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# Wind speaker



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**TRC gets  
new appointments  
Page 8**

**Tribute to  
Phil Fontaine  
Page 11**

**Summer  
Powwow Photos  
Pages 18 & 19**

**Shawn A-in-chut Atleo was wrapped in a ceremonial robe and a whalers hat placed on his head by his number one supporter, his grandmother Elsie Robinson, after winning the Assembly of First Nations election for National Chief held in Calgary July 22 and 23.**

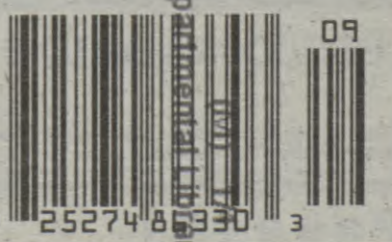
**For more AFN election coverage see page 10**



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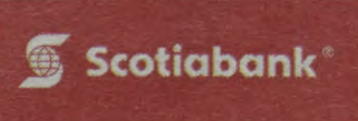
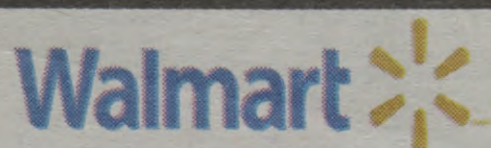
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Five began the race, but the first ballot in the July 22 election to choose a new national chief for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) cleared the field for a run-off between Shawn Atleo and Perry Bellegarde.

### Honouring a leader, celebrating a legacy 11

The tribute evening held July 20 for outgoing national chief Phil Fontaine was filled with good music, fond memories and lots of laughter.

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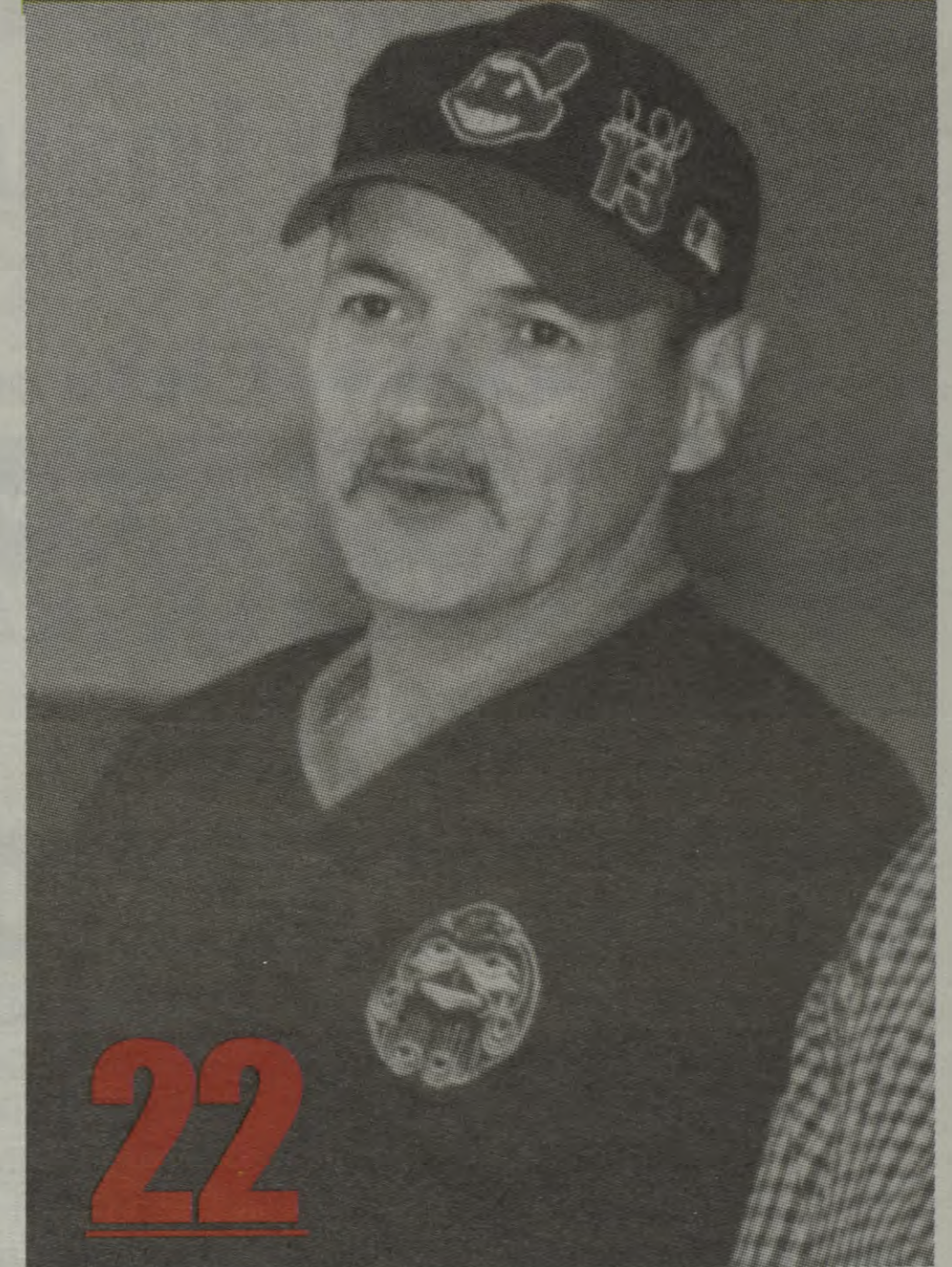
Donald Marshall Jr. passed away on Aug. 6 from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. His younger brother, David Marshall, said it was particularly hard on the family because this is the second time they've had to say goodbye to him.



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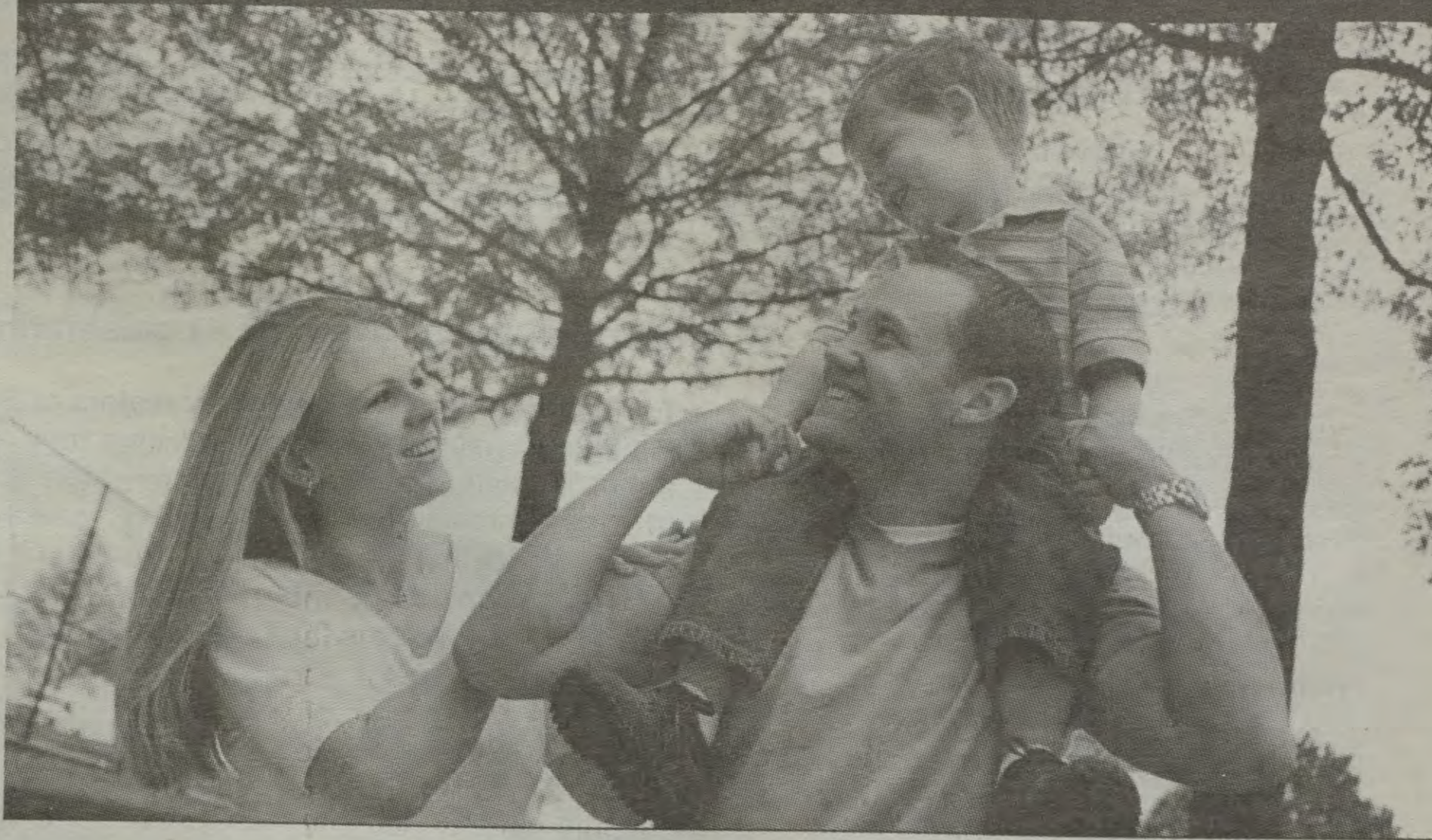
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## CANADA WIDE

# Expectations are raised on the national stage

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Ah, come on, give that good ole boy his dues, you say. He's been there for us. He's a stand-up guy. Sure, but come on. Hush up, Bill. Hush up.

†We take you back to the July 20<sup>th</sup> tribute to Phil Fontaine, a three-term national chief who people thought enough about to spend time, energy and money to extol his virtues. The Treaty 7 chiefs held a shin-dig at a swanky Calgary hotel in his honor, and a veritable who's who in the constellation of Indian politics attended.

Heartfelt thanks and congratulations all around from all of those on the agenda to the outgoing top dog of the Assembly of First Nations, as one would expect, and then came Bill—oh that irascible, pugilistic, egomaniac in a beaded vest. Give some guys a microphone, and watch out.

His speech started out with promise. He became overwhelmed at the thought of Fontaine's leaving choking up, wiping away his tears. Erasmus joked a little about their early strained relationship...In fact, he talked about a stand-off on the election floor where Fontaine confronted him about rumors Erasmus was allegedly spreading to defeat his candidacy. Erasmus took a boxer's stance ready for a rumble, Bill explained. What is he talking about, we were all thinking. Then Erasmus told the audience he never voted for the man the people had gathered to celebrate, and the room wondered how was this intended to be a tribute?

We learned that the hatchet was buried between them over time, and Bill and Phil began to run together. During the runs they discussed weighty issues, like the approach that the AFN should take in dealing with government. What did Bill think of rallies and direct action, fist pounding on the table versus quiet and steady diplomacy? According to Bill, it was his idea for the AFN to be the ambassadors of the people.

Said Bill, the time had come and gone for fist pounding and sabre rattling to be effective.

'Hey, let's be diplomats; the guys that take the high road,' Bill suggested, and Fontaine apparently agreed.

The speech dragged on for an hour,

and was for the most part entirely about Bill. Even Bill Wilson, who has himself has been known to self-aggrandize, took time from his campaign speech during the election forum to wonder where Erasmus got his moxie.

But let's give the guy a break. It's not as though the tribute event was official business or anything.

Jump now to the beginning of the assembly on July 21 and a discussion on the organization's financial situation. Hard to believe in the enlightenment Erasmus once possessed given the silliness that ensued concerning the budget deficit the AFN is facing.

Bill was again at the mic—will they never learn—when a chief on the floor of the convention hall asked if there was a plan to deal with the financial shortfall. Would staff be laid off? Files put on hold? Instead of putting forward a reasoned response, a plan, some reassurance, Erasmus decided to take a different tact: divert the attention of the crowd and direct their concern and anger toward a common enemy. And who better than Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the under-funders (similar to George W. Bush's evil-doers) of First Nations programming?

"I could wring his scrawny neck," Erasmus said, not once (because once is never good enough when you're threatening bodily harm of a western leader), but a number of times.

So much for diplomacy. The fact is that such a demonstration is just plain embarrassing. If you want to be taken seriously, insert some integrity into the dialogue and stop juvenile game playing and name calling.

Fortunately, the voice from the floor of the convention centre wasn't buying into the nonsense.

"You haven't answered the question," spoke the voice of a new young chief.

Our thoughts go back to the advice of Mike Fontaine, Phil's son, who also spoke at the tribute to his father. He said the outgoing national chief had set a new benchmark of leadership going forward. These were words of warning to any man who would take his father's place as head of the Assembly of First Nations. Don't diminish the office that, in Mike's estimation, his father built up.

We may look like we're picking on Erasmus, but the fact is Mike's advice holds true for all those who sit around the table with newly-elected National Chief Shawn Atleo. He's a new breed of leader—articulate, educated and well-connected—and he needs the people around him to up their game.

As Atleo put it, a heavy page has been turned, and we begin a new chapter. Our expectations have been raised up, Mike Fontaine said. We demand more of you; expect more from you. Not just one, but all.

*Windspeaker*

## [ rants and raves ] Page 5 Chatter

### "DEAD, DEAD, DEAD,"

said Union of BC Indian Chiefs Stewart Phillip. He was referring to the short life and quick demise of the proposed Reconciliation legislation put forward by the Gordon Campbell Liberals earlier this year. The bill would trump all other provincial legislation on land use and resource management. It included decision-making powers for First Nations and revenue sharing. But it caused a flap soon after the business community learned that it was going to be pushed through in a month. Campbell was seeking re-election and couldn't afford to alienate his corporate friends. The 200 Native nations took a look at the "reconstitution" provisions of the bill and gave their heads a shake. The province wanted that number whittled down to just 30 nations to do business with, and the independent spirits of many leaders balked. In his column in the Vancouver Sun, Vaughn Palmer suggests that those chiefs who pursued the legislation may end up with more than egg on their faces. "The Native leaders who took part in the talks with the Liberals were criticized for proceeding without a proper mandate from the Native people themselves...The assembly blamed the demise on lack of "trust" for the B.C. Liberals. But some of that fallout will surely attach to the Native leaders who made this proposal their highest priority," Palmer wrote.

### MICHAEL GRAVELLE, ONTARIO'S MINISTER

of Northern Development, Mines, and Forestry, said he is reaching out to the leadership of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) First Nation "as best I can."

"I recognize that tensions are very high and the desire to find a solution... is important to all parties concerned."

Gravelle was quoted in a story published by the *Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal* in reaction to a call from Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo for the Ontario government to take immediate action to resolve an ongoing dispute between KI and Platinex Inc. over access to mining claims in the Big Trout Lake area.

"A number of court cases have already determined that there is a duty to consult First Nations prior to development on their traditional territory," Atleo said in a news release. "Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation wants to complete a land use plan before they consider whether or not mining should take place. This is an entirely reasonable and responsible request," Atleo said, insisting that Ontario could cancel mining permits until KI's land use plan is complete.

On Aug. 26, KI members prevented a floatplane carrying Platinex officials from landing on a lake near the company's mining claims.

KI says the leases to the land were obtained without band permission. Band members believed so much in this, they previously went to jail for 68 days for blocking Platinex' activities.

"At no point during this conflict has Minister Gravelle or any of his staff offered Platinex mediation. It simply hasn't happened," said Stephen Skyvington, a company spokesperson in a news release.

Both KI and Platinex seem to have some common ground, however. They both blame the Ontario government for allowing their complaints to persist.

Ontario issued a permit for Platinex to do mineral exploration without consulting KI. And KI won't discuss issues with Platinex until that issue is resolved.

### THE BRANTFORD EXPOSITOR REPORTS

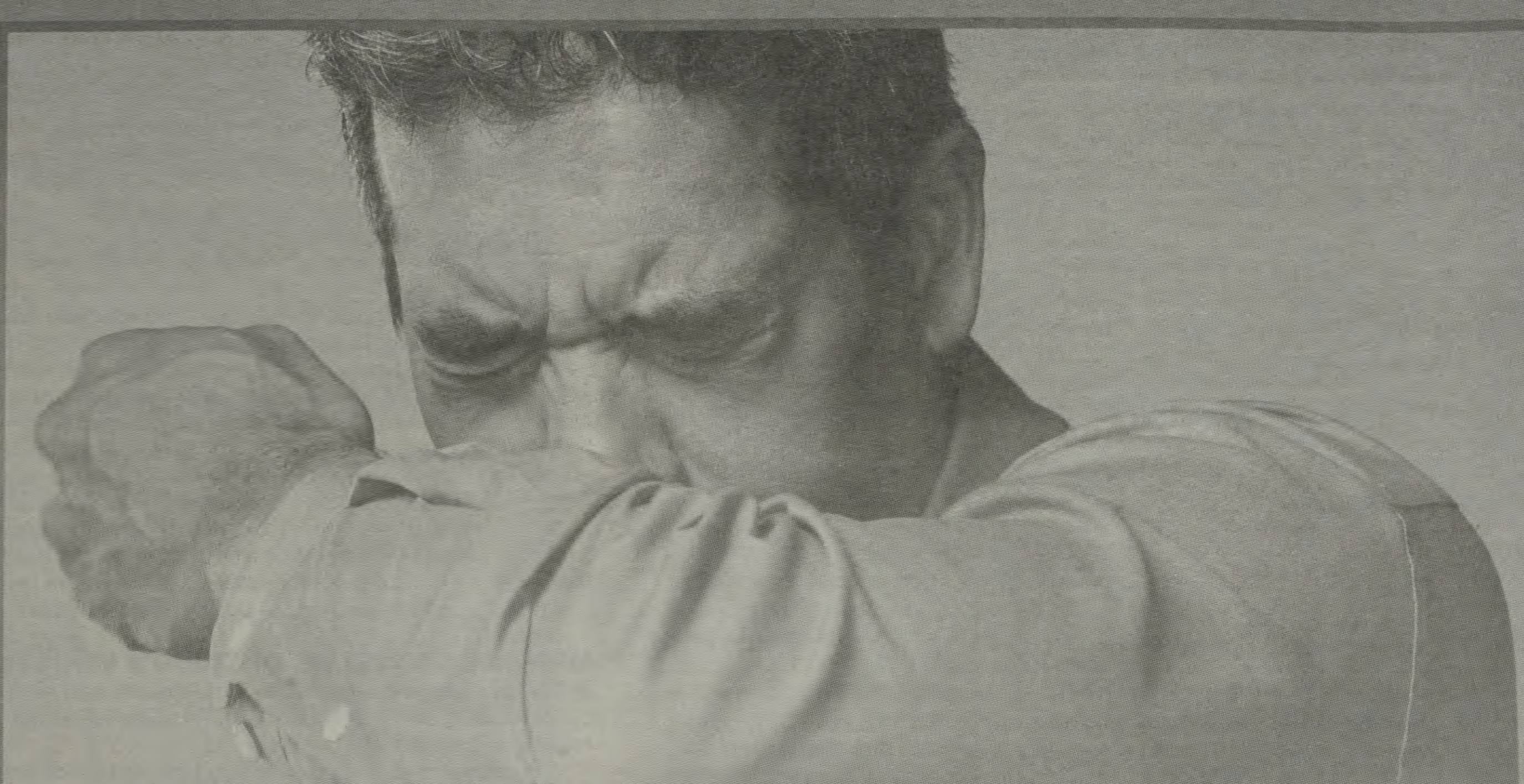
that members of Six Nations are wondering if they want the Olympic torch to pass through their territory. Is it a symbol of sports excellence or Native oppression, the article asks. Because of land issues fought in British Columbia, young people at Six Nations feel hesitant to become involved. The games are being held on lands that incorporate four First Nations territories. Tewanee Joseph, the CEO of the Four Host First Nations, attended the meeting and spoke about the deep and substantial involvement of the First Nations in the Olympics. But critics of the games don't want ski hills and resort marring the natural environment. By the end of the meeting the issue was unresolved. Two spots are open to Six Nation torch runners.

### THE OCHAPOWACE FIRST NATION SAID

goodbye to a respected leader who passed away in his sleep on Aug. 16 at the age of 58. Chief Denton George was a vehement defender of First Nations rights, reports the Saskatchewan Leader-Post. "I live and breathe our rights, whether it's inherent or treaty rights," George wrote in the introduction of the Kakisiwew-Ochapowace First Nation history book. "Nobody can sway me from that..."

The untimely death came as a shock to the community. He served the band as chief for 20 consecutive years, and served before that as a councillor for 14. He served as the most senior official of Team Saskatchewan in the North American Indigenous Games. He coached the FSIN Chiefs who won the 2006 Canadian Midget Boys Fastball Championship. He had just returned from the Canadian Junior Men's Fastball Championships held in Owen Sound where his chiefs placed fifth. He was a founding member of the Ochapowace Junior Thunder of the Prairie Junior Hockey League. He also coached and managed the Ochapowace Thunder female hockey team.

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# TRC reinvigorated with new appointments

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## OTTAWA

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) will be depending on the expertise of the newly-appointed Indian Residential School Survivor Committee and survivor societies across the country to move forward with its mandate.

Building trust in the TRC after the collapse of the commission when Justice Harry LaForme resigned in October 2008 as chair is the first step to serving residential school survivors, said Commissioner Wilton Littlechild, and "that's where survivor societies and the committee will become very, very invaluable to us, to guide us through that trust building."

In early June, Littlechild of Maskawacis Cree Territory of Treaty No. 6 in Alberta, was named one of three new members of the TRC.

Justice Murray Sinclair was chosen to replace LaForme as chair, and Marie Wilson rounds out the group. Claudette Dumont-Smith and Jane Brewin Morley, the initial commissioners, tendered their resignations in late January, stepping down June 1.

Littlechild referred to the make-up of the new TRC as a "wholesome threesome. My (experience) is direct, but the other two are direct as well; one as a child of students and the other as a spouse of students. That way we're a pretty good team."

Over the course of 14 years, Littlechild attended two residential schools; Sinclair's parents are residential school survivors; and Wilson's husband attended residential school.

Shortly after the new

commission began its duties July 1, appointments were made to the Indian Residential School Survivor Committee. The 10-member committee consists of seven First Nation members, one Métis and two Inuit.

Beyond helping to build back the trust, Littlechild sees the survivor committee, NRSSS, and other survivor societies as valuable resources in a variety of areas.

"The societies have been in existence for quite some time and have developed very good approaches to dealing with the issues we (will) face," said Littlechild.

Part of that approach, he noted, will be working on healing. While healing isn't a specific mandate for the TRC, Littlechild said it as a natural outcome from the work the commission will be doing.

William Blackwater, president of the National Residential School Survivors Society (NRSSS), hopes for a long relationship with the TRC.

"We would like to work in partnership with them throughout their five-year existence," said Blackwater, but federal funding for NRSSS ends this year.

The TRC is scheduled to meet shortly with the NRSSS, and Blackwater hopes for a meeting with the survivor committee as well.

"It's very important for the advisory committee to work in partnership with the National Residential School Survivors Society. (We) advocate on behalf of survivors and we need to all be on the same page. We need to know we're speaking the same kind of language."

At this point, said Raymond Arcand, former chief of Alexander First Nation in Alberta, an appointee to the

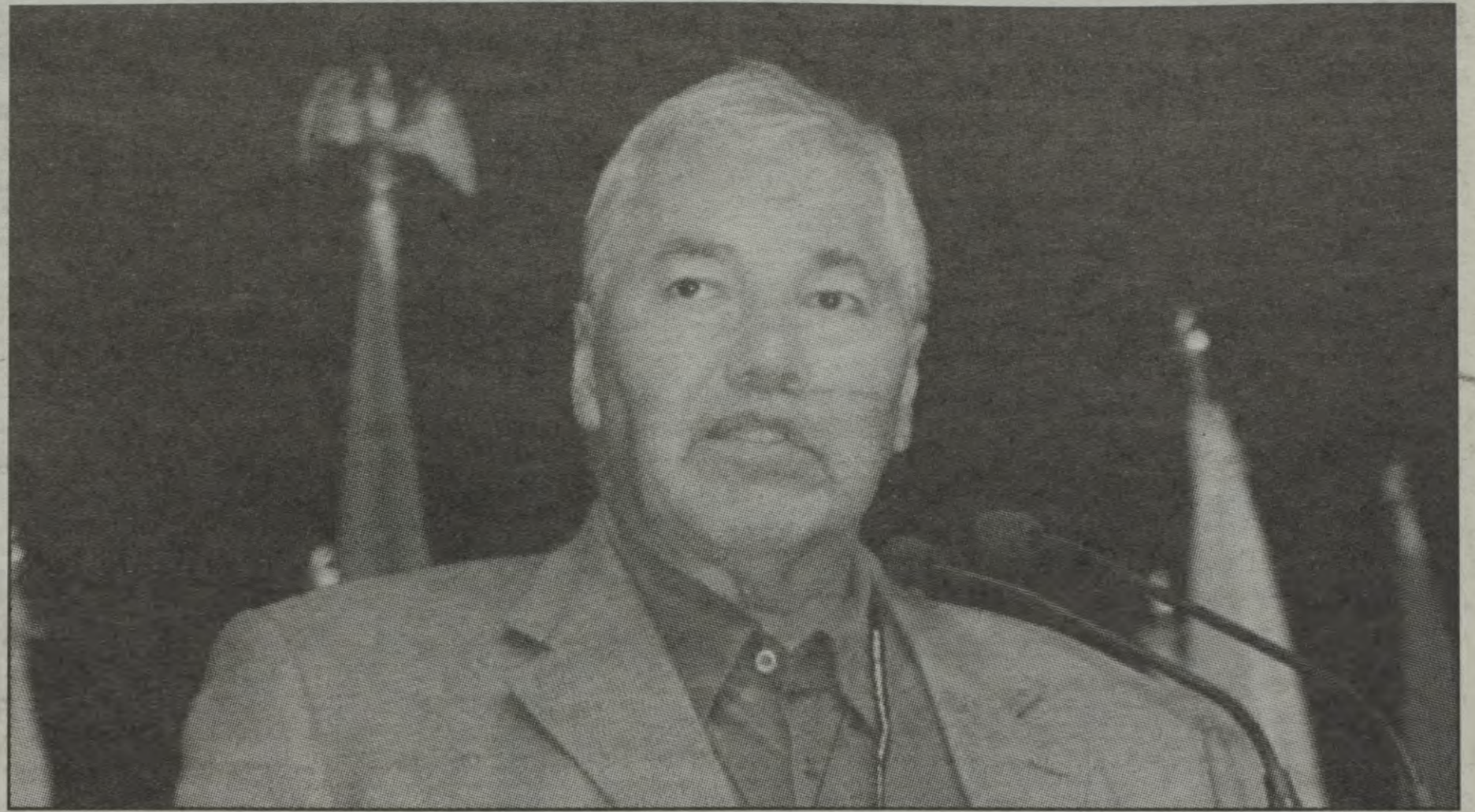


PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

Murray Sinclair was appointed to replace Justice Harry LaForme as chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

survivor committee, "we work with the commission until they decide in more detail exactly what we should be doing."

The committee is scheduled to meet quarterly with the TRC, although Arcand anticipates committee members will meet in smaller groups to hear survivors' stories.

"We anticipated equal representation (on the survivor committee), but there are three from Manitoba," said Blackwater. "What is important to us is an equal voice. The advisory committee should be networking with people from the different regions they come from."

Chairing the survivor committee is Gordon Williams. Other members are Barney Williams Jr., Doris Young, Eugene Arcand, John Banksland, John Morrisseau, Lottie May Johnson, Rebekah Uqi Williams, and Terri Brown.

With the appointment of the survivor committee, work will begin to set up the seven national

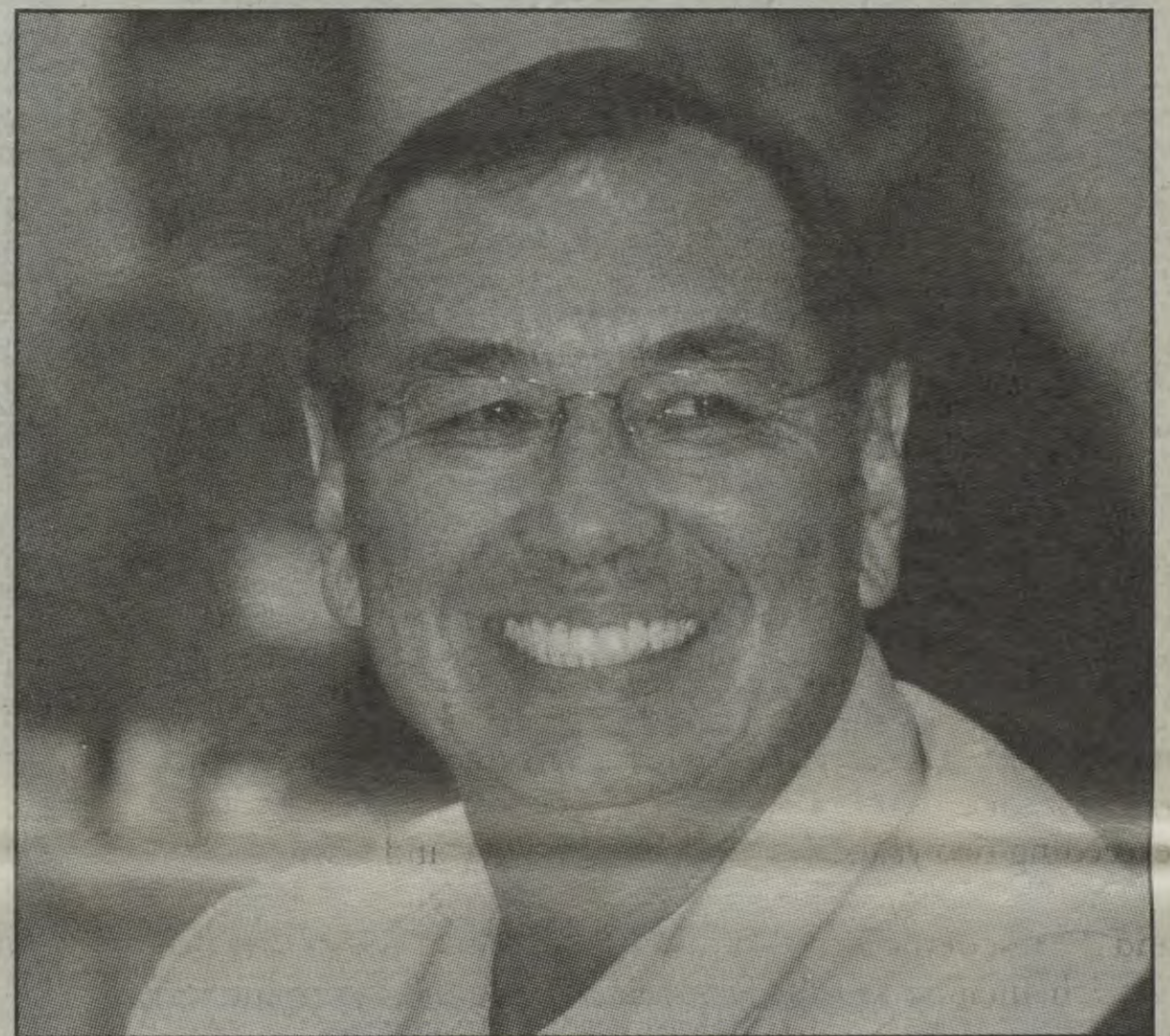


PHOTO: FILE

Wilton Littlechild

events that the TRC has been mandated to hold. Blackwater is hopeful that sites that are easily accessible for survivors will be chosen. Transportation costs are often a deciding factor for

survivors' participation.

Littlechild said the national events will also serve to bring awareness to the non-Indigenous Canadian population about what happened at residential schools.

# Citizen Act will stop the bleeding, says chief

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Writer

## SASKATOON

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) will create a Citizenship Act to determine membership. It will be "based on oral history rather than government dictating to us who is who," said Chief Lawrence Joseph.

The proposed Citizenship Act is an alternative to any federal government action that occurs in response to a decision rendered by the British Columbia Court of Appeal on the Sharon McIvor case.

The B.C. higher court has given Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) until April 2010 to make the legislative changes the court has ordered around First Nations status

qualifications.

The court has directed Parliament to amend Section 6(1)(a) and 6(1)(c). Section 6(1)(a) preserves the status of all persons who were entitled to status immediately prior to the April 17, 1985 amendments that came about through Bill C-31, while Section 6(1)(c) restores the status of (among others) people who were disqualified from status under the Marrying Out Rule and the Double Mother Rule.

Joseph said he has told INAC Minister Chuck Strahl that the McIvor case is not FSIN's concern.

"I asked him to help us create an act that we can actually utilize to prevent further legal action against the government. Just give it back to us. We'll clean it up and all you've got to do is acknowledge it and respect it."

While the Citizenship Act is an

FSIN initiative, Joseph, who is the Assembly of First Nations regional chief for Saskatchewan, noted that discussion to take the framework beyond the province to a national level has been initiated.

"It's resulting from McIvor becoming a priority. We need to do something. We need to be proactive," said Joseph.

FSIN's proposed Citizenship Act would give each of the 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan the authority to determine their citizenship. Individual authority, noted Joseph, is based on the fact that each of the 74 First Nations signed their own treaties.

"The task will be for each First Nation to go to their membership, and we have been assured that each First Nation will not be as discriminatory as the Indian Act," said Joseph.

Citizenship would not be

gender-biased, nor would there be a blatant disregard for responsibility and accountability, he said.

The FSIN was mandated by a special legislative assembly in July to develop a framework that could be used by First Nations in determining their own citizenship regulations. Joseph stressed that use of the framework will be determined by each First Nation and will not be dictated by FSIN or anyone else in authority.

"The big thing is that (citizenship) is community based and driven by membership," said Joseph.

No timeline has been set as to when the framework will be in place. FSIN is presently looking for seed funding to do the work. Money may come from the government or from FSIN's Treaty Rights Protection Fund.



# Grey cloud hangs over Site 41 celebration

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## TINY TOWNSHIP, Ont.

Some of the most prominent protesters of Site 41 are too preoccupied with the jail-time they're facing to celebrate the one-year moratorium on the controversial garbage dump they worked to achieve.

The halt of further construction on the development is a significant step forward in a battle they have been fighting for months.

"It's hard to celebrate when you know you might be going to jail," said Mohawk artist and activist Danny Beaton, who stationed himself outside of Site 41 to bring awareness to the potential contamination of the water reservoir beneath the dumpsite.

Beaton said he and 14 other protesters were arrested at the end of July for blocking the gates of Site 41, which was still under construction.

Fellow protester Vicky Monague is charged with intimidation and mischief under the Criminal Code. The penalty is a jail term of not more than 14 years. Beaton is charged with mischief and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

The Six Nations Elder said he and the rest of the local protesters—which include several farmers from the area—have a right to fight for the protection of water that some scientists are calling the cleanest drinking water in the world.

"Mohawks are allowed to protect our water and our farmland. Our culture is oneness with Mother Earth," said Beaton, who referred to the water as medicine. "All I was doing was protesting peacefully."

Monague feelings are similar to Beaton's. The Beausoleil First

Nation band member is proud to say that she had been protesting for 112 days.

The arrest has not deterred Monague from continuing her mission of protesting until the site is officially shut down; however, she feels that the newly-implemented one-year moratorium legitimizes the methods they used to draw attention to the cause.

"The political system was failing us, the legal system was failing us and there was nothing we could do besides block the gates at Site 41," said Monague.

The Ontario Provincial Police central region media relations officer Peter Leon agreed that the overall tone of the Site 41 protest had been peaceful, but once the law had been broken, officers were left with few choices.

"The dynamic changed significantly when the protesters went from the side of the road to blocking the access points," said Leon. "They were arrested and charged because they were directly violating sections of the Criminal Code by blockading the entry points."

Leon stressed that the arresting officers tried to avoid charging any of the protesters by clearly informing the people blocking the gates that they were breaking the law and warned them of the consequences if they didn't move off to the side of the road.

"We did not want to have to make any arrests at Site 41," said Leon. "Some of the protesters were elderly, and the last thing we would want to see is anybody hurt or injured."

Leon could not comment on whether the charges could possibly be dropped. The sergeant said they have a court date of Oct. 8 and at that time their fate will be left to the Ontario courts.

Some of the protesters' failure to adhere to the law and the threat

of their safety is one of the many reasons the Mayor of Tiny Township, Peggy Breckenridge, made sure the moratorium was placed on the agenda for the Aug. 25 council meeting.

Breckenridge referred to the commotion in her community as "disturbing" and that it needed to stop.

Breckenridge said she was confident the moratorium would be passed, but she admitted she was shocked when the votes came to 22-10.

"I was a little surprised that there were more converts than I thought there would be."

The mayor said she had spent a substantial amount of time speaking to fellow councillors and informing them of the potential contamination that could result from a landfill over top of the community's purest water source.

Breckenridge said she was confident there would enough votes in favor of completely killing the Site 41 project when the issue is brought to council in the Sept. 22 meeting. However, there is much to do before then.

"We have to make sure that if the motion is passed, that it is very clear that the county cannot turn around and sell the property to another waste management company that could in fact continue on with the site," said Breckenridge, who is in the process of taking care of any potential loop holes that could tarnish council's decision.

Working on ways to reduce garbage within her community and find alternative methods to dispose of their waste is also on Breckenridge's to-do list.

To-date, \$11-million has been invested into Site 41. At this point, only one-third of the project is complete.

Tiny Township is located in Simcoe County, approximately 150 kilometres north of Toronto.

# Significant movement made to get issues to the table

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## REGINA

The creation of an Aboriginal Affairs Ministers Working Group is a significant outcome of the recently held Council of Federations first ministers meeting in Regina.

National Chief Shawn Atleo said the creation of the group, which will prepare the agenda for a proposed First Ministers meeting to be held in November 2010, is a "significant agreement" with AFN recommendations.

"We will begin a concerted

effort to fully engage all of our people and all of our communities in this important opportunity. We must and we will lead this effort ensuring that our treaties and agreements are fully implemented and our governments respected and supported."

Beverly Jacobs, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, joined Atleo in presenting First Nations' concerns to the premiers and territorial leaders.

In her speaking notes, Jacobs pointed out, "I'm not here to talk about the disproportionate poverty, violence, inequality and

poor health outcomes of Aboriginal women. I'm here to talk about how we can work together to develop a comprehensive plan to make a change."

While the creation of the working group was seen as a positive sign, the August First Ministers' meeting discussed other significant issues facing First Nations right now.

Topping the list were the H1N1 flu virus, education, economic development, funding social programs and working with the federal government to address land and resource issues.

(See Issues on page 30.)

# Windspeaker news briefs

**U.S. ARMY SERGEANT DARBY MORIN OF** the Big River First Nation in northwestern Saskatchewan was killed Aug. 22 in a vehicle rollover accident near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. His first overseas combat tour began in December and was to last one year. He was married to Veronica, who also grew up in Big River, and they had two sons, Christian, 3, and Blue Sky, 19 months. Morin joined the U.S. military after graduating from the high school at Big River. His death has come as a blow to the community, which is located 120 kilometres northwest of Prince Albert. He was described as a role model, demonstrating there was a different path for First Nations youth to take other than getting into trouble or joining gangs.

## FIRST NATIONS ARE A THREAT

to the oil industry, reads a report released in July by the Canadian Defense Security and Foreign Affairs Institute. The report was penned by Tom Flanagan, author of *First Nations, Second Thoughts*, an influential advisor to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The CDSFAI is an independent research think tank that provides policy analysis in the areas of Canadian foreign policy, defense policy and international aid. Flanagan identified five "threat groups" to the oil industry, with First Nations, Métis and mainstream environmentalists lumped in with eco-terrorists and individual saboteurs on the list. Of the complaints listed as activities that threaten oilsands development, litigation, blockades, occupations, and boycotts are among those that could have an effect on the oil industry.

The report, entitled *Resource Industries and Security Issues in Northern Alberta*, was sponsored by Nexen Inc., a Canadian-based, global energy company operating in the Athabasca oilsands. The report describes the nightmare scenario of warrior societies and eco-terrorists forming alliances, though it admits the cooperation of all the threat groups working together in a common cause would be unlikely because of their differing social characteristics and conflicting political interests.

The Athabasca Chipewyan complain the report deflects attention away from the very real concerns they have for the health of their people who suffer high incidences of cancer. They believe the prolonged proximity of their people to the oil production facilities contributes to their health problems. The report, they charge, is a diversionary tactic meant to diminish the awareness being built globally of the size and scope of oilsands development in the region and their concerns about health and climate change ramifications.

In August, Lionel Lepine, a 31-year-old member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, travelled with others from northern Alberta to take their case to London, England, to protest the involvement of companies in the United Kingdom in oilsands development. Lepine said it was his obligation to spread the word about the sick and dying in his community. He attended a climate action camp there from Aug. 27 to Sept. 2.

## ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR PAROLE HAS

come and gone for Leonard Peltier, a member of the American Indian Movement who is serving two consecutive life sentences for the murder of two FBI agents. His request for parole was again denied. He attempted to gain release in 1993 as well. Peltier is next eligible for parole in 2024.

Peltier is 64 years old and is the only person serving time for the murders of agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams after a shoot-out during unrest on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in the 1970s. Robert Robideau and Darelle "Dino" Butler were also charged, but were acquitted in a separate trial. The jury found the shootings had been in self-defense, but Peltier did not go to trial with Robideau and Butler. He fled to Canada and was tried upon his return to the United States and found guilty.

Peltier has always denied he murdered the two men, insisting that the FBI framed him. World figures, including Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama, question the fairness of the proceedings leading to the conviction, and have called for Peltier's release. A statement from the FBI after the parole announcement reads "[Peltier's] callous criminal acts demonstrated a complete disrespect for human life and for the law. His time served in jail for their 1975 murders has not diminished the brutality of his crimes or the pain and sorrow felt by the families of his victims or the FBI family."

## MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS CHUCK STRAHL

has more on his plate now that summer is over. He's been appointed the minister responsible for the new Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, and will add the new responsibilities to his workload. He was officially named to the position in a ceremony in Ottawa Aug. 25. The agency will be headquartered in Iqaluit, with district offices located in Whitehorse and Yellowknife. The new agency will coordinate and deliver federal economic development activities at the regional level and develop policy, provide research and advocacy. It will be responsible for administering federal initiatives, including Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development, the Community Adjustment Fund, and infrastructure programs such as RInC and Aboriginal Business and Economic Development programs.

# Election of Atleo one for the history books

By Debora Steel  
Windspeaker Contributor

## CALGARY

Five began the race, but the first ballot in the July 22 election to choose a new national chief for the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) cleared the field for a run-off between Shawn Atleo and Perry Bellegarde.

Twenty-three hours and seven additional ballots later, the chiefs in assembly were still without a clear winner. The AFN's constitution holds that unless a candidate achieves 60 per cent support, the voting must continue. Hundreds of chiefs voted, time after time after time, but it was the decision of one man that finally said 58 per cent was close enough, and after a long day's night Bellegarde would concede to a young chief from Ahousaht.

Atleo's first ballot numbers encouraged his campaign team. He was going into the second ballot with a solid lead with 238 votes to Bellegarde's 162. He also had a determined block of support, with the BC caucus (but for a handful of the almost 200 votes from that region) firmly behind him.

John Beaucage of Ontario received 84 votes, a disappointing showing for a candidate that at

one time was considered a front runner.

Terrence Nelson of Manitoba pulled 57 votes and Bill Wilson of British Columbia 11. Nelson and Wilson were dropped from the second ballot automatically. They failed to achieve a required 15 per cent needed to go on.

Chief Bob Chamberlain, an Atleo supporter from Kwiksutaineuk Ah-kwa-mish First Nation on Vancouver Island, was cautiously optimistic.

"I believe the first round bears out that [A-in-chut, Atleo's traditional name] is showing the leadership that is necessary to step up to the national stage," Chamberlain said.

"I know the support that we have is only going to grow from here," he predicted going into round two. "I can't see it diminishing at all, and with these results I'm confident at this point..."

"But elections are elections," he added, and Chamberlain was to be proved correct, that nothing can be taken for granted.

Cliff Atleo, Sr., Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council president, had not anticipated a first ballot win so he was happy with the result.

"He's in the driver's seat," he said of A-in-chut's first place position, "and if he approaches Beaucage for even half of his votes,

and we pick up the ones from Nelson and Wilson, we've got it on the second ballot." The strength of Bellegarde's support had surprised Wickinnish, however, and kept his confidence in reserve.

Nelson and Wilson were soon at the podium for an announcement. They were throwing their support behind Bellegarde.

"I consider... Bellegarde to be the best remaining candidate. It's got nothing to do with Shawn," said Wilson. Some had claimed Wilson's involvement in the election was an attempt to "box someone out," though he denied it during an all-candidates forum on July 21.

When asked what criterion he was measuring Bellegarde against, Wilson said his candidate of choice was young, handsome and articulate.

"He's able to articulate the things we do. His campaign is based on a nation-to-nation rights agenda."

When asked if Wilson didn't believe that Atleo possessed those same qualifications, he said "Shawn has qualifications, I'm sure. I just happen to prefer in many ways the campaign that was waged by Perry Bellegarde. And he's going to make a great national chief."



PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

Candidate Shawn Atleo is heartily congratulated by campaign co-chair Doug Kelly as the first ballot results were announced. Atleo came in a strong first place, and hopes of a second-ballot were being entertained by supporters.

Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, was an Atleo's campaign co-chair. When asked about the Nelson/Wilson announcement he said "Well it's early in the day. Obviously we are going to be here for awhile."

"It's going to be interesting to see where Mr. Beaucage's support will go." Phillip wouldn't have to wait long to find out.

With only 84 votes, the writing was on the wall for the grand council chief of the Anishinabek Nation in Ontario. Beaucage spent about 10 minutes with his

team before he was back with an announcement of his own. He was voluntarily removing himself from the race, and was asking his supporters to go to Bellegarde.

This decision, ironically, may have a hurt the Bellegarde campaign, some of his supporters would later say. If Beaucage would have stayed one more round, the momentum would have pushed their man to a win. But even if every vote from the three bottom candidates went Bellegarde's way, he would still fall short of the 332 vote threshold required.

(See Atleo on page 13.)

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# Honouring a leader, celebrating a legacy

By Debora Steel  
Windspeaker Contributor

## CALGARY

The tribute evening held July 20 for outgoing national chief Phil Fontaine was filled with good music, fond memories and lots of laughter.

Fontaine was set to depart the national stage, and a new man was poised to take his place as head of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), but not before friends, family and colleagues had their say on three terms of leadership.

Fontaine nabbed the top spot in the organization in 1997, was defeated in 2000, rallied for another stab at the job in 2003 and stayed another term before he said his goodbyes in July at the AFN convention. His legacy of leadership will be a subject for discussion for years to come, but on this night there was little doubt that his efforts on the residential school file topped the list of accomplishments.

The thread began with his public disclosure of his personal experience as a student in residential school, and wound its way through to the settlement agreement that included common experience payments to survivors—the largest, most comprehensive legal settlement in Canadian history—and the

establishment of the first ever truth and reconciliation commission in the western world.

Then came the public apology in the House of Commons by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in June 2008, and that was topped off with a statement of concern and regret from Pope Benedict XVI a year later.

“It’s been a wonderful nine years,” said Fontaine.

Gene Zwozdesky, Alberta’s Aboriginal Affairs minister, presented Fontaine with a framed glass feather to acknowledge his leadership, saying the outgoing chief left big moccasins to fill.

Zwozdesky said Fontaine had created great interest in First Nations issues over the years, and he thanked him for making a difference in the lives of thousands of people.

Grand Chief Charles Weaselhead of the Treaty 7 Chiefs talked first about Fontaine’s love of hockey—Fontaine owns a hockey team in Manitoba—and then described some of the characteristics that fueled Fontaine’s success as national chief, like his skill as a diplomat and consensus builder, especially when it came time to negotiate the Kelowna Accord.

“It was not written on the back of a napkin,” Fontaine would say in defense of the failed initiative. He was making reference, of

course, to the now infamous comment about how the accord came into existence. Conservative MLA Monte Solberg dismissed the agreement in a radio interview as having no importance; a mere scribble on a napkin.

In his final address to the chiefs in assembly on July 21, Fontaine derided the Conservative federal government for not living up to the agreement, forged with former prime minister Paul Martin, only because it had a Liberal brand. He said it took months of negotiation to come to the agreement, but the accord died a quick death at the hands of a new government whose partisan politics cast a shadow over the solutions developed to end the poverty faced by First Nations, to deal with their housing concerns, their health problems, and the gap in education outcomes between Native and non-Native.

It would not be the only job Fontaine would take at the Conservatives. He would not allow them to take credit for the apology to residential school survivors. Though Stephen Harper’s words in the House of Commons were sincere, Fontaine insisted, it was Martin who came to understand that the Canadian government must take ownership of the harm done to First Nations in the residential school system, and it was Martin who pledged

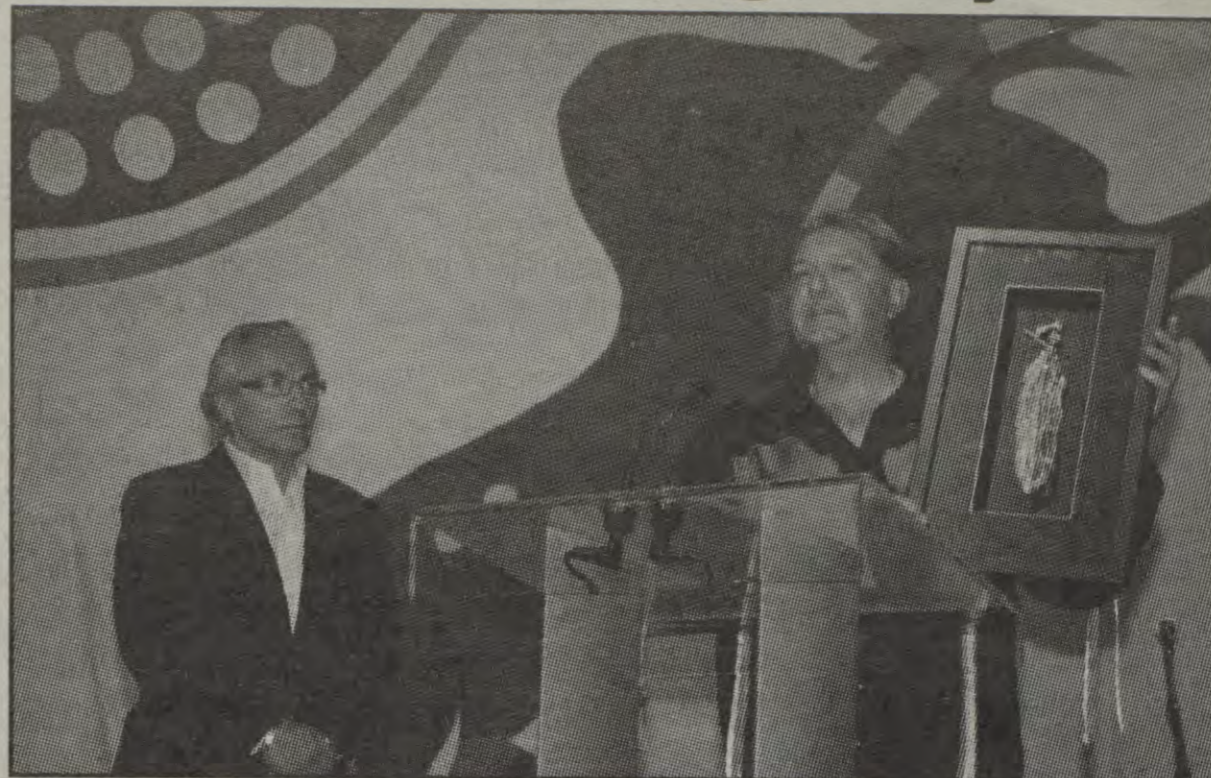


PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

Gene Zwozdesky (right), Alberta’s Aboriginal Affairs minister, presents Phil Fontaine with a framed glass feather during a tribute evening for the outgoing national chief on July 20.

the apology.

That the AFN has had a rocky relationship with the federal Conservatives is hardly a secret, but it has become exacerbated by the favor the government has shown to the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, another national Native organization that states it speaks for First Nations.

This relationship sticks in the craw of many members of the assembly. It was stated more than once over the course of the Calgary convention that there was “only one legitimate voice for First Nations,” that being the AFN.

Crystal Shawanda performed at the tribute evening. She sang You Can’t Let Go, her first single to

hit the top five on the charts in Canada.

Don Kelly, the communications director for the AFN, who moonlights as a comedian, pulled together a set that had his soon-to-be former boss in stitches. Among the gems: You may know the saying ‘Pretty fly for a white guy.’ Well, according to Kelly, Fontaine is ‘Not too shabby for an Anishnawbe.’

Sierra Noble, who recently opened for Paul McCartney, performed the Warriors Lament on the fiddle. She thanked the chief for all the doors he had helped open for her.

(See Tribute on page 16.)



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# Women make inroads to political power

By Shari Narine  
Windspeaker Contributor

## CALGARY

While driving to attend the Assembly of First Nations Annual General Assembly in July, it occurred to Nekaneet First Nations Chief Alice Pahtayken that none of the candidates in the election for national chief were women.

"As chiefs in our community, we are nurturing our own communities right now, building healthy communities, building healing communities," said Pahtayken. "We have no time to run as national chief. We're trying to fix the problems back home first."

That women are a source of inspiration at home, a source of leadership and an issue to be addressed was a prevalent theme for the three top-ranked national chief candidates.

"I think the message is real clear with the (candidates) that women do have a voice and are taking on leadership roles," said Judy Wilson, chief of Neskonlith Indian Band of the Secwepemc Nation in British Columbia.

Women in leadership roles was addressed for the first time at an AFN assembly with an evening

set aside to acknowledge the inroads women have made in acquiring political power in First Nations communities.

Special guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Cora Voyageur, a member of Chipewyan First Nation, and author of the book *Firekeepers of the 21st Century: Women Chiefs in Canada*, in which she examines women in leadership in First Nations across the country.

Voyageur, a professor of sociology at the University of Calgary, said a student piqued her interest when she was asked about women leaders in First Nations. Voyageur's study was the first systematic academic analysis of women leaders in First Nations.

Women chiefs are at an all-time high with one out of every five First Nations leaders a woman. Voyageur pointed out that it wasn't until 1951 that the word "male" was removed from Sect. 76 of the Indian Act, which not only established who could run as chief but also who could vote for chief and councillors.

A year after the amendment, Elsie Marie Knott was elected chief for the Mississaugas of Mud Lake (now known as Curve Lake) in Ontario. She was elected at 33 years of age, the first woman to hold the position in any First

Nation. She won eight consecutive elections, serving 16 years.

Many decades later, Pahtayken, who was one of the women Voyageur spoke to for her book, followed in Knott's footsteps. Not only is Pahtayken chief in her southwest Saskatchewan First Nation, but her council is made up entirely of women.

"They're young, energetic and educated. It gives me hope. They're good role models."

Voyageur's research has found that women chiefs have more formal education than most others in their communities. She also noted that many have made the transition from administration, where they have learned about the issues and the processes, and the majority of them have served as councillors before taking on the position of chief.

Wilson said women are beginning to overcome the barriers that have held them back from national leadership, and that will allow them to run for the top position at the AFN in the not-so-distant future.

Leadership training, government restructuring, education, and the empowering of young women are all moving women in the direction of



PHOTO: SHARI NARINE

Dr. Cora Voyageur

challenging for the top job for First Nations in Canada.

"Women are beginning to position themselves at the regional level (of AFN organizations) to gain the experience to make the move toward the national level," said

Wilson.

While national chief is not a position Pahtayken is interested in, she can easily name a handful of women who would not only make excellent candidates but who could serve in that position readily.

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# Atleo elected AFN National Chief

(Continued from page 10)

If you don't have B.C., you don't have 60 per cent, said one Atleo staff member. Bellegarde would have to woo support from A-in-chut, and that support remained solid over the course of the evening.

Atleo and Bellegarde were kept busy visiting the regional caucuses while their supporters were in halls and restaurants, on the phones and in the streets trying to convince the soft votes to come their way.

Atleo's experience was in question, and, in particular, his experience with treaties. In B.C., the vast majority of the province is unceded. Treaty nations were unsure if A-in-chut could be effective in helping them solve their issues with treaty implementation.

And it seemed that the treaty nations would not be moved. The second ballot results came as shock to Atleo supporters. With 548 ballots cast, the vote was separated by only four votes, 276 for Atleo, and 272 for Bellegarde.

Bellegarde's confidence was emboldened. He asked permission to speak with the BC caucus, a courageous move by anyone's standards given the devotion to the Atleo cause many enthusiastically expressed.

Bellegarde was greeted politely, but raised some hackles when he asked for unity under a new leader, leaving the impression that there was no question that leader would be him. He opened the floor to questions, and that opened the door to concerns about his track record.

When Bellegarde was grand chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN), the provincial government imposed the provincial sales tax on First Nations people, despite their tax exempt status. Bellegarde

admitted it happened under his watch, but said the province did not consult the FSIN, and there was no money to fight it in the courts.

That led delegates to openly question Bellegarde's ability to stand up to the federal government.

Bellegarde attempted to counter with examples of his strength, using a protest he took part in against the oil giant Enbridge to demonstrate his commitment to protecting treaty land and title rights.

Bellegarde was told that the BC caucus appreciated him coming to see them, but as he left the room it erupted in a chant of A-in-chut, A-in-chut, A-in-chut.

Delegates and supporters were reminded of Atleo's accomplishments—that he brought together the First Nations groups in B.C. under the First Nations Leadership Council, and what flowed from that was the fisheries, forestry and mining and energy councils. They were told to go out and speak with others, be direct about his strength of character, strength of culture and spiritual strength.

On the third ballot, the results were even closer, with only one vote dividing the camps. But it was something to cheer about, nonetheless, because the one vote extra was with the Atleo team. A-in-chut was asked how he felt about the tight race.

"We are going to make sure that our people are the winners," Atleo said, admitting as well that he was excited.

"I am so deeply appreciative of the leaders who continue to engage in a difficult discussion about the office of national chief."

Did it say anything that the people were so split, a reporter asked. Atleo said it wasn't a split on where leaders wanted to go.

"I think it's exciting that they are contemplating which

candidate should be the one to take us forward."

Splits were important in the race. The Ontario caucus was split, as was Saskatchewan, Bellegarde's own province. Chief Wallace Fox of Onion Lake, Sask. not only endorsed Atleo, he spoke on his behalf, introducing him to the candidates' forum the day before.

While the Atleo campaign continued to struggle with the treaty question, Bellegarde's team had an issue of credibility to deal with.

Bellegarde had made a promise when visiting with a number of caucuses. If he was behind after the third ballot, he would step aside.

The Atlantic chiefs confirmed that they had heard it. The same promise had been made to the Yukon and Northwest Territories caucuses. But could anyone expect that with such a small spread Bellegarde would throw in the towel?

Still, the Atleo team had a wedge that could be used to pry away votes from Bellegarde in the next round. This race was now about integrity, they said. Would Bellegarde prove to be a man of his word?

Bellegarde countered. Yes, he had made a promise, but there was a condition. He said he would drop out of the race if he was behind by a substantial amount. That was not the case, so the election would carry on.

Round four results came in: Bellegarde was now ahead with 267 votes to Atleo's 264.

The Atleo team seemed unconcerned.

"It's a small swing. It's not momentum," said Cliff Atleo. "We will turn it the other way."

Uchucklesaht Chief Councillor Charlie Cootes Sr. was in agreement.

"Integrity will win out in the end," he said. It was just a bump in the road. After watching

national First Nations politics over the past 42 years, Cootes determined the election at this point was all about staying power.

"We are preparing to stay until the end. We have a lot of high-spirited people here," Cootes explained.

The fourth ballot would be the only round Bellegarde would win

By 2:30 a.m. on July 23, Atleo and Bellegarde were in a dead heat—254 to 254. With the sides firmly entrenched, the delegates went to a sixth ballot.

It was nearing four in the morning when the sixth ballot results were read. Atleo had inched forward garnering 256 votes of the 498 available. Despite the late hour, less than 40 voting delegates had called it quits. The day had begun with 532.

Bellegarde lost more ground than he had the entire evening, dropping back to 242. It was the fifth time he had finished in second place.

But despite all efforts, all the cajoling and deal making, the promises and the persuasion, neither candidate could muster the 60 per cent. While Atleo was up by 14, there was more convincing to do. A delegation was sent to speak with the BC votes that remained in the Bellegarde camp, and Manitoba wanted to hear more about Atleo's experience with treaties, so a delegation, including representatives of the Douglas Treaty on Vancouver Island, was sent to talk with that caucus. What would it take to get Atleo over the top, supporters wondered.

Atleo entered the conference centre holding an eagle feather in his left hand. He sat beside his beloved Granny Elsie Robinson awaiting the seventh ballot results. And as they were read, a cheer went through the crowd as Atleo pulled ahead again, this time by 34 votes (259 to 225); and yet 34 short to earn the required

60 per cent.

Many observers felt, however, it was time for Bellegarde to concede defeat. If he was unable to convince 50-plus Atleo supporters to break ranks and join his team, what chance was there to convince 65?

Still, Bellegarde had a mandate, he said.

"We're going to 60 per cent," he told Atleo's delegates as he walked around the room shaking hands. It was closing in on 6 a.m. and an eighth ballot had been called.

The two candidates met at the side of the room and were ushered behind a screen for a private discussion. A security detail had been posted keeping media at bay. Bill Erasmus, regional chief of the Northwest Territories, held a shell glowing red with burning smudge. He approached Atleo co-chair Stewart Phillip and asked if he could take the medicine behind the screen for the two men, and permission was granted.

It took only a short time to learn the results of their discussions. Delegates would be voting again. The announcement was greeted with a loud chorus of boos.

The people had been pushed to their limit. The future of the AFN was now in the hands of 454 voting delegates. The attritions rate was killing Bellegarde's dream to lead the AFN. Results in the eighth round showed a Bellegarde slide to 189 to Atleo's 265, still two per cent shy of an outright win.

Twenty-three hours would pass from the time the polls opened on July 22, with a record-breaking eight voting rounds, but just before 8 a.m. on Thursday morning as the electoral officer announced that the chiefs and proxies would be headed to a ninth vote, a cheer erupted as contender Bellegarde charged across the floor, and in a crush of media, hugged Atleo and conceded the contest to him.

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# [ strictly speaking ] What's an Indian worth these days?

Here's a surprise. Believe it or not, First Nations seem to be a lot richer these days. In fact, a lot of mainstream Canadians are under the impression that many of us are substantially well off.

That's news to us. Even more so, it is somewhat of a shocking surprise, considering only 20 or more years ago, we were considered the tragic, poverty-stricken, forgotten and victimized segment of this country's population. A lot has changed in the last decade or so. The problem is we didn't notice that it had happened. Nobody told us.

In most Canadian's collective memory, our reserves were portrayed as little more than Aboriginal wastelands, dirt roads awash with abandoned cars and three-legged dogs. There were hundreds of communities that existed far below the poverty line, and its residents, victims of a social system that doomed them to fail and, at best, marginally exist.

Substandard housing, poor diets, lacklustre health care, indifferent governmental bureaucracy, all were to blame for



## THE URBANE INDIAN Drew Hayden Taylor

the dire economic straits our people were condemned to live in. We were the fourth world, an oppressed nation within a nation. We led bleak and pitiful lives.

But luckily, happy days are here again! According to word on the street, we all are dripping in money. What a difference a few years can make. Evidently, when I wasn't looking, our standard of living suddenly rose and went through the roof. I say this because on more than one occasion, I have talked with numerous people of non-Native ancestry who are of the strong belief that Native people are currently riding a wave of substantial financial success. Alas, I and my landlord know the sad truth.

The most common rumor is that Native people have a free ride in universities and colleges.

Contrary to popular belief, Native youth do not have unlimited financial support (though it's a nice thought), and most have to claw and scratch their way through the pillars of higher education like other non-Native people.

Each band sets its own education policy, so statistics can vary wildly from community to community. In some areas, only 25 per cent of college students receive Band funding, and 15 per cent at the university level, while some reserves do have a higher support rate. There is often a waiting list, and the living allowance, \$675 a month, has not changed in a long time.

Keep in mind the drop-out rate in most First Nations high schools is double, and sometimes triple the national rate. Also, for those that do qualify for Band assistance, some reserves give you

a limit of four years to achieve whatever degree or diploma you intend before funding is cut. Additionally, Native students are expected to locate other sources of educational support, similarly to what the color-challenged society must do. The road to a bachelors or masters is not paved with gold, since culturally, we never had roads or gold.

Luxurious royalties pouring in from casinos are also another fallacy. In Ontario, the money coming from Casino Rama, as an example, has more strings tied to it than a government grant (I speak as an artist). First of all, casino money is constantly in flux. Payments vary depending on how well people lose annually at the casino, so it's hard to budget. Additionally, the payment can only be utilized by five branches of reserve government; education, economic development, infrastructure and capital, culture and language, and health.

Distribution to individuals on a per capita basis is illegal.

As for oil and mineral rights, only a handful of Aboriginal communities across Canada have successfully managed to maintain

ownership of those lucrative rights, mostly in Alberta. Last year, several people from the Ardach Algonquin First Nations were released from jail, after spending two months there for protesting against the exploration of minerals in their back yard, and their lack of legal standing in the issue. It is rapidly becoming a growing issue.

Residential school payments are perhaps the most laughable misunderstanding, if it wasn't so tragic. About 78,000 former students across Canada are eligible for compensation, many passing away each year. As many as 21,000 claims are still being processed. The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations reports that more than 2,300 people have been rejected in that province alone. Each survivor gets a flat \$10,000 if they attended a school, with an additional three grand for every year there. Also, there is extra money if you were physically abused. But each claimant must prove it, in whatever way they can.

As you can see, the reality of the numbers really don't justify the creation of an Aboriginal Billionaires Club. Yet.

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# Homes program struggles to find qualified candidates



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

It takes many hands to complete a home, and some First Nations find it difficult to come up with the volunteer support needed to qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home.

By Isha Thompson  
Windspeaker Staff Writer

## ALDERVILLE, Ont.

Habitat for Humanity Canada (HFHC) is doing what it can to put needy Aboriginal families into comfortable homes they can call their own. But the program is struggling to qualify people because they fail to meet a basic requirement—having the volunteers needed to construct the homes.

The program, first launched in September 2007, makes homeownership a reality for Aboriginal families both on and off reserve.

"In some communities the hardest thing is to get community volunteers to actually come build a house," said program manager Gerry Fairfax. The selected family must contribute 500 hours to the construction of their home, and support of community members willing to lend a hand is non-negotiable.

Fairfax said he had spoken with many Elders in the communities who say it is a common trait among the current generation who have a sense of entitlement when it comes to housing. They

lack any interest to help their neighbors build homes.

The HFH Aboriginal Housing Program was designed to help "ease the Aboriginal housing crisis;" however, only certain communities qualify after they agree to the terms.

Over and above the volunteer requirements, the families chosen must be "in need" of proper housing, they must be in a low-income bracket, and most importantly, they must have a secure income that will enable them to pay a zero per cent interest mortgage.

Fairfax said it he finds it difficult to deny the service to First Nation communities that are not set up to support new homeowners or that lack band members who can commit to having a mortgage.

"This is homeownership. This is not social housing," Fairfax said. "You have to be working. You have to be paying payments. It's not a freebie."

The program relies on support from lead sponsor, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), which provides seed money for approved projects.

It was \$10,000 of CMHC seed

money that gave April Smoke, 30, the opportunity to own a home in her community of Alderville First Nation in south-central Ontario. The mother of a five-year-old boy was lost for words when asked to describe how she felt about being chosen for a new home by Habitat for Humanity Northumberland.

"I don't know what to say. I am just in awe," said Smoke.

"It's an honor. It's an absolute honor for me to be not only back here with my community, but be supported by so many great organizations," said Smoke.

The recent graduate of St. Clair County Community College is essentially the model candidate for the HFH Aboriginal Housing Program.

Smoke has a job supporting individuals with disabilities. The single mother was also happy to put in the work to build her home by fulfilling the required 500 hours of construction work, which HFH refers to as sweat equity.

Smoke, who will share the home with her mother and brother, is not only looking forward to returning to Alderville, she is most excited to leave her current living situation,



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

April Smoke committed to 500 hours of sweat equity to qualify for a home from the Habitat For Humanity Aboriginal Housing Program. Smoke, her five year old son Josh and Aunt Deb Martin take a break from construction on her new home at Alderville First Nation.

which she described as inadequate.

"Definitely unsafe and very scary. The neighborhood has a high crime rate. I keep my doors locked pretty much all the time," said Smoke, who added that she hoped to break the cycle of the disadvantages of growing up in a low-income family by raising her five-year-old son in their new 1,100 square-foot bungalow.

Smoke's home will be finished by Sept. 21. Although the land is not directly on the Alderville reserve, it is still located on property that is owned by the band.

Chief James Marsden of Alderville First Nation said he was happy to work with HFH to help build homes for band members who want to return to the community. Marsden explained that there is not nearly enough housing available for every member that is in need.

"If we receive 10 applications, we can only allow two to three a year," said Marsden, who added that the lack of homes often puts the Alderville housing committee in the tough position of choosing one member over another.

"Affordable housing is what

everyone needs."

The chapter for Habitat for Humanity in Windsor, Ont. announced on Aug. 19 they had also chosen an urban Aboriginal family to receive a home.

HFHC is in the process of coming to mutual agreements to begin building in both Métis and First Nation communities in Edmonton, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

Fairfax said in order for the Aboriginal Housing Program to become more of a success, he may need to get creative and find different ways to rally volunteers.

"Maybe set up a program where kids got paid six to 10 weeks of the build by some other program, but they would come work with Habitat for Humanity and learn carpentry," said Fairfax, who added that the HFH builds are the perfect way for post-secondary trade programs to allow graduating students to get work experience.

According to a 2006 Statistics Canada census, there are 255,415 private dwellings that are owned by one or more of the Aboriginal occupants. This means that out of all Aboriginal households, 1.9 per cent are homeowners.

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# Tribute to Phil Fontaine

(continued from page 11.)

Rick Simon, the AFN regional chief of the Atlantic community, reminisced about a time when he and Fontaine went to a community where they were fed a meal of moose meat. Fontaine told the woman serving him, 'You know I'm a vegetarian,' and without missing a beat the woman said, 'So was the moose.'

"It was the first time I'd seen him lost for words," Simon said.

A video montage was put together by Fred Cattroll. In it, guests at the event sent thanks and good wishes to Fontaine, some describing their experiences in dealing with man.

"He's a pest," one woman joked. One man described Fontaine as "our national shaman."

Others said he was famous for never being on time, of being forgetful, especially of his BlackBerry. But for the most part, Fontaine was described as unflappable; a straight-talking leader who had lifted a weight off of the people's shoulders, who "opened doors to free us from the shackles of hurt and pain."

Maya Fontaine, Phil's daughter, said she was humbled by the genuine affection shown during the tribute to her father. She accompanied her brother Mike to the stage with their own thoughts about the man they called dad.

She said it was a relief that her father was leaving his leadership position behind, and she hoped he would find something to do that he loved as much as the job he was bidding farewell to. Maya said she sometimes wondered where her father found the strength to carry on, with little sleep and barely time for a meal.

Maya lauded him for his brave stance on residential school "in our house and then in the House of Commons."

"We gave him up to serve our people."

When it was his turn to respond, Fontaine thanked his supporters for the "warm and generous words."

"It's been a wonderful ride for me." He said his time as national chief was a blessing and a privilege.

"I've enjoyed every second of those nine years."

He talked about two "special people" in his life, his mother and father. He described his father JB as a hardworking, devoted dad. He passed on when Fontaine was seven. Phil was in his first year of residential school.

Fontaine's mother Agnes raised 12 children in extremely poor circumstances after his father's life insurance ran out.

It was this poverty that informed and guided Fontaine's leadership.

"No one deserves to be poor,"

he said, "and too many of our people are poor."

Fontaine said his mother was a formidable person who was tough, strong and fiercely protective of her family. To provide an example of her forcefulness, Fontaine lovingly described an altercation she had with the hydro man who had come to disconnect the electricity when Agnes couldn't afford to pay the bill.

After the man had gone up the pole, she stood at the bottom of it with a broom daring him to come down without reconnecting her to the grid.

Fontaine said he was forever grateful to his mother and had stood on her shoulders to achieve what he had over the years.

Fontaine talked about his love of a good time, of music, of running, and of Italian food.

And while he spoke of the things he may be remembered for he also discussed the issues that remained outstanding that he would hand over to the new national chief: the too many children in state care, the communities that lacked safe drinking water or were without schools.

He said no one person works on these things alone. His success had been the result of a collective effort by many people.

"I was just the voice."



PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

Crystal Shawanda performed at the tribute evening.



PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

Don Kelly, the communications director for the AFN, who moonlights as a comedian, pulled together a set that had his soon-to-be former boss in stitches.

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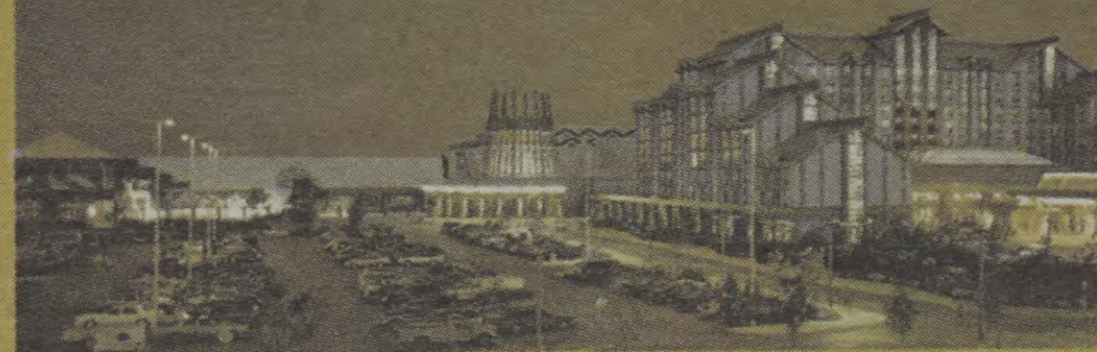
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## Fontaine to consult at RBC

Phil Fontaine, the former national chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), has been appointed Special Advisor to RBC. He will provide advice and counsel to RBC's Canadian businesses to help the company deepen its relationships with Aboriginal governments, communities and businesses in Canada. In 2007, RBC signed an agreement with the AFN, formalizing its commitment to Aboriginal peoples with a two-year action plan to help build strong, sustainable Aboriginal economies.

RBC reports that Fontaine will have significant involvement in many of RBC's key corporate citizenship and sponsorship initiatives, including the RBC Blue Water Project and the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. His first project will be to help ensure that RBC maximizes the involvement of the Aboriginal community in the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.



PHOTO: DEBORA STEEL

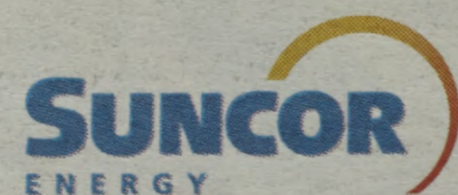
Phil Fontaine is offered a Hudson's Bay blanket at the tribute evening held in his honour.

## Phil Fontaine A job well done

Suncor Energy salutes Phil Fontaine on his retirement as National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations. His unprecedented three terms as National Chief are a testament to his deep commitment to First Nations peoples. Chief Fontaine's tireless work in building a more compassionate and fair society is a legacy that inspires all Canadians.



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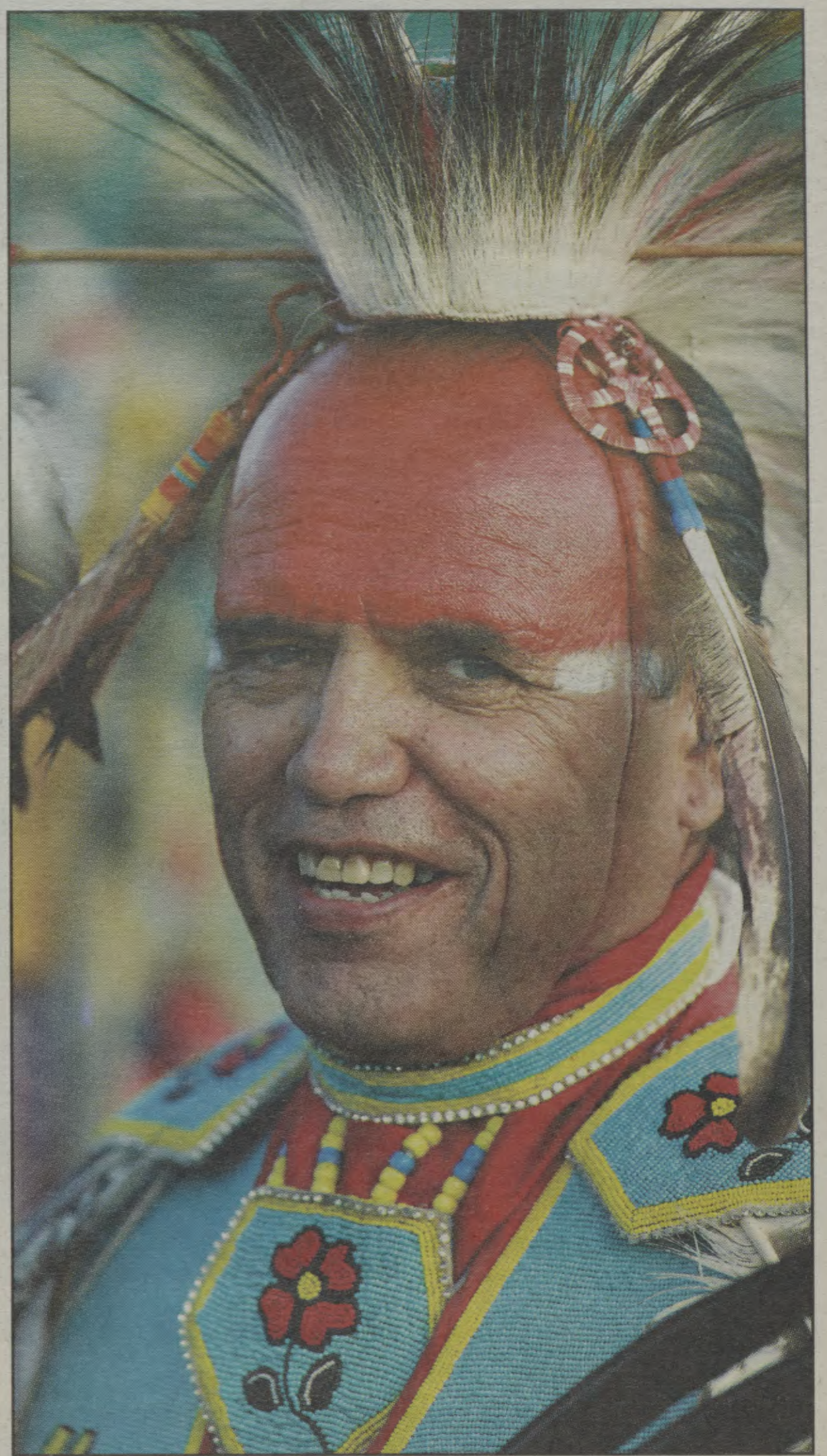


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# ON THE POWWOW TRAIL



Puuuuuleeeeeze.  
Devon Cantre is starting to look impatient at the Alexis First Nation Powwow, Alberta



Big smiles.  
Good times at the Paul Band Powwow, Alberta.



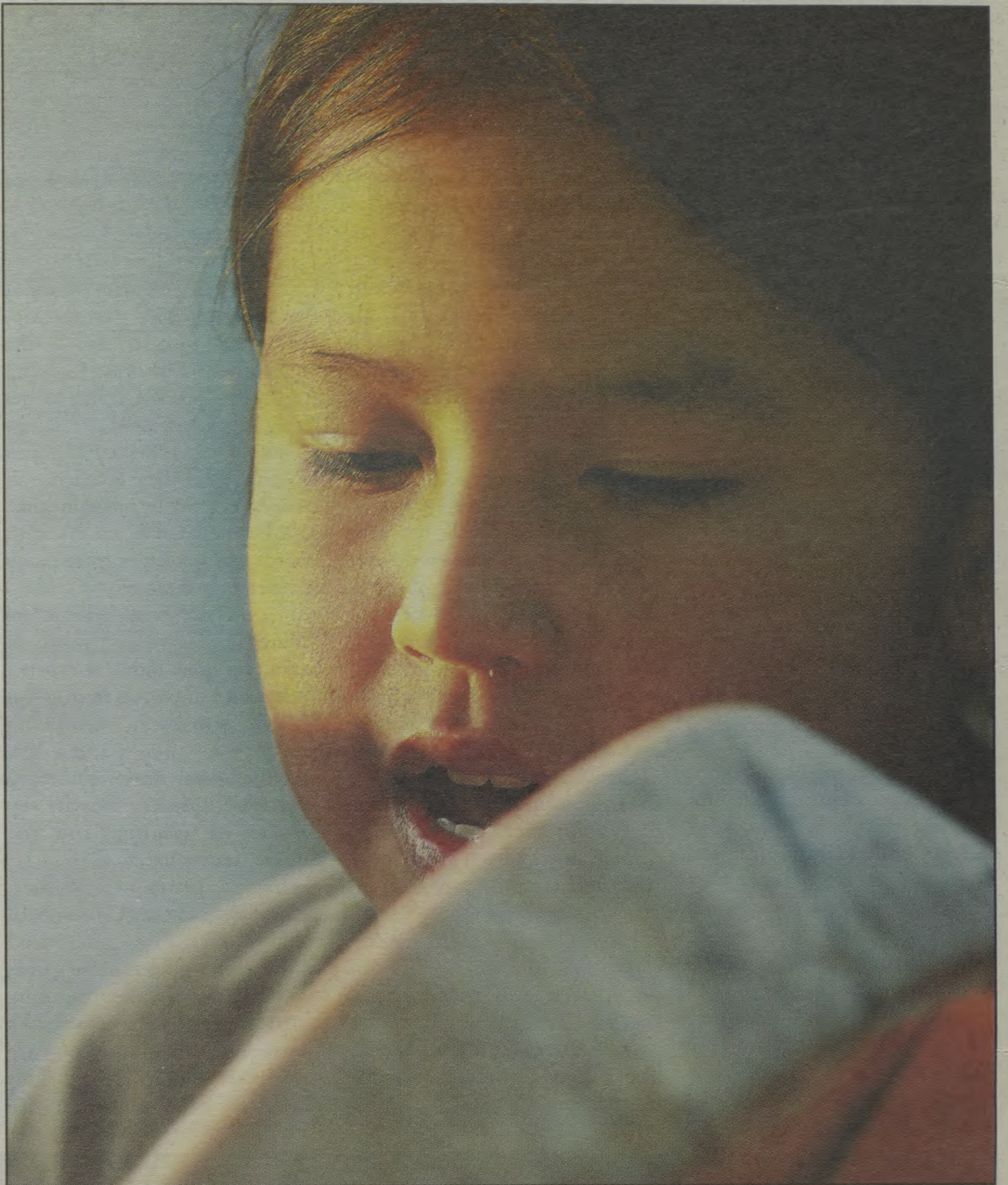
Things the make you go hmmm.  
This young dancer is thinking things through at the Alexis First Nation Powwow, Alberta

# ON THE POWWOW TRAIL

It's Powwow season – so Bert Crowfoot, *Windspeaker* publisher and photographer, packed up his truck and his camera and hit the Powwow trail. Bert has spent the summer at events and gatherings throughout Western Canada and the USA. We share some of Bert's amazing images with you here. For more photos please check out Bert's web site at [www.bertcrowfootphotography.com](http://www.bertcrowfootphotography.com) or via facebook.



Noble pose.  
A quiet moment is captured at the Paul Band Powwow, Alberta.



Never too young.  
This young drummer was participating at the Paul Band Powwow, Alberta.



Kiss the photographer.  
This friendly face was at the Paul Band Powwow, Alberta.



Little Boy Blue.  
This young dancer was taking part in the Poundmaker's Powwow, Alberta.

# FSIN seeks full control of gaming on reserves

By **Andréa Ledding**  
Windspeaker Contributor

## WHITECAP FIRST NATION, Sask.

During the inaugural First Nations Gaming Expo at the Dakota Dunes Casino, Chief Lawrence Joseph announced the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) was preparing to take full control of gaming on reserves, creating a gaming commission to return all profits to the 74 member bands.

"The province gets 25 per cent of all of our profits and certainly that's something that's been an irritant in First Nations since its inception," Joseph said, adding they are prepared to work with the province, if possible, or without them, if necessary, in lobbying Ottawa to recognize their complete jurisdiction over First Nations gaming.

The revenues are sorely needed for First Nations communities for housing, education, health care, and unfulfilled treaty promises. When on-reserve gaming first began, the FSIN received only about 37 per cent of the revenues.

The province said it is committed to discussing the proposal, which would require federal amendments to the Criminal Code legislation currently governing gaming.

"It may very well come down to a legal battle, and if so we are prepared to deal with that as needed," Joseph said. Legally, the jurisdiction handed over to the provinces by the federal government should never have been taken from the First Nations, argued one presenter.

"Where is the battle or court case or law where we lost our jurisdiction?" asked FSIN Senator Roland Crow. "Did we have a referendum to give up our jurisdiction? You've heard the term use it or lose it. That's where we're going to be."

Crow said responsibility to plan for a successful future lies with First Nations themselves, not governments, who he observes have become addicted to their portion of the gaming money.

"The fundamental issue here is sovereignty," said Danielle Bush, a lawyer specializing in gaming and regulations. Whereas the United States is more progressive in recognizing Native sovereignty in certain areas like gaming, Canada works from a far more paternalistic position, and an "archaic" Criminal Code.

Her colleague Gordon Baker said the Indian Act is an antiquated and paternalistic regime never designed for commerce, and difficult to live under. Bush sees the main opening for bands is as gaming agents for

the Crown.

Saskatoon Tribal Chief Felix Thomas said First Nations have so often been left out of economic development, and handicapped by the Act and its Indian Agents, and a shift needs to occur.

Recently appointed Liquor and Gaming Services Minister Christine Tell gave an overview of the Saskatchewan partnership, noting that with six casinos, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) is one of the largest employers of First Nations people in the province and also recognized for their excellence in business practice by magazines like *Sask Business* and *Maclean's*, with awards and accolades from many independent sources.

The two-day event held on the Whitecap reserve just south of Saskatoon drew industry experts, leaders, and employees from across North America, featuring presenters and panels on jurisdictional and regulatory practices, industry trends, the history of gaming, and the future—technology.

Dr. Ernie Walker, anthropologist at the University of Saskatchewan, presented archaeological evidence that games of chance were widespread long before first-contact with Europeans, including dice style games over 3,000 years old. This argument helps maintain and

solidify footing in a crucial area when it comes to jurisdiction, the courtroom.

Walker is often called as a witness by the Crown, but testified for the first and only time as defense on behalf of the First Nations when the Bear Claw Casino was raided.

Former Grand Chief Joe Norton of Kahnawake, just outside of Montreal, runs a major global gaming operation over the Internet, including Ultimate Bet and Absolute Poker.

"We have this right and we're not going to stop," said Norton, citing reasons of culture combined with self-governance and the ability to provide for their communities.

The on-reserve virtual business, housed by a physical building containing the servers and employees, provides local revenue and employment, is globally competitive, and independent operators are able to open up businesses right in the facilities.

"We have followed a strict criteria and due diligence."

After being targeted by the television news magazine "60 Minutes," even more corrections and safeguards were imposed, but the U.S. government will not allow U.S. banks or credit cards to access the sites, so other companies continue to operate for U.S. clients.

The band also owns subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, Malta, and Singapore to capture the global market, holding about 65 per cent of the hosting market.

Despite federal and provincial government pressures, Norton said Section 35.1 of the Constitution of Canada protects their right to gaming.

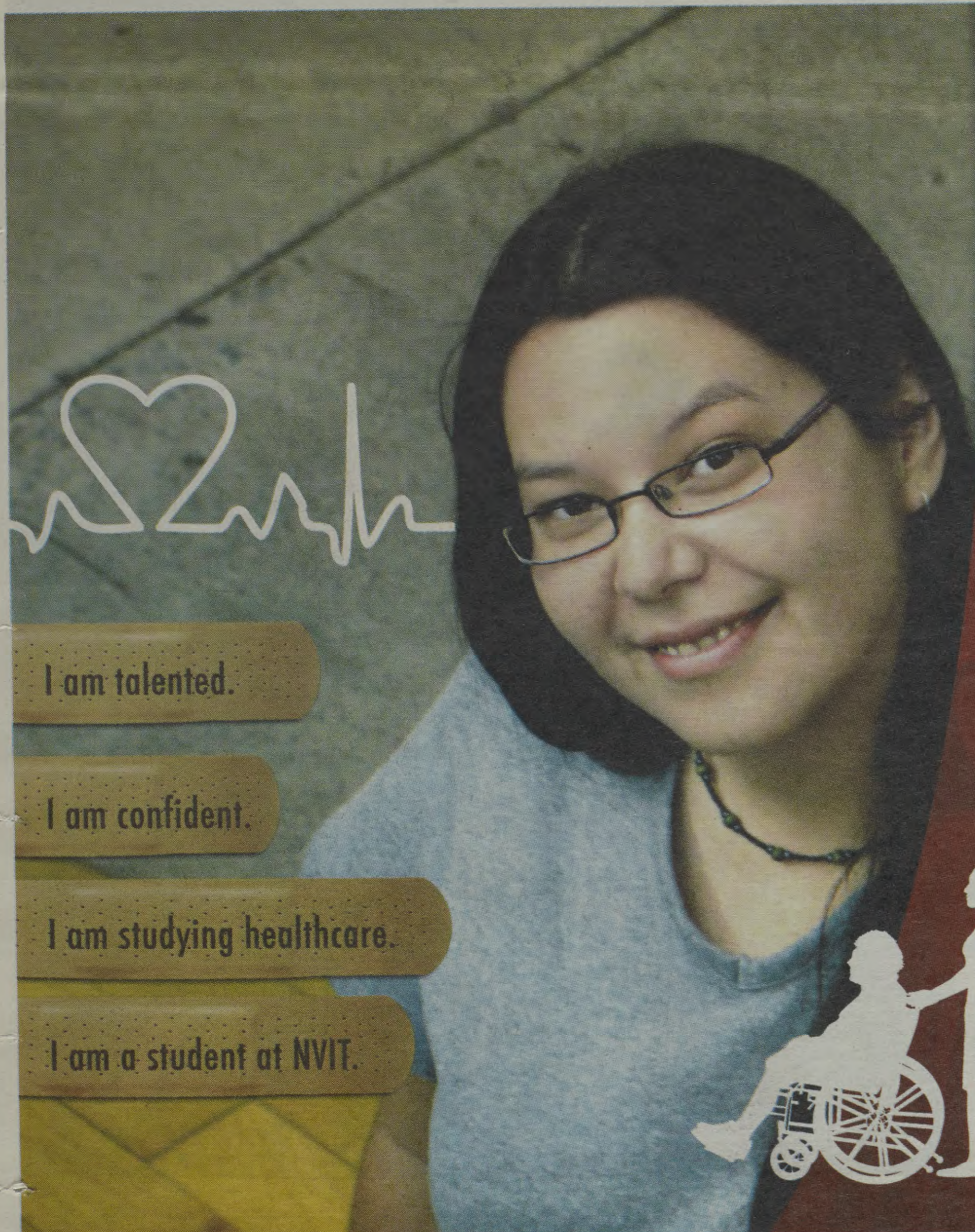
"But what the government wants is for us to be locked in time," he said, speaking of theoretical treaty benefits quickly negated by new regulations. "We can't hunt, trap, or fish: we're surrounded by three million Quebecers."

Adaption is required. His suggestion?

"Just do it — that's what you do — face the consequences after. They need to realize this is what we are going to do, not this is what we would like to do."

His band did extensive preparatory groundwork with laws, commissions, standards, and regulatory practices and licensing. Consequently, they are self-sufficient, and not waiting on government handouts that never arrive, he said.

Chief Wallace Fox of Onion Lake introduced a group of traditional hand game players, who after a few words and a song, provided traditional gaming demonstrations outdoors for the rest of the day.



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## Aboriginal art enhances Olympic venues

By Katherine McIntyre  
Raven's Eye Writer

### VANCOUVER

A copper bird tattooed with an image of a speeding hockey player sits six metres above the entrance to the Thunderbird winter sports arena for the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, B.C.

Known as "Take-Off," the giant bird reflects the Olympic movement's spirit of peace. The hockey player represents Olympic sports.

Created by Haida artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, the copper bird is one of 140 original art pieces to be produced by 90 First Nation, Inuit and Métis artists from across Canada and its territories.

The pieces, both traditional and contemporary, made of glass, copper, steel, concrete, yellow cedar, caribou tufting or textiles, will be included in the various venues of the games.

Forty of these art pieces have already been seamlessly integrated into the structures of some of the

buildings. Other art works by artists of the Four Host Nations, the Musqueam, Squamish, Lil'wat and Tseil-Waututh, will 'take pride of place' at the entrances or gateways of the 15 Olympic venues in Vancouver, Richmond and Whistler.

Already installed in the Richmond Oval, where the speed skaters will compete, is a special art piece created by the well-known Musqueam artist Susan Point. Her 15 concrete buttresses on the north side of the building depict sinuous salmon swimming in a river. They form part of the building's drainage system that carries storm water from the roof to its final destination, the mighty Fraser River.

Labrador, Nunavik, Pangnirtung and Ulukhaktok' weavers' fingers fly on a high warp loom as they collaborate on a large woven piece in Canada's largest weaving studio at Pangnirtung in Nunavut. The tapestries woven with brightly-colored wool yarns always have an Inuit theme. This particular art piece for the Olympics includes an igloo, a skater, and

inukshuk.

With a budget of \$2 million, and organized by VANOC, the Vancouver Olympic Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and the Four Host Nations, the goal of the art program is to showcase the talents and variety of Aboriginal artists from coast to coast to coast. The selected artists are a mix of established well-known artists, unknown, but talented newcomers, and youth in mentorship programs.

To qualify, artists were advised about the art competition. They expressed their interest and listed their qualifications, and provided proof of First Nation, Inuit or Aboriginal ancestry to an art committee that consisted of representatives from VANOC, the Four Host Nations and art specialists (mainly Aboriginal).

If approved by the committee they advanced to the second phase, a proposal, which was evaluated on several grounds, including artistic merit and how they embraced the values of Vancouver 2010.

The Turin Winter Games in

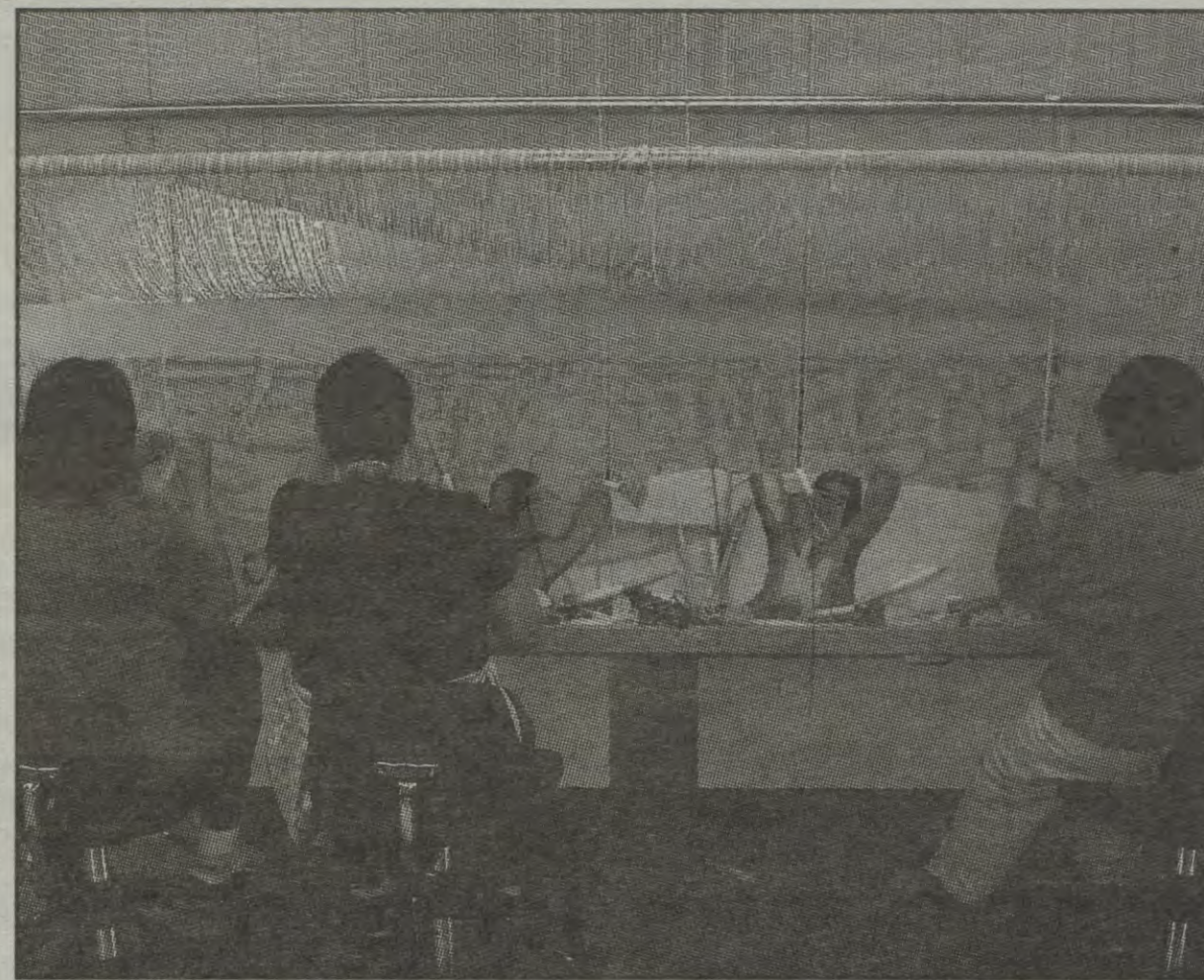


PHOTO BY: CTC CANADA

Olassie Akulukjuk, Kawtysie Kakee and Anna Etoangat, Inuit from Nunavut, are weaving a tapestry at the Pangnirtung Tapestry Studio. Once complete it will be installed at the Richmond Olympic Oval.

Italy was the impetus of the program. British Columbia's, Premier Gordon Campbell viewed the magnificent wood doors in the Canadian Pavilion there carved by Squamish artist Aaron Nelson-Moody. He determined at that time that the

Vancouver Olympics would feature Aboriginal Art to be showcased to the world.

When the games open in February 2010, the 140 pieces will be in place for the world to enjoy the talents of Canada's Aboriginal Artists.



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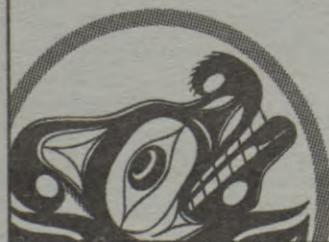
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FOR GENERATIONS

# Community mourns visionary chief—Viola Wyse

Snuneymuxw First Nation chief Viola Wyse unexpectedly passed away on Aug. 17 in her home near Nanaimo. Wyse suffered a brain aneurysm. She was 61.

Wyse served only one term as chief but was expected to win a second term in an upcoming election in December. She has been described as a trailblazer and visionary, helping her people better the quality of their lives through inroads with educational institutions, funding bodies for housing and clean water, and by forging relationships with leaders from all levels of government, in Native and non-Native organizations.

She worked with her council and the City of Nanaimo to forge protocol agreements for service delivery, cultural protections, and improved economic development opportunities. This led to similar agreements with such entities as the Island Trust, the Nanaimo Port Authority, and this year the Regional District of Nanaimo.

She was first elected as a councillor in 2002, and then took on the top job in 2006, becoming the first woman to hold the position of chief in that community.

She was well-liked and respected throughout British Columbia, but it was her devotion to family that made her a true stand-out.

Wyse grew up on the We Wai kum First Nation near Campbell River with a sister and three brothers. When Wyse was 11 she lost her mother to breast cancer, and lost her father five years later. The family was split up going to different relatives for care, but Wyse was always the de facto maternal figure.

Wyse attended the Nanaimo Vocational School, completing an accounting program, and took a job at the Snuneymuxw band office where she learned from the inside about the bureaucracy and systems of government that often frustrate advancement in First Nations communities. She worked for the department of Indian Affairs



Chief Viola Wyse passed away on August 17, 2009.

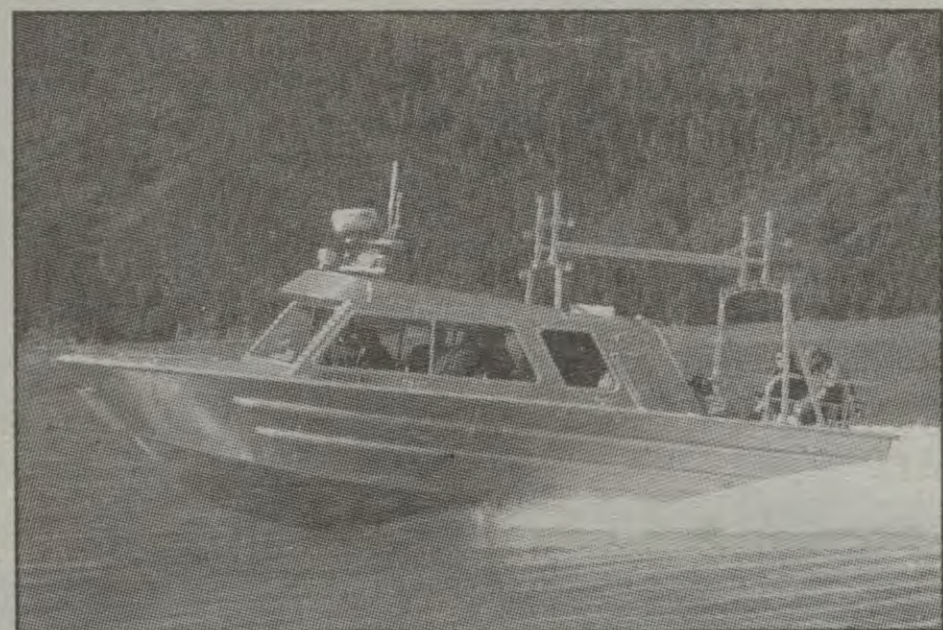
in the Lands and Trust office in Nanaimo from the 1970s to the mid-1990s.

She then worked for Snuneymuxw band again, and then the Chemainus band until

she decided to throw her hat in to the ring, standing for election at Snuneymuxw.



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**Raven's Eye: Special Section providing news from BC & Yukon**

# Aboriginal Leadership Certificate Program

Northern B.C. is benefitting from new Aboriginal leaders. Darbee Roberts-McKay, Crystal Bright, Janice Stephens and Akimi Okabe successfully completed the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) Aboriginal Leadership Certificate Program, through a community partnership with Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute (WWNI).

The partnership allowed students to access the program in their home community of Laxgalts'ap located in the Nass Valley.

This program emphasizes the integration of traditional Aboriginal worldviews and contemporary perspectives, with the skills required for leadership. The Aboriginal Leadership Certificate Program supports Aboriginal communities in meeting the challenges of self-governance, treaty negotiation, and transfer of governmental programs and services.

The WWNI offered the Aboriginal Leadership Certificate beginning in August 2008, with 18 applicants (15 full-time and 3 part-time) in the program. The high level of interest prompted the JIBC to pursue another Pacific Northwest offering of the program, this time in Prince Rupert, in partnership with the First Nations Training & Development Centre beginning in September.

"Strong, vibrant leadership is critical to the future success of the Nisga'a Nation and to other Aboriginal communities," said Deanna Nyce, CEO of WWNI. "The Aboriginal Leadership Certificate Program supports the existing leadership capacity and helps to nurture potential leaders



Proud graduates of the Aboriginal Leadership Certificate Program Darbee Roberts-McKay, Crystal Bright, Janice Stephens and Akimi Okabe pose for a photo with Jack McGee, Justice Institute of BC President; Pam White, director, JIBC Community & Social Justice Division; Pat Ross, JIBC vice-president, Education & Student Services.

of the future."

"I started the program at JIBC, New Westminster campus," said Leadership graduate Janice Stephens, "where I had the opportunity to meet many strong

individual Aboriginal peers and instructors from various nations, to completing the program in my home nation, where I witnessed the strength of my peers from my home nation, not to mention my

own personal growth."

JIBC customizes the curriculum to meet the needs of communities and it provides additional support through a number of awards and bursaries

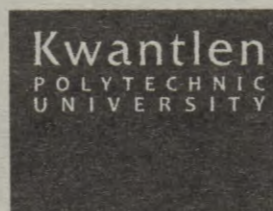
that are available specifically for Aboriginal learners, said Dr. Michelle LaFlamme, program director of the Centre for Aboriginal Programs and Services.

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Ontario Birchbark: Special Section providing news from Ontario

# Building trust, building bridges, making changes

By Jennifer Hansford  
Birchbark Writer

**SUDBURY**

The Greater Sudbury Police Service is encouraging Aboriginal youth to consider careers in law enforcement or the criminal justice fields through the the Police Mkwá Opportunity Education Circle.

Mkwá is the Ojibwe word for bear; the bear is the protector, keeping people from harm, while also ensuring they live peacefully and harmoniously amongst each other.

This initiative was formed in 1999 with the hopes of building better relations between the Aboriginal community and police officers within the City of Greater Sudbury.

"It's a win-win situation," said Constable Grant Dokis, Aboriginal Liaison Officer. "As

individuals and as a police service we receive far more than we intended."

Despite being the driving force behind the program, Dokis said he and the other officers involved have been the ones doing most of the learning.

"The youth are our future," he said. "This is how we are going to make change, by walking the same path as equals – youth and the police."

About 25 students participate in the program each semester of the school year. The students are first introduced to members of the Police Service, then, are paired with a mentor with whom they have the opportunity to job-shadow and experience ride-alongs. Near the end of the program, the students and officers participate in a feast and a sharing circle, where all involved have the chance to share with each other what they have

learned.

"The youth get to see us (police officers) as people too," he said of the learning process.

Both Dokis and Deputy Chief Allan Lekun are impressed with the difference this initiative has made within the community and the youth that have participated in it.

"The exposure our front-line officers receive to the Aboriginal culture and the issues the youth face on a daily basis contributes to our officers becoming more sensitive and understanding," said Lekun. "We positively impact the attitudes of the officers and the youth."

The program is about building trust, said Dokis. It is also about working together to build that trust.

"If it was just the police or just the youth, it wouldn't be able to work."

The program is targeted

toward secondary school students and Dokis and Lekun realize mistakes are sometimes made by some teenagers.

"Minor offences that result in a criminal record doesn't omit the youth from the program," assured Dokis.

Since the program began, 119 students have successfully completed the program and Dokis hopes the students will keep what they learned from the program with them wherever they go. If they (the officers) can reach out to just one young person, it's worth it, he said. It is this part, having the opportunity to know the program has, in fact, had a positive influence on the students that means the most to him. He receives thank-you notes from either the guardians of the students or the students themselves from time to time.

"I'm a helper in the community," he said proudly.

Dokis is also proud of the growth he has seen in the amount of officers volunteering their time to mentor the students.

"When we first started there were only a handful of officers volunteering as mentors, but now there is up to 40 officers involved in the program."

This is an important accomplishment, said Dokis, because they too are realizing the impact a program such as this is having within the community and they are dedicated to helping to keep the success going.

The program will continue to evolve as the police service, involved school boards and the Aboriginal community continue to discuss and implement mechanisms to effectively reach out to Aboriginal youth and encourage them to participate in the program.

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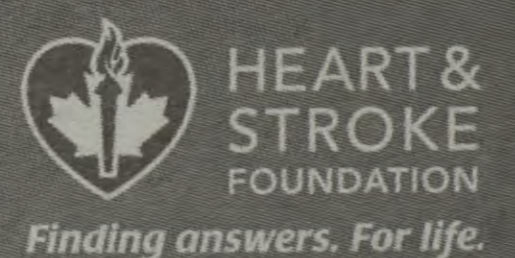
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# Canada stimulates economy by stimulating good health

On Sept. 1, Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq announced an investment of \$135 million for new construction and the renovation of health services infrastructure in First Nations communities across Canada.

This funding falls under Canada's economic stimulus plan and will support 40 projects involving new construction of health services infrastructure, and about 230 renovations of existing infrastructure.

Construction on some of the projects began April 1, with 16 of the approximately 40 new construction projects currently underway.

Huu-ay-aht First Nation will receive a new multipurpose health station to replace the current Huu-ay-aht Health Station, a trailer that was placed in the community in 1977. The

project is valued at \$2.578 million and will be completed by winter of 2011. The community is located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island near Bamfield.

A new health centre will be built at Lower Post First Nation with construction beginning this fall and completed in spring 2011. The community is located on the Alaska Highway about 450 km from Whitehorse, and 10 km south of the Yukon border.

A new health centre will be built in Anaham (T'etingox-T'in) First Nation replacing the health station constructed in 1983 and lost in a 2008 fire. The project is valued at \$2.5 million, with construction slated for completion in winter 2011. The community is located in the Chilcotin District in the western central interior region about 100 km west of Williams Lake.

Yekooche First Nation will receive a new health station to replace the existing trailer that was brought into the community in 1970. The project is valued at \$2.705 million. The community is located 180 km from Prince George.

In Alberta, Swan River will see an expansion to the existing health centre constructed in 1996. The project is valued at \$1.34 million.

In Saskatchewan a Piapot Health Centre will replace the 1994 existing health centre. The project is valued at \$2 million.

Sturgeon Lake Health Centre will replace the existing health centre built in 1982. Sturgeon Lake is located 46 km northwest of Prince Albert.

Beardy's Health Centre will replace the existing health centre constructed in 1984. The project is valued at \$2.25 million.

Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation is located about 56 km southwest of Prince Albert, and 85 km north of Saskatoon.

In Manitoba, a new nursing station will be built in Bloodvein First Nation to replace the existing facility that was constructed in 1979. The project is valued at \$3.06 million.

A new nursing residence will be built in York Landing, 100 km northeast of Thompson, Man.

A new health centre will be constructed at Pic Mobert First Nation in Ontario to replace the existing one built in 1985. The community is located 400 km east of Thunder Bay, Ont. It has an on-reserve population of approximately 325. The project is valued at \$2.13 million.

Batchewana is an Anishinaabe community located approximately two hours northwest of Sault Ste. Marie,

Ont. It has an on-reserve population of about 631 members. It will receive a new health station valued at \$1.5 million.

At Gull Bay, located 2.5 hours north of Thunder Bay, will also receive a new health station. This construction replaces the health facility built in 1982. The project is valued at \$2.73 million.

In Quebec, Opitciwan will get a new nursing station valued at \$2.5 million, as will Pakua Shipi, located about four hours north-northeast from Quebec City by air.

And for the Atlantic region Pabineau First Nation, a Mi'qmaq community located approximately 2.5 hours north of Moncton, will receive a new health station. It has an on-reserve population of about 100. The project is valued at \$1.22 million.

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

Submissions deadline: October 2nd, 2009

## Linsay Willier — [ windspeaker confidential ]

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

**Linsay Willier:** The quality I most value in a friend is trust. I have to be able to share anything with my friend and know that my thoughts are in trustworthy hands.

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

**L.W.:** Racism makes me the most livid. I can tolerate and get over other things, but not racism...that makes my blood boil.

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

**L.W.:** I am at my happiest when I am laughing with my loved ones.

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

**L.W.:** Frantic.

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

**L.W.:** There are two people — my father and mother. They overcame a lot in their lives. They are the most honorable, loving and caring people I know. I strive to make them happy and proud.

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

**L.W.:** The most difficult thing I ever had to do...break someone's heart to acquire my own happiness.

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

**L.W.:** Getting my bachelors degree in Child and Youth Care and making a nation proud of me on Canada's Next Top

Model.

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

**L.W.:** One goal that remains out of reach...achieving enlightenment!

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

**L.W.:** I would be a professional hockey player.

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

**L.W.:** I have two: nothing worthwhile comes easily, and, don't let success go to your head and failure to your heart.

**W:** Did you take it?

**L.W.:** Yes!

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

**L.W.:** As an inspiration.

Sifting through a progression of Linsay Willier's photo shoots, the model has gone from beautiful to head-turning glamorous. In the course of her runner-up showing on *Canada's Next Top Model*, she had her long locks shorn into a wispy bob and her look Europeanized. And, as her Facebook fans attest, she is the real winner of the contest because she possesses a soul to match the loveliness of her face and figure.

"She was a beautiful girl. She also had a beautiful personality, and I guess that's what attracts people to her," said principal Dan Sloan, who coached Linsay's high school hockey team.

Classmate Phillip Gonsalves,

18, said Linsay was "really relatable to most of the students." The Grade 12 student recalls being blown away by Willier's striking green eyes the first time he met her.

A recent graduate of the Child and Youth Care program at Grant MacEwan College, Linsay, 22, grew up on the Sucker Creek First Nation on Alberta's Lesser Slave Lake, before moving to Edmonton five years ago. Discovered at West Edmonton Mall by an Edmonton Fashion Week Designer, she has walked for Edmonton Fashion Week and the *Edmonton Journal*.

Her exotic beauty and determination have seen her climb the ladder in the fashion world, but it was her hip-hop artist boyfriend Khiry Tafari who talked her into entering the *Top Model* competition.

Standing five-foot-nine, the soft-spoken Linsay avoided controversy on the television show, but showed some backbone when another model blamed her for ripping her runway dress.

A dark horse at the beginning, Linsay got serious in later shows when judges critiqued her for not making visual contact with the camera. She took their advice and came back with a photo shoot impressive enough to earn her Photo of the Week for Week 6. After that, she consistently finished on top.

Even though she lost the competition by a hair, Linsay is



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Linsay Willier

happy enough to be an inspiration for young Aboriginal girls and says "making my nation proud of me is one of my greatest

accomplishments. "No regrets at all. I'm proud of what I did. I heard 14,000 girls tried out," she adds.

## [ radio's most active ]

## OUR PICK

Artist—**McKinley Matters**  
 Album—**The Seventh Day**  
 Song—**Time**  
 Written by—**McKinley Matters**  
 Label—**Independent**

## Performance makes one lose track of time

To see a musician perform live is one thing, but to feel the emotions of the guitar and embrace every word as if it is the only thing in the world is the feeling that you experience when you see McKinley Matters perform on stage. It is not often that I lose track of time when I get the opportunity to support the independent music scene and see a band perform, nonetheless, a man and his guitar. Time has been significant to religion, philosophy and science in which it is a matter of our existence. This is no exception for the song 'Time' from the album *The Seventh Day* by independent band McKinley Matters.

The strumming of the guitar amplifies the words that only Guy Chaput can express, for this is his gift for all to hear and to appreciate in our everyday life. McKinley Matters is based out of Alberta and Manitoba and their new album is a musical journey of human elements that we all face when it comes to our emotions.

For more info go to: [www.mckinleymatters.com](http://www.mckinleymatters.com)

Review by **Angela Pearson**

# ABORIGINAL RADIO MOST ACTIVE LIST

ARTIST	TITLE	ALBUM
Diezel	We're All Here	Single Release
McKinley Matters	Prairie Winds	Seventh Day
Tommy J Mueller	You	Changes Everything
JJ Lavallee	No More Reason To Hide	Carry On
Simeon Ross	New Brunswick	Sound At Sea Level
Pura Fe	Follow Your Heart's Desire	Follow Your Heart's Desire
Mitch Daigneault	I'll Never Forget (What's Her Name)	Driving All Night
Digging Roots	We Are	We Are
Jacques & The Shakey Boys	God And The Devil	Lines Bumps And Rails
Eric & Winston Wuttunee	I've Got A Girl	Family Songs And Memories
Cheryl Powder	Crazy Together	Can't Wait To Fly
Teagan Littlechief	One Woman	Single Release
Lucien Spence	No More	Single Release
Mike Gouchie	I Don't Miss Missin' You	Shattered Glass
Indigenous	Make A Change	Broken Lands
Stephanie Harpe Band	Baby You're The Only One	Stephanie Harpe Band
Chris Barker Band	Six String Highway	Six String Highway
John Dietrich	Another Place, Another Time	John Dietrich
Mark Jacob f. Ashley Maclsaac	Long Journey Home	Vindictive
Art Napoleon	Creejun Stomp	Siskabush Tales

CONTRIBUTING STATIONS:



# Alberta teams square off in fastball championship

By Debora Steel  
Windspeaker Contributor

## ALEXIS FIRST NATIONS

The only thing on Dale Watson's mind as he stepped up to the plate for the last time in the final game of the Canadian Native Fastball Championship was he needed a base hit. He had to get one for the boys.

It was the bottom of the seventh, the final inning of the game held Aug. 3, and the score was tied 2-2. Watson's team, the Siksika Rebels, had gone undefeated throughout the tournament, and if they didn't get the win they would head into another game against the Horse Lake Thunder, prolonging a rivalry that had seen the teams trade bragging rights and a number of players over the years.

Thunder had won the tourney in 2007, but the Rebels were the defending champs. Watson had struggled against the big Thunder pitcher Collin McKenzie at each at bat, but C-Mac was beginning to show fatigue, having just battled the Westbank Cardinals in

a close semi-final (4-3) to advance his team to the championship game.

A base hit is what Watson hoped for and with a crack of the bat he got his wish, and the rest is Canadian Native Fastball history.

The game had been scoreless going into the sixth when Thunder's Cory Giroux hit one out of the park and sent in Cory Potskin for a two-run advantage, but the lead was short-lived when Rebels' hurler Trevor Ethier, a former Team Canada pitcher, answered with his own dinger at the bottom of the inning. Rebel Chris Bear earned the RBI on a double sending home Clint Ledoux to tie the score.

Thunder was denied at the top of the seventh, and with a strikeout of Rebels' J.J. Poitras, the bottom half of the inning looked grim.

Then came Watson's base hit and the Rebels capitalized with a hit by Arlin Yuzicapi that sent Watson charging to second. A bobble of the catch by second baseman Lance Potskin gave the young runner the go-ahead to third.

An intentional walk of Ethier loaded up the bases.

Watson was a ball of nervous energy as he awaited the next batter, Barry Sparvier.

"I knew he was going to hit," said Watson, "and I was ready to go."

And as Watson predicted, Sparvier did connect and forced Watson home, but Thunder catcher Chad Ghostkeeper was ready to tag him out at the plate.

"I thought I was out," said an excited Watson. And he would have been had Ghostkeeper not lost his grip on the ball. It rolled out of his glove toward the pitcher's mound.

"I couldn't see the ball," Watson said. "I asked the umpire, and he said 'Safe', and I lost it," Watson said, still vibrating after his winning run.

"It's the best feeling in the world," Watson said of having the win. He described himself as a die-hard Rebel, his club team in league play in Calgary.

Watson said he felt bad for Lance Potskin, with his big error at second, but it wasn't the only miscalculation in the game that

lead to the Thunder defeat. At the top of the third, for example, while on a tear from first, Cory Potskin safely rounded second to third, but missed the sign to stop and was tagged out at home.

Siksika manager Jason Doore gave Thunder their due, however, saying they had put together a very competitive team that came to play.

The back to back win was sweet, he said, especially having to overcome some missed opportunities themselves through the game. He said they pushed through it, encouraging the players, knowing they had the last bat, an advantage they were intent on capitalizing on.

The tourney saw more than 50 teams in competition over the course of four days. It was held in Whitecourt from July 31 to Aug. 2, and then moved the last games to Alexis. The boon to the Whitecourt economy was extensive, with every hotel, motel, and campground booked up with players. Next year's battle will be held at the Whitecap First Nations in Saskatchewan on the same summer long weekend.

Results for the 2009 Canadian Native Fastball Championships:  
Senior Mens Division  
1. Siksika Rebels, Alberta  
2. Horse Lake Thunder, Alberta  
3. Westbank Cardinals, British Columbia  
4. Peguis Braves, Manitoba

Consolation Winners  
1. Saddlelake Warriors, Alberta  
2. Tribalmen, Alexis Alberta

Senior Women's Division  
1. Northern Lights, Winnipeg  
2. Red Nation Jets, Alberta  
3. Hanks Royals, Kamloops BC  
4. Sask Pride, Saskatchewan

Consolation Winners  
1. Team Sgwe, Alexis Alberta  
2. Crusaders, Alexis Alberta

Masters Men  
1. Eagle River Chiefs, Alexis Alberta  
2. Sask Fossils, Saskatchewan  
3. Skownan Vets, Manitoba

Masters Women  
1. Bad News Babez, Alberta  
2. Goodfish Firestorm, Alberta

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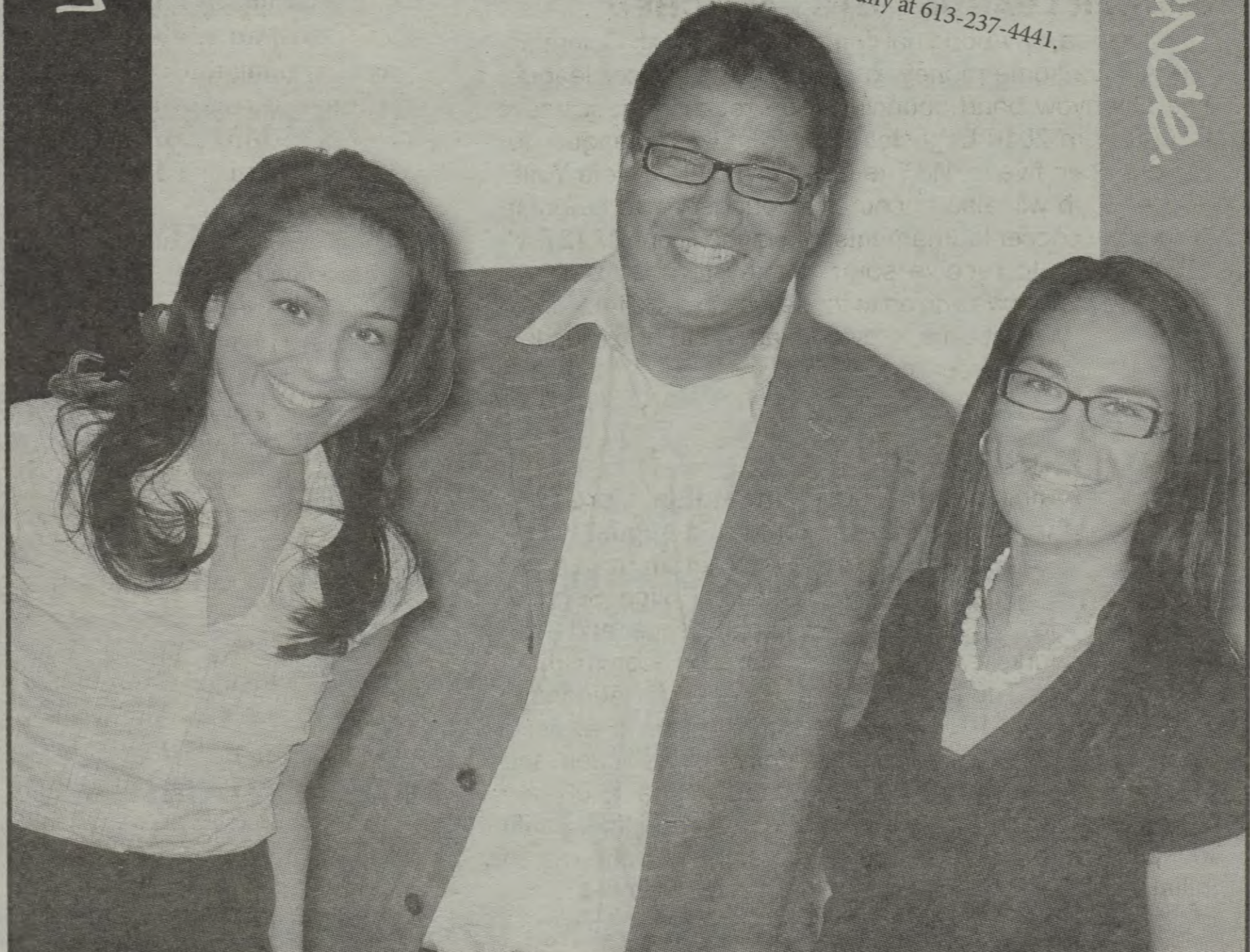
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## Windspeaker sports briefs

By Sam Laskaris

### SABRES SIGN MCCORMICK

Cody McCormick has found a new home. The 26-year-old, a member of the Chippewa Mohawk Nation near London, Ont., was signed to a one-year contract by the National Hockey League's Buffalo Sabres in early August. McCormick, a centre, was an unrestricted free agent.

Prior to signing with the Sabres, McCormick had been property of the Colorado Avalanche ever since they had selected him in the fifth round of the 2001 NHL Entry Draft. McCormick, a 6-foot-3, 215-pounder, appeared in 55 games with the Avalanche this past season. He scored just one goal, but added 11 assists. But he also provides some toughness, as is evidenced by the 92 penalty minutes he had this past season.

Though he was drafted by the Avalanche in 2001, McCormick played two more seasons with the Ontario Hockey League's Belleville Bulls before graduating to the NHL during the 2003-04 season. McCormick appeared in a total of 194 NHL contests with the Avalanche. He earned 31 points, including nine goals, in those games. Though he averaged more than a point per game during his final junior season with the Bulls—69 points, including 36 goals in 63 games—McCormick has never been much of a scorer in the NHL. He scored a NHL career-high of eight points during the 2005-06 season.

During his pro career, McCormick has also played a total of 140 games in the American Hockey League. In this league he suited up for the Hershey Bears, Lowell Lock Monsters, Albany River Rats and Lake Erie Monsters.

### FLEURY EYES COMEBACK

Theo Fleury is once again considered a longshot to make the National Hockey League. Since he's only 5-foot-6, many thought Fleury, who is Métis, would be too small to play in the NHL. But he proved all his critics wrong. Fleury played 15 seasons in the NHL and averaged just over a point per game throughout his career. He appeared in 1,161 games and collected 1,167 points.

Fleury is best known for being a member of the Calgary Flames. He played 11 seasons with the Alberta squad and helped the Flames win the Stanley Cup in 1989, during his NHL rookie season.

Fleury last played in the NHL during the 2002-03 season with the Chicago Blackhawks. Last month it was announced that Fleury, who also had stints with the New York Rangers and Colorado Avalanche, is hoping to make a comeback. But he faces plenty of obstacles. And this time it's got nothing to do with his height.

For starters, Fleury would have to find a team that would be interested in offering him an invite to their training camp. This could be difficult as it has been six years since he last played in the NHL. Plus, Fleury had his share of off-ice difficulties, which might cause concern for some clubs. He battled alcoholism for numerous years though he has now been sober for four years.

And even if a club did express interest in having him, Fleury would first have to be reinstated by league officials. When he left the NHL in '03, he was under indefinite suspension for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

### SOCCER LEAGUE GETS LAUNCHED

Kitwanga, an Aboriginal community in British Columbia, will receive some money to start a youth soccer league. The Gitanyow band council will be receiving just under \$2,000 from 2010 Legacies Now to start the league, for players aged five to 11. The Gitanyow Little Chiefs Youth Soccer Club will also encourage youngsters to compete in summer soccer tournaments. Kitwanga is one of 12 B.C. communities to receive some money to start a sports program. Money was given to those who proved they could attract new participants, provide leadership opportunities and sustain their programs.

### YOUTH HONOURED

An Aboriginal youth soccer mentorship program wrapped up in the nation's capital in mid-August with a game and a banquet. The 10-week program, organized by the city of Ottawa and the Ottawa Police Service, allowed Aboriginal youth a chance to play soccer and learn about teamwork, leadership, co-ordination, commitment and hard work. The program was designed for Aboriginal youth, aged five-10, who were not enrolled in another soccer program. They were mentored by coaches and volunteers from the FC Capital United Soccer Club and the Ottawa Police Service. A total of 20 Aboriginal youth took part in the program. The mentorship program was an initiative of the Aboriginal Working Committee from the city of Ottawa.

# Hall of Fame looks south of the border for inductee



PHOTO: BILL WIPPERT/BUFFALO BANDITS

Darris Kilgour toiled in Canadian lacrosse for years as a player, but is home now in the U.S. coaching the Buffalo Bandits. Kilgour will be inducted into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame in November.

By Sam Laskaris  
Windspeaker Contributor

### TUSCORORA FIRST NATION, N.Y.

Darris Kilgour is best known as the no-nonsense coach with the National Lacrosse League's Buffalo Bandits these days.

But before he became a coach, Kilgour, who is from the Tuscorora First Nation in Sanborn, N.Y., was an accomplished lacrosse player himself. He'll be recognized for his playing skill later this year. Kilgour, 38, was recently named as one of this year's inductees into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame. He is one of 10 inductees this year.

The Burnaby Cablevision Junior A team, which dominated the Canadian junior lacrosse scene, winning three consecutive national Minto Cup championships from 1977 to 1979, is also being inducted in the team category. Induction ceremonies will be held Nov. 14 in Burnaby, B.C.

Though he was a Canadian lacrosse star, Kilgour never actually lived in the country. He's spent his entire life in the Tuscorora community, located near Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Kilgour started playing lacrosse at the age of three with a youth squad in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., which featured other players as old as eight.

"The first couple of years you just learned how to protect yourself (from the older players)," Kilgour said. "And then when you were like six, seven and eight you actually started to learn some lacrosse skills." Kilgour continued to play through the Niagara-on-

the-Lake youth system until he made the jump to the town's Junior B team.

Instead of playing a couple of seasons at the Junior B level, Kilgour said he probably could have been toiling at the higher calibre Junior A level with the St. Catharines Athletics. But he didn't make the jump earlier, in part, because St. Catharines was considered one of the main rivals for teams in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

During his three-year stint in St. Catharines, he appeared in 60 games with the Athletics and was a dominant force, scoring a whopping 350 points (135 goals, 215 assists) in just 60 games.

Kilgour's time in St. Catharines was memorable for a pair of other reasons as well. The Athletics won two Minto Cup championships during his time with the organization.

Then when he graduated to the senior (Major) ranks, Kilgour continued to have his share of success. He was a member of five consecutive national Mann Cup championships from 1992 to 1996.

"I had a terrific amount of teammates and they all wanted what I wanted," he said. "And that was championships."

Kilgour was a member of the Brampton Excelsiors when they captured back-to-back Mann Cup championships in 1992 and '93.

Kilgour and several other key members of those championship Brampton teams then signed on with the Six Nations Chiefs. The Chiefs then won three straight Mann Cup crowns, from '94 to '96.

During his first season with the Six Nations squad, Kilgour was presented with the Mike Kelly Award, for being the most

valuable player at the 1994 Mann Cup.

While he was winning Mann Cups during the summer months, Kilgour was playing the sport year-round toiling in the National Lacrosse League with the Buffalo Bandits.

As a player, Kilgour helped the Bandits win NLL championships in 1992, '93 and '96.

Kilgour's playing days ended in Ontario in '98. He played just one game with the Brooklyn Redmen, but hip difficulties put him on the sidelines. Kilgour has had a pair of hip replacements since then. His left one was done at age 35. And then he got his right one replaced a year later.

He began his coaching career in the NLL with the then-named Washington Power. He guided that franchise for two seasons, 2000-02, and posted a respectable 18-12 record.

Kilgour was then hired to coach the Bandits in 2002.

"I'm going to keep on coaching until they tell me I can't do it anymore," he said.

Kilgour was inducted into the NLL's Hall of Fame in 2006, but he considers induction into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame more prestigious. That's because he considers the Canadian game more gruelling than the NLL.

"It's a tougher brand of lacrosse," he said.

While the NLL features a one-game championship final, the Mann Cup is a best-of-seven affair, so teams could play as many as seven games in 10 days.

Kilgour and the other new inductees in the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame bring the total of those honored in the hall to 450. There are also 12 teams that have been inducted.

# Native American wins top Power Girls award

## NEW YORK, NY

On Aug. 3, Jana Mashonee's "Jana's Kid's" academic scholarship recipient Helen Marie Scott of St. Pauls, NC was the recipient of the Johnnetta B. Cole Global Diversity and Inclusion Institute's 2009 Power Girls Academic Award at the 4th Annual Most Powerful Girls in the World Summit in Greensboro, NC.

Jana's Kid's was founded by GRAMMY nominee and seven-time Native American Music Awards winner Jana Mashonee. All proceeds from her latest single "A Change is Gonna Come" go to Jana's Kid's, which is a non-profit foundation that awards scholarships to Native youth to help them achieve their dreams.

It is one of the few scholarship programs in the U.S. awarding scholarships in all three

categories: academic, artistic and athletic. This year, Jana's Kid's also awarded a scholarship for athletic achievement to M. Phillip Williams of Gibson, NC.

"It's an honor to have one of Jana's Kid's scholarship recipients win the top Power Girls Scholarship," said Mashonee. "We're very proud of Helen Marie Scott and M. Phillip Williams for their accomplishments."

The Global Diversity & Inclusion Institute's Power Girls Global Summit is part of the Power Girls Leadership Institute founded by Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole. Dr. Cole is President emerita of both Bennett College for Women and Spelman College, as well as the director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art in Washington, DC.

For more information on Jana's Kid's: [www.janamashonee.com](http://www.janamashonee.com).



Jana Mashonee's "Jana's Kids" Foundation/ David L. Boyle Family Scholarships recipient won the top prize at the annual Power Girls Summit. From left to right, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, scholarship recipient Helen Marie Scott and Jana Mashonee.

# Students get real-time experience with police

By Jennifer Hansford  
Windspeaker Contributor

## SUDBURY

The Police Mkwa Opportunity Education Circle, an initiative developed by the Greater Sudbury Police Service in 1999, gives Aboriginal high school students the opportunity to experience some of the things officers may face when they receive a call or when they are patrolling the streets.

The program was formed to encourage Aboriginal youth to consider careers in the policing, law enforcement or criminal justice field (see the story on the program on our Birchbark page 25).

One portion of the initiative is the police ride-along, during which the students get to see first-hand, some of the different types of situations the officers may be involved in.

Constable Kevin Tremblay is one of the officers involved in bringing students out to the streets, and took *Windspeaker* along for a ride.

The students travel with an officer for about six hours. Only one student rides with the officer and occupies the passenger seat. This ensures personal safety if a situation arises where someone is put in the backseat.

Although Tremblay has been an officer with the Greater Sudbury Police Service since 2007, this is his first year involved with the program and has taken two students out on the road with him.

Situations that come up on the ride along are such things as traffic stops, driving passed businesses to make sure there is no damage on the premises (broken glass, etc), driving passed schools, churches and residential areas to make sure there is no vandalism taking place and or

that people are not in distress.

From time to time, Tremblay will take the time to chat with people, just to let them know he is there to help. He especially likes to make sure children understand that police officers are there to help, and will sometimes stop to give them a sticker or something to help give them a more positive image of the police service.

When the officers receive a call to attend a situation, the student does go along. This gives the student the opportunity to view the interaction between the officer and the complainant. If the nature of the call is too dangerous, said Tremblay, the student would not attend the call. In this situation, the student would be dropped off at a place of safety before the officer attends the call, or they would be told to stay in the vehicle.

So far though, Tremblay has not been in a situation where he has had to drop off the students that were riding along with him.

There has not been many situations during his time with the Greater Sudbury Police Service, where culture has been an issue when attending a situation, said Tremblay (a non-Aboriginal police officer dealing with an Aboriginal complainant or vice-versa).

"I'm there to do a task and that task is to listen," Tremblay adds. "I'm dealing with a person, until other issues arise, but I'd like to think I have a good report with the Aboriginal people (of Sudbury). He is aware of the issues some Aboriginal people may have with regards to his role in society, but issues such as mistrust on one side or both sides is one of the things the program was formed to help resolve.

"I love learning about people (and different cultures) and you definitely get to do that in this job."



PHOTO: JENNIFER HANSFORD

Constable Grant Dokis, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, is photographed with Natalie Lacasse, a past participant of the Mkwa Program now in her fourth summer working part-time at the Sudbury court house.

## Issues on the table

Continued from page 9.

Aboriginal leaders called for federal and provincial governments to put aside jurisdictional issues in order to deal effectively with the H1N1 concerns that are being voiced by First Nations.

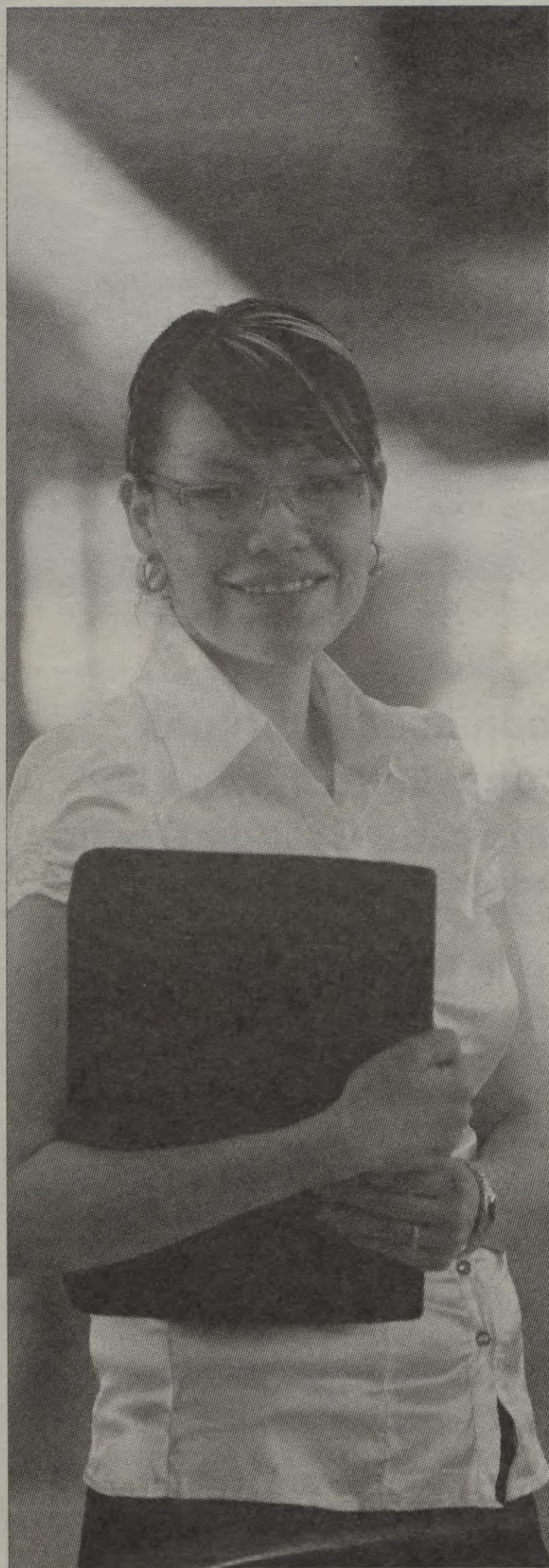
"In effect, we're asking for help to make sure the most vulnerable of our population — the

Indigenous peoples of this country — are well-served. I absolutely feel that we cannot allow inter-jurisdictional wrangling to hold us up in doing what's right for first nations citizens of this country," said Atleo in an article that appeared in the *Globe and Mail*.

"All levels of government need to work together and with Aboriginal women to develop a comprehensive

pandemic plan that reflects the important role of women as formal and informal caregivers," said Jacobs.

This meeting represented the sixth consecutive year that the AFN and NWAC, along with a handful of other national Aboriginal organizations, have participated in the Council of the Federation.



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### Niipaitapiisini: Lifelong Learning Conference



October 7-9, 2009

Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge Alberta (1-800-661-1232)

Hosted by Treaty 7 First Nations Education Association (TSFNEA)  
 and First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC)

The Treaty 7 First Nations Education Association (TSFNEA) in partnership with the First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC) is pleased to announce a holistic Lifelong Learning Conference to be held from October 7 to 9, 2009 at the Lethbridge Lodge, Lethbridge, Alberta Canada, featuring guest speakers Dr. Lorna Williams and Dr. Manulani Meyer.

The conference theme "Niipaitapiisini" aims to bring together those working on the frontlines to share promising practices that promote indigenous lifelong learning. Elders, researchers, representatives from community agencies, child care workers, educators, counsellors, scholars, cultural and language leaders and graduate students are invited to come and share the vision of Niipaitapiisini and the research, teachings, promising practices and relationships that have generated positive outcomes for our learners of all ages and our communities.

Registration to attend is \$375 which includes a tour to Aisinaip (Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park, AB - transportation to Aisinaip provided), a reception on October 7, breakfast and lunch for two days plus entertainment.

Please mail registration and payment to:

132 - 16 Avenue NE  
 Calgary, AB T2E 1J7  
 or Fax 403-212-1401

Registration forms

available at  
[www.fnahec.org](http://www.fnahec.org)

For all inquiries phone 403-230-0080 or e-mail [monica@fnahec.org](mailto:monica@fnahec.org)

# Canadian Aboriginal Festival

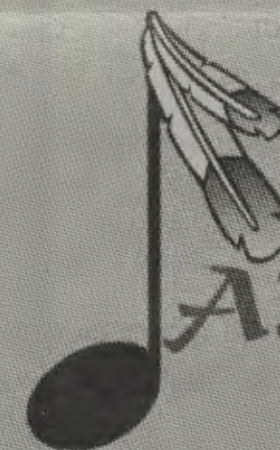
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November 27 - 29, 2009

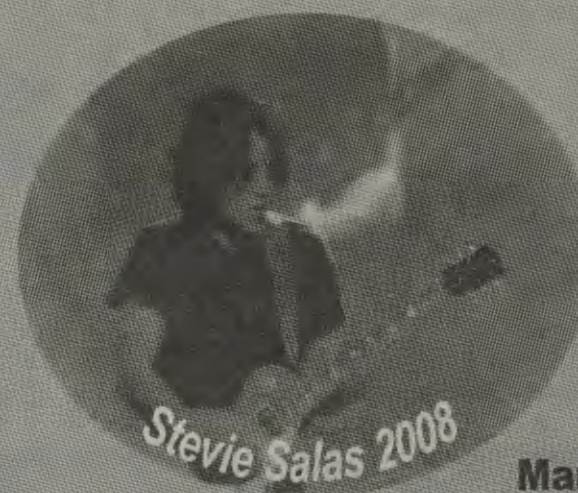
**COPPS COLISEUM HAMILTON, Ontario**

For information on any of the activities, participation or attending this event, please phone (519) 751-0040 or email [info@canab.com](mailto:info@canab.com)



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**CHIPEWYAN PRAIRIE INDUSTRY  
RELATIONS CORPORATION**

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COORDINATOR**

*(Temp full-time position for 6 months to one year, with the possibility of an extension)*  
Located in Janvier, AB (130 kilometers South of Fort McMurray, AB)  
40 hours per week - salary negotiable

**Primary Purpose:**

The Community Consultation Coordinator will carry out primary work in the social, economic and environmental sectors of Chipewyan Prairie Industry Relations Corporation. It is the pivotal role in ensuring effective consultation takes place within the community and with external stakeholders. The successful candidate will work under the direction of and report to the Executive Director of CPIRC.

**Requirements:**

- High School graduate; related college training and/or work experience will be considered
- Strong listening, oral and written skills
- Ability to maintain a high degree of confidentiality and security of IRC correspondence, documents and client information
- Ability to maintain a high standard of accuracy, neatness, and precision
- Must be proactive, and a self-starter with strong organizational skills
- Good computer skills and knowledge of Microsoft Office Software programs and Electronic mail
- Interest in helping the First Nation
- Adherence to ethical guidelines
- Knowledge of the Dene Culture and the ability to speak Dene an asset
- Own transportation and a valid driver's license, as travel may be required
- Be Non-political

**Nature of Work:**

- Perform daily office duties and ensure they are professionally carried out
- Coordinate community meetings, meetings between community and industry, and between community and government
- Identify environmental and socio-economic issues related to industrial development
- Work with industry to create mutual understanding about the First Nation community, cultures and issues
- Participate in negotiations and implementation of socio-economic and environmental agreements
- Maintain respect and understanding of the First Nation and its members
- Maintain and prepare reports, forms and other documents
- Collate documents for distribution, mailing and filing (manually and electronically)
- Ability to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines
- Continuous Learning
- Perform other duties as assigned

**ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR**

*(Temp full-time position for 6 months to one year, with the possibility of an extension)*  
Located in Fort McMurray, AB

**Duties:**

- Primarily financial and office support to Chipewyan Prairie Industry Relations Corporation working under and reporting to the Director
- Preparation of year-end audit process, financial reports, government remittances of CPIRC
- Responsible for invoicing, daily office duties, maintain accuracy, prioritize schedules, initiate travel arrangements, flexible, multitasked, meet deadlines and perform assigned tasks.

**Requirements:**

- Post Secondary education with qualifications and experience in accounting; BA/OA diploma
- Highly knowledgeable in Simply Accounting and MS Software.
- Proficient in Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable

**Closing Date for both positions: September 11, 2009**

**Email resume to: [admin@cpirc.ca](mailto:admin@cpirc.ca) or fax to: 780-715-3463**

We appreciate the interest of all applicants; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Correctional Service  
Canada

Service correctionnel  
Canada

**Elder / Spiritual Advisor  
Grande Cache Institution  
Grande Cache, Alberta**

Grande Cache Institution is seeking proposals from qualified individuals for two contract Elder/Spiritual Advisors as well as one contract Elder/Spiritual Helper at a medium Security federal Penitentiary for two full-time positions.

The successful candidates will be signed to a Service Contract for a period of two years, beginning April 1, 2010. The contract will also carry two additional one-year renewal options.

For more information or to submit a proposal, please contact:

**Sharon Zirk  
Chief, Materiel Management  
Grande Cache Institution  
P.O. Bag 4000  
Grande Cache, AB  
T0E 0Y0  
Phone: (780) 827-4200  
Fax: (780) 827-3190**

**Deadline:  
September 30, 2009 – noon**

**Aîné/conseiller spirituel/  
Aînée/conseillère spirituelle  
Établissement de Grande Cache  
Grande Cache (Alberta)**

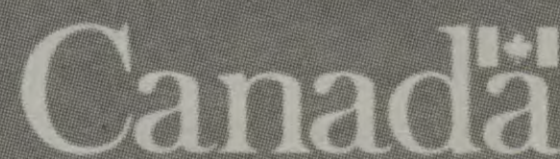
L'établissement de Grande Cache sollicite des propositions de personnes qualifiées en vue d'attribuer deux contrats de travail à titre d'Aîné/conseiller spirituel ainsi qu'un contrat de travail à titre d'Aîné/aide spirituel dans un pénitencier fédéral à sécurité moyenne, ce qui permettra de combler deux postes à temps plein.

Les candidats retenus se verront octroyer un contrat de service de deux ans avec option de renouvellement de deux périodes supplémentaires d'un an. Les contrats entreront en vigueur le 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2010.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements ou soumettre une proposition, veuillez communiquer avec :

**Sharon Zirk  
Chef, Gestion du matériel  
Établissement de Grande Cache  
Sac 4000  
Grande Cache (Alberta) T0E 0Y0  
780 827 4200  
780 827 3190 (téléc.)**

**Date limite : Le 30<sup>er</sup> septembre 2009, à midi**



**ABORIGINAL TAX AND FINANCIAL  
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Presented by **insIGHT**

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**2009 Conference Highlights**

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*The shift from the traditional impact and benefit agreements to joint ventures and partnerships requires an understanding of the importance of selecting the proper corporate structures to minimize liability and maximize benefits, especially from a tax perspective.*

**SAMPLE FORUM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Corporate structures, advantages and disadvantages
- Liability and tax consequences for various structures
- Strategies for effective financial negotiations and consultation as they relate to IBA's
- Doing business with First Nations, Inuit and Métis
- Financing strategies for developing gaming operations on First Nation Lands
- Update on Aboriginal taxation law: tax exemptions for First Nations
- Resource, mining, forestry, energy investment tax credits for companies and investors

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

- Chiefs, Leaders and Members of Aboriginal communities and associations
- Band Council Members & Officials
- Financial Professionals: controllers, CFO's, Vp's of Finance and Treasury, Managers of Taxation, Corporate Tax Accountants, Auditors, Investment Counsel, Economists, Brokers and Bankers
- Directors/Managers Corporate Development
- Academics and Professors specializing in

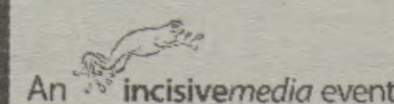
- Aboriginal, Environmental and Constitutional Law
- Senior Executives, Directors and Managers of Energy, Hydropower, Wind Power, Green Energy, Mining, Forestry, Pulp & Paper, Oil & Gas and Natural Resource Firms
- Aboriginal Policy and Affairs Advisors and Regulators

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**Aanischaaukamikw**  
CREE CULTURAL INSTITUTE  
INSTITUT CULTUREL CRI

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aanischaaukamikw Cultural Institute (ACI), a unique Cree entity based in Oujé-Bougoumou, QC, will begin construction soon. The innovative 30,000 square foot facility draws on traditional Cree imagery and will exhibit, collect and preserve past, present and future memories and traditions of the nine Cree communities located in Northern and Central Quebec. Aanischaaukamikw will be a centre of cultural excellence that showcases the richness of aboriginal history and culture, traditions and art through a varied program of exhibitions, educational initiatives, a living archive, a documentation and study centre to be shared with Cree communities, visitors and tourists both on-site and on-line.

Reporting to a Board of Directors, the first Executive Director is the Chief Executive officer of the organization responsible for establishing Aanischaaukamikw and its programs, hiring its professional and administrative staff, working closely with the Board, the building committee and the Cree communities to build the program of activities.

A dynamic individual with superior management, leadership, entrepreneurial and communication skills, the candidate will establish Aanischaaukamikw, and set its development and growth. The candidate requires excellent vision, a strategic and team-oriented leadership, as well as active interest in Aboriginal affairs, culture and history.

A university degree in an appropriate discipline or the equivalent is required, as well as a broad experience in management for not-for-profit organizations, educational and governmental institutions or the private sector. The working language of Aanischaaukamikw is English with fluency in French or Cree an asset. Extensive travel will be necessary. Location: Montreal and Oujé-Bougoumou, QC.

The Selection Committee will begin screening candidates immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

Please forward your curriculum vitae to:

**Manon Vennat & Associates**  
3554 du Musée, Montreal, QC, H3G 2C7  
Fax: 514-282-8681 • Email: [mvennat@sympatico.ca](mailto:mvennat@sympatico.ca)



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### TRIBAL CHIEF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES EAST SOCIETY



The Tribal Chief Child and Family Services East Society, a dynamic, growing Cree First Nation organization, provides programs and services to children and families in need of support and protection so that they can become positive healthy contributing members in their prospective communities.

#### PERMANENCY WORKER/FOSTER CARE/KINSHIP CARE RECRUITER

(This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Salary/Wages: Dependent on Qualifications)

**Position Summary:** Reporting to the assigned Child, Youth and Family Supervisor, the incumbent is responsible for developing and implementing permanency plans for children under the permanent care of the Director. To have knowledge of child protection services and foster care and adoption processes. Have a working knowledge and understanding on the impact of abuse/neglect on child development, mental health disorders and special needs children. Strong organizational and communications skills are necessary. Services will be provided for Kehewin Cree Nation and Frog Lake First Nation Bands. Successful applicant will provide services and support to families in the communities to enable them to provide a nurturing and a safe environment for their children.

**Duties:** May include intake, investigation of child abuse or neglect, and court work. You will be able to utilize your strong communication skills to liaise with community groups and with community agencies. This role will also include an on-call component and after hour duties.

- ◆ Complete individual assessment,
- ◆ Case planning to ensure appropriate/compatible placement for children is secured.
- ◆ Thorough exploration of potential relative placement for children has been completed,
- ◆ Exploring Private Guardianship with Kinship or foster parents.

#### Qualifications:

- ◆ Bachelor of Social Work Degree with direct related front-line experience and or a Social Work Diploma and or minimum 5 year experience in Child & Youth Services- equivalencies may be considered.
- ◆ Must have knowledge of the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act and First Nations Agreements.
- ◆ Must have strong oral and written skills as well as computer knowledge.
- ◆ Own transportation, as travel is required and a valid driver's license.
- ◆ A recent and clean Criminal Record Check and an Intervention Record Check (CYIM Check) will be required.
- ◆ Knowledge of the Cree Culture and the ability to speak Cree an asset.

#### FAMILY ENHANCEMENT WORKER

(This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Salary/Wages: Dependent on Qualifications)

**Position Summary:** Reporting to the Case Work Supervisor, a successful applicant will provide services and support to families in the communities to enable them to provide a nurturing and safe environment for the children.

**Duties:** May include intake, investigation of child abuse or neglect, court work & Family Enhancement. You will be able to utilize your strong communication skills to liaise with community groups and community agencies. This role will also include an on-call component and after hour duties.

#### Qualifications:

- ◆ Bachelor of Social Work Degree with direct related front-line experience.
- ◆ Social Work Diploma and or minimum 3 year experience in Child & Youth Services Equivalencies may be considered
- ◆ Must have knowledge of the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act and First Nations Agreements
- ◆ Must have strong oral and written skills as well as computer knowledge
- ◆ Own transportation and a valid driver's license, as travel is required
- ◆ Recent, Clean Criminal Record and an Intervention Record Checks(CYIM)
- ◆ Knowledge of the Cree Culture and the ability to speak Cree as asset.

#### CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY ASSESSOR

(This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found. Salary/Wages: Dependent on Experience)

**Position Summary:** Reporting to the Casework Supervisor, the Assessor is responsible for determining whether a child requires intervention services as defined by the Child, Youth and Family Enhancement Act and shall be responsible for the following duties:

- ◆ Gathering information through personal interviews and collateral contacts to determine the need and degree of risk to the child;
- ◆ Negotiate goals and determine appropriate programs and services to meet the child's and family's needs;
- ◆ Make referrals to support services and community resources;
- ◆ Attend Court, preparing and presenting evidence;
- ◆ Provide smooth transition for the child and family from investigation; to family enhancement services or protection services.

**Duties:** This challenging opportunity requires an individual with well-developed interpersonal skills, investigative skills, excellent organizational skills and the ability to work with children youth and families.

#### Qualifications:

- ◆ The Person must possess one of the following: Bachelor of Social Work Degree or a Social Work Diploma and/or minimum 2 years experience in Child & Youth Services -equivalencies may be considered
- ◆ Excellent interviewing, assessment and analytical skills
- ◆ Excellent written and verbal skills as well as computer knowledge
- ◆ Own transportation, as travel is required and a valid driver's license
- ◆ Undergo the following mandatory requirements: a recent Criminal Record Check, Intervention Record Check (CYIM)
- ◆ Knowledge of the Cree Culture and the ability to speak Cree an asset

Send completed applications to the following address and include ALL of the following:  
Resume, recent Clean CYIM, CRIMINAL RECORD and three written references

**Tribal Chief Child and Family Services East Society**  
Box 39, St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A0  
Phone: (780) 645-6634 Fax: (780) 645-6647  
Attention: Kathleen Gadwa, Executive Director

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

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[www.cn.ca/careers](http://www.cn.ca/careers)



## BUSINESS LOANS MANAGER SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Alberta Indian Investment Corporation, (AIIC) is currently seeking a self-motivated individual to assume the challenging position of Business Loans Manager - Southern Alberta.

AIIC is a leading commercial lender located on the Enoch First Nation bordering the dynamic west end of Edmonton. AIIC, with over 20 years in commercial lending is known for its commitment to its clients and employees.

The Business Loans Manager (BLM) - Southern Alberta will report directly to the Senior Business Loans Manager and General Manager. The BLM's primary functions are to manage a designated loan portfolio while marketing AIIC's services to promote healthy economic growth within Alberta's First Nations communities.

#### JOB SUMMARY:

- Timely review of Business loan applications and ability to provide recommendations based on sound financial evaluation, analysis and risk assessment.
- Determining and negotiating security and repayment conditions in accordance with company policy. Ability to perform collection activities when required.
- Establish and maintain working relationships with clients while providing advisory services.
- Knowledge of the First Nations communities and willingness to travel throughout Southern Alberta will be required.
- Participation in the development of overall corporate goals and strategies.

#### INDIVIDUAL:

- Must possess computer skills with specific knowledge in Excel & Word.
- Must be able to work independently and within a team environment.
- Meet or exceed reporting deadlines.
- Preference will be given to individuals with post secondary education in Business Administration, Commerce, Economics or Accounting. Consideration may also be given to applicants with extensive lending and/or business development services experience.
- Candidates must possess a valid driver's license and submit an acceptable drivers abstract.

Salary is commensurate with education and experience.  
AIIC provides employees with a comprehensive group benefit package.

To be considered for this challenging and rewarding position, please forward your resume and references by September 21, 2009 in confidence to:

General Manager  
Alberta Indian Investment Corporation  
PO Box 180  
Enoch, AB T7X 3Y3  
FAX: 780-470-3605  
EMAIL: [RockyS@aicbusiness.org](mailto:RockyS@aicbusiness.org)

Only those applicants short-listed will be contacted for interviews.

[ footprints ] Donald Marshall  
**Man wrongfully convicted dies at age 55**  
**Family loses Donald Marshall again**

By Dianne Meili

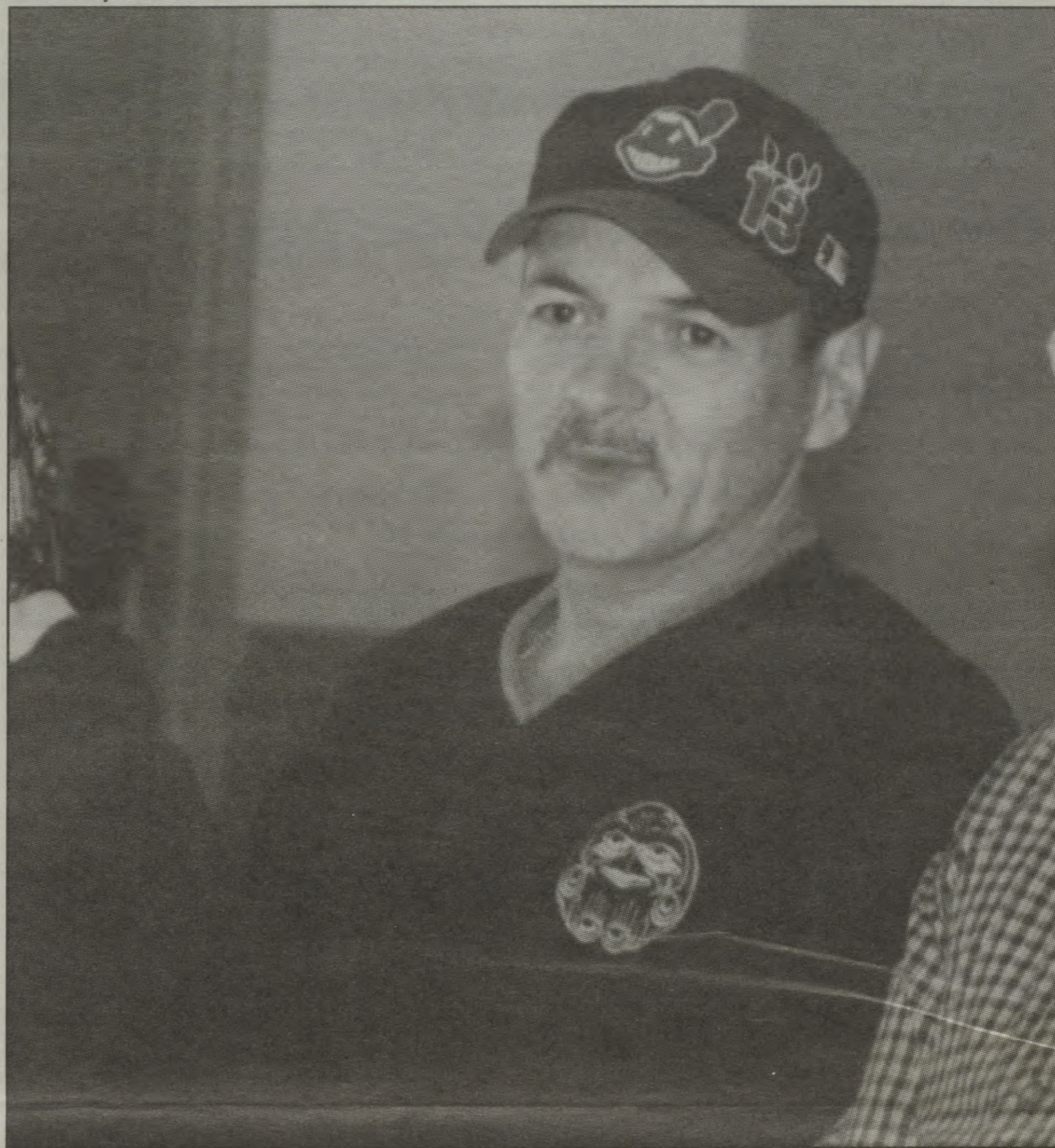


PHOTO: FILE

Donald Marshall Jr.

Donald Marshall Jr. passed away on Aug. 6 from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

His younger brother, David Marshall, said it was particularly hard on the family because this is the second time they've had to say goodbye to him.

David was only 13 in 1971, just entering junior high school, when his brother was apprehended and convicted for the murder of Sandy Seale.

"Junior (as he was known to family and close friends) was awaiting trial in Dorchester and I went to see him after school everyday. He was my big brother and I knew he couldn't have done what they said he did. I looked up to him so much.

"But then he was found guilty and we lost him."

Marshall served 11 years in maximum security until he was exonerated. His case instigated a 1990 royal commission inquiry determining "systemic racism" contributed to his wrongful imprisonment.

The report pointed fingers at police, judges, Marshall's original defence lawyers, Crown lawyers, and bureaucrats.

Ultimately, it called for fundamental reforms in regard to Crown disclosures, ensuring fairness in all court proceedings, and a move to have more representation of minorities in the justice system.

Donald Marshall Jr., a Mi'kmaq youth, was 17 on that fateful evening in a Sydney, Nova Scotia park when he and his friend Seale decided to try and rob the wrong man—Roy Ebsary. The old eccentric had always bragged to anyone who would listen that he was good with knives.

Witnesses came forward 11 years later to say it was, in fact, Ebsary who had plunged the blade into Seale. Ebsary, after being convicted, served only one year in jail.

The Crown had to have the last word about their error, because, upon being declared "not guilty," Marshall was told he had contributed to his own conviction and any miscarriage of justice was more perception than real.

After his release, Marshall lived quietly, sometimes speaking at conferences and gatherings about his life. At one of these workshops, he met Bob Lutes, a prosecutor who was speaking about youth justice and hope.

"I was ready for him to go up one side of me and down the other to vent some frustration for the past," said Lutes. "I tried to put myself in his place and imagine what he might think about being in the same room as a prosecutor. I represented one of the services that gave him such disservice.

"What a pleasant man to meet. He was calm, quiet, respectful and had a presence about him. He was everything you would want your children to be when meeting someone for the first time.

"Working in criminal law for most of my legal career, I saw too many headlines that said nothing about the good person he was," Lutes concluded.

In the late 1990s, Donald caught several eels out of season and was hauled into court once again, but this time he won his case and subsequently brought about a 1999 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that guaranteed Aboriginal treaty rights to fish and hunt.

He became known as a "reluctant hero" to the First Nation for his role in the fight for Native rights.

"His name should go down in history as a sympathetic individual who had the rights of the Mi'kmaq people close to his heart," said Chief Lawrence Paul of the Millbrook First Nation in Nova Scotia responding to

Marshall's untimely death.

Marshall was one of 13 children born to Caroline and Donald Marshall Sr., once the grand chief of the Mi'kmaq nation.

"My mother Caroline was Junior's biggest support," said David Marshall. "She tried to get in touch with certain people she thought could help him and she prayed for him everyday.

"Yes, he was a tough kid. Teenagers just have to prove

themselves. He had his difficulties in life, but who wouldn't if they'd gone through what he did?"

Even the ex-proprietor of a donut shop Marshall frequented said he was polite and cheerful, and one of his customers he "really enjoyed serving and talking to" in his store.

David Marshall said his brother had been sick with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for a long time. In 2003

he received a double lung transplant and had never completely healed.

Now he is in a much better place, he concluded.

"Junior was so much like our father. He was a very soft-spoken man, but when he did speak, people listened. He was polite and he did care about people. A lot of people would say that Junior got what he deserved. He did not. Junior was an icon to all of us here."

Presented by **INSIGHT**

**8th Annual ABORIGINAL LAW FORUM**

October 26 - 27, 2009

St. Andrew's Club & Conference Centre  
 Toronto, ON

**WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

Whether you're involved in commercial activities, policy creation, claim negotiations or litigation with or on behalf of Indigenous peoples, this conference is essential. Consider attending if you are a:

- Chief, Leader and member of Aboriginal communities and associations
- Band Council Member and Official
- Federal, Provincial and Municipal Government Official and Employee (e.g. Dept. of Justice, Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs)
- Legal Counsel practicing Aboriginal, Environmental and Constitutional Laws

- Regulator and Environmental Policy Maker
- Business Developer and Entrepreneur
- Environmental Manager & Consultant
- Academic or Professor specializing in Aboriginal, Environmental & Constitutional Law
- Consultant in natural resources and Aboriginal matters
- Senior Executive, Director and Manager of energy, hydro-power, wind power - green energy, mining, forestry, pulp & paper, oil & gas.

**2009 Conference Highlights**

- Reconciling Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in land disputes and natural resource management
- Aboriginal energy partnerships in Ontario
- British Columbia's Recognition & Reconciliation Legislation: its origins and impacts
- Consultation and accommodation litigation developments across Canada
- Treaty process: current challenges and potential solutions
- Aboriginal taxation law update
- Industry and Aboriginal joint ventures - best practices

- Trends analysis: developments in Aboriginal Law
- What do Aboriginal communities expect in terms of consultation? .... and much more....

**Student conference bursary**

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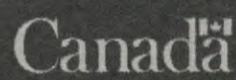
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## AFOA CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Workshops are available on the following:

### Performance Measurement and Reporting in First Nations - 2 Day Workshop

The focus in this workshop is on reporting on performance to community members. The workshop focuses on core principles of performance reporting in First Nation environments and draws the link to financial reporting. Participants will be introduced to the Aboriginal Performance Wheel. Issues examined include: the appropriate level and frequency of reporting; identifying the important aspects of performance; identifying the kinds of information to be reported.

Saskatoon, SK	October 5-6, 2009
Ottawa, ON	October 28-29, 2009
Vancouver, BC	January 13-14, 2010
Ottawa, ON	March 1-2, 2010

### An Introduction to Comprehensive Community Planning in First Nations - 2 Day Workshop

Many communities throughout the country are undertaking Comprehensive Community Planning (CCP) in an effort to improve their economic base while asserting their independence and ownership of community resources. Using best practices and case studies this workshop focuses on: history and evolution of CCP; exploring indigenous principles; and current models and insights from First Nations who have completed CCP.

Vancouver, BC	September 14-15, 2009
Edmonton, AB	December 2-3, 2009
Saskatoon, SK	January 13-14, 2010
Ottawa, ON	March 1-2, 2010

### Developing an Effective Remedial Management Plan in First Nations - 2 Day Workshop

This workshop will help staff acquire the knowledge and techniques needed to develop a Remedial Management Plan for their communities and in so doing help them achieve financial stability and accountability. With the support of case studies, issues examined include: What is a RMP? Understanding the RMP and its impact; Who does what and when in the RMP? How do you develop a RMP? Measuring and assessing performance of the RMP.

Montreal, QC	September 29-30, 2009
Saskatoon, SK	November 16-17, 2009
Edmonton, AB	November 25-26, 2009
Winnipeg, MB	December 2-3, 2009
Ottawa, ON	March 1-2, 2010

#### Contact Information:

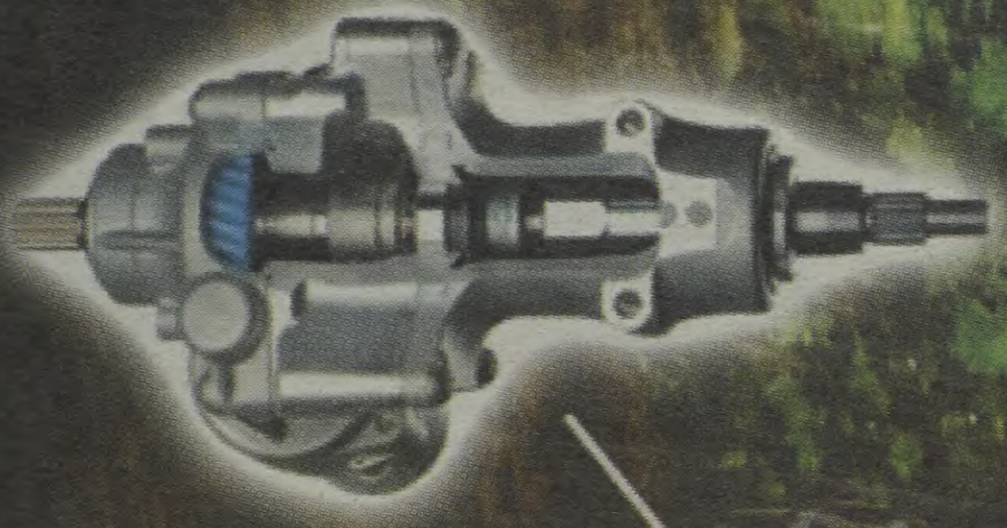
For more information on pricing and availability, please contact Sheila Howard at AFOA at 1-866-722-2362 ext. 117 or [showard@afoa.ca](mailto:showard@afoa.ca)



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