

Wind speaker

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1870 Land Order 'still binding'

Hobbema bands sue Canadian government

By Rocky Woodward

Hobbema's four Indian bands are suing the government of Canada for a declaration that commitments made by the government of Canada in the "Rupert's Land and Northwestern Territory Order" of 1870, are still binding today.

The four Bands filed a statement of claim in the Federal Court, Trial Division in Edmonton, March 18.

At a press conference in Edmonton, chiefs from three of the bands and Theresa Bull, representing the Louis Bull Band stated they would like to see the federal government "live up to the 117-year-old Rupert's Land Order."

Speaking on behalf of the four bands of Hobbema, Chief Melvin Potts of the Montana Nation said "together the Montana, Samson, Ermineskin and Louis Bull Nations will argue that since the 1870 order, the federal government has not made adequate provision in two specific ways — that it has not protected the rights of Indian tribes as self-determining political entities and that it has not provided to them the means for self-sufficiency."

The action, filed in court by Vancouver lawyer Thomas Berger, is based on the Rupert's Land Order. The order was drafted when Rupert's land was acquired by Canada

from Great Britain.

The following resolution was passed by the Canadian parliament on May 28, 1869, "that upon the transference of the territories in question to the Canadian Government it will be the duty of the government to make adequate provision for the protection of the Indian tribes whose interests and well-being are involved in the transfer."

On June 23, 1870, the Rupert's Land Order was approved by Queen Victoria, admitting Rupert's Land of Canada as of July 15, 1870, be subject to these terms and conditions.

The four Bands of Hobbema will argue that the duty of the government of Canada under the 1870 order goes to two points.

The rights of the Indian tribes as self-governing political entities (their "interests") and the providing of the means for self-sufficiency (their "well-being").

"First of all, it is important to re-establish this as part of the Canadian Constitution — the promises made when Rupert's Land was acquired by Canada from Great Britain — the promise to respect the interests of tribes of the prairies and protect their rights to self-sufficiency," commented Berger.

If the four Bands are successful, it would mean other Indian tribes of Rupert's land could benefit, especially if they win their argument that the federal government has failed to live up to the requirements of international law, specifically the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966, which was ratified by Canada in 1976.

The object of the suit, which will be left for the courts to decide, will be to have the courts declare that arising out of the transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada in 1870, the Government of Canada has a constitutional obligation "to make adequate provision for the protection of the Indian tribes whose interests and well-being are involved in the transfer."

If the suit is successful, it would elevate the long forgotten undertaking by the Government of Canada to



CHIEF MELVIN POTTS
...questions land ownership

the status of a constitutional obligation.

The four Bands will argue that this constitutional obligation applies to all the Indian bands or tribes of Rupert's land. All will be entitled, if the four Bands are successful, to claim the benefit.

Asked if the four Bands were filing the suit now

because of the First Ministers' Conference, which will deal with self-government and land rights for Native people, Berger replied that since he has returned to law practice after a short leave, that a series of meetings began over a year ago.

"Indeed we completed our preparations just last week after a year of work.

That's why it happened this week."

Chief Potts, when asked if the claim involves land in and around Edmonton, would not elaborate, instead, said that government has never allowed them "our own self-determination."

"Who really owned the land first? Yet we were shot in the back and put onto little reserves as you call them. We have six homes on one quarter of prime farm land and yet land claims have been stalled for years," Potts answered.

"We are not asking for the moon but what is rightfully ours," he added.

Potts says that they have lost so much land in the past that they are at the point of "where else to turn to, except the courts." He added that land they are talking about depends on each individual Band.

Berger commented that the case is an important one and that the courts will decide if it is soundly based.

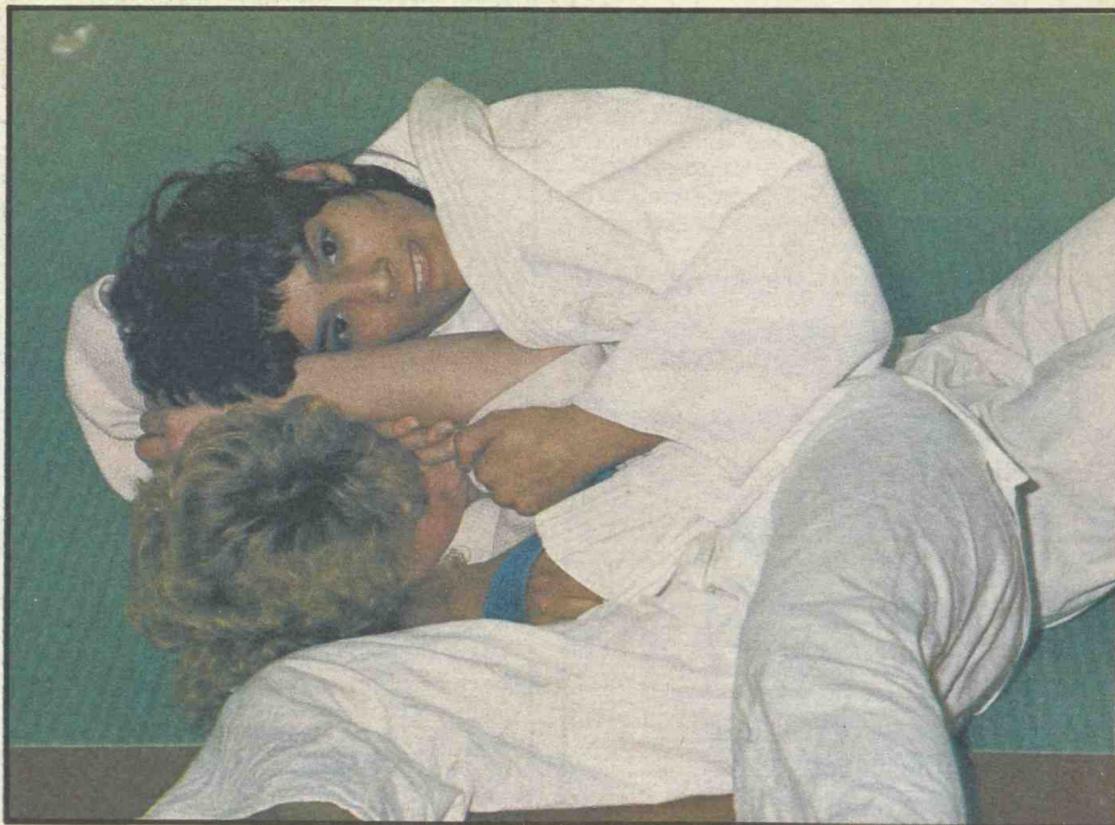
According to Berger, the case will probably take at least "five years to run its course."

"That's just how our system works, but if the courts decide in our favour, then many Indian tribes will be able to turn to the federal government and negotiate for land," Burger stated, adding that they will probably proceed to trial in 1988 or 1989.

Burger says that the \$1.4 million land claim between the Manitoba Metis and the federal government and the four Bands lawsuit is distinctly different.

"The Metis are relying on the Manitoba Act, which Canada made to the Metis. The four Bands are relying on the Rupert's Order — the promise to Indian people. The Manitoba Act and the Rupert's Land Order are both distinct."

The four Bands of Hobbema have a population of approximately 7,000 people on and off the reserve.



METIS SELF-DEFENSE

Edson's Nadine Belcourt had a good grip on her opponent during the Northern Alberta Judo Championships held at the Canadian Forces Base in Edmonton, March 14. Belcourt placed first in her weight class. She trains with the Yellowhead Judo Society in Edson.

— Photo by Bert Crowfoot

National

South African ambassador visits reserve

By Catherine Compton

PEGUIS RESERVE — South African Ambassador to Canada Glenn Babb received a formal request for foreign aid to the tune of \$99 million from Chief Louis Stevenson during Babb's (March 10, 1987) controversial visit to the Peguis Indian Reserve in Manitoba, last week.

Stevenson revealed that he wanted his appeal for foreign aid to Pretoria S.A. on the record to embarrass Canada's federal government for its treatment of its own Aboriginal people.

The aid would be used to rectify his reserve's chronic flooding problems, build a nursing station and new school and initiate economic development projects.

"Stevenson said, 'I don't know how far the application will go, but I felt it's a strong attempt to put pressure on Canada's federal government and will make them think about cleaning up its own backyard. People should not throw stones if they live in a glass house.'"

Stevenson's opening remarks to an audience of over four hundred people, mainly band members, and about 40 reporters from Canada, the United States, and South Africa, outlined a wide range of longstanding issues and conditions Canada's Native people are forced to live under.

He said, "It has always been my position that in comparison to the rest of Canadian society, Indian people in general, live well below the national standards of Canadian lifestyles in every respect and are given less opportunities. It's time the rest of the world learns the truth."

In Babb's opening statement he said, the issues raised here today are global. "A global worldwide problem of underdevelopment next to development."

In the afternoon, a caravan of reporters followed Babb's tour of the reserve, which included the inspection of two sub-standard homes of band residents who evidently merely existed day to day under deplorable living conditions.

Stevenson commented, "These conditions of having no running water or electricity and the poor heating of tumbling down structures in this day and age are not only visible on the Peguis Reserve, but are prevalent across Canada, one of the richest countries in the world."

Babb said, "I see these conditions in my own country as well as other countries around the world." However, Babb did not directly compare conditions on the reserve to those in South African townships when questioned by reporters.

Babb stressed to the media that his reason for going to Peguis was to see if there are similarities between South Africa's and Canada's underdeveloped peoples. He said, "I will be reporting back to S.A. on how policies and strategies in Canada work with its underdeveloped segment of society."

"Babb is a messenger for his country," Stevenson said, "I believe he will report back to his country that Canada's Native people are living worse off than the rest of Canadian society and if Canada wants to be exposed in that fashion, so be it."

Stevenson invited the

CHIEF STEVENSON REQUESTS \$99 MILLION

Ambassador in response to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's criticism of South Africa's racial policies during a recent visit to South Africa. Immediately after Babb confirmed his invitation to inspect living conditions on the reserve located about 160 kilometres from Winnipeg, Chief Stevenson came under fire by African National Congress officials and local anti-apartheid representatives who opposed the visit. Stevenson then said he would withdraw the invitation only if Mulroney would come in Babb's place, but the Prime Minister refused. Days before the visit the Manitoba Constitutional Committee of Chiefs representing 42 bands joined the anti-apartheid groups condemning the visit.

The Chiefs said they sympathized with Chief Stevenson on the Indian issues at hand but strongly opposed to having Babb, whom they regard as a racist, visit Peguis in order to highlight racist issues. A source who wishes to remain anonymous said, "The Jewish community would not invite a representative of Hitler's government to their community."

The Manitoba Coalition of Organizations Against Apartheid staged a demonstration outside Federal Health & Welfare Minister, Jake Epp's office the day of the visit calling for Epp to put pressure on Ottawa to address the Native issues while they chanted, "Babb go Home."

Stevenson held his ground rejecting all criticism that

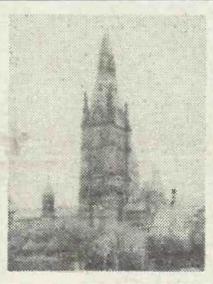
condemned the envoy's visit. At the end of the visit Stevenson said, "I have successfully accomplished my objective of drawing national, if not international attention, to the plight of Canada's Native people by having Babb visit my reserve. I know my decision was not popular, but at least it lit a fire under the provincial and federal governments and the public at large in coming to terms to do something about the Indian issues."

"Now Manitoba's cabinet Minister Elijah Harper, who is also Canada's only Treaty Indian Cabinet Minister, has invited Bishop Desmond Tutu to inspect his home in Sucker Lake, Manitoba. This invitation should have been extended

a long time ago, regardless of this visit here today."

Stevenson predicts, "If the upcoming First Ministers' Conference is another failure, Canada is going to see more of this kind of exercise from other reserves. The FMC seems to be what Indian leaders are depending on and I don't have much confidence that anything is going to result from that forum."

Following the Ambassador's visit to the Peguis Reserve, Babb held an extensive radio interview fielding questions from the general public defending his position that Canada is a classic example of the global issue of "underdevelopment next to development."



OTTAWA REPORT

By Owenadeka

I get a warm feeling when I think about the average Canadian these days, thanks to two public opinion polls. They show that Canadians are solidly behind the idea of Native self-government. But these same polls also give me a pretty cold feeling when I think about the First Ministers -- or at least most of them.

I'll get to that but first, a little information about the two polls. The first was commissioned by University of Calgary professor Rick Ponting. His poll was conducted late last year. The second one was commissioned by the Inuit Committee on National Issues. It was conducted in mid-February. The polling company contacted a total of 3,500 Canadians in a coast-to-coast telephone survey.

(There's an ironic twist to this story, by the way, because the polling company was Decima Research Ltd., which just happens to be the same company used by the Mulroney Conservatives.)

In any event, Decima conducted two different polls and came up with one common finding -- most Canadians don't know very much about self-government or Native people. That was especially obvious in the Ponting survey because a lot of people had their own, peculiar idea about what is meant by the term "Aboriginal" people. The Canadian constitution defines Aboriginal people as Indians, Inuit or Metis. But some people in the Ponting survey think an Aboriginal person is a foreigner or an immigrant. Some people think it means black people in Africa or aborigines in Australia. And some people think it means just the Indians and the Inuit and not the Metis.

The aim of the Ponting survey was to learn how Native issues compare with others. The result: Canadians think it's more important to improve living conditions for Native people than it is to negotiate a free trade agreement with the United States. In fact, free trade was considered the least important issue.

Unlike the Ponting survey, the Inuit poll was specifically aimed at finding out what Canadians think about Native self-government. The result: Canadians like the idea. In fact, it's not too much of an exaggeration to say they're crazy about it.

One of the first survey questions asked if Native people should have the right to govern themselves and 61 per cent said yes. After the people learned something about self-government from later questions in the poll, the level of support increased to 73 per cent. And the numbers got even better. When people were asked if self-government should be given constitutional protection, 77 per cent said yes and a whopping 84 per cent of the people surveyed said they wanted the first ministers to make an agreement on self-government at the constitutional conference.

The poll shows that support for Native self-government is highest in Quebec and lowest in Saskatchewan. The poll also shows that a majority of people in all provinces support the idea.

Despite the apparently strong support for self-government, Indian Affairs Minister Bill McKnight refused at first to say if the poll would make it easier for Ottawa to persuade some of the premiers to change their stand. He said he wants to study the poll more closely before commenting in detail -- with good reason because anyone who knows anything about polls knows that the questions are almost more important than the answers. The Quebec referendum on sovereignty-association is a good example. In that case, the polls showed that support for the idea could go up or down by as much as ten percentage points, depending on how the question was worded. In the Inuit poll, a few of the questions were definitely worded to encourage positive answers. In one instance, for example, a question asked if the federal government should "get off the backs" of Aboriginal people.

But no matter how the questions were worded, the poll results should be strong enough to convince even the biggest non-believers of Native self-government. They should also send a strong message to just about everyone. The message for Native people is simple -- don't give up the fight because it's obvious that the vast majority of Canadians support our struggle.

The polls also have a message for the premiers, especially the hard-liners Getty, Divine and Vander Zalm. It's clear that they no longer have any excuse for not meeting their obligations to Native people.

Lastly, the polls have an even stronger message for Brian Mulroney. His own popularity in the polls is closer to zero these days than it is to 50 per cent. The Ponting survey shows that Canadians think Mulroney's favourite subject -- free trade -- is not as important as Native living conditions. The Inuit poll demonstrates the broad base of public support for Native self-government. So if Brian Mulroney wants to raise his standing in the polls, it just might help if he starts paying attention to the Native poll results and acting on what most Canadians are saying about Native people.

Wind speaker

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Provincial

Calgary mayor 'fears for Olympics'

Klein meets with Lubicon chief

By Lesley Crossingham

Calgary Mayor Ralph Klein entered the fray between the Lubicon Lake band and the federal government by announcing he is writing a letter to External Affairs Minister Joe Clark demanding the government re-enter negotiations with the Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominiyak over the band's land claim.

After an hour-long meeting with Ominiyak and several representatives from Treaty 7, in Calgary's City Hall, March 12, Klein said he had requested the meeting with Ominiyak because he "has fears for the 1988 Calgary Olympic Winter Games."

"It seems unfair that the City of Calgary should be the battleground for this dispute," said Klein. "But I suppose its the only place where the Olympics are being held."

Klein quickly added that he does not support the boycott of the Calgary Winter Games which was called by the Lubicon Lake band over their land claim which has been in dispute for almost 50 years.

Klein explained that he is calling upon the Minister of External Affairs rather than the Minister of Indian Affairs, Bill McKnight because he feels that the Lubicon boycott has now become an international concern.

"Many people from overseas are asking about the boycott and also Joe Clark is a member of Parli-

ament for Alberta and lives close to Calgary," he added.

Klein will also be in close contact with OCO (Olympiques Calgary Olympics) and added that the recent proposal by some officials within OCO to incorporate an Indian war dance and wagon torching exhibition during the opening ceremonies was "unfortunate."

"I think that we have all got to become more sensitive to these kinds of issues. They can really hurt relations between Indian people and non-Indian people."

In a press conference after the meeting Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominiyak announced that the meeting with Klein went well but pointed out that the boycott will go ahead.

"In the end the boycott is up to the federal government. They should re-enter negotiations with us on our reserve lands," he said.

Several reporters asked Ominiyak if he was being unfair to the Calgary people by "spoiling" the Olympic Games. However, Ominiyak pointed out that the Lubicon Lake band has been in negotiation with the federal government for almost 50 years and yet they were still no nearer to a solution.

"If it is a question of hurting people, what about the oil companies who destroy our lands or the provincial government who skuttle every discussion we have had with the federal government?" said Ominiyak.

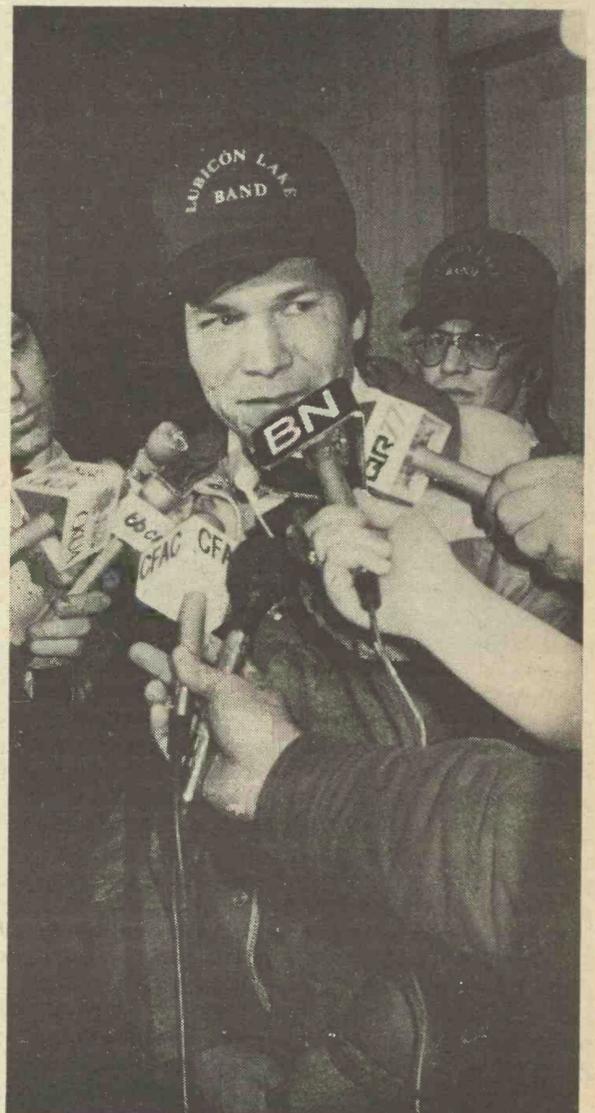
In an earlier news report,



MAYOR RALPH KLEIN
...demanding government negotiations

Ralph Klein had expressed concern that supporters of the Lubicon Lake band would skuttle the planned torch relay across Canada by blockading roads that

run through reserves. However, Ominiyak refused to elaborate on this plan or any future plans to bring the Lubicon land claim to the public's attention.



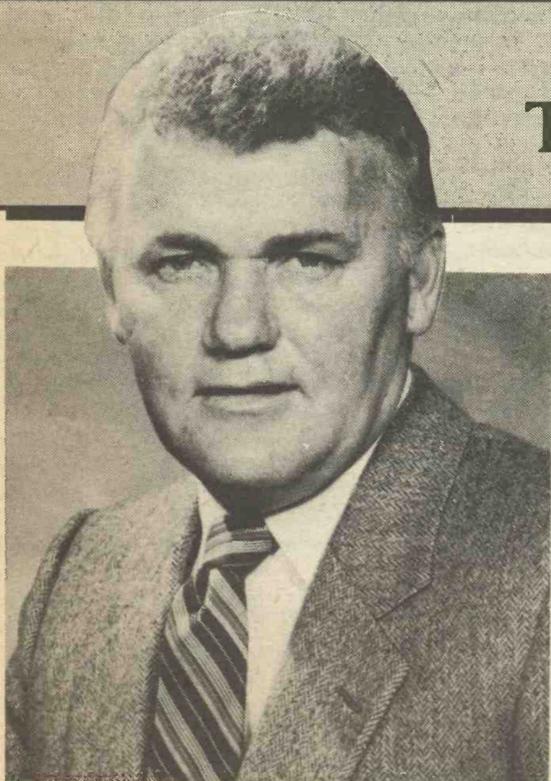
CHIEF BERNARD OMINIYAK
...won't reveal strategies

"We haven't spelled out what we are planning. And we are not sure of what we are going to do. We are going to use every opening we can."

Klein added that neither he nor the band have any future plans to meet again. However, he added that he will be keeping in touch with the band.

Government celebrates 100 years of conservation

Two new natural areas established



DON SPARROW
...wildlife minister

EDMONTON — Official establishment of two new natural areas in Alberta was recently announced by Hon. Don Sparrow, Minister of Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

The two conservation sites are the Wagner Natural Area, 6 km northwest of Edmonton south of Highway 16X, and the Pine Sands Natural Area, about 40 km northeast of the town of Athabasca on the south side of the Athabasca River.

Named after William Wagner, a local farmer who sold the land to the province in 1971, the 320-acre Wagner Natural Area has been used by naturalists,

conservationists and schools since the 1940's. It contains over 100 species of birds, as well as rare orchids, marl ponds and springs. Chief uses are for educational and recreational purposes.

"Establishment of this site is the result of the diligence and continuing efforts of public interest groups," said Sparrow. "The Wagner Natural Area Society, which holds a recreation lease on the property, has been instrumental in providing excellent management of it. I am convinced that their efforts in cooperation with my department will ensure long-term protection of the

site for the benefit of the people of Alberta."

Pine Sands covers an area of just over five square miles and is used by local people for a variety of recreational activities. "Hard work and the dedication of local groups, particularly the Poachers Landing Recreation Club and the County of Athabasca, have been significant factors in establishing this area," said Sparrow. "I hope their efforts will continue to benefit local communities and people in the district."

Natural areas are public lands whose natural features are protected for conservation reasons. Located

throughout the province, typically near populated centres, they are administered by the Public Lands Division of Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife in collaboration with public interest groups. The areas are used primarily for public appreciation, education, research or recreation, when recreation is compatible with the main objective. Other uses are not automatically restricted.

"I am extremely pleased to see these two important natural areas established during Wildlife '87, a provincial and national celebration of 100 years of wildlife conservation in Canada," said Sparrow.

Treaty 8 hold wildlife workshop

By John Copley

"Government is greedy," said 76-year-old Dan McLean, a Native trapper from the Fox Creek area of Alberta. "They are going to sell off my land — maybe to some rich millionaire from Europe or Asia. They'll have more treaty right than we do. If these new wildlife regulations are implemented, there will soon be no more unoccupied crown lands for us to hunt and trap on. This is the way I understand it."

McLean's concerns were one of many brought to light at a Treaty 8 workshop (on hunting, fishing trapping) held at the Sawridge Hotel in Jasper, March 14-15.

The workshop attracted Indian participants from across the Treaty 8 area and also including a visit from representatives of Treaty 6.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife policies, under the newly revised Wildlife Act, were the concerns of the gatherers and the basis of the meeting.

Treaty 8 Chiefs and their representatives, met with political leaders, lawyers, government officials and concerned media in an effort to air their concerns and seek solutions to the problems posed by the new Act.

The major areas of concern were the new Outfitter/Guide regulations; the grazing lease conversion policy, and the increased restrictions (by regulation)

placed on Aboriginal hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering.

The sale of crown lands; the rights of outfitters, which allow exclusive protection of vast areas of crown lands; and the end result of no available "unoccupied" crown land for Indian use were the basis of McLean's comments.

Trapping in the Berland, Nose Creek areas since 1928, McLean says that the graves of his ancestors, which number 50 to 60, prove he and his family have rights to the land.

"I was the first person pinched (arrested) under the Natural Resources Transfer Act (of 1930). They took my moose away and charged me," McLean said.

With little traffic on the roads in 1930, McLean began his long trek to the courtroom in High Prairie. Finally, in despair, he jumped in front of an oncoming truck.

McLean then learned that the man who ran into him (and gave him a ride to High Prairie) was an Alberta magistrate. McLean told his story.

The first name on the court docket that day was McLean's. He was dealt with swiftly.

"The magistrate told the police to take my moose home for me — and to take me home too," said McLean.

"At the time," added McLean, "the Transfer Act had no power over the Indians, but now the

NATIVE LEADERS CONCERNED ABOUT NEW ACT

government acts as though it does have power over treaties signed in 1899."

McLean attributes this to the fact that many Indians, not aware of the full consequences of the delicate Treaty issues, would rather pay a \$50 fine than to go to the trouble and expense of a trial. He said that the continual, quick guilty pleas have helped erode the rights of the Indian people.

"The Alberta government was just born in 1905," scoffs McLean.

"They're just babies. The treaty was signed six years earlier and the graves of my family go back a hundred years before that."

Workshop Chairman Allen Willier said the meeting was held in order to obtain a positive direction from the Chiefs of Treaty 8.

The participating chiefs and other band administrators, listened intently and interjected comments as the meeting progressed.

The not-too-familiar issues were clearly defined by guest speakers which included Lawrence Courtreille, VP Treaty 8, Russell White, Aboriginal Trappers Federation, Richard Davis, Treaty 8 Education Committee, Tony Mandamin, an Edmonton based attorney, his colleagues Kathy Twinn of Slave Lake and Ken Strociak of Edmonton, and Regional Director General of the Department of Indian Affairs, Dennis Wallace.

Attorney Ken Strociak, involved in the controversial "Horseman Case" said the final decision on the matter, now before the appeal courts, would make clear the interpretations of the Treaties' validity.

"One of the strongest theories of the crown is that stated by Justice Dixon, who claims that the Transfer Act was a merger and consolidation of treaty rights.

"I argued," says Strociak, "that a merger, a funny concept of property law dealing with the transfer of lands, is a very technical thing. In this case it is impossible to have a merger.

"A merger requires dealing with the same two parties. In this particular case, however, the treaty is an agreement between Canada and the Indians of Treaty 8, while the Transfer Act is an agreement between Canada and Alberta."

Strociak said the Horseman case was formed on a very good fact situation and that the appeal may take time.

"The Alberta Government is very concerned about the impact of this decision should it go against them. I think it is quite clear that they (Alberta Government) are trying to restrict treaty rights in an operational sense — that is, they want to limit and restrict the rights of Treaty Indians to

cerns of Native people in regards to the new act.

Twinn said that among other things, the government was imposing the new rules because, "they were currently restricted and complicated; the old act was not clear enough about animals; the need to curb the growing lawlessness in

Other concerns include the worry that government may increase the lease land in order to sell more. She also stated that the conversion may decrease the amount of winter forage available for wildlife.

Once public lands are sold, she said it decreases the area in which Native people can hunt freely, because currently Indians can only hunt on "unoccupied crown land." Finally, the increased land speculation could lead to an increase in demand for further leases and sales of public lands.

"Currently there are 5.3 million acres of lease land in Alberta. While it may seem insignificant by Alberta's overall land (159,232,000 acres) it is possible that such a policy could lead to future policies of increased impact," stated Twinn.

Other Wildlife Act concerns mentioned by Twinn, included the prohibition on the discharge of firearms on all developed road allowance in Alberta; the creation of new areas of restricted hunting; the requirement that all first time hunters pass a test before obtaining a licence; and dramatically increased fines which can further hinder the exercise of Native hunting rights whenever there is an uncertainty as to the extent of rights.

Treaty 8 Chiefs and other band representatives present at the workshop indicated solid support for the resolutions prepared by the committee on comments and concerns from the forum floor.

These resolutions, which were all passed unanimously, included one that says Treaty 8 VP, Lawrence Courtreille, would strike a working group who'd report back to the chiefs with their written recommendations on how the objectives could best be implemented. A request for funding for the working group to the Director General of Indian Affairs was also passed.

Because of evidence that concludes that all Albertans, Natives and non-Natives alike, would be affected by the new act it was also resolved that the IAA would be mandated to take steps to get the support of other groups and organizations, and to prepare an awareness campaign that would flood Alberta with vital information and facts about the dangers of the new Wildlife Act.

"Government is greedy. They are going to sell off my land — maybe to some rich millionaire from Europe or Asia. They'll have more treaty rights than we do. If these new wildlife regulations are implemented, there will soon be no more unoccupied crown lands for us to hunt and trap on."

-- Dan McLean

engage in their traditional harvesting activities."

Tony Mandamin, in his research of the history of hunting, trapping and fishing said that many of Canada's laws originated in England.

Under the British common law system, decisions began with the King. This was later moved to the King's appointees, the judges in the land.

After a number of years, the "calf's path" emerged, "That is to say, once a judge made a decision, other judges followed the same way. After a while, these decisions were final and in fact, became the law."

Mandamin said that until 1972, the Canadian Government said there "was no such thing as Aboriginal rights, except as we give it to them."

The Supreme Court of Canada, at the time, decided that when there is a doubt about interpreting a treaty or a statute which involves Indians, the result is always to be made in the favor of the Indians.

"If the policy had been in place since 1960," claimed Mandamin, "many of the Indian rights would not have eroded away as they have been doing."

Solicitor Catherine Twinn, speaking on the Wildlife Act (to take effect on April 1, 1987), indicated the con-

rural Alberta; not enough protection for the public from the hunter; and no protection for non-residents swindled by dishonest guides."

Twinn added that the impact on Aboriginal people could be even more devastating.

The list of concerns mentioned included increased cost factors (permits, insurance, bonding); the prevention from anyone entering the business (unless big dollars were available to purchase existing rights); the windfall, or financial gain by those already operating big outfitting/guide operations (limited supply equals price increase); a monopolistic service (same people in command of licences each year); and a possible foreign ownership (20%) of Alberta's annual wildlife harvest (because the Minister can allocate up to 20% of annual licences to non-resident aliens.)

Other concerns brought forth by Twinn involved the new Grazing Lease Conversion Policy.

Twinn said that "while the conversion of grazing leases is currently frozen, it is likely that this policy will eventually be re-enacted."

"The conversion of leased land into owned land increases the possibility that access will be denied," she said.

WHY BE LEFT OUT?



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**Wind
speaker**



Lawrence Courtreille, V/P Treaty 8:

"It is our feeling that the Alberta government is test casing every right we have regarding hunting, trapping, fishing and fathering. We even have a case of an Indian who is charged with 'trying' to shoot a duck!

"The government is trying to take away our rights and pass them on to a certain exclusive group, which is, unfortunately, nearly all non-Native.

"It's time to look again at the proposal (by Clifford Freeman) to unify bands with a solid information and public relations program."

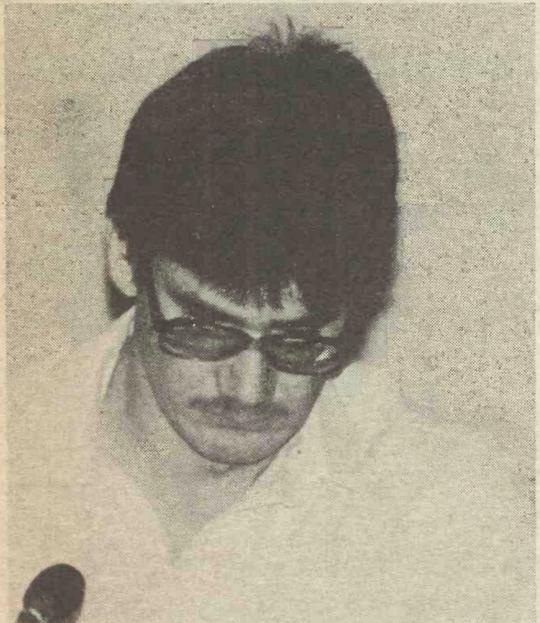


Walter Twinn, Sawridge Band:

"We need the minister (Don Sparrow) to say that Indians will not be exempted from outfitting/guiding, trapping, hunting, and fishing.

"We do not want what is surely coming. We don't want another Europe, where only the rich and the elite can afford the luxury of hunting."

"We must ensure that we communicate with other Albertans — this (Wildlife Act) is an issue which will affect everyone."



Allan Willier, Chairman:

"These regulations (Wildlife Act) were actually passed and approved in 1984. A proclamation was the only thing needed, and they (government of Alberta) couldn't even wait until April 1. They shoved it through on February 27.

"A very productive workshop as was indicated by the solid support of the Treaty 8 Chiefs and representatives."

Wildlife issues

Concerns outlined by workshop delegates

By John Copley

From education to survival, from rights to indignities — these were the concerns on the minds of Alberta's Treaty Eight chiefs, band representatives, and other interested and concerned parties at a recent workshop held at Jasper's Sawridge Hotel.

The issues represented a broad spectrum of viewpoints among the Treaty 8 leaders with the most emphasis put on wildlife, education, unity, and a call for action to defend against the indignities faced by Aboriginal people's mis-represented treaties.

These are the words of some of those leaders.



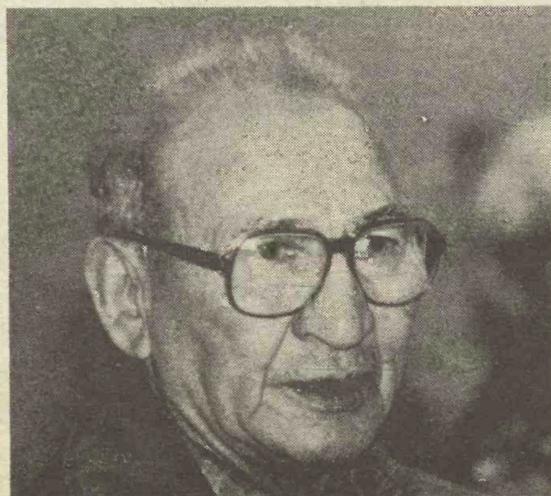
Greg Smith, IAA President:

"We will not accept an observer role on any government committee. We will work with the Metis to preserve our wilderness and our traditional way of life."



Judy Desjarlais, Grande Cache Rep:

"Rights? What rights? We are being forced to vacate a business that is our way of life and our livelihood."



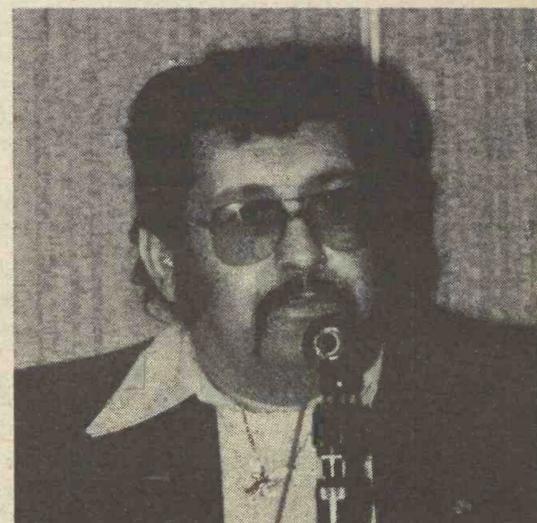
Dan McLean, Trapper:

"I'm not worried about what I can sell, only about what I can keep" (referring to his trapping rights).



Percy Potts, V.P. Treaty 6:

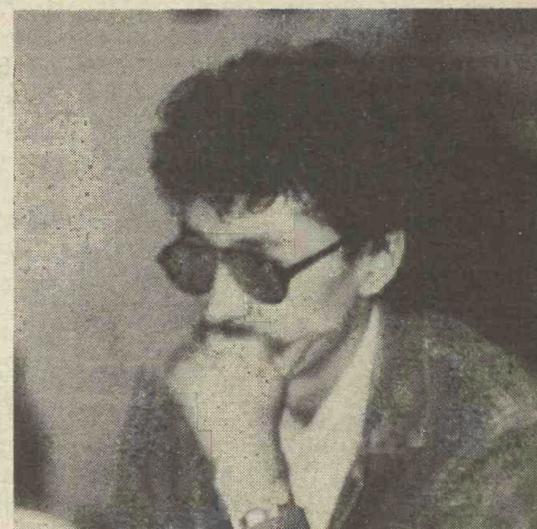
"It's too bad the word didn't get out to the Chief's sooner. I hope it's not too late!"



Russell White, ATFA:

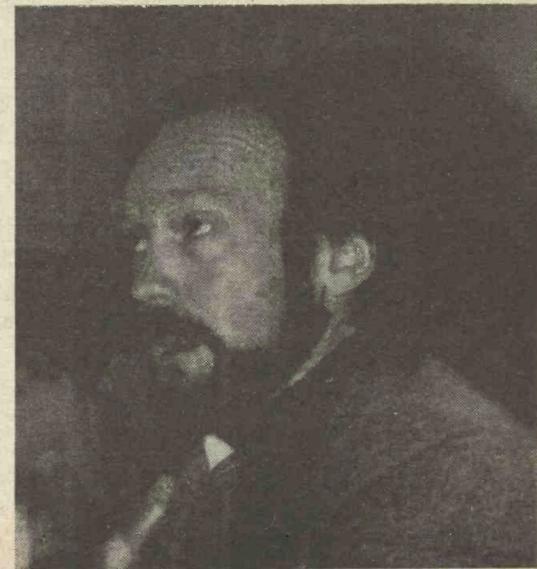
"The demand for furs is big in the Orient. We can no longer sit around and watch someone else get rich on our furs.

"A trapper who received \$35 for a marten pelt now (under the ATFA format) gets closer to \$100.



Jim Bouche, Chief, Ft. McKay:

"We are against environmental degradation (pesticide/herbicide spraying) or any other 'poison' that affect Native people."



Dennis Wallace, DIA:

"We prefer doing things with the involvement of the Indian people that we serve."

Opinion

Aboriginal self-determination

Reader examines grassroots attitudes

Dear Editor:

First I want to thank the Native students at the U of A for having the Native leaders on March 6, speaking about Aboriginal and Treaty issues.

I for one was quite interested in listening to what they had to say. Self-

determination is very important to the Native people of this land. To understand self-determination, we have to live and talk about it amongst ourselves, family, friends and our white brothers. To me it was quite clear, land base, education, Native laws for Native people, to name a few concerns. How do we accomplish a task as important as self-determination? I believe it has to start within ourselves.

I was expecting a large crowd of Native people at the U of A, who were concerned about their future, their children's future and so on down the line. I was to say the least, disappointed.

Reader asks what happened to Wagamese

Dear Editor:

Where is Wagamese? My friends and I have always enjoyed reading his opinion column. Couldn't you get someone to fill his shoes.

Sincerely,
B. Bastien
Brocket

P.S. Terry Lusty's articles on Big Bear, trapping, HBC — very good.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wagamese is taking a break. As for filling Wagamese's shoes, you may be asking the impossible.

our values that were taught to us by our Elders?

Our Elders play an important role in self-determination. They remember our values, we have to go to them and learn how we can make self-determination work for us. We have to be heard loud and clear, that we are

responsible people, responsible for ourselves.

Some of us tend to sit back and wait for our Native leaders to fight for us. Then we hope to harvest all the profits and good times to follow. I am telling you, our Native leaders need our support! They are part of our family, do we

not support our own family in the goals they hope to accomplish?

The point I am trying to make is for us as Native people to stand behind our Native leaders, give them support and express to them what we want as Native people. This we can accomplish by standing

side by side as one. Unity is our goal, strength in numbers will be our self-determination for our people. May the Great Spirit and our Grandfathers walk and guide us in our journey.

Frank Logan
Edmonton

The Independent Metis Society of Saskatchewan

Metis group founded for the improvement of the Metis position

Dear Editor:

The Independent Metis Society of Saskatchewan was formed to respond to your need for honest, fair, and separate representation of Metis interests regarding civil rights and political participation.

Many of us feel that our unique interests are not being adequately served by existing Native organizations. We are committed to the provision of an alternative means of access to provincial and federal governments in the pursuit of justice and equality of all Metis people in this province.

We are a social and political administrative foundation dedicated to the improvement of the Metis position in Canadian society. As we enter the 21st century we feel that our special needs are best served by education, rehabilitation, settlement of our rightful land claims, and economic self-sufficiency. We feel that the long term success of these goals does not depend on the advocacy of self-government, but rather with increased involvement and cooperation with existing social and political structures.

We are proud contribu-

tors to the multi-cultural fabric of this bountiful nation, and feel blessed that our cultural identity is now guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights.

We would hope to see an increased cultural awareness of the Metis, as a people separate and distinct from Status Indians, without sacrificing our rights as Canadian citizens.

We feel that only through further participation in democratic institutions in community, provincial and federal jurisdictions is social and economic equality for our people a realistic and practical goal.

In meetings with government officials at both the provincial and federal levels we have encountered an extremely favourable response to our integrative approach. More importantly, we have received widespread support for our platform from our Metis brothers and sisters, many of whom are dissatisfied with the perceived unjust and divisive actions of organizations claiming to represent our best interests.

It seems ludicrous to suggest, particularly given the experiences of Metis and Indians during the last century as the most underprivileged minorities in this

country (due, in part, to racial segregation and "special" treatment), that a constitutional amendment entitling us to self-government would serve to our advantage. This is a technological age, and we are becoming increasingly urbanized. Many of us are mixing our blood with that of later immigrants, becoming more educated, more successful in business ventures, and have proudly served our nation in military endeavours. We do need, however, to increase opportunities for more Metis to become fully functioning members of society.

Wrongs must be redressed in the areas of education, health, welfare, and employment, and Aboriginal land right settlements must be pursued to this end; we are unwilling to

shelve this issue for that of self-determination.

We applaud the position of Premiers Devine and Getty in opposing any constitutional amendments that may, in fact, limit our rights as fully participatory members of society in building the future of this country as a unified democracy.

We recognize the present governing structures as being the only valid ones with the belief that if it is good enough for our white brothers it is good enough for us.

What we are striving for is equality, not separation. We are Canadians first.

Your faithful servant,

Carl H. Fidler
Vice-President
& Public Relations
Officer of IMSOS

Stranded traveller grateful for Dubois

Dear Editor:

Recently I was driving from Edmonton to Leduc when my car stalled approximately seven or eight miles from Leduc. It was about 10:00 p.m. and was a cold and stormy night.

Because this had never happened to me before, I was quite worried but since the traffic was heavy I thought that a ride into Leduc would be no problem. Ha! The cars and trucks whizzed by, leaving the snow flying in my face as I stood beside my car, waving frantically. After about 15 to 20 minutes, a small white car pulled to a stop in front of my car. I opened the passenger door and there sat a smiling gentleman, asking if he could give me a ride! His name was Robert Dubois and he words at Hobbema.

I realize that most people are afraid, for various reasons, to stop on the highway when they see someone stranded so I realized that Robert took a chance in stopping. I will be ever grateful that he cared enough to offer me that ride, right into town. I'll always remember the kindness of Robert Dubois.

Yours truly,
Mary Ropchan
Leduc

Photo credit missed

Dear Editor:

Re: Windspeaker Gallery

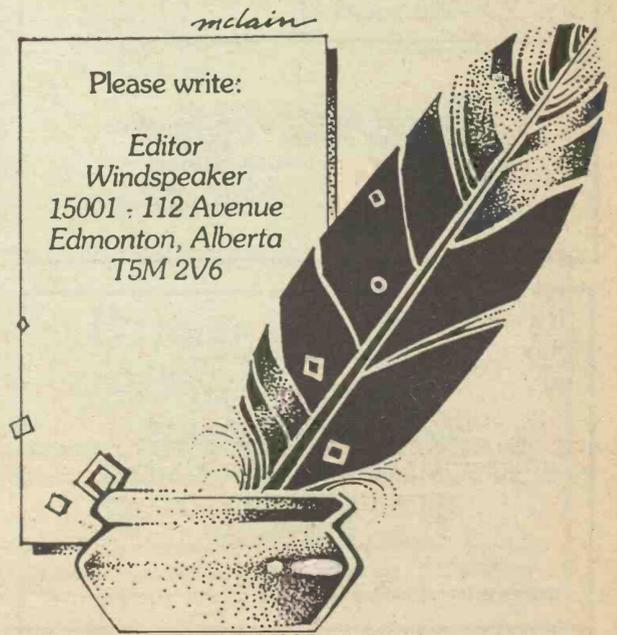
In previous issues you have always given photo credit to whomever the photographer was.

Why didn't you give Terry Lusty the photo credit on the February 13

issue on the front page? It was an excellent photo of Bobby Hunter. Thanks.

M. Simpson
Ft. MacLeod

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for reminding us. Hopefully, it won't happen again. Sorry Terry!



Please write:

Editor
Windspeaker
15001 - 112 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5M 2V6

Nursery rhyme 'in bad taste'

Wuttunee 'horrified' by nursery rhyme

By Leslie Crossingham

When Yvonne Wuttunee bought a nursery rhyme record and bookset for her six-year-old daughter, Terra-Dawn, she never imagined for one minute that this would lead her to make resolutions at an All Chiefs' conference or to organize a delegation to the International court.

It all started when Wuttunee began to read the rhymes to her daughter. At first she read the usual traditional rhymes such as Humpty Dumpty and Jack and Jill. However, one rhyme called Ten Little Indians made her stop short.

"I was horrified," said Wuttunee from her Calgary home. "There was this rhyme innocently portrayed with cute little Indian children giving racist and red-neck views of Indian people."

Wuttunee was so distressed that she immediately pulled the record off the record player and destroyed it.

Then she began to read the rhyme again, especially the verse that says "little Injuns never heard of heaven." This particularly upset Wuttunee, who points out that many children would think that Indian people have no concept of God or the Great Spirit.

Another verse says: "Three little Injuns out in a canoe -- One fell overboard, and then there were two." It also upset Wuttunee, who points out that Indian peo-

ple invented the canoe, a structure that has never been improved upon, and that Indian people are generally good sailors.

However, what upset Wuttunee the most was the final verse:

"One little injun living all alone -- He got married, and then there were none!"

"This smacks of assimilation. Obviously the book infers that Indian people are a dying race and that once we marry, presumably to a white person, we are no more. I just couldn't believe my eyes."

Wuttunee who is currently studying psychology at the University of Calgary, has analyzed the rhyme and points out that the message is pre-packed and subliminal.

"Children don't realize they are being fed this racist propaganda. They just see the pretty little pictures and the cute little Indians. But the underlying message is that Indians are stupid and that we are a dying race," she says angrily.

Wuttunee was so angry that she took the matter to the All Chiefs Conference on Oil and Gas held in Edmonton March 6 and 7. She made a resolution that derogatory publications be banned and that the use of such material also be banned.

The motion was seconded by Richard Behn from British Columbia and Vernon Belgarde from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) and passed unanimously. Now

Wuttunee wants to take the whole matter to International Court.

"When Jewish people receive hate literature, something is done. But this rhyme appears in a Walt Disney record album and is distributed all over the world. Something must be done."

Wuttunee has begun a fund-raising campaign in order to pay for any legal expenses in taking this matter to the world's highest

court.

"I hope other Native people will join me in this endeavour. It seems that right now we are being bombarded with all kinds of redneck literature and comments. We have to make a stand."

Wuttunee draws similarities between the rhyme book and the hate literature coming from neo-Nazi organizations, and points out that many non-Native people still hold the old ste-

reotype ideas of Indian people.

Last week, officials working on the opening ceremonies for the Calgary Olympic Games outlined a plan which would involve an Indian war party chasing a covered wagon and then setting it on fire. Many local Indian groups bitterly complained about what they called a "Hollywood" view of Indian people and the plan was scuttled.

"This is happening right across the country," says Wuttunee. "And we must act swiftly before more of this hate literature comes through our mailboxes."

Wuttunee is currently preparing a letter to the Walt Disney Company. The record-book set in question is called Walt Disney's Treasury of Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes, published by Walt Disney Records, Number 3935.

Disney publisher apologizes

By Rocky Woodward

Because of an article in this week's edition that regarded basis in a poem called "Ten Little Indians," Windspeaker contacted the publishers of the book entitled, "Walt Disney's Treasury of Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes," from where the poem originated, to find if it was still be published.

After phoning Walt Disney Publishing in California, it was learned that they were not sure if the book was still in existence or on the market for sale.

The publishing firm then gave Windspeaker the name of their sales representative in Canada, James Rayburn in Rexdale, Ontario.

Rayburn is the vice-president and general manager in charge of Canadian

distribution for Walt Disney Publishing.

Rayburn after listening to Windspeaker's request about the book, checked to see if it was still being distributed in Canada and found that it was. The poem consists of sentences that border if not cross over the line of being discriminatory.

The poem was brought to Windspeaker's attention by a concerned parent, Yvonne Wuttunee. Her six year old daughter brought it to her attention.

"I was horrified. Here was this rhyme innocently portrayed with cute little Indian children, giving racist and red-neck views of Indian people," said Wuttunee.

Some of the poems lines that bothered Wuttunee were:

"Six little Injuns, kicking

all alive-

One broke his neck, and

then there were five.

"Two little Injuns, fooling

with a gun-

"One shot the other, and

then there was one.

"One little Injun, living all

alone-

He got married, and then

there were none."

Rayburn said he would need time to contact head office in California and mentioned that the book would most likely be deleted.

Rayburn's parting words were that the Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes book, numbered 3935, "is still in our catalogue," and also mentioned that this was the first complaint they had ever received in regards to the book.

Later Rayburn called back and his comment was that he was "glad that

Windspeaker brought the poem to my attention."

Rayburn stated that the copyright on this particular book has been in existence for 22 years and "I don't understand how it went unnoticed. We extend our apology."

After reading the poem Rayburn admitted that it was really "done in bad taste," and he assured Windspeaker that the book will be discontinued.

"We will be withdrawing this book from distribution and I again would like to thank you for drawing it to our attention."

Rayburn said because of the Windspeaker call they would be taking immediate action.

"Again we would like to extend our deepest apology," Rayburn commented.

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DROPPIN IN

By Rocky Woodward

Hi! Listen. About the ugly pussycats contest. Dropping In will settle for drawings from children on their ugly pussycat, even if it is make-believe!

Now, you parents out there — want your child to win \$149.74, so you can send them on a trip or something, why not get behind them and help them win the UGLY PUS-SYCAT CONTEST!

Here is a chance to participate in a contest for fun!

GIFT LAKE: Will hold a winter carnival on March 28, and our ace Informational Community Officer (ICO), I thought I'd give him a big title, Leonard Flett, says he will return to Gift Lake from Cadotte Lake to help out.

"I said I would even sing, Rocky. But they have to have two go-go girls there to back me up."

How about coming to Edmonton to perform Leonard? I can get you four ugly dogs for backup harmony.

Leonard also asks when he will get his picture?

"I was awarded a cartoon picture by Kim McLain almost two years ago and I am still waiting."

EDSON: Just a reminder that the Metis Local 44, will be holding their first ever cultural days on May 15-17. Be there.

SLAVALAKE: The Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre will be holding its 15th annual general meeting on May 23.

To celebrate 15 years of active operation, the centre would like to have as many former staff and board members as possible attend the meeting, dinner and evening entertainment.

If you either worked at the centre or sat on the board, we would love to see you there, says Lesley Geiger, administrative assistant.

For more information call 849-3039.

EDMONTON: The 6th Annual Ben Calf Robe Powwow will be held on May 9 at the St. Pius School, 12214 - 128 Street.

The opening ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m., so let's get out there and support our Native students.

This year the students, parents and staff wish to honor and bring together our Native youth, the theme for the event is For Our Children's Children.

For more information, please call Phyllis Cardinal at 451-6066.

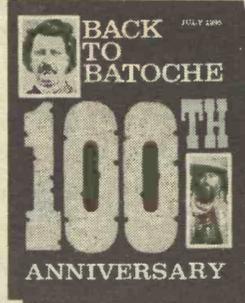
DROPPING IN: Did everybody notice Tantoo Cardinal wink at all of us back here in Alberta when she attended the Genie Awards in Toronto? I did.

Congratulations, Tantoo, on your nomination as best actress.

In my heart, I believe the film "Loyalties" deserved far more than Best Costume Design.

Have a nice weekend everyone.

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FMC fast approaching

Erasmus optimistic about meeting

By Terry Lusty

Zero hour is fast closing in on the coming First Ministers' Conference (FMC) in Ottawa. As Canada's four major Native groups prepare to sit down at the tables, it remains anybody's guess as to what the outcome of those discussions will be.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) President, Georges Erasmus, has been providing all Native communications groups with updates, this one being the second prior to negotia-

tions that are to transpire in Ottawa March 26-27.

When questioned about how the conference might begin, Erasmus says they expect "the prime minister to put forth a proposal...it's (own) version of an amendment" to the constitution. He says that Native groups, despite a boycott by some Indian bands, are united and unwilling to compromise their position.

The key to a constitutional amendment which would entrench the Aboriginal right to self-government, says Erasmus, is to receive



the support of the Canadian and provincial governments.

An immediate problem that Erasmus points to is the fact that Quebec's Premier Bourrasa, has stated that he will not have

Quebec represented at the FMC.

Quebec represents about 25 percent of the Canadian population and that province or the province of Ontario, along with six other provinces, will be needed to sway a vote favorable to Native aspirations. The reason that Quebec is staying out of the amendment process is because, "they're not happy with the deal they have with Canada at the moment," says Erasmus.

Therefore, says Erasmus, Ontario could become a main factor. They seem to have softened their position in favor of the Aboriginal groups and seem to be taking a more progressive stand and that is "significant," he adds.

"We also heard rumors that the attorney general, Ian Scott, actually had a meeting with the premier who more or less told him to soften his tone...to strike a deal rather than (be) pounding away at us," says Erasmus.

As for the western provinces, they are not a real factor says Erasmus. He asserts that they don't come into play until there's something for them to strike down or otherwise." In the past, he says, the three western provinces have not been the problem.

"The federal government and Ontario have been the problem," he explains.



GEORGES ERASMUS
...AFN grand chief

"It's absolutely key that the feds and Ontario come on board." If they do, the west couldn't block any decision they might make even if they wanted to, he adds.

Erasmus says that the approach being taken by the AFN is to maintain their traditional stance... "that our sovereignty has not been extinguished... that we have the right to self-government." He expressed grave disappointment with federal minister Ray Hnatyshyn.

Hnatyshyn, says Erasmus, "is probably the smartest and most potential" justice minister they have

had to deal with but, "he hasn't really tried to find agreement even in places where he could." Erasmus accuses him of possibly trying to bluff Natives into giving in to the government, "to accept provincial powers, provincial veto and acquired, delegated authority."

The AFN has no intentions of wavering from their position even if it should lead to a lack of agreement at the FMC says Erasmus. There is no room for compromise on our part he says and if the talks fail, "life will go on, we'll continue the struggle."

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Nearly a thousand march on Parliament

First Nations hold rally

By Jamie McDonell

OTTAWA — Native leaders urged Aboriginal Canadians to shun a Conservative party that has ignored their views, short changed them on agreements, and kept them economically disadvantaged at a rally here last Wednesday.

The rally on Parliament Hill by nearly a thousand people closed two days of deliberation on how the Assembly of First Nations will be dealing with the feds and provinces at next week's First Ministers' Conference (FMC).

With a few exceptions, it was a bad week for Aboriginal peoples in the capital, as the hours countdown to the FMC on Aboriginal constitutional affairs.

The worst news was the fact that the last ministerial meeting before the FMC, held here on Thursday and Friday, ended in an impasse - caught on the insistence by the federal and several provincial governments (most notably Alberta's) that First Nations have only delegated powers.

The impasse was even more disappointing because it had seemed that some advance had been made at a previous ministerial meeting in Toronto, a few weeks earlier.

At that meeting, Nova Scotia had proposed a constitutional amendment recognizing Aboriginal right to self-government, which is already implicitly recognized in subsection 35(1) of the Constitution.

The amendment went a giant step beyond the position reaffirmed Friday by the feds and provinces like Alberta, denying First Nations' inherent right to self-government.

The federal government argued for "contingent rights," which could approach those claimed by First Nations or be almost non-existent, depending on how good Aboriginal people were at negotiating.

Government intransigence in such negotiations was cited by Haida Chief Miles Richardson in an address to marchers before the rally. "We have contin-

ually stated our willingness to come to terms with the promise that is Canada, and at every turn we have been rebuffed," he said.

In one piece of good news at the rally, the Liberal party finally came out against "contingent rights." Liberal leader John Turner told Aboriginal leaders at the rally that he and his party "support your right to self-government," explaining that he viewed that right as "free-standing" and "explicit."

In its deliberations before the rally the AFN passed several resolutions which set out the Assembly's positions on constitutional and a number of other issues.

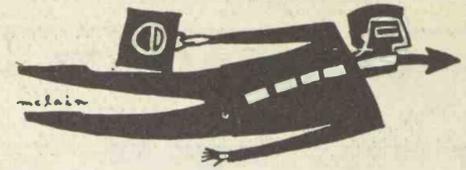
Resolutions passed included: that the feds and provinces must agree that any third party interests in First Nations-Canada negotiations are represented by their government representatives; that the AFN accept no constitutional arrangement that would compromise the inherent sovereignty of First Nations; and that a vigil be held by all First Nation families across the country, coordinated with other Aboriginal groups, to demonstrate the strength of Aboriginal peoples during the constitutional talk.

Other resolutions addressed the federal government's shortchanging of its Resource Development Impact program, directed the AFN to proceed against the government of British Columbia in the courts concerning Native land claims in that province and censured the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs for its failure to consult with First Nations during its recent review of land claims policy.

An ongoing concern for the AFN is its inability to resolve its differences with the prairie First Nations who have broken away to the Prairie Treaty Nations Alliance.

The break leaves Alberta, Saskatchewan and many Manitoba Status Indians without representation at the constitutional bargaining table when talks start next week.

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Leadership review rejected

By Ivan Morin

A special resolution to have a review of the Metis Association of Alberta (MAA) President's position was soundly defeated by assembly delegates who attended the 58th Annual MAA Assembly in Edmonton, March 14 and 15.

The resolution introduced by Ron Larocque, candidate in the upcoming MAA Zone Directors elections stated, "the president of the association shall be subject to a review of his or her leadership at each annual assembly of the association."

The resolution asks the eligible voters, "approve of and support the president's right to continue in office —Yes or No."

In order for the resolution to be passed, at least two-thirds of the eligible voters had to vote for a leadership review before consideration could be taken at the assembly.

After a heated debate on the question of leadership and whether there was a mechanism in place to review the president's position, the resolution was put to a vote and defeated.

In the discussion a number of people expressed

ISSUE PROMPTS HEATED DISCUSSIONS

their concern that the leadership review question was directly or indirectly questioning the present leadership of MAA President Sam Sinclair. Joanne Daniels, former vice-president of the Metis Association said, "If this resolution is being put forth to question Sam's leadership, then I will not stand in support of it. But if this resolution is being considered to enhance the president's position and make the position more accountable then I'll stand

in support of it."

Vice-President of Zone 5, Paul Sinclair stated that, "we already have a review process in place and a process in place to remove the president if he/she is not doing a satisfactory job."

Sinclair explained that at any MAA Board of Directors meeting, the board can remove the president if, nine members of the Executive Board feel that the president is not doing his job.

MAA President Sam

Sinclair says, "There was an indirect attack on my character through his attempt to pass this resolution. I didn't think it was necessary. My leadership has always been hard work and honesty and nobody can deny my work. And you also have to consider the personalities involved in trying to pass the resolution."

When contacted by Windspeaker Ron Larocque stated, "This resolution was not meant to challenge Mr. Sinclair's leadership. It's intention is to let the president know that he has to respond to the will of the people he serves. As far as personalities playing a role, the only personality involved is Mr. Sinclair's."

On final count the voting went 62 to 44 against the resolution.

Other highlights of the assembly included resolutions passed to recognize Metis women as equals in all matters concerning the Metis.

A resolution to allow four representatives from the Women of the Metis Nation to attend the First Ministers' Conference in Ottawa later this month, and to allow those women an equal vote within the Metis Association of Alberta's vote, was also passed.

Metis women from Little Buffalo, also had a resolu-

tion passed, giving them legal and resource support from the Metis Association. Up until now the women say they have not received the proper support of the association.

Another contentious issue at the assembly was the membership of Zone 3, delegate Freda Martel. Martel has been denied full membership to a Red Deer and Calgary Metis local, because members of the locals did not believe her to be a Metis.

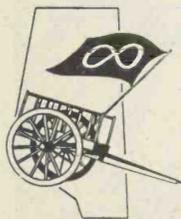
A motion was brought to the Annual Assembly floor to decide whether Martel was to be accepted as being Metis. After a highly charged discussion period a vote to include Martel's membership was taken and a majority voted to accept her as a member.

Another issue which prompted some heated discussion was the Metis Urban Housing issue; the process of choosing candidates for residency in one of the Metis Urban Housing owned houses, and a mortgage agreement between Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Metis Urban Housing were in question.

At last count slightly over 300 delegates were in attendance for the two day assembly.



MAA's 58th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
...over 300 in attendance



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MAA 58th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY COVERAGE

MAA president's opening remarks

Sinclair urges opinions

By Jerome Bear

The Metis Association of Alberta (MAA) President Sam Sinclair's opening remarks urged Metis people from all over the province to work together over the next two days, to insure that the MAA's 58th annual assembly, held March 14 and 15 in Edmonton, would be successful.

"This is a business meeting and is part of our political process. I would like to see meaningful things discussed that will benefit the Metis Association and its members. I do not want to see valuable time wasted on bickering and personality attacks on anybody," said Sinclair.

Sinclair briefly touched on a few of the issues that were going to be talked about at the assembly. One of these issues dealt with the Metis Urban Housing program. He said that they had some trouble with the program when it was first started.



SAM SINCLAIR
...MAA president

Sinclair said that the staff at the urban housing office weren't adequately trained in the area and that was the

cause for the deficit over the past year. He says that they now have training programs and that the housing program will be more efficient in the future.

Sinclair also talked about self-government. He said that the MAA has made good progress with the provincial government towards self-government.

"We have started a process with regional councils that could lead to self-determination," said Sinclair.

The grass roots people were urged to speak at the assembly and not to be afraid to voice their opinion.

"I want to see the grass roots people here speak out, speak out without fear.

If you feel the MAA or your elected zone representatives are not doing what think should be done, speak out with the suggestions and questions, not with personality attacks," Sinclair urged.

Sinclair announced to the assembly that he was stepping down from his position at the end of the term which is in August. He said that he wasn't going to stop pushing for self-government.

"I've got five and a half months to push this self-determination process with the provincial government and to push your elected representatives, the board members, to get benefits and responsibilities out into the communities," explained Sinclair.

Sinclair said that, Premier Getty, has assured him that if the Metis don't succeed in achieving self-government, that Getty "is committed to continuing along the path now set."

Sinclair continued to say, "he (Getty) has assured me that his office will support the building up of Metis local government involvement."

In his closing statements, Sinclair made the people aware of their responsibilities at the assembly.

"Each of you have a personal responsibility to show your neighbor and your elected representatives that you want to see business conducted in a reasonable way — we are here to progress and grow, to build and not to tear down."

Dr. Anne gets standing ovation

By Ivan Morin

Doing something good for the community can be rewarding as Dr. Anne Anderson, Metis historian, found at last weekend's Metis Association of Alberta's Annual Assembly.

Larry Desmuelles, chairman of the assembly said "there is a beautiful woman we must recognize in our midst, Dr. Anne Anderson has now joined us." Dr. Anne, as she is known in the Metis community, received a standing ovation from the rest of the assembly for nearly ten minutes. Dr. Anne stood smiling, with a tear in her eyes, saying "thank you."

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MAA 58th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY COVERAGE



FREDA MARTELL
...states her case

Controversial membership sparks debate

By Terry Lusty

The right of Freda Martell to hold membership in the Metis Association of Alberta became a controversial topic at the recent annual assembly of the MAA in Edmonton, March 14-15.

The Calgary-based woman had been an honorary member of Metis Local 84 in Red Deer.

Joan Major-Malmas, the local president, informed Windspeaker that Martell, "applied for membership with the local 84, and the

general membership would not approve it." On that basis, explains Major-Malmas, she must apply to the regional council.

During the MAA assembly, Martell's right to hold membership, was brought to the floor. A vote was taken (by show of hands) and, "the assembly made the decision," that I was a bona-fide member," says Martell. "What really bothers me," she continued, "is that they had a lot of years to do this. Why now?"

Martell claims to have been a member of the MAA for the past 11 years but Major-Malmas challenges her status saying that, "in the past, she has denounced being of Native ancestry and that this has been the case on a number of occasions."

Aurele Dumont, vice president for Zone 3 of the MAA, does not think that the assembly had any right to make a decision on the matter. He says he is simply following the membership code which states that if one is refused membership in a local, the next step is to take it to the regional council.

"It's not a personal attack (on Martell)," says Dumont who thinks that the issue was misconstrued. He explained that the process for admission of members is in the bylaws and must be adhered to.

Martell claims to harbor no ill feelings towards the people who raised the issue but says it was a "real blow" to not be supported by her

own vice president (Dumont).

As for the vote that was taken at the assembly, Martell says she is pleased with the outcome. "It felt 100 per cent terrific to know that the membership itself was standing behind me and that's good when you know that your people are behind you."

Since moving to Calgary, Martell applied for membership with Local 18 whose president is Jim White. When contacted, White says that Martell was asked to provide documentation regarding her ancestry.

Martell says, she signed a statutory declaration that was, "hand-delivered to the MAA head office in Edmonton prior to the assembly." She also purports to have the backing of some long-standing friends who, "have stated my case on my behalf," Martell said.

White echoed Dumont's proposition that the entire issue is a matter of proper procedure. He says the assembly was not the place to take issue with the Martell matter and that it must be done through a specific local. If no satisfaction results, Martell can make formal application to the regional council.

The council is scheduled to meet on March 21 at which time, Martell says, she will pursue the issue once more, which also happens to be just two days before the MAA goes to the polls to vote for six new board positions.

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Apology requested from Desmeules over 'henhouse' remark

By Jerome Bear

A Wabamun woman requested a public apology from Larry Desmeules, chief executive officer of Metis Urban Housing, at the Metis Association of Alberta's 58th annual assembly in Edmonton, March 15.

Marge Friedel from Metis local 16, in zone 4, requested a public apology from Desmeules after the assembly was over.

"I would like a public apology from Larry Desmeules because at the time that the women's issues were being debated, he referred to it as a 'fight in a hen-house,'" explained Friedel. "He put all the women's issues at the end of the assembly and from his 'hen-house' statement, you can draw your own conclusion as to his opinion of women."

Friedel demanded an apology just after the talks had ended Sunday evening.

Desmeules explained that the women's issues were put at the end of the assembly because it was under 'new business,' which was scheduled as the last item on the agenda. He also explained that the women were arguing among themselves and that "the talks weren't getting anywhere because of the bickering between the Metis women."

Desmeules said that the 'hen-house' statement was irresponsible and he does apologize for the statement.

"If it had been two men arguing, I would have called it a rooster fight," said Desmeules.

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MAA 50th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY COVERAGE

Women of the Metis Nation

Four going to Ottawa talks

By Ivan Morin

"I see ourselves as representing the Metis women by participating in discussions with the Metis Association of Alberta (MAA) and the Metis National Council (MNC)" says Joanne Daniels, a delegate attending the First Ministers Conference (FMC) on Constitutional Issues, in Ottawa on March 26 and 27.

Daniels, along with Muriel Stanley-Venne, Deborah Hanly, and Dr. Olive Dickason, were chosen as delegates to represent the Women of the Metis Nation at a conference in Edmonton on March 12 and 13.

Joanne Daniels is the former vice-president of the Metis Association of Alberta, and has an extensive history in Metis politics. Her

father Stan Daniels was the president of the MAA for a number of years.

Daniels was the only Metis woman with a voice at the last First Ministers Conference, and she says "that experience (speaking at the FMC) belongs to other women, it was scary being the only woman with a voice there. With the four delegates, it will make things easier."

Muriel Stanley-Venne is recognized as a seasoned politician and well respected in the Metis community. She has been involved both in Alberta provincial politics and federal elections. "I think this FMC is going to be a productive one, and we want to present a united format."

Deborah Hanly is from Calgary and is the coordinator of document design for Shell Canada. Although Hanly is a relative

newcomer in the Metis political spectrum, she brings with her a number of years of involvement with the Calgary Native Friendship Centre.

Hanly is also an expert in translating complex language and bringing it down to a layman's terms.

"Because of my communications history I see my objective at the FMC as demystifying the constitutional process for those who may not understand the complex language it is written in."

Olive Dickason is a University of Alberta History Professor. She teaches Native history and remarks, "when I received my doctorate in Native history they weren't sure whether there was a Native history." Dickason says she sees herself in an advisory role at this year's FMC, as she has attended other FMC meetings, in the past.

The Women of the Metis Nation were also successful in having themselves heard at the Metis Association of Alberta's Annual Assembly.

Although, the issues affecting Metis women were heard last, the women felt that progress had been made in a number of areas. The WMN were successful in passing a resolution for equal representation at the FMC with the voice in MAA decisions and discussions. As well, the WMN gained support for the Metis women of Little Buffalo, Alberta.



MERCREDI, BLYAN AND ATKINSON
...Metis Youth Council delegates

Youth councils initiate candidate debate

By Ivan Morin

It's a new style of Native politicking, and it may become an institution as it has in mainstream politics — it's the old fashion all-candidates debate.

The Metis Youth Council of Metis Local 1885 have a commitment from the five candidates running for the position of zone director in Zone 4 to attend a debate on March 28, at the the Canadian Native Friendship Centre in Edmonton.

Zone 4 director candidates will be asked to address education as it relates to the Metis youth,

employment, and how MYC will improve the employment situation among Metis youth. Candidates will also be asked to address the issue of alcohol and drug abuse among the Metis youth. The final topic of the forum will be for the candidates to give the youth their concept of Metis self-government and how it will affect the Metis youth.

The Metis Youth Council of Alberta and Metis local youth councils were very visible at the March 14-15 Metis Association Annual Assembly. They made a presentation to

remind the MAA that they were still in existence and needed the MAA's support. The presentation was made by Rose Marie Mercredi, Miss Metis Alberta; Brenda Blyan, Zone 4 board member, Metis Youth Council; and James Atkinson, president of Local 1885's youth council.

Helping in the presentation were two youths from Metis Local 44 in Edson and two board members from the Metis Youth Council of Alberta.

Full support was given to the Metis Youth Council of Alberta by the assembly after the presentation was given.



STANLEY-VENNE AND DANIELS
...both seasoned politicians

Annual assembly's low turnout investigated by Windspeaker reporter

By Terry Lusty

For the first time in many years, the annual assembly of the Metis Association of Alberta (MAA) was held in Edmonton. Usually it is held in a smaller community like Slave Lake or Athabasca.

Windspeaker took the opportunity to investigate how people felt about holding the assembly in Edmonton.

People were also questioned about why the assembly might have attracted such a small turnout this year, about 300 compared to 800-1200 in the past dozen years.

John Whitford of Kikino has been attending assemblies since the 1930's. In his opinion it was "too far for the people" and he attributes the smaller crowd to the lack of mileage money for delegates.

Most people contacted, agreed that the absence of

travel funds contributed to a low turnout.

Since the 1960's, George Amato of Peace River, has been a constant participant at the assemblies. "Personally," he says, "it's not the way for our people" and "a lot of people don't know how to get around in the city." The ability to camp out and cook your own food was not there he says and "that does make a difference."

Amato found support for his comments in the statements of others.

Darlene Collins of Lac La Biche, has been attending the assembly for about a dozen years and claims that "a lot of people from the north don't like to drive in the city." That, she says, may also have been a reason for the low turnout.

Grouard resident, Henry Goulet, thought it was a mistake to hold it in the city which can be "expensive"

for delegates. He also believes it should be held in the summertime and in a small community. Mrs. Lorna Pellier of Calgary agrees with Goulet's motion of holding such meetings in small communities.

Hamilton Wanyandie from Grande Cache and Lloyd Gladue of Edmonton, both felt that the low attendance was an economic matter. Both people admitted that it was "a central location" for the assembly but Wanyandie charges that, "people are not used to driving in the city."

One problem that was expressed by a number of delegates was the expense to put up in city hotels. On the other hand, many people from the outlying communities said they were able to put up at the homes of their relatives and friends.

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in the Upcoming MAA Elections

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Artistic trio joins forces

Three Native artists open at Bearclaw Gallery

By Terry Lusty

"Brian stole the show," was the reaction of Agnes Bugera this past weekend. Bugera, the owner-manager of Edmonton's Bearclaw Gallery had just opened an art exhibition and sale of three Native artists.

Peace Hills Trust Art Contest winner for this year, Morris Cardinal, along with Roy Thomas and Brian Clark, are the artists whose works are on display until March 21.

Brian Clark, who was born in Fort McMurray but now lives in Edmonton, has several large pieces on display. The subject of most of these are ducks. However, the real focal point of his artistic talents are in his 12 or so stone carvings and one wood pipe. The sculptures attracted a great deal of attention and drew a lot

of positive feedback.

One spectator at the show commented on how closely his carvings resemble the "extremely fine craftsmanship" of some of the internationally known Native carvers, particularly those from eastern Canada.

Although he had drawn and painted since his young childhood days, Clark has only been carving for about five years. He says that he never preplans a piece of work; he just walks up to it (the material for his work) and the idea comes to him in the form of mental images. Sometimes, he says, the lines, shades or similar qualities of the stone or wood influence the mental impressions he gets and, thus, determines his ultimate creations.

Clark is completely self-taught and has his journeyman's ticket as an electrician. Most of his stone sculptures are done in Brazilian soapstone.

Roy Thomas, an Ontario Ojibway artist of international prominence, now makes his home at Hobbema. He says that he was prompted to express himself through art by his grandmother whom he acknowledges in all his paintings by imprinting a small crow into his signature on each piece of work. The significance of the crow, he says, is that it was his mother's name for him.

Thomas has been exhibiting his art in Canada and overseas for 20 years. His works have been collected by the National Museum of Man in Ottawa, the Royal Ontario Museum, the National Museum of Ethnology at Osaka, Japan, a gallery in Germany and numerous other places.

Another Alberta-born artist, Morris Cardinal, was raised on the Fishing Lake Metis Settlement. He is an "exacting artist" who works with ink in pointillism and has, recently, turned to doing some very major pieces in watercolor.

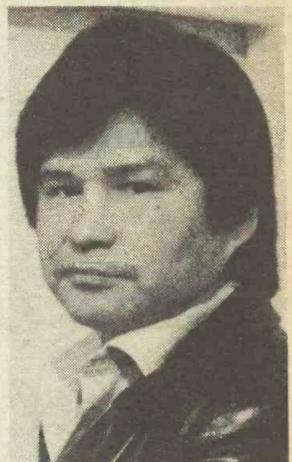
Cardinal's work is rooted in the history of his people. He draws from that history as well as his own personal experiences which is portrayed in his paintings. As one of Canada's emerging Native artists, his works now have the distinction of being collected by Calgary's Glenbow Museum and a host of other government, business and private institutions and



BRIAN CLARK
... 'stole the show'



MORRIS CARDINAL
...a local favourite



ROY THOMAS
...veteran artist

collectors.

In future, Cardinal looks forward to experimenting with oils. He says that he watches his sister work in that medium.

Many of Cardinal's and Thomas' artworks have been executed as a joint effort. It is not often that artists collaborate on the same piece but reaction to their work has attracted some very favourable comments.

The Bearclaw Gallery is located at 9724-111 Avenue in Edmonton.



"STONE PEOPLE"
...soapstone carving by Brian Clark

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By Mark McCallum

By Mark McCallum

Flying high can mean only one thing on the Sucker Creek reserve, and it has nothing to do with lighting up a joint or crashing Budweisers on your head. On this reserve bump and jump mean more than after hour brawls behind the bar. Spike is not the name of the best scrapper in the neighborhood.

Nope, the people 40 km east of High Prairie play volleyball versus boozing it up. They fly high alright -- to spike a volleyball after a bump, set and jump.

Cameron and Marilyn Willier run sports programs for the youths on the reserve, but the brother and sister are more interested in keeping young people off drugs.

In late February this year, the pair attracted youth groups from Driftpile, Swan River, Sturgeon Lake, Gift Lake, the High Prairie Friendship Centre, Edmonton Metis Childrens' Services and, of course, the Sucker Creek Drop-in Centre to a volleyball "exchange" tournament. The tournament included guest speakers, Brian Fayant and Charlie Cardinal, who both spoke on the harms of alcohol and drugs.

After a tournament Sucker Creek held last year, the Williers' say young people came to them suggesting an exchange program be started where youths from Sucker Creek would travel to other communities and see how they live. And, young people from abroad could go to their reserve -- maybe go buffalo watching, or play pool at the drop-in centre, or use their well-equipped gym.

Sounds good on paper, but why not put the idea in motion and call youth worker Marilyn or National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program employee, Cameron Willier? Even the 'Little Brick Man' doesn't give you this kind of deal, so call 'em at 523-4426.

INNISFAIL -- After a "Greetings there bro!" and an insult about the "bored looking" photograph above my name, Native Brotherhood sports coordinator, Rainey Oakes, got down to business, likely because he thought there might be a click at the other end of the line if he didn't hurry.

Rainey announced, "the Native bro's would very much like to play any outside team that's capable of beating the Native Brotherhood in any sport." Yup, he's not joking. The Native Brotherhood will take on all challengers in a friendly game of...well anything. Why don't you call Rainey and tell him your team not only has the ability to win against the Native Bro's. But, you'll give this person, who can't take a picture, the results for the Sports Roundup column. And, be impolite when you phone him at 227-3391 (Ext. 352). Only kidding Rainy -- what kind of name is that anyway? Sounds like a weather report.

PADDLE PRAIRIE -- On March 27, 28 and 29, a Paddle Prairie Winter Carnival will be held to raise money for the local softball teams, the Pirates and Sluggers. Barbara Auger, who works for the recreation and cultural society, says the carnival will include a

talent show (Friday at 7:30 p.m.), a dine and dance (Saturday from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.) and a bingo (Sunday at 2 p.m.).

Barbara adds that "there are a lot of other local softball teams that assist the Pirates and Sluggers to try raise funds for this upcoming season. It's a community effort."

Contact Recreation and Cultural Director Theresa Ressler for more details.

SLAVE LAKE - Recently, a boxing card at Drayton Valley was attended by two fighters from the Slave Lake Friendship Centre boxing club with mixed results, according to the centre's Executive Director Alex Courtoreille. Alex says Slave Lake's, Rick Twinn, lost a decision to Mike Wildemere in the 90 lb. junior 'B' division. But the other fighter, Daniel L'Heureux, "stopped Grant Whitstone at 1:19 into the first round. The referee had to call the fight."

Alex invites boxing fans to come out and support three boxers that will be going to the Calgary junior provincials, hosted by the Bow Oater boxing club, on April 4 and 5. So, phone Alex at 849-3039 if you're interested in this event.

FORT MCKAY -- The Fort McKay Chiefs were undefeated in five games of play after beating the Fort Chipewyan Chiefs 7-1 at a Fort Chipewyan Minor Hockey "mixed-age" Tournament, on March 14 and 15. Mixed-age? Rod Hyde, who is on the recreation board at Fort McKay, reasons that "our community is so small that it's hard to put together a team in one age group. It's the same in surrounding communities."

PAUL BAND -- On March 14 and 15, the Paul Band Pee Wee Braves won the Zone 3 championship hockey play-offs against Thorsby 14-10 in a two game total goals series. The Braves now advance to the Alberta Provincial Pee Wee Play-offs at Trochu, beginning on March 27 'til the 29th. Recreation Director, Alex Belcourt explained, "the team was led by the strong defensive play of Jason Giselbrecht, the offensive power of left winger Terrence Adams, and the strong goal tending of Brady O'Hara." Alex says these players make up the nucleus of the team with Adrian Bull, who centres Brady, and a "tough checking" centre by the name of John Saulteaux.

Alex gave honorable mention to the Paul Band Falcons, who were outscored by the Westlock Wolverines 11-3. He says Donovan Adams scored 11 goals in three games at the Paul Band tournament and was named to the all-star team with teammate Carl House.

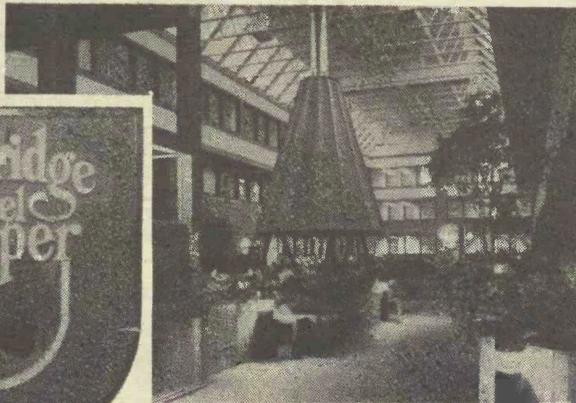
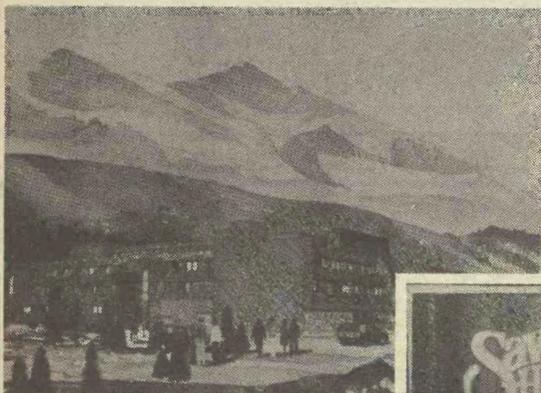
Call Alex for more information at 428-0178.

STONEY -- An All-Native Pee Wee Hockey Provincial Tournament hosted by the Morley Capitals, will be held on March 28 and 29. A \$100 entry fee will be needed, says Irvin Rabbit, the coach of the Stoney Bantams team. He adds that a Bantam open invitational hockey tournament will take place on April 11 -- again a \$100 fee is needed. And, the Morley Tomahawks will host an All-Native Old Timers Provincial Hockey Tournament, on April 3, 4 and 5. Irvin says Recreation Director, Crayton Fox, or Minor Hockey Coordinator, Terry Rider can give you more information about all of these tournaments at 881-3744, which will be held at the Morley Arena.

Until next week, that's all.

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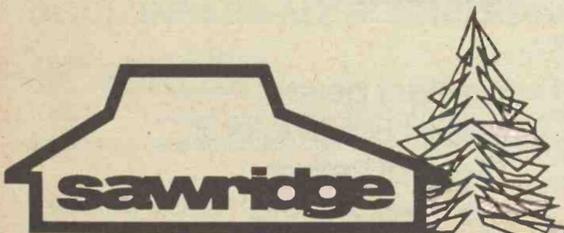
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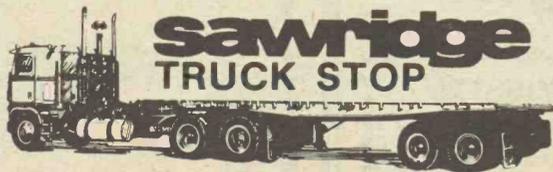
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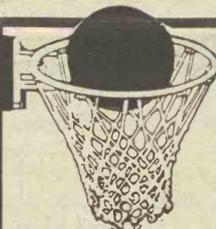
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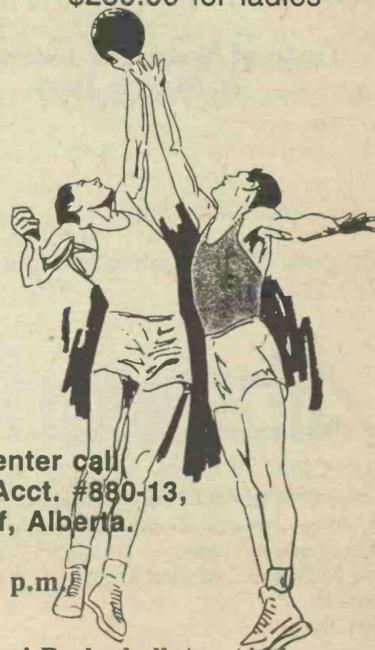
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

SUCKER CREEK

Willier's work at changing alcohol/drug patterns

By Mark McCallum

Through recreational programs, counselling and an exchange program, which will see youths from the Sucker Creek reserve travel to other communities, Cameron and Marilyn Willier are a brother and sister team that are trying to change the pattern of

alcohol and drug abuse that is all too prevalent in most Native communities.

Three years ago, Cameron, who works for the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP), and youth worker Marilyn Willier introduced young people in the Sucker Creek community to nightly recreational

programs at the reserve drop-in youth centre.

Marilyn Willier reasoned that "youths that have nothing to do often get in trouble with the law or develop problems related to drugs and alcohol. We try to get the kids involved in preventative activities so all their extra time is used in a positive manner."

The response from the reserve has had a snowball effect on the youths and band members alike. Cameron says that "youths are really well recognized on the (Sucker Creek) reserve. The band supports us as much as possible financially. Chief Jim Badger and the band council are really supportive of the recreation programs on the reserve because we're building future leaders through the programs. The band wants the youths to learn that they have to work for what they want in life."

Cameron also indicated that community recreational programs on the reserve receive some funding assistance from NNADAP when necessary, but one of the goals Marilyn and Cameron want to achieve is financial self-sufficiency.

The Sucker Creek Reserve invited youth groups from other reserves, Metis settlements and friendship centres to a volleyball tournament last year. But, Marilyn says the

tournament is conducted mainly to attract young people to the event. According to her, the underlying goal for the event is to get the youths to know each other on a personal level and have an exchange of ideas. But, more importantly, the reserve invites guest speakers who talk on alcohol and drug abuse, relaying facts about deadly substances to the youth groups involved with the event.

"The youths (from Sucker Creek) really worked hard last year when the reserve held the first tournament. They worked their butts off, but they kept a positive attitude," said Marilyn, like a proud mother. "After the event was over, the kids came to us with suggestions for another tournament. What they wanted to see was other communities starting a similar event like ours. This is where we got the idea for an exchange program," she said.

The exchange program is a project Cameron and Marilyn hope to incorporate with other communities, so young people from Sucker Creek and other areas of the province can develop a larger perspective of the differences and similarities between communities.

Cameron explained that "the youths can see how people live in other communities and hopefully

come to the assumption that they're not so different — that we're all basically the same — and learn to respect others for this."

The tournament the reserve held from February 20 to 22 this year attracted youth groups from Driftpile, Swan River, Sturgeon Lake, Gift Lake, the High Prairie Friendship Centre, Edmonton Metis Children's

Services and, of course, the Sucker Creek Drop-in Centre.

"The message we want to send to the youths is that we believe in them," remarked Cameron.

Marilyn and Cameron Willier invite any groups interested in the youth exchange program to phone them at 523-4426.

NOTICE OF DECISION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 18 (N)

This is to notify you with respect to a decision of the Development Officer whereby a development permit has been issued authorizing the following development.

Address of Property:
Conklin, Alberta
76-7-W4M

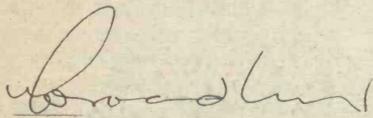
Lot: 73

Registered Plan: 832-1550

Date of Decision:
09 March 1987

The Land Use Order provides that any person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer may appeal to the Development Appeal Board by serving written notice of appeal to the Secretary of the Development Appeal Board within fourteen (14) days after notice of the decision is given.

Date of Notice of Decision:
20 March 1987



Signature of Development Officer
W.D. Broadhurst

Alberta

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
Improvement District Administration
513, West Tower Provincial Building
9915 Franklin Avenue
Fort McMurray, Alberta
Canada
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The Windspeaker Calendar of Events

Check it out!

Senior Hockey Tournament, March 27, 28 & 29, 1987, Alexander Band. Call 939-5887 for more information.

Bantam Provincial Hockey Tournament, March 28 & 29, 1987, Standoff.

Western Canadian Region Basketball Qualifying Playoffs for March 27, 28 & 29, 1987, NIAA, Standoff.

Provincial Senior Hockey Tournament, March 27, 28 & 29, 1987, Peigan. For more information contact George or Quint at 965-3940.

Victoria Cougar's Evaluation Camp, April 3, 4 & 5, 1987, Enoch Arena. Call Lorraine at 470-5647/5646 for more information.

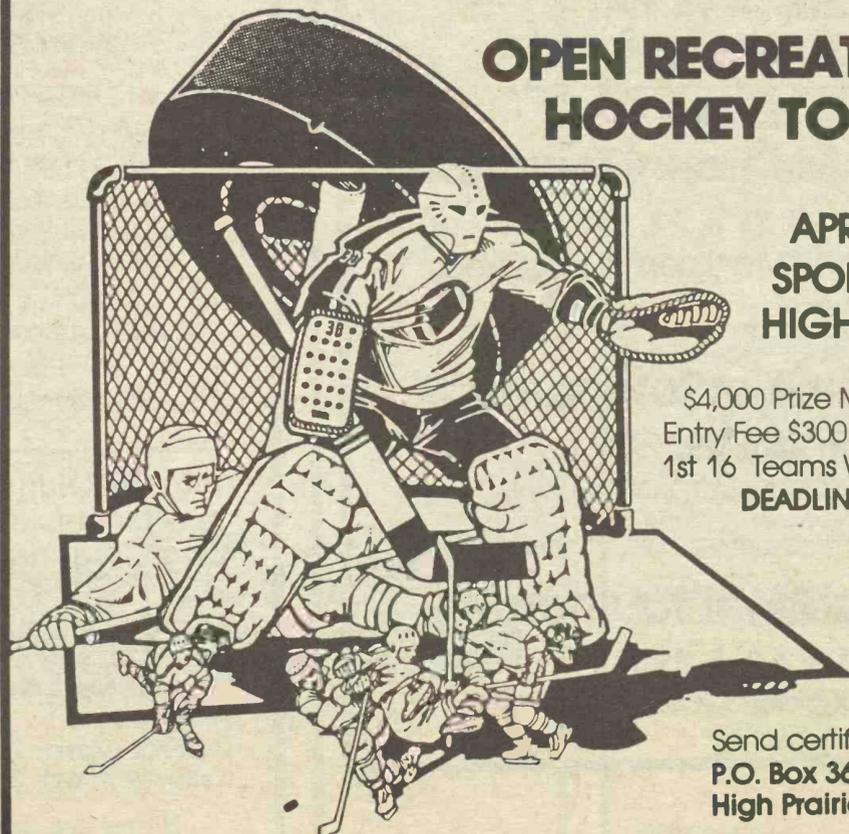
Native All-Star 1st Annual Hockey Tournament, April 10, 11 & 12, 1987, Enoch Recreation Centre. For more information call Lorraine at 470-5647/5646.

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IN YOUR COMMUNITY

EDMONTON

Canadian Native Friendship Centre hosts breakfasts

By Rocky Woodward

March 3, Tuesday morning, arrived earlier than usual for this reporter and just before the first snow cloud arrived over Edmonton's early morning skyline I was already seated at a table inside the cozy dining room at the Canadian Native Friendship centre.

I was at the centre for the start of one of the first breakfasts prepared by the friendship centre, but this morning the only other soul in the building was Gordon Russell, busy cooking.

Of course, both Gordon and I understood why there were no people breaking down the doors, eager to eat. I have friends who don't rise from bed until noon. Some of them I have never met except at night, which makes you wonder, don't it?

Anyway Gordie, (we had now become good friends. After staring at each other over a side of bacon with a meat cleaver in his hand and in a huge silent building, you become good

friends with lots to say) had fresh pot of coffee brewing so I helped myself to a cup and sat down again to wait for hungry people to arrive.

It was close to 7:30 when Gordie pushed a plate of steaming pancakes and sausages in front of my face and said, "you might as well dig in, Rocky."

I asked how much it would cost me and he was kind enough to say it would cost me nothing and that it was his experiment since his cook had not arrived yet. I know Gordie can cook, so I was prepared to try my hand at it. Now if it was Vic L'Hirondelle, I may have had second thoughts.

"Is it eatable?" Gordie asked.

The breakfast was simply tremendous and I laughed at all the people who probably didn't know what they were missing. What a way to start the day! I thought.

Gordie decided to join me by this time...I mean business was still slow, and of course like good buddies will do, we got into some heavy discussions...the

weather. Good conversation like the mild winter we are having and how it will effect farming this summer.

I found out, though, that Gordie was raised on a farm near Stettler, Alberta, and through that experience he remembered that whenever they had a winter with very little snow, farming always suffered in the summer. I was inclined to agree with him although I knew nothing about farming.

Gordie mentioned when his Dad was touring Europe during the Second World War, and his Mother was sick, it was Gordie at the age of 14 who took care of their farm. Also, about 40 head of cattle.

"I remember when my chores were done I would hitch up the team of horses and drive them quite a fair distance to play hockey. That meant cleaning off the snow from the ice also," said Gordie, who also mentioned that kids today would have a hard time believing that... "but it's true."

About this time, Gordie,

who was mumbling something about boiling a cook, left to check the bacon.

Then the cook walked in and right after him the first real customer for breakfast arrived.

Herb Bellcourt, bushy tailed and spunky as ever, walked in and sat down at the table where I was sitting. This time it was Herb's turn to talk about important topics...like the weather.

"Looks like we'll get some snow today," Herb casually said.

This was my cue, so I added, "I hate to say this Herb, but I think the farmers are in for a bad crop this year because of a lack of snow this winter season." Thank the lord for Gordie I thought.

"Yeah. You're probably right. If we don't get a awful lot of snow, then the farmers will have to hope for a lot of rain this summer," Herb said, finishing our fine conversation before Gordie arrived with Herb's breakfast.

Then the third and fourth and last customers arrived before I was to leave. Fran-

cis Hegedus and Vic L'Hirondelle.

So with Gordie joining us, the five of us talked away a few more minutes with the smell of sausages, bacon and eggs in the air. With fresh coffee on the table, I asked Gordie if he was planning to hold breakfast regularly.

"Yeah, we'll try it for a

month from Monday to Friday. I think what we need is a gimmick to draw the customers," Gordie said.

I think, with or without a gimmick, the idea for a breakfast each weekday morning at the centre is a great idea. It's a cause for good conversation and great company.

PUBLIC NOTICE

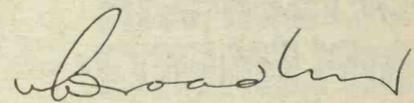
PROPOSED LAND USE ORDER AMENDMENT

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 18(N)

L.S.D. 16 OF SECTION 35,
L.S.D. 13 OF SECTION 36,
TOWNSHIP 79 RANGE 6
WEST 4th MERIDIAN

The Fort McMurray Advisory Council will be hold a PUBLIC HEARING to consider a proposal by the Janvier Development Corporation to amend the I.D. No. 18 Land Use Order from "R-2" (Rural District) to "'H" (Highway Commercial District).

The PUBLIC HEARING will be held at 1:15 p.m. on the EIGHTH day of APRIL 1987 at the CONKLIN SCHOOL, CONKLIN, ALBERTA. At that time, the Advisory Council will hear any persons who wish to make representation on the proposed amendment. Copies of the proposed amendment can be seen at the Improvement District Office, Room 513, in the Provincial Building in Fort McMurray.



Signature of Development Officer
W.D. Broadhurst

Alberta

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
Improvement District Administration
513, West Tower Provincial Building
9915 Franklin Avenue
Fort McMurray, Alberta
Canada
T9H 2K4

(403) 743-7162

LETHBRIDGE

U of L prepares for awareness days

By Jackie Red Crow

LETHBRIDGE — Both the Lethbridge university and college Native students are busy preparing for their Native awareness days next week.

Garry Abbott, president of the U of L Native American Students' Association, said they have planned a number of educated related activities to be held March 25-28.

On Wednesday, March 25, an Elders' panel to discuss the importance of retaining Native languages will be held.

A panel comprised of past and current U of L undergraduates will address students and public on Native languages and culture. Speakers on the panel groups have not yet been confirmed.

A traditional fashion show by Pauline Dempsey will be held on March 26 in the U of L main auditorium. Another education panel discussion will be held the same evening.

The proposed Blood Tribe Institute program, a museum and art centre, will be outlined to the public on Friday, March 27. The Pei-

gan film "Pekuni - A Sovereign Nation - Contemporary Life" will be shown the same day.

The highlight of the four-day event is a powwow which will be held in the Sportsplex. "The powwow is to recognize (past and present) graduates and hopefully, to encourage undergraduate students and other Native students," said Abbott.

"The powwow is not a competition but a social powwow," said Abbott. Grand entry starts at 1 p.m. and at 8 p.m. graduates will be honored. A feast and

give-away will also take place following the powwow.

This year, NASA held a fund raising drive for their Native awareness days activities. The Native American Studies faculty, Four Worlds Development Project, Native management program, Native education, Alberta Culture, the Sik-oo-kotash Friendship Centre and Canada Safe-way contributed financially to Native awareness days.

The Lethbridge Community College Native Students' Club will host education activities on March 26 and 27 on their campus.



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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

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Women

ANWA 'alive and well'

By Lesley Crossingham

The Alberta Native Womens' Association (ANWA) is alive and well despite rumours to the contrary says President, Donna Weaselchild.

In an interview last week in Calgary, Weaselchild, a Blackfoot band member, acknowledged that there had been rumours that the organization, which was founded 20 years ago, was "going under."

"Yes, we have had funding problems, and we had many difficulties, but we're not through yet," she said.

Weaselchild says the funding difficulties go back to the beginning of the fiscal year when Secretary of State, the main funder of the organization, had assured her that the organization would receive \$85,000 for the fiscal year. However, the association received nothing until December 29 and then, they only received \$34,000.

"We met with Secretary of State staff who kept

assuring us that nothing was wrong and that it would be just a few weeks before we received our funding."

"Then the Aboriginal womens' programs came under review which really held up the funds."

The association was forced to rely on a line of credit from a bank in order to keep the Edmonton office open. However, the \$34,000 was paid directly to the bank and the association is no better off.

Weaselchild is also concerned that the association will be "penalized" in the upcoming fiscal year because of a government policy, which dictates that monies not used or spent are deducted from the next year's funding.

"In our budget submission we had allocated several thousand dollars for all regions, because one of the biggest downfalls of ANWA was that the money received from the government doesn't filter down. We had revised all our plans and the

government was informed that we would be undertaking a "clean-house" campaign, but yet we are still waiting for the funding for 1986/87," said Weaselchild bitterly.

Weaselchild points out that at the last Annual General Meeting held in Edmonton, in June last year, she received a mandate to re-establish ANWA's credibility with the general public and the membership.

"This year my focus was to re-establish a working relationship with our Elders. Last year they were completely left out. Traditionally our Elders always play an advisory role and we have made inroads. Blood band member and Elder Annie Cotton, made a presentation to our last board meeting held in February."

Weaselchild has also been active in the southern region of the province and has revived chapters on the Blackfoot, Stoney and Sarcee bands located near Calgary.

"I spoke to ladies who had joined ANWA years ago and had become disenchanted, especially with the last administration. They have now rejoined and are becoming active in the community again."

Weaselchild is critical of previous administrations and points out that the association was very much a northern based organization. However, Weaselchild says she wants to balance the province so that both north and south have an equal part to play in the organization.

"In the future I want to ensure that ANWA is de-

centralized. Right now there is an office in Calgary and the head office in Edmonton. Ideally, I would like to see an office in each of the six regions."

"Some regions are incorporating and that option is left open to them."

Region 5, which covers the area from Red Deer, including Calgary, will be holding its annual meeting April 3 and the association has organized several workshops, including a film on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and a presentation by Rosalyn Breaker on assertiveness.

Elections for the executive and board members will take place on the final day. The Annual Meeting will take place at Calgary's Sunbow Inn.

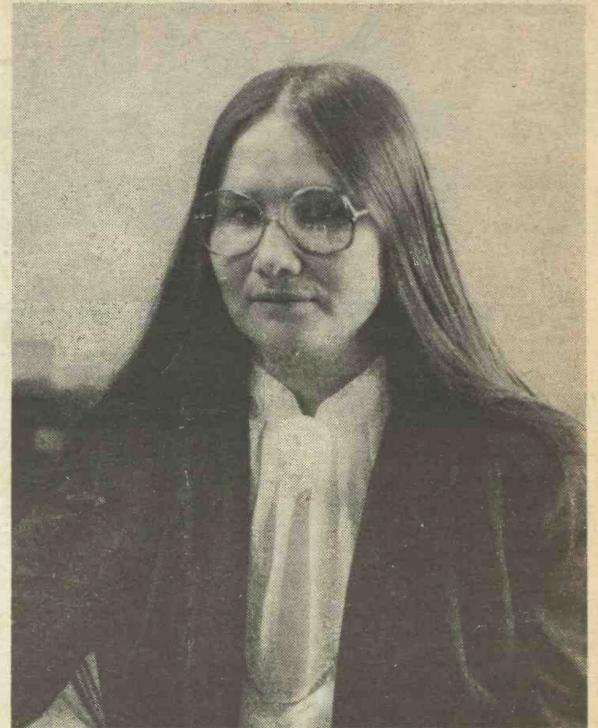
Despite the funding difficulties ANWA has been able to conduct some workshops and seminars, points out Weaselchild.

ANWA will be hosting a national conference on home violence, battering and child sexual assault in the fall. The conference is being organized by ANWA along with the national womens' organization, NWAC.

"It will be held in Calgary and we are hoping to videotape it for those who will not be able to attend," she added.

The seminar will feature a panel discussion and national president, Marlyn Kane will take part in the discussions which will range from Bill C-31 to child sexual abuse.

"We are inviting all the Native organizations, such as Indian Association of Alberta (IAA) and the Metis



DONNA WEASELCHILD
...ANWA president

Association of Alberta (MAA) as well as Indian Rights for Indian Women (IRIW).

ANWA had held several workshops all across the province during the past year on Bill C-31, which was an amendment to the Indian Act enabling people, usually women, who had lost Indian status to regain their status and band membership.

Now ANWA wants to implement the next stage of Bill C-31, says Weaselchild.

"We are setting up training programs for women to work on reserves and to counsel women returning to the reserves. Often there is no one to go to for advice and counselling. Eventually they will take over a community volunteers so people would have someone to go to."

ANWA is also undertaking a research project on childhood placement, relationships and sexual experiences in Native women.

"We are undertaking this study along with the University of Calgary doctoral student from the Depart-

ment of Educational Psychology, and we have received funds from Secretary of State to undertake this project," says Weaselchild.

Weaselchild points out that no study on childhood sexual molestation had been made for Native women, and that this study is basically being undertaken so that social workers will have some data to work from.

"The information will be kept anonymous, and we also realize that during the interview many women may begin to re-live some of those terrible experiences, so we have arranged for counselling when necessary."

Weaselchild points out that not even the researcher will know the name of the woman interviewed and she added that an information session on this study will take place at the Calgary Alberta Vocational Centre March 25.

Weaselchild was elected president of ANWA in June last year. She replaced former president Loro Carmen, who had been elected in September 1985.

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Good News Party Line

Native Student Awareness Week, March 25 - 28, 1987, University of Lethbridge. For more information call 329-2147 or 329-2635.

Victoria Cougar's Evaluation Camp, April 3, 4 & 5, 1987, Enoch Arena. Call Lorraine at 470-5647-/5646 for more information.

PUT IT HERE.

Call or write the editor to include good news of non-profit events you want to share, courtesy of AGT.

WAR ON DRUGS & ALCOHOL

Intervention effective way of raising bottom for alcoholics

By Phyllis Nault,
Nechi Trainer
(Nechi Newsletter)

Intervention is a method used to raise the BOTTOM for the Alcoholic. The addicted person is confronted by people who are important to him/her in their life about their drinking and drug abuse, and how the drinking affects those close to him/her.

Due to the Faulty Memory System and the Defence Mechanisms — through which the alcoholic denies his/her drinking, the alcoholic can not see the relationship between the problems the drinking is creating and alcohol.

By people who love them confronting the alcoholic about their drinking, showing love and concern, they provide a mirror for the alcoholic to see the harmful consequences of his/her drinking, therefore, motivate the alcoholic to seek treatment.

In previous years, people thought that the alcoholic had to hit bottom, have physical and mental deterioration, lose jobs, families, friends and health etc., before seeking help. Through the intervention techniques, the alcoholic does not have to die or lose all health, family and material gain. As alcoholism is a fatal disease, killing many people yearly, and those who love and care for the alcoholic feeling helpless and hopeless, there is something that can be done to help. The intervention method can be used for any addicted person(s) and gives hope to an otherwise hopeless situation.

The intervention method has a series of important steps for the counsellor who is utilizing it:

STEP ONE Assessment:

a) of the addicted person to

determine what stage of the disease he/she is at and also to develop an appropriate treatment plan;
b) of the important people in the addicted person's life to assess their emotional stability in confrontin the addicted person.

STEP TWO Education:

Educating those who are close to the addicted person on the progression of the disease and how the disease has affected them. How those who are close to the addicted person enable/help the addicted person not to continue the abuse.

STEP THREE Preparation:

To help those close to the addicted person to prepare themselves for confronting him/her. To rehearse what they will say to the person(s) about his/her destructive behavior and how this behavior has affected them.

STEP FOUR Simulation/Role Play and Final Arrangements:

Those close to the addicted person rehearse what they will say and how they will confront the addicted person. Where the addicted person will go for treatment and what alternatives they will present, should the person(s) refuse to go for treatment.

STEP FIVE Event:

Actual time and place when those close to the addicted person will confront them.

The term "intervention" comes from the root "intervene" meaning to come between.

The goal of INTERVENTION is to interrupt the alcoholic's drinking and motivate him to seek help.

Activity Corner

WORDSEARCH

By John Copley

Circle the words from the following list and the remaining letters starting from left to right (working across) will give you a phrase or sentence. Letters may be used more than once in order to achieve another word. Words may run vertically, horizontally, backwards and diagonally.

THEME: AMMSA, ARTS and Advertisers

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