certain companies, but won’t put money into say, tobacco or weapons manufacturing,” he explained.

Being seen as a socially responsible investment also helps a company attract investors who are less concerned with the ethical aspects of the way a company does business but instead see CSR as a good risk management strategy, Greenall added.

“People talk about CSR in the sense of building strong relationships with various stakeholders. And in doing so, they’ve got their radar out there. They are able to understand what are the changing values out there? What are the implications for the business? Is there

something coming down the pipe that’s really going to potentially transform their market or raise risks for them? And there’s also a benefit in terms of being very proactive in understanding what various stakeholder perspectives and what their complaints and what their issues are so that you can essentially deal with them head-on, rather than being kind of blindsided by them.”

A number of companies that have long made doing good a part of the way they run their business are recognizing that embracing the formalized approach corporate social responsibility offers has its benefits.

“And more and more, companies as well are actually producing what we call CSR sustainability reports, and that has grown quite a bit as well. I think about 30 per cent of the top 500 countries in Canada produce CSR reports,” Khan said.

“What companies now are realizing is by formalizing corporate social responsibility, putting programs in place, putting policies in place, putting management systems in place, it allows them to really leverage it as a way of doing business.”

When it comes to formalizing CSR as a management strategy, it’s big business that seems to be leading the way, Greenall said, at least in part because it’s the big players that are more often put under the microscope by the

continued on page 15...



# Sharing the wealth

## Business works to build capacity

**T**here's an old Chinese proverb that says "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." That sentiment sums up the concept of capacity building, a core component in the corporate social responsibility practices of a growing number of companies. And it's what most Aboriginal communities are looking for when companies come knocking, wanting to do business within their traditional territories.

Aboriginal communities are looking for more than short-term gain from their business dealings. They're looking to the companies they work with to make investments that will benefit the community both now and in the future. And that's what community capacity building is all about.

Companies can build community capacity by providing employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. More jobs mean more money coming into the community, but it also means a local workforce with skills and experience is being developed.

Companies can build capacity by creating programs designed to encourage young people to stay in school. They can build capacity by providing training opportunities for community members. And they can build capacity by helping local people establish businesses of their own.

Capacity building can also come in a more concrete form, when company operations bring with them improvements to local infrastructure. Such improvements may be of benefit to companies that operate within an Aboriginal community's traditional territory, but they can also be used by the people of the community,

and will still be there for them to enjoy even after the company has packed its bags and moved on.

By making community capacity building a priority, businesses can create a win-win scenario—the communities benefit from the investments the businesses make, and the businesses get access to a skilled labor force, local suppliers and contractors and, in many cases, an expanded marketplace for their goods and services.

Communications giant Bell Canada enterprises invests in Aboriginal communities simply by ensuring those communities have access to up-to-date communications technology. Through partnerships with various levels of government and First Nations organizations, the company has worked to bring telephone service to Aboriginal communities throughout Nunavut and is working to improve access to health services to people living in the territory through development of a telehealth system.

Bell is also working with various First Nation communities in other parts of the country to improve their access to cellular and Internet services, which will translate into better communication not only for individuals but for local businesses as well.

With an eye to increasing the number of Aboriginal people in its employ, Bell also invests in programs aimed at supporting and encouraging Aboriginal students to complete high school and go on to post-secondary training. The company has sponsored the Southern Nations Secretariat Youth Leadership Program in Ontario, the 2005 Ted Nolan Golf Tournament that raised more than \$40,000 for Sault College's Native studies program in Sault Ste. Marie and the Northwestel Northern Futures Scholarship Program that provides northern students with financial assistance and opportunities for future employment with Bell.

Building capacity within Aboriginal communities is also a priority at RBC Financial Group and has been for a number of decades. Many of the initiatives the financial institution has in place are designed to make it easier for Aboriginal people to use RBC services, and to ensure they reap benefits from choosing RBC.

A prime example of how RBC works to build capacity in Aboriginal communities is the

development of agency bank branches, where the agency works with a host RBC branch to provide basic banking services and can reinvest any profit it makes back into the local community.

Another major capacity building service offered by the financial institution is its On Reserve Housing Loan program, designed to make it easier for people living on reserve to access financing to build or buy a home.

RBC is also involved in a number of initiatives designed to support greater educational attainment among Aboriginal people and to help Aboriginal entrepreneurs get their businesses up and running. Some of these initiatives include a scholarship program for Aboriginal students, an Aboriginal Stay in School program and support of Keyano College's Aboriginal Entrepreneurship certificate program. RBC has also helped launch a program to train Aboriginal people so they can start businesses harvesting non-timber forest products, and helped create TeKnoWave, a program designed to increase Aboriginal employment in the technology sector.

Capacity building is also part of the way business is done at De Beers Canada. The diamond mining company works to provide education, training and business development opportunities to the people within Aboriginal communities that border its mine sites. Altruistic motivations for such efforts aside, given the remoteness of the mine sites, creating a local workforce and cultivating a local network of suppliers just makes good business sense.

The company's first diamond mine in Canada will be the Snap Lake mine located 220 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife. The mine won't even start operations for another year, but the company has already spent more than \$62 million purchasing goods and services from Aboriginal businesses during the mine's construction phase. And, according to the company's 2005 socio-economic report for the Snap Lake project, 17 per cent of the workforce for the project last year was made up of Aboriginal people, and Aboriginal people accounted for a quarter of the new hires.

On the education and training front, De Beers has initiated a children's literacy program

continued on page 17...



continued from page 13...

public and special interest groups. He pointed to multi-national companies like Nike, which have been taken to task for the working conditions in some of the manufacturing plants where their products are produced. In Nike's case, the company reacted to bad publicity and anti-sweatshop campaigns by working to reposition itself as a good corporate citizen, promising to improve conditions for workers and reporting on its progress through regular corporate responsibility reports.

That isn't to say that smaller companies aren't being socially responsible, Greenall added. "It just means in terms of formalizing it as a management strategy they may not be at the same level as some of the bigger players who have a lot more resources to devote to it."

In addition to using CSR to attract investment, companies are also using it as a tool to help them be more competitive, whether they're competing for market share or trying to attract and retain employees.

"Potential employees, and in particular the younger generation, are more sort of values-oriented. They want to work for ethical businesses. They want to work for businesses that celebrate diversity, that have environments and cultures of openness and engagement, all the kinds of values and principles that sort of underpin CSR," Greenall said.

"And there's varying evidence out there that consumers are making more ethical purchasing decisions or factoring things beyond just cost and quality, but they're also thinking about where does this product come from? What's the reputation of the company? How is it sourced?"

Greenall pointed to Home Depot as an example of one company that has recognized the benefits of providing consumers with a product they can feel good about purchasing.

"Home Depot has said, 'Well, we recognize that consumers don't want the lumber to come from clearcuts, they want it to come from sustainably-managed forests.' And so Home Depot has made a commitment. Now they only purchase sustainably-sourced wood."

While CSR is a valuable management tool for all types of businesses, practicing CSR is of particular benefit to companies involved in the natural resources sector, helping them to build relationships with the communities affected by their operations, Greenall explained.

"What people talk about in terms of what's called social license to operate. And that's about building trust with local communities so that when, say a mining company or a petroleum company, they want to do a new development, when they go through the regulatory, permitting and approvals process, they don't face the kind of opposition that they might otherwise face from communities who feel that

they don't understand the issues or their needs and that they're simply coming in to extract the resource. They don't care about the local community. So there's that whole trust dimension."

One of the ways companies are working to implement the tenets of CSR is by working to build strong, mutually beneficial relationships with the Aboriginal community

"I think there's a very high recognition among the business community that corporate social responsibility ... everything that goes within it is a primary value for the Aboriginal community," Khan said. "So it's really understanding and respecting how the two can collaborate so that business operates in a way that's good for them, but it also builds capacity for Aboriginal communities and engages them."

One industry sector that has recognized the need to engage the Aboriginal community is the energy resource sector, which in many instances operates within traditional Aboriginal territories and looks to local communities to provide employees, support services and access to the resources themselves.

"I think there is a real recognition that there's a need, not necessarily an obligation ... from an equity standpoint, that there's a need for local communities to share in the benefits of development. And so they're building partnerships and relationships with local communities and local businesses to ensure that those benefits are being shared. And I think there's a real recognition that in working with Aboriginal communities that they're striving for sustainability with those Aboriginal communities in the sense that they're not just giving dollars but they're working to help build capacity."

While engaging the Aboriginal community is of obvious importance for companies in the resource sector, it is also a priority within other sectors, from transportation to telecommunications to banking, Khan said. "I think it crosses all sections of business."

While the number of companies adding CSR to their business toolbox is growing, there are still those in the business community who haven't been sold on its benefits.

"There are people who are firmly supportive of CSR. There are others who are somewhat skeptical of CSR. They think that it's still primarily public relations rather than actually effecting transformation in business practices," Greenall said. "But I think if you just simply think about CSR from the business standpoint, that really it's about managing your risks and creating opportunities for your business; it's just simply sound management practice."

By Cheryl Petten



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# Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre Open For Business



**A**n amazing new facility, which opened in June in Osoyoos, B.C., celebrates the lands and legends of the Okanagan people through historical time to the present. The \$9-million Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre presents the story of the Osoyoos Indian Band in the context of one of the most environmentally unique regions in Canada.

"Outdoor exhibits include an archaeological site where people can sift through the sand and find arrowheads and other particles of the past, with our interpreters explaining the historical significance of the finds," said Charlotte Sanders, general manager. Guided and self-guided tours into the hills behind the centre are popular with visitors, as are indoor galleries, which include interactive and hands-on displays.

"We have a new movie called Coyote's Spirit showing in our Chaptik Theatre, which tells the story of a young girl's return to the Osoyoos Indian Band to live with grandparents for the summer. During her stay she rediscovers what it means to be a member of the Osoyoos First Nation," said Sanders.

The ecological setting in the Great Basin Desert is unique, with mountains and sands all requiring specific survival activities not found elsewhere. "It's 10 degrees cooler up in the mountains so it's quite a contrast. We guide

groups out onto the desert area where a replica Indian village has been constructed. We teach them about the land and how we used cactus, sage and desert lilies, and how all the species interact to ensure the growth of each and the survival of the original people," she explained.

The climate suits rattlesnakes, and within the province of B.C. the Western Rattlesnake is considered a blue-listed species, meaning they are at risk. "Through our research, preservation and conservation programs, we hope to lift the Western Rattlesnake out of this status, helping the vulnerable species flourish in the South Okanagan," she said.

An indoor multi-media Pithouse Theatre is popular with visitors as well, where they can come and learn about the animal creatures that are important to the people there. An outdoor village features two traditional pithouses, a tule or bulrush mat tipi, and a sweathouse set in a natural desert surrounding. Many school programs are facilitated in the pithouse, as part of the Okanagan cultural learning program.

"The Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre is just one of many projects upon which we've embarked recently," said Sanders. At the centre's grand opening, an announcement was made by Chief Clarence Louie concerning a landmark agreement that will see the First Nation lead the way in ensuring its members share fully in the economic opportunities growing across the South Okanagan. "We believe by forming meaningful partnerships we can attract tourism dollars, which will benefit our entire community, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, as we share revenue from opportunities on Crown lands of the Osoyoos First Nation's traditional territories."

The band has purchased a share in the Mount Baldy Ski Resort, which will provide jobs and economic revenue, and the ski resort will join the 18-hole golf course, the cultural centre and a motel to make a four-season tourist destination, she said. The ski resort will be built in four phases, and will feature accommodation for 7,800 visitors, 13 chairlifts, and 2,000 acres of ski terrain attracting 150,000 skiers each year.

Besides employment, a share of revenues from real estate development will benefit band members, but even more important is the reassurance that archaeological sites and traditional land use will be respected in all future expansion activities.

The Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre is the first of three new Aboriginal cultural tourism attractions set to open in B.C. in the lead up to the 2010 Olympic winter games. It is also the anchoring component in the band's ongoing development of its Nk'Mip Resort in Osoyoos, just minutes from the main street of the town in the rich Okanagan Valley. Two hours south of Kelowna and a short drive from the U.S. border, with exceptionally hot summers, Osoyoos has been a popular summer family destination for years. The four-star Spirit Ridge Motel and Spa accommodates overnight visitors, said Sanders.

"This is a wonderful place to visit. We have a lot to give people of every nationality as we share our cultures together, and they go away recognizing that everyone's background and heritage is important," she said. "Visitors leave here rested, positive, informed, and with long-lasting memories to take home."

*By Heather Andrews Miller*



continued from page 14...

within Aboriginal communities in the Northwest Territories, and has partnered with other diamond producers, Aboriginal organizations and federal and territorial governments to create the Northwest Territories Industrial Mining Skills Strategy Project, an Aboriginal skills development program designed to train Aboriginal people to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the mining sector.

De Beers' second diamond mine will be the Victor project, located 90 kilometres west of Attawapiskat First Nation in northern Ontario. Here, too, the company has already begun its work to build local community capacity.

A textbook example of community capacity building is the Marc Guevremont Training Centre, which officially opened in January. Located on Attawapiskat First Nation, the \$800,000 centre will provide training to community members to help them prepare for job opportunities with the Victor project. But the facility will also be used to house other training programs to benefit the community, from business programs to parenting courses.

Other planned projects associated with the Victor mine that will help build capacity for Attawapiskat include a proposed permanent air strip, a winter road and a gravel quarry.

As with the Snap Lake project, Aboriginal businesses will also see benefits from the Victor mine, both during construction and once the mine is operational. In January, De Beers announced it was awarding its air transportation contract for the Victor project to CreeWest, a joint venture between Air Creebec and the James Bay First Nations. Under the contract, which will cover the three years it's expected to take to build the new diamond mine, the company will transport construction workers to and from the project site. Other projects going to Aboriginal communities include the contract to build the south winter road, which was awarded to Kattawapiskak Development Company Inc., and the contract to complete lay-down yard preparations in Moosonee, which went to the Moose Band Development Corporation.

As one of the largest industrial employers of Aboriginal people in the country, it just makes good business sense for Syncrude Canada to invest in programs that help ensure future generations have the education and training they'll need to work for the company.

Syncrude has an Aboriginal Development Program in place that outlines the company's commitment to ensure Aboriginal communities in northern Alberta are able to share in the opportunities created through tapping of the area's oil resources. Among the areas dealt with in the program are employment, education, training and business development.

Alain Moore is the public affairs specialist

with Syncrude.

"We have a very significant Aboriginal population up here, so it just makes good business sense to engage them," he said. "One of the interesting things is our attrition; our turnover of employees is lower among Aboriginals than it is for people of non-Aboriginal descent. And one of the big reasons for that is because they're from here and they have strong family ties and they know what it's like to be five hours north of Edmonton. So, the ability to keep Aboriginal employees is higher and obviously it has great value to our operation."

Syncrude expects to be able to continue its operations in the oil sands for another five decades or so. That means the company has to concern itself not just with current employees, but with future generations of employees as well. And it's one of the reasons why providing educational opportunities for Aboriginal youth also makes good business sense. The company has done this through a number of initiatives, from donating \$100,000 to a daycare in Fort Chipewyan to providing funding to cover the cost of having a student teacher complete her practicum at the Fort McKay school in order to increase school staffing.

Starting this fall, a new Syncrude initiative called Your Education Counts is finding its way into schools in and around Fort McMurray. Its goal is to get the message out that, in order to take advantage of the opportunities in the region's strong economy kids need to stay in school and get an education. A DVD was created for the program featuring a handful of Syncrude's Aboriginal employees talking about their careers, why they like their jobs and how they got to where they are today.

"A lot of people know that there's lots of jobs in the oil sands, but they don't always appreciate the variety of jobs and, secondly, the amount of skill you need to realize those jobs," Moore said.

Syncrude has also worked to build capacity within local Aboriginal communities by ensuring Aboriginal businesses are provided with opportunities to meet the company's needs for goods and services.

According to information in Through the Generations, Syncrude's 2005 review of its progress in meeting its Aboriginal development commitments, the company awarded \$107 million in procurement contracts to Aboriginal contracts in 2004, and it was estimated that amount would increase to \$110 million in 2005. Those contracts were for provision of a wide range of goods and services, from the manufacturing of safety clothing to bison herd management.

By Cheryl Petten



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# The Business of

# Art



Mike Gouchie, musician

Dale Auger relaxes in a black leather chair greeting visitors to his art salon in the Western Showcase at the Calgary Stampede in July. He interrupts his interview with *Windspeaker Business Quarterly* on a number of occasions to invite people in to view his paintings or to hand them a postcard that directs customers to his Web site. He laughs with people, tells them about a show he is planning in Bragg Creek in October, makes sure they know about the children's book he has just published. For a guy who is just sitting, he is very, very busy.

He's making the most of the 10 days in summer when the world beats a path to his door. To be a great artist is one thing, he says, but a great artist also has to be a great marketer.

"We could be the most creative people in the world, and people will tell us that, but if you can't make a living at it then we have to question that," Auger insists. "We have to survive."

Auger isn't afraid to admit he's making a good living from his remarkable talents. He is viewed as a contemporary artist in the western cowboy milieu. A look around the showcase at the work of other artists—bronzes of cowboys on horseback, charcoals of men in 10-gallon hats, roping and wrangling—demonstrates how different the perspective is that Auger's art delivers.

He's been showing and selling his work at the Stampede for the past seven years. His art, he says, challenges the stereotypes about Indigenous peoples, including the image of the majestic warrior on the Prairies greeting the cowboy, which is still a very strong component of the marketing of the Calgary festival. He's a teacher, he believes, opening doors to discussion about what the real Indian is all about. But it's a gentle education he's offering, designed to nudge his clients towards enlightenment, not push. Auger doesn't want to alienate those people with extra funds that would buy his work.

"In any teaching, I think in being a fine warrior you've also got to pick and choose your battles... I am there with the knowledge and the tools as a good warrior to teach, to educate whoever comes through here, and somewhere in there I will even be a good warrior when it's time to take their cheque. I do not discriminate against the size of their cheque," he said with a laugh.

Auger has become comfortable in the skin of the professional artist, where other struggle when they choose to make their art a career.

It's sometimes hard for artists to make the



Dale Auger, Visual Artist

switch because their work is so personal to them, said Rose Ginter, chair of the Arts & Cultural Management Program at Grant MacEwan College in Edmonton.

"It does take some time to come around to the way of thinking that they are not going to compromise themselves or their values or their art. But what they are doing, if they study in our program, is that they're learning how to share their art with others, basically bring it out to the people that they wish to engage."

But before professional artist can engage others, they have to know a lot about themselves and what they have to offer. They have to determine what their expectations are, their goals and objectives. Then they have to know their market and whom they are trying to communicate to.

Auger knows his market— original, exclusive work targeting the high-end customer.

Country music singer Mike Gouchie is trying to break into the Aboriginal market. The Aboriginal musician from a reserve near Prince George, B.C. has had more mainstream success, he admits, but it's not been enough to sustain him professionally. He's hoping to tour with fellow musician Steve Rain to reserves across Canada to bring a message to Native youth that if they have a talent they should pursue it and put their energy into it, rather than indulge in destructive behaviors like violence and abusing their bodies with drugs and alcohol. But despite some interest from sponsors, the tour has been a tough sell to Native communities. He's hoping some mainstream exposure will open some doors.

Gouchie is one of six independent artists that will be featured in a reality show called *Plucked* airing on CMT in October. Each episode, beginning Oct. 2, will feature one

artist. For Gouchie's episode, cameras followed him around as he functioned day to day and worked on his craft. They even visited his home reserve and interviewed his parents and the chief there. The hope-to-one-day-be music star was taken to industry boot camp in Toronto where he met with a management consultant and got a style make-over.

The series culminates on Nov. 13 with a two-hour special where fans text message votes to choose the act with the most potential. The other artists involved are Aaron Goodvin of northern Alberta, AMBUSH, a country rock band, Carla Sacco, known primarily for her roles as Shania's Twin, Pear, described as an alternative, pop and country band, and Lisa Hewitt, CCMA's Independent Female Artist of the Year.

The prize is \$35,000 to put toward a music video, but beyond that Gouchie's hoping the series will help to make him a household name, which will in turn get him the work he needs to support his family.

The struggle for most professional artists is finding work in their field that will pay. The business side of music keeps Gouchie, like other artists, busier than making the art itself.

"The business aspect is way, way more time spent on than actually learning, writing songs, playing songs," Gouchie said, who tries to make his art his full-time job. He recently headlined at the beer gardens at the Big Valley Jamboree in Alberta, one of the biggest country music festivals in Canada. "I'm at the point right now, [however] where I do need to go out and find other work, because even as a recording artist with multiple awards I have a really hard time finding work."

Gouchie blasted on to the country music scene about three years ago after he won a

singing contest in Edmonton. The win took him to another contest in Tennessee where he took the prize for international country male vocalist of the year, so named by the North American Country Music Association. After working to find funding, Gouchie put out a four-song EP, which won him Best Male Artist and Best Country Album at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards in 2004. Since then he's been dedicated to educating himself on how to parlay his obvious talent—he's had three singles chart in the top 100 on country play lists—into a paycheck that will put his four children through school and help his parents who live on the Shelley reserve in northern B.C.

"I went on the Internet and educated myself. I joined every organization. I joined CCMA [the Canadian Country Music Association], SOCAN as a writer, Songwriters Association of Canada, the Nashville Songwriters Association, the Alberta Recording Industry Association, everything associated with what I was doing. And then I started taking in all of the functions, all of the workshops. Everything that I could get my hands on, anything I could read, anything I could find to learn about the business, how to get your songs on the radio, how to record an album, how to pick the right studio, how to pick the right record label, how to find management. All of these things are so important as an artist."

Ginter agrees. "Networking, meeting people and joining associations is a very good suggestion, because associations are such a large network of people and provide communications links with other people."

Writing a business plan is also another important step to a successful career in the arts

continued on page 21...

# Developing trust in business partnerships

By Lee Ahenakew

There are an increasing number of opportunities for First Nations to partner with private sector companies, particularly to supply goods and services to the resource sector. Partnerships represent a way for First Nations to use the knowledge and skills of an outside company to seize a business opportunity. Trust is essential to forming any business relationship. Building trust between First Nations and a business entity can be difficult due to First Nations' past experiences with the federal government and big business.

Business relationships in the private sector normally start with a group of relative strangers sitting around a table and agreeing "We have the same goal so let's explore how we can work together to make this idea a reality." The planning work begins before an extensive agreement or consultations. Private sector companies who are considering a business relationship assume their potential partner is ethical and trustworthy rather than looking for reasons not to trust them, or reasons why they should not close the deal.

First Nations often start relationships assuming their potential partner is not trustworthy, with good reason. First Nations' experience with legal agreements began with treaties negotiated with the Crown in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. To this day First Nations are involved in hundreds of legal battles to force the government to live up to their treaty commitments. The most recent example of a broken deal with the government is the landmark Kelowna accord, which was signed in November 2005 with the First Ministers of the provinces and territories, the Assembly of First Nations and the four other national Aboriginal organizations, and the federal Liberal government. The deal was immediately rebuffed by the Conservatives when their party took power.

First Nations' experience with the private sector has not been good either. Natural resource developments across the country have destroyed traditional hunting and fishing land, contaminated water and flooded First Nations' home lands, displacing entire communities. Add to this the discrimination often experienced by Aboriginal people in non-Aboriginal work places.

Modern day relationships between First Nations and outsiders consist primarily of contractual funding agreements with Indian

and Northern Affairs Canada. This relationship has not been healthy to say the least. Negotiations over funding agreements are normally confrontational; not the "win-win" style of negotiation the private sector strives for. For all these reasons First Nations do not easily trust outsiders.

Turning to the other side of the table, companies need consistency in the people they will deal with in order to progress through business planning stages for a potential partnership. The two-year election cycle under the Indian Act is a major barrier to forming relationships. Businesses are hesitant to invest time and resources into a relationship if they have to deal with a politician who may not be around for them in less than two years.

Another challenge for an outsider attempting to form a relationship with a First Nation is determining the decision-making process and who to talk to. All First Nations are unique and have their own government and administrative structures and processes. These processes are not always well defined. It is difficult for an outsider to determine who to talk to in the council or administration about an opportunity.

A First Nation can make a potential partner's job easier by providing a definitive decision-making structure and consistency in relationships. This may be accomplished by forming an economic development corporation with a board of directors. Separating

business from politics through an economic development corporation gives businesses a much higher comfort level knowing there will be consistency in the people they are dealing with.

In order to be successful forming relationships built on trust we must keep in mind our biases and the other person's perspective. First Nations should keep in mind a potential partner is risking their management's time, which is a limited resource, when even considering entering into a partnership. First Nations can decrease this risk and have a better chance of seizing the opportunity by communicating how their decision-making processes work.

Try to think "win-win" in negotiations rather than taking a hard line. Be open to sharing information to get through the feasibility and business planning process more quickly; you will always have the power to say no before signing a deal.

Business should keep in mind that First Nations' primary experience with contractual relationships has been an unhealthy one with the government, and First Nations have often been abused by large business. You are going to have to work hard to gain the trust needed; you will likely start from a position of mistrust. Aboriginal culture values face to face meetings to build trust before moving forward with a relationship. You need to be in the community letting people know who you are and how you operate.



Lee Ahenakew



continued from page 19...

discipline of your choice. It comes part and parcel with fundraising, said Gouchie, who spends a lot of time filling out grant applications and sponsorship proposals.

"I put together a business plan and a sponsorship plan for a couple of, you know, big money people, to say 'Hey, this is who I am, this is what I'm trying to do. Will you help me?'" The result was a \$10,000 grant through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts for his EP, and the remainder of the funds were received from private sponsors who he was able to convince to support his efforts.

"You can have all the talent in the world, but you still need to know how to try an access funding, whether its through grants or the private sector," Gouchie said.

Some artists aren't comfortable representing themselves, either in person or through written submissions like grant or sponsorship applications.

"Some artists choose to have someone do that on their behalf, if they are lucky enough to be able to work with an agent or someone who can do some of that business stuff for them."

Gouchie's learned along the way that it's better to know as much as he can, so even if he puts aspects of his career in another person's hands he understands what they are doing.

He prefers, however, to do much of his own publicity and fundraising himself.

"As an artist, nobody is going to work harder for you than you are." Ginter says the Arts and Cultural Management Program offers a course in fundraising. "Cause that's the other key element for most artists... where to go and how to research which grants might be available, then how to write a great grant [proposal]. And we also look at corporate fundraising and private fundraising. Just about any other way that you have for raising money for the organization. And then a number of the other courses that are very practical. You know, must haves. So we have a finance management course. We have a computer applications course.

*Windspeaker Business Quarterly* asked Ginter how important the new technology was in getting the word out on an artist or an arts organization.

"It's possible for them to still be successful and do what they need to do without utilizing that degree of technology, but I think we're probably, in the next five years, going to turn the corner on that," she said. "The younger demographic, they are moving into the position of being buyers and being interested, and I think they are the ones who will demand that level of technology."

Gouchie finds the e-mail and Internet technology an important marketing tool. "I'm stuck full time sitting on the computer, since 9 a.m. sharp, sometimes earlier, and I'm usually



**Ilona Cardinal,  
Visual Artist**



**Rose Ginter,  
Chair of the Arts & Cultural Management  
Program at MacEwan College**

not off it until the kids come home from school... And even after that I'm still sending out e-mails into the wee hours of the morning."

But technology can't beat being in the face and in the ears of people in the industry, he says.

"All the people who are in control of the music industry, you have to take in all those meetings. You have to take in all those workshops. You have to be involved. You have to be willing to work hard and put together proposals and things... that's basically all I can say is try to get out there."

He says musicians must put together a good press kit and find their niche. Don't waste time or money trying to go into the big mainstream at first. Use secondary markets to get your work out — campus radio, SONIC, online program-

ming, satellite radio, he advises. Once you've made a name for yourself, then the big dogs will come sniffing. Gouchie told us CMT had him on their radar for more than a year before they offered him a spot on Plucked.

"They were watching me to see. 'What is he going to do next?' You know? 'How is he working on his career? And they decided to pick me.'"

Having a good reputation and presenting yourself professionally are building blocks to a successful career, said Ginter.

"This is an important point, because in order to be respected out there, if you're going to fundraise, if you are going to the co-orporate sector, you have to speak on their terms. You have to know what they are looking for and you have to present yourself in a way they will respect..."

"We talk about professionalizing arts management, we talk about how artists still aren't valued as they should be. I do think it does have to do with the fact that arts groups, artists, people that are engaged in the arts are not looked at as people who know what they are doing. And we have to change that perception, because we do know. And all it is is we're looked at in a way that somehow we don't measure up."

Ilona Cardinal agrees. She is a visual artist currently working in the fibre-art medium, but is viewed primarily as an abstract painter. She said there isn't enough value placed on art or artists in today's society.

"The funding to support arts is decreasing... because it's not seen as providing a functional service in society. And yet, when people study history or you look at history there's Michelangelo, daVinci, those are the people you remember..."

Cardinal is from Saddle Lake, Alta. and though she would like to be a full-time artist, there isn't enough regular money in it, so she works for the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers as an editor for the organization's online publication.

"I'm a single parent of three kids, so I need a consistent income; that's one of the only things that's pulling me back."

To make the transition from full-time office worker to full-time artist requires a lot of marketing, she said, "and sending out your portfolio to galleries and getting into as many exhibits as possible."

She is a former graduate of the Arts and Cultural Program, and until she enrolled in the course she thought the business side of her art was "too square" to give much consideration.

"I'm not a business person, but when I took the course I realized that you really need to have some business courses to be able to market yourself and get your name out there... basically you are selling yourself. It's a product... It involves a lot of work."

*By Debora Steel*



Jeff Coleclough of Kakwa scrapes a hide outside his home in Riceton, Sask.

# She still gets a thrill

If you've ever watched the movie *Shanghai Noon* or the mini-series *Into the West* then you've probably seen the creations of Kathleen and Jeff Coleclough. The husband and wife team has created props, costumes and set decorations for these and other productions. Currently, they're creating items to be used for the film *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, an HBO mini-series based on the book of the same name written by Dee Brown. The film is being shot on the Tsuu T'ina reserve near Calgary.

But making authentic looking reproductions of Aboriginal artifacts for television and movie productions is just one of the many things that Kathleen and Jeff do through Kakwa, the company they founded in 1993.

The seed for the creation of Kakwa was planted when Kathleen began to create Native-inspired jewelry for herself and Jeff. So many people admired her handiwork and put in requests for her to make pieces for them that the couple decided to go into business. They were living in Calgary at the time (they now live in Riceton, Sask.) so they contacted the Glenbow Museum to see if they could sell their jewelry in the museum's gift shop. The museum said yes, and Kakwa was born.

The couple branched out from making jewelry to creating replicas of traditional Aboriginal items after staff at Fort Calgary asked them to repair one of their artifacts. The staff at the fort were so impressed with the results that they asked Kathleen and Jeff to

create an entire replica for them, and have been regular clients ever since.

Other regular Kakwa clients include the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., to name just a few of the close to 70 museums that have called on the Colecloughs to produce items for their collections.

Educating people about Aboriginal history, culture and traditions is another part of what Kakwa does. Kathleen and Jeff have created an Aboriginal education package, featuring more than 75 products designed to be used in the classroom, replicas of tools, weapons, clothing and even games like those that would have been used by Aboriginal people both pre- and post-contact. These provide students with opportunities for hands-on learning. The couple also runs information sessions at museums and historic parks and does school presentations.

Authenticity is of primary importance to the Colecloughs, who are both of Ojibway descent. Whether they're making a piece of jewelry or recreating a headdress or an atlatl for a museum or movie set, they try to make it using the same methods and with the same materials that were used when these items were made by Aboriginal people years ago. The couple has spent many hours pouring over books about how things were created, and have also learned much by speaking to Elders.

As if all of this wasn't enough, Kakwa is about to embark on yet another endeavor, with plans to enter the world of publishing. The idea for this latest addition to Kakwa's repertoire came when the couple tried to find a publisher for some of the stories they'd written as part of their education packages. They found the whole process daunting. Their solution? Start up a publishing arm of the company.

While their main focus would be on publishing non-fiction books that will provide accurate information about Aboriginal culture and history, children's books would also feature prominently in the mix.

Until Kakwa's publishing arm is up and running, Kathleen has found another avenue for getting her written works out, thanks to Scholastic Canada Ltd. which is set to publish two of her books. One is a children's storybook entitled Legend of the Dreamcatcher, which will be illustrated by Mohawk author and artist CJ Taylor. The other is a book about beads. The two books will be part of a new literacy program being launched by Scholastic and will be made available for teachers to use in the classroom.

Kathleen said the most challenging part of the work Kakwa does is trying to meet deadlines, especially those imposed by people in the movie industry who haven't got a clue what's involved in the process of creating a requested item.

"Typical of movies is 'We need this and we need it in two days.' And it takes three weeks to dry, so that's not going to happen. They don't grasp the concept of how long some things will take to build. So it's been really frustrating. It's just interesting, trying to meet deadlines," she said. "We've actually made every deadline, but there have been a few nights we've watched the sun come up to try and get something done."

While the movie work poses some of the greatest challenges for

Kakwa, those jobs are often also the most fun to do, Kathleen said. And even after working on 20 such projects, she still gets a thrill seeing her creations on the screen.

"There are friends that have been doing it for a long time that collect their cheque and don't care, but I actually still like watching it and saying, 'Hey, I made that,'" she said.

While creating props and costumes for movies has a lot to recommend it, the most rewarding part of what Kakwa does happens not on a movie set, but in a classroom.

"Watching the kids' reaction to things, especially when you get into the older grades, they don't want to not look cool so they try not to show an interest, but you can tell when you get their attention. But the little kids get right into it," Kathleen said.

One of the funniest moments that happens during school presentations takes place when Jeff brings out a big deer hide and tosses it onto the frame.

"They're all crowded up, and you can watch them all shoot about 10 feet back," Kathleen said. "And they'll go, 'Ewww, gross' and within five minutes they'll be up wanting to scrape it. It doesn't matter if they're white or what their background is, they all want to get into it and try it, so it's kind of neat to see them get enthusiastic about things."

While the work done through Kakwa may be challenging, fun and rewarding, in the end the reason Kathleen and Jeff continue to do the kind of work they do is because it's something they both truly like to do.

"It's certainly not for the money," Kathleen said. "Clearly we're not going to be millionaires doing this, but we both enjoy doing it. Both Jeff and myself have a love of history, and I find looking back on what our ancestors did is absolutely fascinating."

For more information about Kakwa, visit the company Web site at [www.kakwa.ca](http://www.kakwa.ca).

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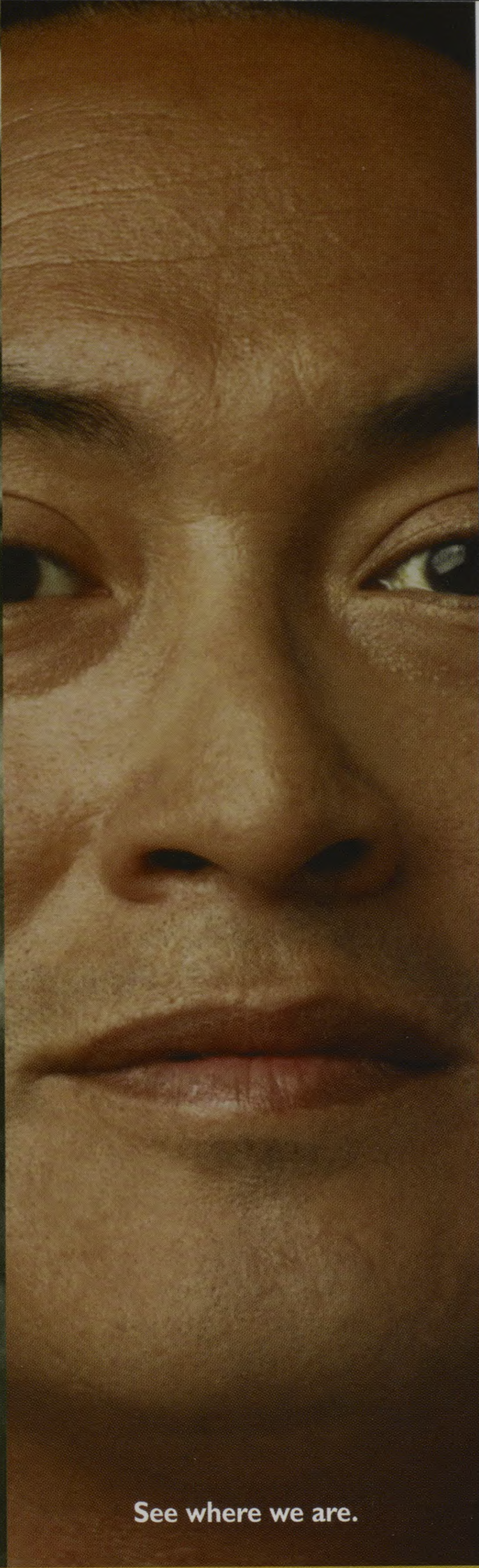
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