



"To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation."

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IN THE NEWS

Napouse on committee

BRANTFORD – Union of Ontario Indians board member Jeanne Napouse, Whitefish Lake First Nation, will sit on a new committee advising the Ontario government on improving access for aboriginal students to post-secondary education. The province will invest \$10.2 million this year- rising to \$55 million by 2009-10 - to help post-secondary institutions deliver programs that improve access for groups including Aboriginal peoples.

Cash for Kash

GARDEN RIVER FN – Over \$9,000 has been donated to a fund launched by the Union of Ontario Indians to support evacuated residents of Kashechewan First Nation. Allan Moffat, general manager at the Anishinabek Nation Credit Union where the fund was established, says the total represents contributions from three First Nations, three Ontario credit unions, and the Union of Ontario Indians. **More on Kashechewan on page 21.**

Fort William grows

FORT WILLIAM FN – This Thunder Bay-area First Nation has accepted \$3.4 million and 18.6 hectares (46 acres) of land at the base of Mount McKay to settle a longstanding land dispute. Band membership voted to accept a deal to settle the illegal seizure of the land by Ottawa in 1914. The land was used as a rifle range by the Department of National Defence until 1998, when it closed.

Chief Jeff at Nipissing

Jeff Hutcheson, host of the popular CTV network morning program Canada AM, brought his crew to Nipissing First Nation for a Nov. 17 visit. Among the gifts presented to Hutcheson – whose hosts dubbed the popular forecaster "He Who Sees the Weather Approaching" – were a Plains-style head-dress, a pair of mitts and apron presented by community member Echo McLeod-Shabogiesic. Details on page 13. – Photo by Priscilla Goulais



Grand Chief leads housing strategy

OTTAWA – The Government of Canada and Assembly of First Nations have agreed on an implementation plan to begin the process of delivering over \$5 billion in federal commitments to First Nations in the areas of health, education, housing, relationships, and economic opportunities.

National Chief Phil Fontaine said this was the first step in making a reality the commitments made by federal and provincial governments at November's First Ministers' Meeting in Kelowna.

Fontaine also announced that he and Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage would co-chair the AFN's national housing strategy that was earmarked for most of the \$1.2 billion commitment to aboriginal housing in Kelowna.

"It is a great privilege to be asked to play a role in an area that has such an impact on First Nations citizens," Beaucage said. "Good housing is an essential component of good health, and at the same time represents capacity-building and economic benefits for our communities."

Beaucage was the lead First Nations representative for Housing at the First Ministers' Meeting and sat on First Ministers' Working Groups on Housing and Relationships.

Beaucage said that the "new investment and agreement at the First Ministers' meeting was a significant beginning to improving living conditions in Canada's First Nations." Over \$5 billion in new investments was announced as part of a national consensus to move forward in five areas: housing, health, life long learning, relationships and economic opportunity.

"This will certainly do a lot to improving the socio-economic situation of First Nations people across the country," said Beaucage. "However, that effort will have to be ongoing with continual vigilance to reviewing, assessing and monitoring key indicators in these areas."

As the senior First Nations representative for Housing, Grand Council Chief Beaucage sat at the main table with the Prime Minister and the Premiers during that specific discussion in which \$1.2 billion was agreed upon specifically for aboriginal housing. A new investment of \$400 million was specifically committed to infrastructure in First Nations communities.

"Housing is one of the best examples of how First Nations have taken the lead in proposing a comprehensive 10-year strategy to improve First Nations housing in Canada, both on and off-reserve," said Grand Council Chief Beaucage. "These improvements include over

60,000 new housing starts in the next ten years."

The housing strategy also includes the development of a capital fund, a market-based housing approach, addressing the continued need for social housing, but also maintaining the status quo for those First Nations who cannot support or take advantage of these significant developments. First Nations will also make a significant 10-year proposal to administer these housing programs themselves.

"For decades, our leaders have called for solutions to address our housing crisis, to see fundamental change in programs and to lobby for a substantial increase in investment. These achievements are just on the horizon," he said.

Beaucage was critical of the Government of Ontario's "new relationship" which appears to lump First Nations, Métis, service providers and even certain illegitimate aboriginal interests into the decision-making process.

"The pan-aboriginal approach Ontario is taking does not respect the Nation-to-Nation relationship that is expected between the government and First Nations. This homogenous approach to implementing the First Ministers' agenda is not going to fly," added Beaucage. **More on pages 17, 22.**

Anishinabek Writers



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Canada making restitution for 'dark chapter'
... \$2 billion for residential schools
Details on page 17.

One Indian, one vote?

OTTAWA (CP) – An advisory group says the Assembly of First Nations should elect its National Chief through a popular ballot of all eligible citizens. A renewal commission appointed 18 months ago to examine the way the national First Nations organization operates released a 300-page report listing 47 recommendations for reform.

The report, called A Treaty Among Ourselves, says the Assembly's National Chief, who now is elected by 633 chiefs, should instead be chosen through a ballot of one million First Nation citizens.

"The citizens of our 42 member communities have said they want a say in the selection of Grand Council Chief," said Anishinabek leader John Beaucage, "and our Chiefs are clear in their mandate to us to act as their political advocates. We have also established councils of women, youth, and Elders to ensure that all our citizens have a voice in our plans and deliberations."

Indian Country



Tony Belcourt, recipient of a 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Award speaking with John Beaucage.

Métis leader Belcourt among 14 achievers

TORONTO – Tony Belcourt, president of the Métis Nation of Ontario, is one of 14 recipients of the 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

Belcourt has been actively involved in politics since 1969, where he was elected as vice-president of the Métis Nation of Alberta.

In 1993, he was instrumental in forming the Métis Nation of Ontario, which won the landmark 2003 Powley case in the Supreme Court of Canada that recognized and affirmed the existence of Métis Constitutional rights in Canadian law.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards are taking place January 27, 2006 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver, British Columbia. The 13th annual awards can count a number of firsts. Shirley Firth Larsson, the twin sister of an equally successful 2005 NAAA recipient, will be presented an award for sports. The foundation will also for the first time, recognize a recipient posthumously, as broadcaster Myra Cree recently passed away after having been selected through the juried process.

Roberta Jamieson, CEO of the Foundation, said, "When one achieves greatness for themselves they are in fact achieving greatness for their entire community. "This year's recipients embody

the diversity of our peoples and speak to potential realized. They are fantastic role models for our Aboriginal youth and all Canadians."

The 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Award recipients are Jim Sinclair, Lifetime Achievement, Métis, Saskatchewan; Andrea Dykstra, Youth, M'ikmaw Nation, Pictou Landing, Nova Scotia; Taiaiake (Gerald) Alfred, Education, Kaien'kehaka, Mohawks of Kahnawake; Dr. Herb Belcourt, Housing, Métis, Alberta; Tony Belcourt, Public Service, Métis, Ontario; Bernd Christmas, Business and Commerce, M'ikmaw, Membertou First Nation, Nova Scotia; Gladys Taylor Cook, Heritage and Spirituality, Dakota, Sioux Valley First Nation, Manitoba; Myra Cree, Media and Communications, Mohawk, Oka-Kahnésatake; Billy Day, Environment, Inuit, Inuvialuit, NT; James (Sakej) Youngblood Henderson, Law and Justice, Chickasaw/Cheyenne Nations, now residing in Saskatchewan; Wendy Grant-John, Community Development, Coast Salish, Musqueam, BC; Shirley Firth Larsson, Sports, Gwich'in, NT; Jane Ash Poitras, Arts and Culture, Cree/Chipewyan, Alberta; and George Tuccaro, Media and Communications, Mikisew Cree, Alberta.

Tax dispute stalls Casino Rama repairs

MNJIKANING FN – The rejection of building permits for repairs at Casino Rama is seen as another attempt by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation to force Mnjikaning First Nation to accept provincial taxation on reserve.

"The province of Ontario is using Penn National as their instrument to compromise our inherent right to non-taxation on reserve," said Mnjikaning First Nation Chief Sharon Stinson Henry.

The issue centers on contract work requested by the casino operator in 2004 to proceed with renovations and repairs at Casino Rama. A unilateral change in purchasing authority in September 2002 from Casino Rama Inc. owned by Mnjikaning First Nation to a newly-created provincial entity, the Ontario Gaming Assets Corporation (OGAC), was under dispute at the time because it meant that all purchases and contracts would become subject to provincial taxation.

"We cannot compromise on the taxation issue," said Chief Stinson Henry. "Non-taxation on reserve is an inherent right we have an obligation to protect. Any concession on our part would affect all First Nations throughout the province."

Aboriginals top AIDS agenda

TORONTO (CP) – Toronto will welcome some of the world's top scientists, experts and journalists next summer when it hosts the International AIDS Conference, which will address the uniquely Canadian issue of the alarming number of aboriginals infected with HIV/AIDS.

The unveiling of the conference and logo coincided with World AIDS Day, an annual event to raise awareness of the 40 million people worldwide suffering from HIV or AIDS.

About 56,000 Canadians are

thought to be living with HIV/AIDS, and about 17,000 don't know they are infected.

Experts are concerned that one-third of Canadians infected with HIV are aboriginals.

"We as Canadians dropped the ball by continuing to allow our first citizens to suffer so much, and not to have benefited from the scientific and educational advances that have been served to the benefit of so many Canadians from coast to coast," said conference co-chair Dr. Marc Wainberg.

Aboriginals are in effect sec-

ond-class citizens, with infection rates rivalling those in developing countries, he said.

"All too often we have cultural problems, problems of despair among aboriginal Canadians that may involve leaving their families," he said.

"We have a definite disproportionate number of young aboriginal Canadians who run away from home."

"The opportunities to succumb and become HIV-infected are very great. It's all very sad, and we have to do a much better job."

Ontario Power ad
6" x 10"

Anishinabek

Ipperwash movie premiere sets stage for Harris testimony

LONDON, Ont. (CP) – Just days before former Ontario premier Mike Harris is scheduled to testify at the inquiry into the shooting of aboriginal protester Dudley George, CTV will air its movie of the week about the 1995 clash.

One Dead Indian, based on a book by Toronto Star reporter Peter Edwards, will premiere Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 8 pm.

Edwards' book One Dead Indian: The Premier, The Police and the Ipperwash Crisis, focuses on the Ipperwash Crisis, the tragic 1995 incident whose aftermath reverberated from Dudley George's family and community to the halls of Queen's Park. The movie stars Dakota House as Dudley George, Eric Schweig as Dudley's brother Sam, and Gordon Tootoosis as now-deceased Elder Clifford George.

In September 1995, members of the Stoney Point Native community gathered in Ontario's Ipperwash Provincial Park to protest a long-standing ancestral burial ground claim. In the end, protester Slippery George was almost beaten to death while Dudley George was shot dead by Ontario Provincial Police officer Kenneth Deane. For the past 10 years, Dudley's brother Sam and his family have been determined not to let Dudley's death – and the efforts of the Stoney Point community to reclaim the land – be in vain.

The Ipperwash Crisis left Sam George and many others wondering how a peaceful protest in a provincial park could end in deadly police violence.

Was it a police matter or did political pressure influence the outcome? Sam George's relentless search for answers about why police were sent into the park that night helped lead to Kenneth

Deane's trial and, ultimately, a public inquiry into the shooting.

The inquiry, called by Premier Dalton McGuinty, began in 2004 and continues today with over 90 witnesses heard to date. Former Premier Mike Harris, who maintains that he never gave instructions for police to remove protesters, is expected to testify in mid-January 2006.

"Dudley George's story is one that demanded to be told to a national television audience," said Susanne Boyce, CTV's President of Programming and Chair of the CTV Media Group. "One Dead Indian takes viewers beyond the headlines and past the rhetoric into the heart of a family and their demand for justice."

When asked about the contro-

versial title of his book – and subsequently the title of CTV's original movie – author Peter Edwards says One Dead Indian was used to illustrate the injustice and prejudice of the Ipperwash Crisis.

"Obviously, the politically correct term would be One Dead Nishnawbe, but if people thought that way, Dudley George wouldn't be dead. I saw the title as a way of turning an ugly phrase back on people who use, or think it. The phrase 'One Dead Indian' is an ugly but revealing mirror."

Edwards' book details the fatal Sept. 6, 1995 skirmish between riot police and Natives who took over Ipperwash Provincial Park and points to the involvement of provincial politicians. At times, the book has been used by lawyers at the judicial inquiry to cross-examine witnesses.

The network acknowledges its movie will run at a time when testimony at the judicial inquiry is heating up. Before breaking in December, the inquiry heard shocking testimony from former attorney general Charles Harnick that the premier made an obscene comment during a senior level meeting on the day of the shooting, saying that he wanted "the fucking Indians out of the park."

Harris's lawyer Peter Downard has said the ex-premier will say he never made the statement.



Dudley George, played by Dakota House, and cousin Judas George, played by Gary Farmer, confront an Ontario Provincial Police officer at Ipperwash Provincial Park in the original movie One Dead Indian to premiere Jan. 4 on the CTV network.

Syrette appointed top Anishinabek cop

GARDEN RIVER FN – Inspector John Syrette has been appointed Chief of the Anishinabek Police Service.

In announcing the appointment, which was effective December 5, 2005, Lisa Restoule, the Chair of the Police Governing Authority said that Syrette's "very high standard of professionalism and long-term dedicated performance make him an ideal choice for this important leadership position."



APS Chief John Syrette

Syrette, 41, a citizen of Garden River First Nation, has been a member of the APS since 1996 and has advanced through the ranks to Staff Sergeant, Regional Commander and Director of Support Services. Prior to this, he was a member of the Ontario Provincial Police with various postings throughout the province. In his career

on the force, Syrette has held direct responsibility at one time or another for all major aspects of the police department, including patrols, investigations, fiscal planning, communications, operations, human resource management and administration.

"The opportunity to serve the 17 First Nations in this new role as police chief is a great honour," said Syrette.

The staff of the Anishinabek Police Service Police Department includes 65 sworn officers and 22 civilian employees. There are 12 detachments serving 17 communities with ten sergeants who head up a detachment in one of the following areas: Curve Lake, Garden River, Sagamok, Saugeen, Nipissing (includes Dokis and Wahnapitae), Christian Island, Shawanaga (includes Wasauksing and Magnetawan); Fort William, (includes Rocky Bay); Ginoogaming; Pic River (includes Pic Mobert); and Kettle and Stoney Point.



WOMEN WARRIORS – Among those celebrating the Year of the Veteran theme at the 2005 Laurentian University Pow-wow were, from left, Kathleen Eshkibok, from Wikwemikong and representing Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25, Sault Ste. Marie; Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Debbie Eisan (Neveau), Rankin Reserve, National Aboriginal Recruitment Advisor; and jingle dress dancer Maretta McGregor, Birch Island.

– Photo by Kathleen Eshkibok

DeBassige an engineer

John DeBassige, an Ojibwe, has been a mechanical engineer at Sandia National Laboratories (Albuquerque, NM) since 2002. He received his BSME from the University of New Mexico (Albuquerque, NM) in May 2002 and his MSME with a focus on microsystems from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) in June 2003.

DeBassige was an undergraduate student intern at Sandia Labs. He says he knew that "Sandia had a great graduate school program, and I was looking for a company that would sponsor me and that I would like to work for when I finished."

DeBassige's group at Sandia Labs develops safety components for nuclear weapons. "I do mechanisms design work and microsystems development. I'm also involved in a couple of programs where we're developing technologies for the microsystems community."

At work, DeBassige says, "Meetings and discussions are fast-paced and require quick thinking. You often have to communicate high-tech information on the spot. It's very different from having a semester to write a report and give a presentation." DeBassige says a lot of his job requires collaboration. Being a good listener, approaching communication as a two-way street, and being humble have helped him. "And working together with folks in a team environment," he says, "is much more productive than being too competitive and focusing only on individual efforts."

DeBassige recruits student interns for Sandia Labs through its American Indian Outreach Committee (AIOC). He provides informal mentoring when students "just need to ask questions and associate with someone who has gone through the program." The AIOC, he says, really helped him feel welcome and part of the Sandia Labs family.

DeBassige's father was from the Ojibwe tribe in Canada and his mother is Hispanic. He grew up in New Mexico. He says his father exposed him and his siblings to the Ojibwe culture, "which led me to be very happy in life."

John, 24, is the grandson of Josselte DeBassige and son of the late Peter DeBassige.



John DeBassige

Ralph Walter Beaucage Left the living world

December 4th, 2005

Hope your journey to the Spirit World will be as good as you were to us here on earth. A lot of people are waiting to welcome you to the Spirit World – Grandpa and Mandy and all our ancestors of the past are preparing for your arrival. We as a family and community will honour your spirit and we will remember you always. You led a good path in life. Your spirit will continue to shine through your children, your one true love and all the people that knew you.

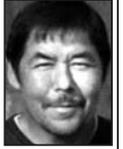
Migwetch for all you have done for us as a family and a community. We will continue to learn from the knowledge you brought to us. Each person that knew you has their own memories and in these moments we hold those memories close to our hearts. We will truly miss you. – Amy Beaucage

BEAUCAGE, Ralph 1954-2005

It is with profound sadness that the Beaucage family announces his sudden death in Garden Village, on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at the age of 51 years walking the land he loved so much. As a Councillor for Nipissing First Nation, he spoke from the heart and this council will be less without him.

Beloved husband of Glenna Beaucage (nee Shabogosis) of Garden Village. Loved son of Stella Beaucage (nee Chesier) of Garden Village and late Isidore Beaucage. Sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his children, Ryan (Carrie), Rodney (Christina Larivière), Danny, Blair and Melanie all of Garden Village. Grandfather of Blake Beaucage. Dear brother of Carol (Leo Croxon) of North Bay, Julie (Steve Fisher) of Orillia, Joyce Beaucage, Gerald and John (Viviane) all of Garden Village. Son-in-law of Fred and Kathleen McLeod of Garden Village. Also survived by many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews and many, many friends.

The Funeral Mass was held at Holy Spirit Church, Garden Village, on Wednesday, December 7th, 2005. In memory of Ralph, donations to the Ralph Beaucage Youth Scholarship Fund would be appreciated (please contact NFN @ 705-753-2050).



Ralph Walter Beaucage

ANISHINABEK NEWS

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ANISHINABEK NEWS

Publishing Criteria

GOAL

To publish a quality newspaper and related publications designed to foster pride and share knowledge about Anishinabek current affairs, culture, goals, and accomplishments.

OBJECTIVES

To provide information that reflects the Creator's four original gifts to the Anishinabek:

Respect: To welcome diversity and encourage a free exchange of opinions that may differ without being disagreeable. Fair and humorous comments are welcomed, but not ridicule or personal attacks.

Honesty: Debwewin – speaking the truth – is the cornerstone of our newspaper's content.

Sharing: Providing opportunities for people from the four corners of the Anishinabek Nation to tell stories and record achievements, and to keep our citizens informed about activities of the Union of Ontario Indians.

Strength: To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation that celebrates our history, culture and language, promotes our land, treaty, and aboriginal rights, and supports the development of healthy and prosperous communities.

NOTE: The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for brevity, clarity, and suitability for publication. All formal comments and complaints must be addressed to Editorial Board c/o Anishinabek News.

Advertising & News Deadlines

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 10,000 copies, with 9,000 mailed and 1,000 distributed at various events.

DEADLINES FOR JAN/FEB ISSUE

Advertising

Bookings:	Dec. 20
Final Art:	Dec. 23
News	
News submissions:	Dec. 20
Scheduled printing:	Jan. 4

For more information or inquiries to the Anishinabek News related to advertising and circulation issues please call our new toll-free number: **1-800-463-6408**

Maanda ndinendam

Thanking Santa for a year full of nice gifts

Dear Santa:

You must really get sick and tired of people asking you for new stuff all the time – and always for just-in-time delivery. I bet you have hellish inventory problems.

Anyways, since I believe that Christmas – like Thanksgiving – is not a one-day-a-year event, I thought you might appreciate receiving a thank-you card for some of the wonderful presents you have delivered over the past months, instead of another humungous long list of requests for Bratz Dolls and I-Pods.

First of all, thanks ever so much for the great checkup results that Mary has been getting from her doctors. If we don't enjoy good health, all the shiny new gadgets in the world don't mean a hill of beans.



Maurice Switzer

Now don't take this wrong, Santa – we really appreciate the new car with the surround stereo system that sounds like Johnny Cash is Walking the Line right on our roof. And those seat-heaters – who would have thought a warm bum could feel so precious on chilly December mornings?

But leather bucket seats are really only as important as the people who sit side-by-side in them, driving off into whatever sunset they choose. There's no gift so welcome in our house as an X-Ray or CAT scan report that the doctors describe as "unremarkable".

Also Santa, we're happy you helped Lisa find a job after she and a thousand other CIBC employees found themselves out of work. It's a funny world where a bank president makes a bad \$2 billion investment and other people pay for his mistakes while he enjoys a sunny retirement on his yacht in the Bahamas. She's never been happier and healthier, away from the money-crunching rat race and doing work she actually enjoys.

Don't recall whether I ever thanked you for the gift of considerate neighbours. You never know whether you're going to be living beside wife-beaters, axe-murderers, or worse – people who play loud rap music. The man next door keeps his yard so neat his wife says he's given every blade of grass a name!

Then there are the animals, Santa, that you know mean so much to us. We're a bit cramped to look after any of your reindeer, but there's always a bowl of Whiskas for Jim Smiley and Moustache, and I put out suet cakes for that little sparrow who sings like Pavarotti every spring.

We were so happy to hear that you finally found a vet to operate on Silke the fawn from Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. How wonderful for her to see the world for the first time in the four years she has been in it.

Audrey Tournay tells her supporters about all the donors you've sent her way to provide the apples for Buddy Bear – she doesn't think he's a "nuisance" – and other stocking-stuffers for Prickle the porcupine and Huffing Henry the beaver kit. (Don't forget Audrey's address and phone number, Santa – 1116 Crawford St., Rosseau, just off Muskoka Country Road 3; 705-732-6368 – I know you've got a pretty cluttered datebook.)

I think that about covers it, Santa. Thanks so much to you and the Missus – and all the elves. I know you've been responsible for many generous gifts this past year, but thought I'd mention the highlights.

Now that I think about it, maybe there is just one thing I'd like to ask for this Christmas. Can you arrange it so that when everyone wakes up on the morning of Dec. 25 all the cigarettes are gone?

I keep hearing that young Natives are smoking more and more, and cancer rates are going through the roof. Yet everywhere I go in Indian Country I see tobacco shacks springing up. Is that the only way we can make money – sell things that will kill our kids?

We don't ban smoking in our casinos or bingo halls. Even white people have been smart enough to stop doing that. The white guys used to poison our blankets, but now we're poisoning our own.

Maybe stealing cigarettes is against your mission statement, Santa, but you're already breaking-and-entering, so what's the big deal?

Besides, if you don't do something, you're only going to have to deliver a lot of very heavy medical diagnostic equipment next year, and I'm sure that hauling a CAT scan machine could give a reindeer a hernia.

Yours truly

....Maurice Switzer is a citizen of the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation. He serves as director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians in North Bay, and editor of the Anishinabek News.



Maanda ndinendam/Opinion

‘Our future is Canada’s future’

By National Chief Phil Fontaine
Assembly of First Nations

Canadians were shocked in October by articles and images on the crisis in Kashechewan, a First Nation community in northern Ontario. Media reported that residents were sick because of toxic drinking water, noting the community has been under a boil water advisory since 2003. It became clear in subsequent days that the real story was about more than water – it was about dilapidated housing, overcrowded homes, sickness, chronic unemployment and near-third world living conditions.



Phil Fontaine

What is most shocking is that this is far from an isolated incident. There are dozens of Kashechewans in Canada, and dozens more teetering on the edge of crisis every day. While Canada enjoys a consistent Top 10 ranking on the United Nations Human Development Index, the conditions in our communities would place First Nations 63rd on that list.

Canada has a third world in its front yard and back alleys. This is a national tragedy and an international embarrassment.

The question is: what do we do? At the First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues held in Kelowna, BC, on November 24 and 25, we sat down with the Prime Minister and provincial leaders to answer this question.

We must avoid lazy thinking. Some pundits are calling for an end to the reserve system. Let these communities whither and die, they say, so everyone can move to urban centres.

The problem is not location. Remote reserves are in some of the most resource-rich areas of the country. There are ample opportunities for development and partnerships. Other communities are creating urban reserves as extensions of their jurisdiction, where businesses and services can flourish. Others are pooling resources and establishing loan funds. There are creative solutions, but the straitjacket of federal policy limits our creativity.

What we really need is a new approach and new thinking. Dr. Stephen Cornell, co-founder of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, stated that: “the keys to sustainable development on Indigenous lands have to do with genuine decision-making power that is backed up by capable governing institutions that match Indigenous notions of how authori-

ties should be organized and exercised.” In other words, progress on economic and social development is directly linked to progress on self-government. This means First Nations and Canada must make new commitments if we are going to move forward.

For Canada, this means relinquishing control and micro-management of our people and governments. It means resource and revenue sharing in our traditional territories. It means honouring the historic Treaties and our inherent, constitutionally-recognized rights. It means stepping back and letting First Nations make the decisions that affect their lives.

For First Nations, it means articulating our vision of self-government. It means building a capable and independent First Nations public service to manage our affairs. It means establishing our own institutions of responsible governance, such as a First Nations Auditor General and a First Nations Ombudsman. It means re-constituting our nations and moving beyond band governance.

And it means saying clearly to all of Canada that we fully recognize that as we take more control we assume more responsibility for the outcomes.

At the First Ministers Meeting we presented action plans to deal with housing, health, education, economic opportunities and self-government. Equally important, we are seeking a comprehensive plan that is strategic and sequenced.

While new investments are important, we must not focus solely on dollar amounts. Investments without a plan is like a plan without investments. We can free up resources by bringing sense to the current state of scattershot programs and patchwork policies. We can streamline programs to make them more effective and efficient. We can invest new resources to create First Nations citizens and governments that are active participants in the economy.

This is crucial to the future of First Nations, and also to the future of the country. Within ten years, more Canadians will be leaving the workforce than entering it. But as Canada ages, our population is coming of age. More than half our people are under the age of 25. We are one key to Canada’s future productivity and competitiveness.

I have issued a “10 Year Challenge” to the First Ministers to work with us to close the gap in the quality of life between First Nations and Canadians. This is a challenge for a decade and a lifetime. It is a legacy project for all Canadians. We cannot afford to lose another generation of First Nations youth. Now, more than ever, our future is Canada’s future.



Elder's Meditation of the Day December 6

“And that, I guess, is what it all boils down to – do the right thing, everything goes fine; do the wrong thing, everything’s a mess.”

– Robert Spott, YUROK

The Elders say every person is born with free will and every person has a specific purpose to accomplish during their life time.

When our life is relatively free from obstacles we are walking the path of God’s will. If our life is full of obstacles, we are not doing the will of God. Often, the Great Spirit guides us through a system of coincidences. We need to pay attention to coincidences.

If we are aware of these, we often can recognize the path which God is showing us.

We need to pray and ask Him to show us the path in terms we can understand.

Oh, Great Mystery, let me recognize the coincidences.

Ontario Library Services North

6” x 9.75”

Dnakmigziwin/Sports

Trudeau preparing for Boston

TORONTO – Stan Trudeau of Sagamok Anishnawbek finished tenth over-all out of a field of 3,760 at the Oct. 15 Toronto Half-Marathon.

At the age of 46, Stan covered the 13.1-mile course in 1 hr. 16 min.05 sec.

In August Stan set a Canadian age-group record in Hamilton, running a 4:31 mile.

Stan is training for the 2007 Boston Marathon, which marks the 100th anniversary of Six Nations' runner Tom Longboat's record-setting win in 1907. The legendary Onondaga runner is a member of Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, and was selected as Maclean's Magazine's top Canadian athlete of the 20th century.

"I think there should be a large contingent of aboriginal runners at Boston in 2007 – in Longboat's honour," says Trudeau. "This will demonstrate that the tradition of long distance running is alive among Aboriginal people. I believe Longboat would be smiling down on the runners who are participating in his memory."

Stan Trudeau is preparing to qualify at the Massey Marathon in July 2006, which is run part-



Stan Trudeau crosses Queen's Park finish line of Toronto half-marathon Oct.15.

ly on his home reserve of Sagamok.

If you are interested in running in Boston 2007, and would like training tips, Stan Trudeau is happy to share his experience, having completed 21 marathons in the 2 hr:30 min. to 3 hr. range and ran the Boston Marathon in 2002.

He can be reached by e-mail at: parkin5617@rogers.com

Trottier takes reins of Aboriginal team

By Les Couchie

NIPISSING FN – NHL hall-of-famer Bryan Trottier has accepted the appointment as General Manager of the newly-created Team Aboriginal Alumni (TAA), formed as a fund-raiser for the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charities.

The former New York Islander captain and Stanley Cup winner has many connections in the hockey and business worlds, and has already arranged the team's first-ever game against the Winnipeg Jets Legends on January 12, 2006 in Winnipeg at the new MTS Centre.

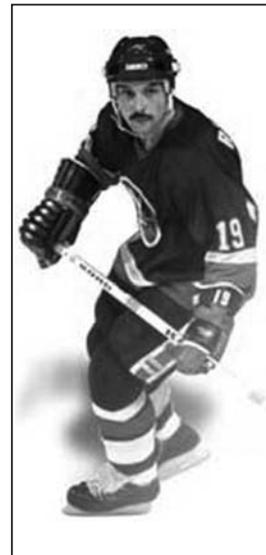
Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage and Deputy Grand Chief Nelson Toulouse will participate in the opening ceremonies.

Reggie Leach, Gino Odjick, Stan Jonathon, and actor Eric Schweig, will suit up for Trottier, who will be assisted behind the bench by Original Six stars Jim Neilson and Fred Sasakamoose.

The Jets have confirmed Dale Hawerchuk, Morris Lukowich, Jim Kyte and Thomas Steen, father of Maple Leaf Alexander Steen.

Entertainment at the game will be provided by Sierra Noble, Aaron Peters, Billy Joe Green, Dave Boulanger & Burnt, and Rhonda Head.

Tickets for the event are available from Ticketmaster with all proceeds going to the White Buffalo Society and Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charities.



NHL hall-of-famer Bryan Trottier

Nation-to-nation hockey

By Marcia Trudeau

TORONTO – A First Nations hockey team will participate in the inaugural Canadian Multicultural Hockey League (CMHL) Canadian Cup. The First Nation Thunderbirds – including players from Mnjikaning, Moraviantown, Nipissing, Six Nations, Temagami, and Wikwemikong – will compete against 15 other teams representing communities of diverse heritages. The Thunderbirds will face their first opponents – the Chinese Ice Dragons – at 2:30 pm Tuesday, Dec. 27 at the Scarborough Gardens Arena.

Thunderbirds organizer Kevin Wassegijig says the non-contact tournament represents a unique opportunity for "nation-to-nation" competition. Teams are competing for a \$5,000 top prize, and the Thunderbirds have designated the Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charities as the beneficiary of their tourney success.

Wiky kids try lacrosse

By Marcia Trudeau

WIKWEMIKONG – Anishinabek students in Wikwemikong learned some lessons about a traditional Indian game from their Haudenosaunee cousins. A team of four Iroquois coaches from Six Nations visited three Wiky schools Nov. 16-17, presenting introductory lacrosse sessions to over 700 students.

Delby Powless Jr. – 2003 Tom Longboat Award winner as Canada's top Aboriginal athlete –



Grade one student Brooke Trudeau tries her hand at lacrosse.

Roger Vyse, Cal Smith, and Cody Jamieson explained the First Nations origins of lacrosse, some of their experiences and also demonstrated some of their stick skills.

Ontario Power Generation

6" x 8.5"

Eshki-bmaadzijig/Youth

Police conference planted career seed

By Heather Campbell

SUDBURY – Attending a conference helped Natalie Lacasse to make a career choice.

Lacasse, 16, a Grade 11 student at Confederation High School in Sudbury, had the opportunity to participate in the Mkwa Police Opportunities Circle program last year. The program is a collaboration between the City of Greater Sudbury Police Services, Rainbow District School Board and White Buffalo Road, to introduce Grade 10 and 11 students to careers in

policing or other justice-related jobs.

Lacasse, who says she wanted to either be a teacher or police officer, has valued the experience and has made a firm decision about a career in the Sudbury police force. "There is no doubt in my mind I want to be a police officer," she says.

On November 9th and 10th Lacasse along with a Greater Sudbury Police constable, who also participated in the Mkwa program, attended the A Mile In My Shoes

OPP conference in Orillia.

She noticed there are not a lot of aboriginal women in policing but says to herself, "we can do this too!"

Since participating in the Mkwa program and a 12-week program called Native Pride offered by White Buffalo Road, she has felt more connected to her Cree heritage. "I'm in a drum group now; I go to the sweat lodge. I've been led to so many paths."

"I want to show people that police aren't bad people. I love interacting with people and I can give back to the community."

The conference focused on various aspects of police work, including gangs, prostitution, elder abuse and aboriginal people.

The first day was dedicated to aboriginal culture and issues, such as a workshop on the impact of residential school. They watched a video and then participated in a sharing circle where they shared thoughts.

An OPP aboriginal men's drumming group kicked off the conference.

Lacasse attended presentations by the gang unit and learned about gang symbols like clothing and hand signals.

"It was really enlightening. I noticed I didn't want to be an OPP, but want to be part of the Sudbury police force," said Lacasse.

Lacasse was nominated to attend the conference by Mkwa steering committee members.



Aboriginal student Natalie Lacasse decided she wanted to be a police officer after attending a conference and meeting officers like Const. Sherry King.



Travis Boissoneau, Garden River First Nation – front left, white shirt – joined delegates from across the Americas at a symposium of indigenous youth in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Languages different but issues the same

By Brent Wesley

GARDEN RIVER FN – Travis Boissoneau encountered a language barrier meeting indigenous youth from across the Americas, but their ideas and issues were on the same page.

Boissoneau, from Garden River and a member of the Anishinabek Nation's Youth Council, was one of seven Native youth from Canada to participate in an Oct. 26-29 youth symposium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The purpose of the youth gathering was to develop a youth declaration to be presented at the Nov.4-5 Summit of the Americans in Mar del Plata.

Using the summit theme: "Determining our Future: Guided by our Traditional Teachings and Mother Earth," youth delegates discussed a variety of topics including self-determination, lands, territories, resources, environment, and language.

"The youth developed a declaration which was presented at the summit to all the delegates, which received strong support," says Boissoneau. "More and more as our youth get involved and take advantage of such opportunities, we will get more recognition and respect from our leaders."



Dae Fawn Assiniwe, Sakamok, and Dakota Brant, Six Nations, were among the group of Native students participating in the Spiritual Journey of aboriginal veterans to Europe.

Sagamok student travelled with veterans

By Rosalind Raby

SAGAMOK – A local student's emotional trip to Europe with a group of aboriginal veterans has made annual Remembrance Day ceremonies more meaningful for her.

Dae Fawn Assiniwe, a student at White Pines Collegiate in Sault Ste. Marie, won a national essay-writing contest to earn a place with a delegation of veterans, Elders, and youth on an Aboriginal Spiritual Journey to Canadian war memorials and battlefields in Belgium and France.

"To travel with veterans, to listen to their stories, to see their tears when they find the grave of a friend, to just simply be there for them, is the greatest gift of all," she said. "Lest We Forget is not just a saying for me. When I saw all the graves with the young warriors who died, who were my age, it made me realize how important it is that we do remember their sacrifice."

The group flew to Europe to conduct a Calling Home Ceremony to invite the spirits of fallen warriors to return to their homelands and rest with their ancestors in Canada. They also participated in several commemorative ceremonies in the Ypres area of Belgium and in Normandy, France to honour Canada's war dead of the First and Second World Wars.

Waubetek

6" X 6"

Canadian Aboriginal Festival



LONG WAY FROM HOME – Poet laureate Pearl Eintou Springer was part of a Trinidadian delegation attending the Canadian Aboriginal Festival. She is seen at the Union of Ontario Indians booth checking out the Anishinabek News for a story about an October visit to Trinidad by an Anishinabek Nation delegation.

Food lineup longer than pow-wow grand entry

By Maurice Switzer

TORONTO – The biggest lineup at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival was people willing to pay \$4 for a tiny bowl of corn soup or an “Indian Taco” – some shredded bits of lettuce, tomato, green peppers, ground beef, and cheese on top of an eight-inch circular slab of fried bread.

Citing stricter health regulations, organizers opted to contract provision of food services for the event’s 20,000 visitors to two aboriginal caterers operating out of one site, instead of the usual variety of individual vendors offering everything from fried baloney to pickarel fingers.

The result: lineups on the stadium’s artificial turf floor longer than the grand

entry for the 12th annual SkyDome Pow-wow.

Some 8,000 Toronto-area schoolchildren participated in the festival’s Education Day – several hundred stopped by the Union of Ontario Indians booth to get free “tattoos” of the Anishinabek Nation’s thunderbird symbol.

Celebrity-watchers caught glimpses of Corner Gas star Lorne Cardinal, actress Irene Bedard – whose credits include Smoke Signals, Lakota Woman and Disney’s Pocahontas, Windtalkers star Adam Beach, and Lynn Johnston, who has introduced Native themes and characters into her internationally-acclaimed comic strip For Better or For Worse.



UNDER THE DRUM – In full regalia, Rose Sturgeon, 9, Dakota Brant, Miss Six Nations, and Ashley Skye Hill, Little Miss Six Nations, watch the grand entry at Toronto’s SkyDome during the 12th annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival.



ART MART – Anishinabek artist Leland Bell and wife Lori show a painted wooden plate to Clinton Sickles, Oneida of the Thames. The Sudbury-based artist’s booth was one of over 100 set up at field level in Toronto’s SkyDome for the 12th annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival.



GREETING VETERAN – Shkaabewis Tabobondung, 4, Wasauksing, greets Veteran Dasia Nebenionquit, who marched with other warriors in the Grand Entry.



READING WAMPUM – The Treaty of 1764 wampum belt was a popular attraction on Education Day at the 12th annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival. Maurice Switzer, director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians, describes the wampum belt symbols to some of the 8,000 schoolchildren who attended the event. – Photo by Priscilla Goulais



LITTLE STEPS – Geordan Lewis, 6, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve was one of over 700 pow-wow dance competitors.

Canadian Aboriginal Festival



EDUCATORS MEET – Salish-Cree author Lee Maraacle discusses educational issues with Frank Odjig, manager of technical services for Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, and trustee for the Wiky Board of Education, whose booth he was manning at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival.



Shelby Jonathan, Six Nations, in Turtle Concepts fashion show.



South American dancer in demonstration tent.



READING ABOUT RIGHTS – Ted Shaw, education officer with the Ontario Human Rights Commission, shows new OHRC pamphlets in Ojibway, Cree, and Mohawk languages. From left, Joey and Taylor Ozawanimke of Pikwakanagan First Nation, and Zack and Diane Hill, Oneida on the Thames.

Manitoba artists take most music awards

TORONTO – The 7th annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards gala was a star-studded celebrity event where 27 awards were presented to honour the work and achievements of outstanding Aboriginal musicians and industry members in Canada.

The big winner of the evening was Tagaq's CD "Sinaa" with three awards. Two awards each went to Winnipeg's Little Hawk, Ryan D'Aoust, also from Manitoba, and Cape Breton's Forever.

Manitoba artists shone in the spotlight, with a total of eight awards going to six Manitoba artists, including Little Hawk, Ryan D'Aoust, Burnt, Kimberly Dawn, Lisa Meeches & Kyle Irving, and Hank Horton. Following Manitoba, four awards went home with Alberta artists, four awards were presented to winners from Canada's north (NWT and Nunavut), Saskatchewan artists earned three awards, and three awards were presented to winners from Ontario.

Tagaq's CD "Sinaa" received three awards: Best Female Artist for Tanya "Tagaq" Gillis, Best Producer/Engineer for producer Juan Hernandez and engineer Jose "Triki" Trincado, and Best Album Design for Oscar Poza & Montse. Members of this outstanding team are from Nunavut.

Best Album of the Year and Best Folk Album honours went to Little Hawk for his CD "1492-1975." Little Hawk, a.k.a. Troy Westwood, is from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Cape Breton, Nova Scotia's Forever also took home two awards: Best Rock Album and Best Music Video for the recording "Something to Dream Of" and the video of the same name.

Ryan D'aoust, a 16-year-old left-handed fiddler from Norway House, Manitoba received the Best Fiddle Album Award for his CD "Southside of the Strings," and the Galaxie Rising Stars Award, granted by Galaxie, CBC's Continuous Music Network, to a promising newcomer in Aboriginal Music.

The Best Female Traditional/Cultural Roots Album award went to Asani for "Rattle & Drum." Asani is a contemporary a cappella Aboriginal women's trio hailing from Alberta.

Diga a Tlichio (Dogrib) musician from Fort Rae, NWT, was named Best Male Artist. His CD is called "Earth is Crying."

The honours for Best Group or Duo went to Burnt, the eleven-member ensemble based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Burnt's

CD "Hometown" blends blues, jazz, rock, funk and traditional First Nations sounds.

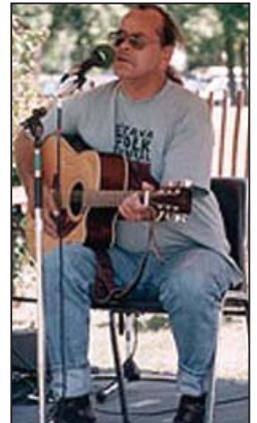
Jason Burnstick & the Rhythmic received the Best Instrumental Album Award for "Burn." Burnstick lives in Vancouver, B.C., where he blends the sounds and rhythms of Latin music and his Cree roots.

Alberta's Carl Quinn was named Best Songwriter for the title song on his CD "Ni Ototem," whose goal is to promote, preserve and share the Cree language.

Kimberly Dawn's song "Spirit of Our People" won the Best Song/Single honours. Dawn is from Winnipeg, Manitoba.



LISA ODJIG – First woman to hold world professional hoop-dancing title, the Wikwemikong dancer demonstrated her skills for CAMA awards audience.



WILLIE DUNN – Ottawa-based singer, playwright, musician, film-maker, received a special award for Lifetime Contributions to Aboriginal Music.

Arts



NEW ROAD – Paul Bruneau, 31, gave up a career as a transport truck driver three years ago to become a full-time carver. The Mattagami First Nation artist was taught by an Inuit friend in Ottawa. His pieces – like *Spiritual Flight*, made of serpentine, deer antler, and horsehair – can sell for as much as \$15,000. He can be reached by phone at 613-363-2707, or by "Googling" his name on the internet.



RED SKY AT NIGHT – Sandra Laronde, founder and artistic director of Red Sky, is also a performer, writer and producer. She is seen with cousin Shkawbewis Tabobondung-Liberty after an evening performance at the Capital Centre in North Bay, November 18. Sandra Laronde is from the Teme-Augama-Anishnaabe (People of the Deep Water) in Temagami Ontario. The Red Sky production of "Raven Stole The Sun" was scheduled for an 11-performance run in December at Ottawa's National Arts Centre.

Taylor sees humour as sign of Native acceptance

By Kathleen Imbert

SUDBURY – Drew Hayden Taylor doesn't let the "bleak stories" pull him down.

During his Gkendasswin Trail series lecture at Laurentian University last month, the Curve Lake First Nation writer talked about how aboriginal people have been "oppressed, suppressed and depressed," but also about the healing role of humour for Native peoples.

He is currently working on a publishing project exploring Native humour. One of his credits is producing a best-selling National Film Board video on the subject called "Redskins, Tricksters and Puppy Stew."

"Certain characteristics of Native humour like teasing – every-

body gets teased – is a sign of acceptance and self-deprecatory making fun of ourselves," he explained. He enjoys making fun of his fellow Natives but thinks that he is pretty reserved – "Don Burnstick makes fun of Native people more than I do."

He says his 37th birthday was "traumatic."

"Resigning from my job at Native Earth, getting booted out of my apartment and my girlfriend leaving me – and above all, taking the cat." She told him he could always get a new cat and call it an exotic Indian name. Attawapiskat never really did replace his old one that he loved dearly.

When he is under the weather, Taylor says he turns on a recorded version of one of his Blues series plays. "Baby Blues is a story of an aging pow-wow dancer who only believes in partying, dancing and chasing women; he hates commitment and is basically a big kid. It was translated into Italian and produced in Venice, Italy of all places." Taylor says it was "surrealistic" to see his play performed by Italian actors shouting "il pow-wow!"

He's contemplating "Berlin Blues," which would tell the story of a German corporation conceiving an Ojibwe theme park, with me-



Drew Hayden Taylor

Waubetek 6" x 6"

Media Buying Services MNR Spanish/Vermillion River

6" x 7.25"

dicine ferris wheels and bumper canoes. Taylor says a secret to his success is confidence. And 15

years of writing for the theatre has also convinced him of the importance of timing. Although

he has a reputation of being a "cynic" he says "my job is to use and not abuse."

Anishinabemowin/Languages

Métis promoting Michif dictionary

By Mike Gauthier

MATTAWA – The Michif language of the Métis is part Algonkian (Cree, Saulteaux) and part French, and – like other aboriginal languages – is regarded as endangered.

The Michif Zarvey community in the Nipissing district of Northeastern Ontario is trying to promote the awareness of our language, using a Michif dictionary developed by the Métis Resource Centre in Winnipeg. Our organization's name means Métis and paddle, and our logo represents Métis people being up the creek with a broken paddle.

The words for some traditional medicines show the similarity in French and Michif.

French	Michif	English
La racine noir	la rasin nwyar	Black root
Belle angelique	bel angelique	flagroot, sweet flag
Li boum	li boum	wild mint
Le tabac	li tabaw	tobacco

In addition to promoting Métis language and cultural issues, Michif Zarvey – affiliated with the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association – also works on education, health, and economic growth.

Interested parties can contact Michif Zarvey by e-mail at michif_chief@sympatico.ca



Mike Gauthier

**Sumac
Creek
Tipi
2" x 3"**

**Wiwemikong Unceded
6" x 6"**



Laurie McLeod-Shabogestic demonstrates beading techniques for a student from Westminster College as Cindi Elliot, Diversity Program Coordinator/Counsellor, looks on.

Nish couple shares culture

FULTON, MO – Two Anishinabek Nation representatives participated in American Indian/Alaskan Native Heritage Month celebrations at William Woods University and Westminster College.

Perry and Laurie McLeod-Shabogestic presented on Anishinabek history, politics, education, health and current events, and spoke of their involvement in helping cartoonist Lynn Johnston introduce the fictional Anishinabek Nation community Mtigwaki into her popular comic strip "For Better or For Worse."

Laurie, co-ordinator of the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Program for the Union of Ontario Indians, presented on that topic.

Nadowesoonh: name for our mortal enemies

By Stewart King

WASAUKSING FN – Reference by Anishinaabe people to their Mohawk brethren as Nadowe (Naadoweh) conjures up images of danger, fear and for some a venomous, coiled and threatening rattlesnake.

Their formidable foes to the west, the Sioux, were equally feared and despised by our ancestors through-out time



Stewart King

immemorial. They too were mortal enemies of the Anishinaabe and were every bit as proficient in battle as the Mohawk. It is commonly held that the name Sioux, attributed to this tribe, was French in origin.

Fluent speakers, familiar with stories handed down for many generations, insist that they were both known as Nadowesoonh. In the time following the arrival of the fur trade, the Mohawk became the Nadowe and our historical enemies to the west became the soonh, or Sioux.

Anishinaabemowin, our mother tongue, continues to teach us of many things thought to be long lost in the acculturation process.

A critical look and contemplation of the word

Nadowesoonh, and thorough consultation with our fluent Elders leads us to expand our minds to accept the origins of this single word. A simple change of the spelling to read as Naadowehwehsoonh will enhance the description of this ancient and formidable life form.

We know biidwehwehdong means that 'he is sounding his voice as he approaches.' Zegwehwehdong implies that 'he has a fearful voice.' The 'weh' in minwehwehgeh identifies that 'a sound is being made,' 'a good sound' or that 'he is making a good sound or good music.'

A literal translation of the words Mansoonh, Mkadeh-wiisoonh and Mkwahsoonh tells us that these respective words translate to 'Spirit-being,' 'Black-bodied-being' and 'Bear-being.' All these words form a part of our culture and have their own stories associated with them. Soonh would therefore describe 'a form of a living being.'

Binaadmaadzah describes 'that he comes on his own to fetch.' Binaadin tells one 'to come and fetch it.' Naadmooshin indicates 'come help me with this.'

True to the descriptive and precise custom of our language, Naadowehwehsoon will then translate to 'the being that sounds his voice to come and fetch you.'

**Mnidoo Giisoonhs
Little Spirit Moon (December) 31**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Onanigwendandaa minwa
Kidanimikaago!

Gidinmikowin.
Greetings (Bless you)

Bizaaniwewin
Peace

Native Studies #1 Full Page

CTV morning show brings Nipissing into Canada's homes

NIPISSING FN – This community's secondary school invited everyone in Canada to its 10th anniversary celebration.

On November 17, Jeff Hutcheson and the Canada AM crew visited Nbisising Secondary School (NSS) on Nipissing First Nation (NFN) for a cross-Canada broadcast of the CTV network's popular early-morning show. The school gym was packed with Nipissing members for the 6:30 a.m. broadcast start time.

Chief Philip Goulais, longtime Nbisising principal Muriel Sawyer, and school librarian Lily Armstrong welcomed Hutcheson, who doubles as the network's early-morning weatherman and host of the traveling road show. The school had submitted a letter on birchbark to a contest soliciting community invitations to host Canada AM. The Nbisising letter did not win the contest, but Hutcheson – referred to in the letter by an Anishinabe name that translates into "He Who Sees the Weather Approaching" – was so impressed with the unique entry that he promised a visit.

"We are so happy to finally have Jeff Hutcheson here" said Muriel Sawyer, currently a language teacher at Nbisising. "This day is for the students of this school and the community members of Nipissing."

The Anishinabek Nation Eagle Staff was the first thing to be shown to the visitors, and Perry McLeod-Shabogestic explained the

significance to Hutcheson, who was then presented with a Plains Indian-style feather head-dress by Lily Armstrong and a pair of cooking mitts and apron by Echo McLeod-Shabogestic.

During the morning Jeff also received an Ojibwe language lesson from Nbisising students Falcon Skye McLeod-Shabogestic and Dawn McLeod. Mindy Fairfield taught the guest some shawl dance steps, to the cheers and laughter of the crowd, and Lester Bousineau coached Hutcheson in the art of moose-calling.

The broadcast host helped serve a community breakfast of fried pickerel, eggs, potatoes and beans, with assistance from Suzanne Campeau and Lily Couchie. Protection was provided by the Anishinabek and Ontario Provincial Police.

Hutcheson was enjoying a blind taste test with traditional wild game delicacies, until he sampled moose nose. He also tried his hand at drumming and making a medicine bag with the help of Evelyn McLeod.

The live television event wrapped up outside the school, with Lake Nipissing as a sparkling blue backdrop, with presentation of numerous gifts to Jeff Hutcheson, including a hand-painted drum and stick made by Perry and Laurie McLeod-Shabogestic. The last thing hundreds of thousands of Canada AM viewers heard were farewell cheers from Nipissing First Nation members.



Canada AM host Jeff Hutcheson put Nipissing First Nation on the map for hundreds of thousands of viewers of the popular CTV network morning program. First Nation members – including Evelyn Chevrier – packed the Nipissing Secondary School gymnasium for the Nov. 17 broadcast. – Photo by Priscilla Goulais



Nipissing First Nation Chief Phil Goulais welcomes Canada AM host Jeff Hutcheson to Nbisising Secondary School for a Nov. 17 live broadcast of the popular CTV network morning show.



Nbisising grad
Graduate Suzanne Campeau, currently studying at Nipissing University in North Bay, shares her experiences as a Nbisising Secondary School student during the First Nation school's 10th anniversary celebrations.

Thunder Bay woman wins literacy award

QUEEN'S PARK – The first recipient of a new award that celebrates outstanding achievement in literacy is Rita Buffalo.

"On behalf of all Ontarians, I want to congratulate Ms. Buffalo on her Council of the Federation Literacy Award," said Premier Dalton McGuinty.

Ms. Buffalo had little formal education, but as an adult, enrolled in a basic skills and literacy class, improving so much she qualified for college in only four years. In 2002, she graduated with honours from Confederation College. Today, she is a literacy coordinator for the Anishnawbe Skills Development Program operated out of the Thunder Bay Indian Friendship Centre – the same program that helped her succeed.

"Ms. Buffalo has succeeded and now helps others reach their full potential," said Premier McGuinty. "Her achievements represent how Ontario succeeds when we strengthen the education and skills of our people."

This year, for the first time, every province and territory presented an adult literacy award to an individual who has done a tremendous job of learning, or teaching, or both. The award also acknowledges the excellent work carried out by community agencies, schools and colleges that deliver adult literacy programs. In Ontario, a selection committee of individuals involved in literacy programs across the province chose Ms. Buffalo from a list of nominees.

The Premiers agreed to create the Council of the Federation Literacy Award in 2004 to recognize the importance of literacy in building a vibrant society and strong economy.

"Ontario is only as strong as our people and strong literacy skills enable our people to reach their full potential," said the Premier. "Adult literacy is a key part of building a stronger Ontario – and that's why people who champion literacy deserve our recognition."

Forces honour Native soldiers

KINGSTON – The Canadian Forces Leadership Institute is celebrating National Aboriginal Day 2006 by hosting the first conference on Aboriginal contributions to the Canadian military experience. This event, staged at the Royal Military College, aims to celebrate, raise visibility and increase awareness of Aboriginal contributions to the Canadian Forces. It also endeavours to build bridges between these communities and develop ideas that will help strengthen Aboriginal-military relations in the future.

For more information, please visit the conference website at: www.cda-acd.forces.gc.ca/aborig_conference_autoch/



Canada AM's host, Jeff Hutcheson, tasting Moose Nose.

Zagehdowin Education?

4" x 3.5"

Crystal chosen vice-chair

PETERBOROUGH – Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board trustees have elected Crystal Cummings as vice-chairperson.



Crystal, a community development support worker for the Union of Ontario Indians health Council unit based in Curve Lake First Nation, is an appointed trustee representing Alderville, Curve Lake and Hiawatha First Nations. This past year she was the chairperson of the Special Education Advisory Committee. "I look forward to this experience, particularly the opportunity to work closely with administration, staff members and school communities as we focus on our commitment to all students," says Cummings.

Native Studies #2

Full Page

Mno-bmaadziwin/Health

Hospitals don't serve Native needs

By Tom Powless

OTTAWA – In an effort to “bridge the gap” between aboriginal people and other Ontarians, the Ontario Hospitals Association (OHA) held a Dec. 2 meeting to bring its members up to speed with aboriginal health needs.

First Nations, Metis, and Inuit presenters made it clear that the current health care system needs to be changed in order to better serve the needs of Aboriginals.

Many indicators of declining Aboriginal health were pointed out such as deplorable housing conditions on reserves, lower life expectancy, high rates of suicide, heart problems and diabetes, tobacco misuse, drug and alcohol addiction, high unemployment, shortage of health professionals (on or near reserves), family violence, and lower high school completion rates.

There was a call to expand the determinants of health to include aboriginal culture. There is also the need for equal partnerships in finding and implementing solutions to the health care crisis. “(Health care professionals) seem to think they can solve our problems but they don't know our culture,” said Larry Gordon, Chair of the National Inuit Committee on Health (NICoH).

According to Gavin Brown, acting regional director of the First Nation and Inuit Health Branch, the Indian Health Policy that was introduced in 1979 is still in use today. It is unclear how provincial legislation applies on reserve, since the topic of aboriginal health has been a low priority with past governments. “This is an area where we need to sit down and figure it out,” said Brown.

The Sioux Lookout Meno Ya

Win Health Centre (SLMHC) was cited as an example of an effective health partnership, taking a “blended” governance approach to represent all people within the service area. Its board includes representatives from ten First Nations communities, the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, at-large and clinical representatives, and a traditional healer.

The creation of the Blueprint on Aboriginal Health by First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders is an attempt to “set the direction for Aboriginal health care for the next decade,” said Al Garman, Director General of the Aboriginal Health Blueprint Secretariat, FNIHB.

But Gloria Daybutch, Health Director of the North Shore Tribal Council, noted a shortcoming in the national Blueprint. “Primary health care is not prioritized, (whereas) Ontario identified primary health care as number one,” she said, citing the need for more community-based health care on reserves due to accessibility barriers. “Some (reserves have) access to hospitals, but most people don't go until they are really ill. This leads to a poor quality of life,” Daybutch said.

Tom Powless is an Ottawa-based writer from Six Nations of the Grand River.



Cancer Walk participants Arizona Copegog and Olivia Monague.

Walk raises \$2,000

By Peggy Monague-McGregor

CHIMNISSING – Over 40 participants from Beausoleil First Nation raised \$2,000 in the community's first-ever walkathon for cancer.

The Chimnissing Cancer Care Walk helped raise funds for Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie to honour the memory of the recent passing of two of the community's 600 members to the disease, as well as the diagnosis of two more.

The five-kilometre walk began Oct. 22 with prayers led by the Moonlight drum group, and concluded with a community potluck at which Chief Val Monague thanked everyone for participating.

Organizer Sharon Monague-Sylvester noted that cancer is steadily on the rise in aboriginal communities. “Like diabetes, it is becoming more widespread. Therefore, it is imperative that we encourage awareness at the First Nation level which promotes holistic, community-driven approaches to knowing and acting.”

In 2004 the Beausoleil Family Health Centre was awarded a project under Cancer Care Ontario to look at Tobacco Wise communities aimed at specifically preventing Lung Cancer.

The walkathon's moccasin logo was designed and donated by Natalie Smith-Mixemong and symbolizes the collective walk – “Bemsadaa” or “Let's Walk Together.”

Aaron Lutes, from the Royal Victoria Hospital, accepted the \$2,000 donation, describing Beausoleil First Nation as a role model, noting that other larger communities in the region had yet to stage a cancer fundraiser.

Peggy Monague-McGregor is Health Director for the Beausoleil First Nation.



Tracey Lavalee and Saga Williams were two participants in the 'Building Bridges' health conference.

Celebrate with Alcohol-free drinks



Strawberry Jazz

4 frozen strawberries
1/4 cup apple juice
1/4 cup pineapple juice
1/2 cup milk

Pour into two large glasses. Garnish each with a strawberry!

Pink Party Punch

2 cans frozen lemonade concentrate
2/3 cup maraschino cherry juice
1/2 cup sliced maraschino cherries
2 quarts sparkling water
1 quart vanilla ice cream

Mix frozen lemonade, maraschino cherry juice; refrigerate. To serve add sliced cherries and sparkling water. Pour over ice in punch bowl.

Garnish with ice cream!

Orange Smooch

1 tin grapefruit juice
1 tin orange juice (sweetened)
1 litre Seven-Up

Pour each of the liquids into a large punch bowl, add cherries and orange slices.

Mix and enjoy!

To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from Health Unit staff
Union of Ontario Indians

DOHM-NUK / LET'S PLAY!

INDIAN IMAGES

Lakota ads 'disrespectful'

WINNIPEG – Some aboriginal people in Winnipeg are upset about a television advertisement they say misuses the traditional native headdress.

The ad for Lakota pain-relief products shows people who appear to be non-Native buying the product while wearing Native headdresses. The headdress also features prominently on the company's website.

Ivy Chaske, a Dakota woman from the same First Nation as the Lakota tribe, says the ad offends her. "It's disrespectful of my people. It's disrespectful of what this headdress means, and how people earn those things. Complete ignorance," said Chaske, who teaches aboriginal awareness for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

"I'm sure that my neighbours or my grandson's classmates would be sorely offended if I let him run around in a priest's cassock, doing a commercial. They would be incredibly upset."



The company that makes Lakota says it never intended to offend anyone. Company officials say they chose the headdress because it's an icon that conveys the power of Native medicine, and the company wanted to honour aboriginal peoples' contributions to modern medicine.

Officials with CBC, which has been airing the ad, say it meets the corporation's standards of good taste and cultural sensitivity. CBC says it will take note of people's complaints, but there are no plans to take the ad off the air.

Rabbit and Bear Paws



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ASK HOLLY

BY HOLLY BRODHAGEN

Have an answer for your grandchildren

Who is the seventh generation? Or, more accurately, what is the seventh generation and what are our responsibilities to the generations to come?

My interpretation is that every generation is the seventh generation. The cycle never ends and really has no beginning. My responsibility is to carry on with the sacred trust given to us (meaning everyone, not just First Nations) to protect the land on which we live.

I came across the "Story of the Elder" as shared by George Simard, Executive Director of Weechi-it-te-win Family Services:

"A grandfather is asleep and is dreaming. In the dream, his granddaughter comes into the bedroom; he senses her presence and he wakes up. His granddaughter's eyes are staring into his own eyes and each time he moves his body, her eyes remain focused on his. Finally, he asks her, "Granddaughter, what is it you want?" She looks at him intently and asks this question: "Granddad, during your lifetime what did you do to make it a better world for me when I grow up?" Upon hearing the question, the grandfather immediately awoke, his heart was palpitating, he was sweating, he was afraid because the thought came to his mind, what if all he could tell her was that all

he ever did was maintain the status quo?"

For me, this story reflects why I live my life the way I do. Although I am not saving the world, the little I am doing will hopefully make some difference. I recycle, practice responsible consumerism by not supporting irresponsible business practices, and most importantly, I am moving towards a self-sustaining, low impact lifestyle. Hopefully what I am doing will mean clean water and forests for my children and future generations.

We are increasing our ability to harm the earth while having more access to alternatives. For instance, fuel consumption steadily increases when alternatives such as solar and wind energy are becoming more available to the consumer.

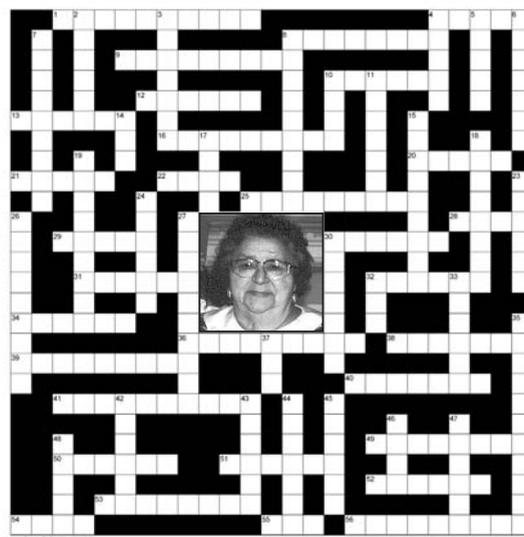
Research has steadily increased our knowledge of alternative energy products as well as alternative house building methods and lifestyle choices. Signing up for Bullfrog Power means buying into the alternative energy market and boosts support for further development. Choosing to build Earthships, Cordwood or underground houses decreases energy consumption while using "waste" materials rather than non-renewable resources.

So with all this knowledge and ability, how is it that anyone from the seventh generation could believe that they are incapable of contributing to the future of the next seven generations?

What is your responsibility for the seven generations to come? To have a good answer when your grandchild asks: "What have you done to make this world a better place for me?"

Holly Brodhagen, Dokis First Nation, welcomes suggestions or questions for future articles. If you have anything you want to talk about please contact Holly at the Anishinabek News.

Anishinabek Crossword #8



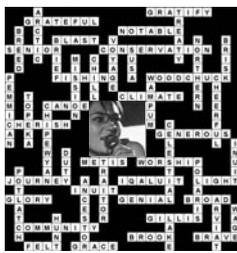
- 51. guard place
- 52. baffle somebody
- 53. communicate a message, information
- 54. large, furry mammal with a short tail
- 55. a specific area of water within an ocean
- 56. appropriate treatment

DOWN

- 2. Singer Paul ___, "Old Lovers"
- 3. keep somebody or something safe
- 4. consider somebody responsible
- 5. like something very much
- 6. trade
- 7. custom or belief
- 8. range of products
- 10. ___ Two-Axe Earley - Activist, behind a group of women who promoted Indian Rights for Indian Women (pictured)
- 11. ability to do something well, adj.
- 14. unprocessed
- 15. used by everyone
- 17. plentiful, productive
- 18. area
- 19. make pledge to do something
- 23. Daug ___, The Good Message, Musician
- 24. agreement between states
- 26. unparalleled
- 27. rebel
- 30. distinctive part
- 32. small amount of drink
- 33. people of same ethnicity
- 35. perform religious ceremony
- 37. star
- 42. higher-ranking person
- 43. authoritarian person
- 44. disconcert or frighten somebody
- 45. engage in activity
- 46. make somebody uninterested
- 47. without occupant
- 48. ___ Robinson, award winning journalist and news anchor on CBC Newsworld

ACROSS

- 1. complete something successfully
- 4. explosion
- 8. resembling each other
- 9. a period of prehistoric arctic place where important things are preserved
- 10. land, governed geographic area
- 12. help enemy
- 13. resentful
- 16. land, governed geographic area
- 20. preferred term for Eskimo
- 21. obligated, determined
- 22. every one
- 25. all that can be known
- 28. ___ Nahgang, one of the foremost Ojibway soapstone sculptor, archaeologists
- 29. footprint
- 30. woodland for hunting
- 31. very cold
- 32. unspoken
- 34. entry or approach
- 36. carry somebody or something
- 38. accept something as true more than is acceptable
- 40. fairly hot
- 41. coherent
- 49. Elder William ___, best known for sharing his spiritual beliefs and teachings of respect for Mother Earth
- 50. Eskimo Point, town in Northwest Territories



NOVEMBER SOLUTION

Prize for Puzzle

All completed crosswords sent to us by Dec. 31st will be entered into a draw for a Miniature Digital Camera courtesy of Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charities.





Anishinabek Nation Political Office
 Grand Council Chief, John Beaucage
 Deputy Grand Chief, Nelson Toulouse
 Chief-of-Staff, Bob Goulais
 Executive Liaison Officer, Monica Lister
 Executive Secretary, Patricia Campeau

UNION OF ONTARIO INDIANS Nipissing First Nation P.O. Box 711, North Bay ON P1B 8J8 Ph: 877-702-5200 Fx: 705-497-9135 E-mail: goubob@anishinabek.ca

NIIGAAN ZHAAMIN - "Moving Forward, Together"

Messages needed to build nations

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY – The importance of communication in nation building was the theme of the 2005 Aboriginal Beat conference.

"It's important that we get our message out about self government, treaties and our rights-based agenda," said Grand Council Chief John Beaucage of the Anishinabek Nation during a panel called "Kidowenan" (We speak), at the third in the series of conferences presented by the Union of Ontario Indians communications unit. Aboriginal Beat III – the previous conferences were held at Canadore College in North Bay in 2003, and Huntington University in Sudbury (2001) was held Nov. 22 at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

"We have to communicate our ideas and issues in the best possible light and let Canadians know what is driving us," said Beaucage, who was also the conference's keynote speaker.

Grand Chief Stan Beardy of Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Barbara Walberg, program coordinator of Aboriginal Law and Advocacy at Negahneewin College, and Elder Dolores Wawia, an assistant professor at Lakehead University, also participated during the panel.



Elder Dolores Wawia participates in Aboriginal Beat Conference panel with Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage.

Beaucage scolds media for accountability refrain

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY – "Traditionally, we've always been storytellers." Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage used his keynote address during the Aboriginal Beat III Communications Conference in Thunder Bay to explore that theme.

"Long before our nation signed the treaties, we had the inherent right to govern ourselves," Beaucage said. "We have never given up those rights. Our nation never agreed to be subjects of the Crown."

Beaucage described treaties as sacred documents.

"If you come to any of our ceremonies, you will see that we begin with a smudging," Beaucage said, emphasizing that the smudging is a way to communicate with the Creator to be a witness.

"So when we have a treaty, all of the issues and parts of the treaty are sacred because we asked the Creator to be witness. That's why it is a sacred document."

"First Nations will continue to push the legal bodies until our treaties are fully honoured." Beaucage then asked where all of the \$6.1 billion that the federal government budgets for First Nations actually goes, noting that a total of \$722 million pays First Nation governance operations across the whole country.

"Where does all the other INAC budget go," Beaucage asked. "How much goes to internal government spending?"

Beaucage wondered aloud how much is spent in the huge INAC office buildings in Gatineau, Que. and Toronto.

"\$6.1 billion is not getting to First Nation communities," Beaucage said.

Beaucage also asked why First Nations are always being accused by the mainstream media of being financially unaccountable.

"Only five of our 42 (Union of Ontario Indians) First Nations are in financial trouble," Beaucage said. "First Nations have to submit a total of 168 reports per year to various governments."

\$2 billion for residential schools

Canada making restitution for 'dark chapter'

OTTAWA – Canada has offered to pay more than \$2 billion compensation to indigenous people who were abused at government-funded residential schools.

Some 80,000 people who attended the schools over decades are eligible. About 15,000 of them have begun legal claims against the government and Church, which ran the schools – to be dropped if they accept the deal.

The draft package must still be agreed by the courts but has under the terms of the draft deal, each claimant will be eligible to receive C\$10,000 and then an additional \$3,000 for each year they attended beyond their first year.

Those aged over 65 can apply for a fast-track advance payment of \$8,000.

The deal also includes C\$60m for a truth and reconciliation process designed to promote awareness of what happened in the schools.

John Beaucage, Grand Council Chief of the Union of Ontario Indians, said talking about "this dark chapter in Canadian history" was an important part of the healing process.

"We are very pleased with the announcement of a reconciliation and compensation agreement on Residential Schools," said Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief John Beaucage. "This is very long overdue, almost seven years after the 'Statement of Reconciliation,' the government's official apology over the Residential School policy. Sadly, many of our elders have passed into the Spirit world during that time."

"The greatest value of this settlement, is it may bring peace and healing to generations of elders. I certainly feel the truth and reconciliation commission will be a positive step toward raising awareness, telling our Elder's stories, and bringing First Nations and Canadians closer together."

"Hundreds of thousands of our children were forcibly removed from their communities, forbidden and punished for speaking their language. They were abused physically, emotionally and sexually. Sadly, very little is known about the Residential School tragedy within the broader Canadian socie-

ty. Canadians must understand that this was a mandatory government assimilation policy which ultimately constitutes government-instituted abuse. Canadian children need to learn about this in school and all of us need to talk about this dark chapter in Canadian history. No longer should these events be swept under the rug, or whispered about in hushed tones."

Thousands of former pupils at the 130 boarding schools have made allegations of physical and sexual abuse spanning seven decades.

The schools were set up in sparsely populated areas in an attempt to assimilate Canada's indigenous peoples – known as the First Nations – into mainstream society.

Attendance was mandatory and children were forcibly removed from their families and forbidden from speaking their language.

Most of the schools were shut down by the mid-1970s, with surviving students now 60 years old on average. Many victims have already died.

National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations Phil Fontaine said the settlement was the biggest in Canadian history.

"Today marks the first step towards closure on a terrible, tragic legacy for the thousands of First Nations individuals who suffered physical, sexual or psychological abuse," he said.

"While no money will ever heal the scars, we hope this settlement package will bring comfort and a sense of victory and vindication for the children and grandchildren of survivors . . . It's been a wonderful day."

Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, said he hoped the package would bring a "just and lasting solution" for the victims.

Justice Minister Irwin Cotler described the abuse which took place as "the single most disgraceful, racist and harmful act in our history." He said he hoped the settlement would mark a turning point for Canada.

The government has already settled about 2,800 of the 15,000 lawsuits already filed, paying out C\$110m in compensation.

"This is very long overdue ... Sadly, many of our elders have passed into the Spirit world during this time."

– Grand Council Chief, JOHN BEAUCAGE



Many happy returns of the holiday season to all Anishinabek Nation citizens from everyone at the Union of Ontario Indians and your political office team . . . Pat Campeau, Nelson Toulouse, Bob Goulais, John Beaucage, and Monica Lister.

Restoration of Jurisdiction

Better education success rates depend on what and how children are taught

By Judy Millard, UOI Staff

THUNDER BAY – “Pat our kids on the back and not on the head like dogs,” commented one participant at the “Building Our Anishinabek Education System” presentation held at the Union of Ontario Indians’ office in Thunder Bay on November 23rd, 2005.

The comment was one of many made by participants when asked to think about how Anishinaabe children are sometimes treated in the provincial education system.

“Teachers talk down to our children and then in turn they shut down and become withdrawn. This is an on-going battle.”

For most participants, the answer to better success rates for First Nation students is a curriculum that culturally fits, better teacher training, and recruitment and retention of teachers in First Nation schools.

“We want to become more efficient, become responsible for ourselves and get out of the cycle of

dependence and education is key,” said the Anishinabek Head Negotiator on Education, Merle Pegahmagabow, noting that the negotiation process is long with many steps yet to be taken. The current timeline for a potential signing of the *Anishinabek Final Agreement with respect to the Exercise of Education Jurisdiction* is February 2008.

At this time, the Education Working Group members are getting feedback and input on the proposed Anishinabek Education System through a consultation strategy that includes regional presentations in several urban centers including Thunder Bay, Sudbury, London and Barrie. Presentations are also being made in the 28 First Nation communities that signed on to the agreement-in-principle (AIP) in November 2002.

The Communications and Consultation Working Group, with the help of the Community Facilitators, is taking the lead in coordinating this opportunity for community members and Aboriginal organizations to provide guidance and assist in developing an education system based on Anishinabek law-making authority and culture.

The consultation strategy is an important step in making the education system a grassroots initiative. “We want more involvement in what our children are learning and more involvement by parents. In the past, education was left to someone else. Parents were intimidated because they were aboriginal and their thought was that the white people were smarter than us. This is what the parents were carrying back then,” said Pegahmagabow.

The emphasis for this round of presentations and discussions are the governance structure of the Anishinabek Education System (AES) – who controls what and how it operates. The basic tenets of the system are First Nations’ control, education is a parental and community responsibility, and responsibility equals jurisdiction – the power to make decisions for ourselves.

During the discussion, several key requirements to run a successful system were identified such as adequate funding levels, equity with provincial systems, enhanced special education resources, teacher parity, better fiscal arrangements and the development of a management system with clear consistent policies.

“A holistic education program that incorporates culture, values, spirituality, physical, emotional and social well-being with academics is what we are aiming for in our education system,”



From left: Shiela Karasiewics, Heather Anderson, Gerry Martin, Nancy Bouchard, Chief Agnes Drake, Allan Kitchkeesic, Bruce Beardy, Dominic Gawaish and Tracey O’Donnell, Anishinabel Legal Counsel, go over the legal implications of the draft Final Agreement with respect to the Exercise of Education Jurisdiction. The regional presentations provide in-depth information on draft final agreement as well as a discussion on how the education system will be governed and operate.



From left: Education Working Group members Craig Hardy of Fort William and Chief Mike Esquega of Bijiitwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek discuss the new Anishinabek Education System with participants Nancy Bouchard, Gerry Martin and Dominic Gawaish at the Thunder Bay regional session held November 23, 2005.



The Education Working Group members are holding community-based and regional presentations for Anishinabek citizens over the next several weeks. The first session was held November 14 at N’Biising School at Nipissing First Nation. Dr. Marianna Couchie, Councillor with the Education Portfolio and Doreen Trudeau, Community Facilitator, presented. From left: Carol Croxon, Fred McLeod, Wayne Armstrong, and Carol Guppy. The proposed governance structure and purpose of the system is being well-received but participants say that the final dollar amount will determine their support of the final negotiated package.

Photos by Judy Millard

explained Pegahmagabow. “We have the right to self-determination, which includes the right to educate our own children. Learning Anishinaabe history and traditions instills pride and a healthy self-esteem in our youth. When you understand who you are you become proud of who you are. Our goal is to enhance our educa-

tion in a positive way.” At this stage in the negotiation process, Anishinabek First Nation people, community members and parents have an opportunity to come together, representing our children and grandchildren to build a system so we can put our shared vision of education into practice and make it become reality.



Building Our Education System

A presentation by the Education Working Groups

VISION OF THE ANISHINABEK EDUCATION SYSTEM

We the Anishinabek are responsible to educate our children so that in the generations to follow there will always be Anishinaabe. Our education system will prepare our citizens for a quality of life based on the highest standards of Anishinaabe intellectual, holistic knowledge that supports the preservation and on going development of the Anishinaabe.

– Anishinaabe Pane

Confirmed Up-Coming Community Presentations

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan December 13, 2005
Magnetawan First Nation January 12, 2006

Regional Presentations

N’Swakamok Friendship Centre Sudbury
December 7, 2005 (9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
Barrie Native Friendship Centre Barrie
January 11, 2006 (9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
N’Amerind Friendship Centre London
January 25, 2006 (9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)

For more information

Please contact Dave Shawana, Education Working Group (EWG) Coordinator at 1-877-702-5200 or shadav@anishinabek.ca or your EWG member or your Community Facilitator

Restoration of Jurisdiction

Five more First Nations join constitution development project

By Mike Restoule,
Special Projects Coordinator

In the world of Native self-government there are many things to consider. Things like revenue streams, citizenship, lands and resources and programs and services are fundamental to a strong and viable nation. Assurances that such things as citizens' rights, just and proper elections and access to appeal mechanisms are also parts of self-government that people look for.

The fundamental document that gives force and effect to these elements of self-government is a peoples' constitution. Constitutions legitimize the political authority of a nation. They not only define the "people" but they create the state and bestow the law-making authority. A constitution usually will, as well, delineate the powers of the political structures and its administration. Constitutions then are fundamental documents that express the basic beliefs and symbolism of a people and include the core values and principles intended to provide order and good government for a nation of people.

These are the elements that will be considered by community committees as five additional First Nations embark on the journey to develop their constitutions under the Union of Ontario Indians' Restoration of Jurisdiction Constitution Development Project.

Following a call for proposals issued on September 19, 2005, Dokis, Garden River, Kettle and Stony Point, Pic River and Sheshegwaning First Nations were selected to participate in the project. These communities join Red Rock Indian Band, Alderville, Nipissing and Whitefish Lake First Nations that were selected as pilot communities last year for a total of nine First Nations working on their constitutions. Community Constitution Development Committees have been or will be established in each of the First Nations that will develop a draft constitution by the people, of the people and for the people of each of these First Nation communities.

An Orientation and Planning Workshop will be held January 9th and 10th in Sault Ste. Marie.

OFNLP ad

6" x 8.75"

ROJ BRIEFS

Governance AIP gaining support

October and November saw a flurry of activity on the *Anishinabek Nation Agreement-in Principle With Respect to Governance* ("Governance AIP"). To date, Anishinabek Chief Negotiator R. Martin Bayer has met with Chiefs and Councils representing 17 individual First Nations and has secured 12 Band Council Resolutions (BCRs). Two more BCRs are expected in the near future and nine more First Nations are scheduled to meet with Bayer over the next few weeks. The BCRs support the Governance AIP and support further negotiations toward an Anishinabek Nation Final Agreement on Governance. The Governance AIP is not legally binding. Only a final agreement approved by community referendums and approved by Canada will be legally binding on the parties.

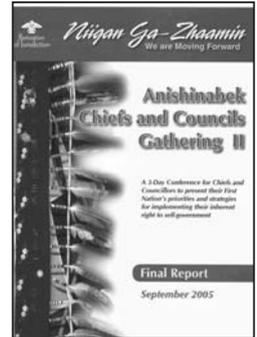
So far Alderville, Dokis, Long Lake # 58, Nipissing, Ojibways of Garden River, Ojibways of Pic River, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Sandpoint, Serpent River, Sheguiandah, Sheshegwaning and Wahnapitae First Nations have submitted BCRs giving Grand Council Chief John Beaucage the authority to sign the Governance AIP on their behalf.

To book an in-depth discussion of the Governance AIP with the Chief Negotiator, please call Adrienne Pelletier at 1-877-702-5200 extension 2335 or by email peladr@anishinabek.ca.

Final report of Anishinabek Chiefs and Councils Gathering II now available on the web

The Final Report of the Chiefs and Councillors Gathering II is now available in print while quantities last and also at www.anishinabek.ca/roj/resources. There you will find a summary as well as complete reports of the presentations delivered by Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve; Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point, Magnetawan, Nipissing, Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek; Aundeck Omni Kaning and Alderville First Nations.

The conference covered several topics related to self-government and provided networking, sharing of knowledge and resources and ended with a commitment to implement Anishinabek self-government on Anishinabek terms.



Drafting the Anishinabek Nation Constitution

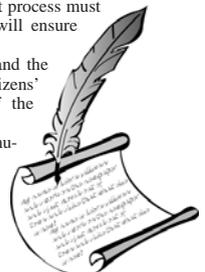
The development of the over-arching Anishinabek Nation Constitution is beginning to take shape as well. A Drafting Team of technicians use all of the data collected to formulate the kind of central constitution that the people have said they want their nation to have. This constitution will contain some of the basic elements outlined above and will embrace the core values and principles that were given to the leadership by the people over the years. A table of contents for the constitution has already been drafted that will be used to guide the Drafting Team to ensure that all of the elements outlined by the people are included in the constitution.

Some elements of the constitution are not yet determined such as, the division of powers between the Anishinabek Nation Government and the member First Nation governments. The people have said that the central government of the Anishinabek Nation will only have powers that have been delegated to it by the member First Nations.

It has been said that the best process to develop a constitution is a strong commitment to public consultation. If people feel that they have not been given an opportunity to participate into the process, they will not feel an ownership of the constitution. The development process must be grassroots driven and from the people. This will ensure legitimacy, stability and self-determination.

Presently, the web-site (www.anishinabek.ca) and the Anishinabek News will be the main vehicles for citizens' information and input into the development of the Nation's constitution.

Each First Nation that is developing their community's constitution will embark on its own citizenship involvement plan. For more information about the Anishinabek Nation and First Nation constitution developments, please contact Mike Restoule at 1-877-702-5200 toll-free or via e-mail at resmik@anishinabek.ca.



The Aboriginal Beat

Natives do better job of telling their own stories

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY – One of the goals of the Aboriginal Beat conferences staged by the Union of Ontario Indians is to showcase Native communications success stories.

That was the theme of two panels at the 2005 conference at Lakehead University.

A “Drummers” panel was a discussion involving four Native communications role models, including Enos “Bud” Whiteye, an award-winning freelance writer for the Osprey Media Group, whose columns on Native issues are seen by the readers of over 300,000 Osprey copies each month.

“I find it to be a really excellent opportunity to fight back,” Whiteye said. “We all know the injustices that have occurred over the years. When you realize the injustices, you can’t help to be involved.”

Joyce Atcheson, policy development officer with Ka:nen – a Thunder Bay organization serving off-reserve aboriginal children – spoke about her communications career to date, which included over a year’s stint filing stories from Wawatay News’ bureau in a remote northwestern Ontario fly-in community. Travis Boissoneau, a Garden River member of the Anishinabek Nation’s Youth Committee, is owner of Smokesignals.ca, and described his Aboriginal news and information

website. Nadia McLaren, an artist and independent film maker, screened a segment of her documentary work in progress “Muffins for Granny,” about her grandmother’s experience at residential school. “Drummers” was moderated by Ron Desmoulin, an aboriginal journalist with CBC Radio in Thunder Bay.

The “Debwewin” (“truth”) panel described some best practices in public education about Aboriginal issues.

John Size, managing editor of the Osprey Media Group, said he is proud to be providing the weekly Nijiji (“friends”) Circle Page space at no cost to the Union of Ontario Indians.

The page, published in each Saturday’s issue of the 20,000-circulation daily, contains articles that appear in the Anishinabek News, the monthly publication of the Union of Ontario Indians. The Nijiji Circle pages received an honourable mention in the 2005 Awards of Excellence program of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

“We’re providing the Aboriginal point of view to our readers,” Size said. “I think it’s good for the newspaper and the community.”

Candalee Beatty, CTV Sudbury’s aboriginal relations coordinator, explained that an Aboriginal Resource Directory was



Canadalee Beatty, Aboriginal Relations Co-ordinator with CTV in Sudbury, describes cross-cultural initiatives being undertaken by the network’s four Northern Ontario stations. Other Aboriginal Beat panelists were, left, Joyce Atcheson, and John Size, managing editor of the North Bay Nugget.



Katelin Peltier, director of communications for the Metis Nation of Ontario, moderated an Aboriginal Beat conference panel about mainstream media coverage of aboriginal stories, and was a presenter on a panel showing public education initiatives about aboriginal issues.

developed for the use of CTV’s reporters. She also screened a video highlighting ways in which the network’s four Northern Ontario stations had reached out to their aboriginal audience, including staging communications camps in area high schools, participating in cross-cultural training, and offering scholarships for aboriginal students.

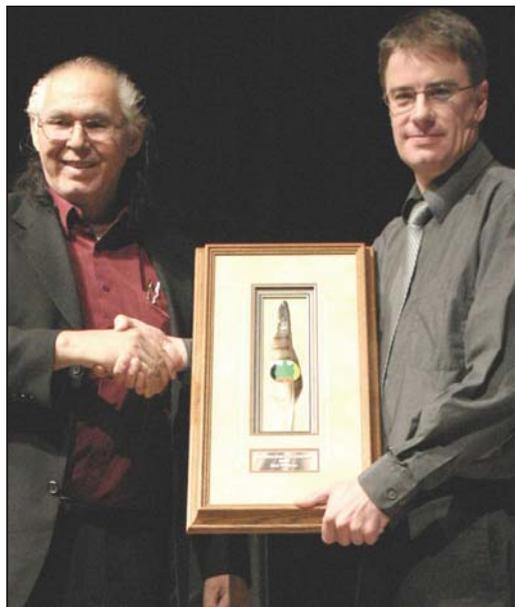
Katelin Peltier, Metis Nation of Ontario communications officer, described her work on the Metis Voyageur, a 12,000-copy newspaper distributed bi-monthly. She also

referred to the MNO’s displays set up at events like that week’s Canadian Aboriginal Festival in Toronto’s SkyDome.

The Aboriginal Beat’s opening panel – “First Nations and the Fourth Estate” – focused on the mass media’s role in covering two recent high-profile Native-issue news stories – the Kashechewan emergency evacuation and the federal bureaucratic delays imposing financial hardships on the Fort William First Nation sawmill project with Bowater Paper.

Deputy Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of Nishnawbe Aski Nation commented on the way the mainstream media covered the Kashechewan evacuation, moving from Kashechewan’s point of view at the outset to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada’s point of view towards the end.

Councillor Michael Pelletier of Fort William First Nation spoke about his community’s feelings that the mainstream media’s coverage of the Fort William-Bowater sawmill story was not fair.



Enos “Bud” Whiteye accepts the Debwewin Citation award for excellence in aboriginal-issues journalism from John Size, managing editor of the North Bay Nugget, a member paper of award sponsors Osprey Media Group.

– Photo by Rick Garrick

Like ‘talking to my brother’

By Rick Garrick

THUNDER BAY – Enos “Bud” Whiteye, a column writer from Walpole Island First Nation and member of the Osprey Writer’s Group, is the fourth Debwewin Citation recipient for excellence in aboriginal-issues journalism.

“I’m telling the story like I’m talking to my own brother,” Whiteye says about his column writing style. “I’m just talking to my brother. That’s the way I am.”

Whiteye, the Vietnam War veteran and survivor of the Mohawk Residential School in Brantford who covered Oka and worked for CBC in Toronto and Windsor and now works as a communications consultant for his band, was awarded the Debwewin Citation by John Size, managing editor of the North Bay Nugget during the Aboriginal Beat III Communications Conference held Nov. 22 at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

Although Whiteye studied journalism at the University of Western Ontario in the early 1980’s, he soon found himself working as an auto mechanic.

“It was very tough to get a job as an Aboriginal journalist in 1983,” Whiteye says.

After covering Oka, Whiteye did some movie reviews for the London Free Press but found his niche when he was given a chance to write his point of view.

“I really gave it to them after that,” he says. “But I didn’t want to become known as a loose cannon. I learned I had to do research on everything. I had to cover my back.”

Rosalind Raby, editor of the Mid-North Monitor in Espanola, and Jody Porter, a CBC Radio

reporter in Thunder Bay, were also awarded Debwewin Citation Honourable Mentions for significant coverage of Aboriginal issues in their regions.

The Debwewin Citations, coordinated by the Union of Ontario Indians and sponsored by the Osprey Media Group, are the first awards that recognize excellence by both Native and non-Native journalists in the coverage of Aboriginal issues in the media. Of Debwewin, an Ojibway word usually translated into English as “truth,” literally means “to speak from the heart.”



Jody Porter



Rosalind Raby



Roy Wynne makes traditional Cree tamarack goose.

Crafting decoys just like at home

WHITEFISH LAKE FN – Rita Wynne walks along a snowy path beside a river that flows through this First Nation to where her husband Roy spends his days crafting tamarack geese.

Her grandson Chadrick, 5, jumps into the snow beside the path to make snow angels ... and then snowballs, which he lobs at those nearby.

"All the children miss the snow," says Rita, 53, one of 250 Kashechewan First Nation residents evacuated to Sudbury because of an unsafe community water supply.

The evacuees look for ways to keep themselves busy until it is possible for them to return home to their community on the west shore of James Bay. They receive support from from the City of Greater Sudbury, the N'swakamok Friendship Centre, area First Nations and other community organizations in the region.

Some Kash citizens visit the Canadian Aboriginal Festival and SkyDome Pow-wow in Toronto, others explore Sudbury's acclaimed Science North exhibits, and others – like Chadrick – simply want to play in the snow.

Roy Wynne just wants a place to make traditional tamarack geese – used as hunting decoys by the Mushkegowuk Cree and sold as popular souvenirs – and he is accommodated by members of nearby Whitefish Lake First Nation.

"He's been making them now for 34 years," says wife Rita. "His first ones looked funny but he kept trying and didn't give up until he got the shape he wanted."

Roy demonstrates how to make the sweet-scented geese in a makeshift tent that Rita says "looks like our tent when we go spring hunting for geese." The tent is heated with a small pot-belly stove with Labrador tea branches hanging near the door. Roy and his neighbour Isaiah are busy making their crafts while the fire crackles away and Rita makes a pot of hot tea.

Tamarack geese were originally used by Cree hunters as decoys in the spring when Canada geese return to their northern breeding grounds.

Roy's large hands shape the twigs into a ball to make the bird's body that he binds together with yellow string. He leaves a hollow space in the head, an ingenious way to make the snow behind the decoys appear to be the Canada Goose's distinct white markings.

Stories and photos by Shirley Honyust, B.A., Oneida of the Thames, a 3rd Year Native Human Services/ Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) student, and Kathleen Imbert, Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve, in her fourth year of Native Studies at the University of Sudbury.



Kathleen Imbert



Shirley Honyust

Kashechewan

Homesick residents begin return

SUDBURY – Evacuees from Kashechewan First Nation have been heading back to their community even before the boil-water advisory was lifted.

"People are homesick," said spokesman Matthew Wesley, noting that those who have decided not to go back to their community are residents who "don't feel it is safe for their children."

Living conditions in the small, isolated community on the west shore of James Bay is a source of tension for all the members. Parents not only have to be concerned about the threat of E-coli in the community's water supply but also the dangers inherent in boiling water. One child in the lobby of a Sudbury hotel has severe burn scars on her arms, the result of a boiling water spill last summer that sent her to Toronto for medical treatment.

The October evacuation of 900 Kash residents to Sudbury, Ottawa, Peterborough, and Cochrane was the second emergency airlift in less than a year. Last spring some pipes in the dikes that prevent the flooding of the Albany river failed and sewage poured into basements.

There are other health concerns. Mathew Wesley says Elders are complaining because they can't see the river because of dust blowing off a berm built around the townsite called the "Berlin Wall" by Kash residents. Children are developing respiratory problems because of the dust.

Wesley has hopes that a new Kash will be built up the river on



Kashechewan evacuee packed and ready to leave Sudbury hotel for home.

higher ground. Ottawa promised as much in their initial response to the emergency. It will require 50 new houses to be built in each of the next ten years.

Meantime, evacuated residents are eager to return home with the approach of the promised Dec. 15 return date and Christmas. But there are still doubts about the safety of the water supply.

The Ontario government's Walkerton Inquiry report into the deaths of seven people due to E-coli contaminated water said: "While it is not possible to utterly remove all

risk from a water system, the recommendations' overall goal is to ensure that Ontario's drinking water systems deliver water with a level of risk so negligible that a reasonable and informed person would feel safe drinking the water."

Given the ongoing problems with their water supply, the citizens of Kashechewan First Nation are not convinced that the province can be counted on to keep its promise set down in the 2002 Safe Waters Act, "that the people of Ontario are entitled to expect their drinking water to be safe."

Children's education a major concern

SUDBURY – At 22, Matthew Wesley found himself in the position of being the spokesperson for the Kashechewan evacuees staying at a city hotel affectionately dubbed "Kash Lodge" by some of the residents. Matthew will be staying in Sudbury to pursue studies at Cambrian College in January 2006.

"People are homesick, and that's why some of them are going home," he said. "Not everyone is going back – only those who want to return. Others are going to the communities of Moose Factory, Attawapiskat, Timmins, Cornwall, and M'Chigeeng."

Wesley felt that plans to move back home were premature because unhealthy conditions remained. Schools will still be closed because of the diesel smells emanating from below. The soil is still contaminated from diesel fuel that leaked into the ground a few years ago.

"We're waiting for the new Kash to be made," said Wesley, referring to a federal promise to build 50 new houses per year for ten years, hopefully on higher ground.

A main concern for Kash residents is their children's education. School teachers were working with the 100 evacuated students still in Sudbury.

Tyson Wesley, Matthew's

Grade 9-age cousin, said he was studying one subject all day – business – and it was "boring." He would rather be watching t.v., going out with friends, going to the New Sudbury Centre, and shopping.

Teacher Lisa Feltnate shared her experiences working in makeshift classrooms at St. Anthony's Public School in Sudbury. She said kids were very excited and some arrived late because they thought they were going home anytime. Some want to go home because they think they won't be allowed to stay in hotels

any longer. They know it is just a temporary situation.

Everyone wants to go home, of course, but they want to go home to clean water! Their elementary school has been condemned – the kids can't go there. Seven classrooms had been opened in the high school, and some teachers had returned home. People were told that if they go home right now there won't be any school, and it would be better to wait until Dec. 15.

There is also word that some Kash homes have pipes that burst and there is flooding.



KASH COUSINS – Judy Wesley, left, brought son Hunter (9 lbs. 5 oz.) into the world at Kingston hospital Nov. 7, and Elizabeth Goodwin brought daughter Brianne (8 lbs. 10 oz.) into the world in Sudbury Nov. 13. The newborns are cousins from Kashechewan First Nation.

Anishinabek Nation Political Office
 Grand Council Chief, John Beaucage
 Deputy Grand Chief, Nelson Toulouse
 Chief-of-Staff, Bob Goulais
 Executive Liaison Officer, Monica Lister
 Executive Secretary, Patricia Campeau

Anishinabek

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NIIGAAN ZHAAMIN — "Moving Forward, Together"

Canada taking steps to improve Native life

By **Grand Council Chief John Beaucage**

At long last, it seems value is being placed on the improvement of First Nations' living conditions and the overall quality of life for aboriginal people.

With the First Ministers' meeting and the landmark announcement of residential school compensation along with the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission, Canada may be taking significant steps to improving its shameful U.N. world ranking of 65th in the indigenous quality of life index.



Grand Council Chief John Beaucage

Although the federal government is taking strides toward improved relationships with aboriginal peoples, it is First Nations people themselves who are pushing the envelope. They are doing so through a comprehensive, solutions-based approach toward improving their own circumstances and quality of life.

First Nations leaders have played a significant role in the establishment of the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtables last year, a high-level cabinet retreat last May, and November's First Ministers' Meeting in Kelowna, B.C.

Over the past eight months, Native leaders, policy advisers and technicians have met with government officials to work on various aspects of a solutions-based

approach to the Kelowna meeting. The five areas that were discussed included housing, health, lifelong learning, relationships, and economic opportunities.

Housing is one of the best examples of how First Nations have taken the lead in proposing a comprehensive 10-year strategy to improve aboriginal accommodation in Canada, both on and off-reserve. As a senior representative for the First Ministers Housing Agenda, I am confident our cooperative, solutions-based plan will see marked improvements over the next decade.

During an October meeting of Assembly of First Nations Chiefs in Regina, National Chief Phil Fontaine's approach was overwhelmingly approved, but aboriginal groups in Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec were unhappy with the AFN proposal and argued for a more focused "treaty-based, rights-based" strategy. In other words, Chiefs want to see movement in these areas, based not on legislation, or even negotiation, but on the rule of law: implementing our aboriginal and treaty rights.

The message is clear: The fundamental argument of aboriginal and treaty rights – more specifically, the inherent right to self-determination – must begin to be applied in the broader sense within Canadian society.

However, the rights-based argument must not replace the value of a comprehensive, solutions-based approach. First Nations must take the opportunities that present themselves now in order to create real, measurable change to the various social indicators in our communities.

Political Office Calendar

Dec. 1:	Regional Investment Management Board, Toronto, ON	Dec. 6-8:	AFN Special Chiefs Meeting (Renewal), Ottawa, ON
Dec. 2:	Southeast Chiefs Meeting, Pikwakanagan	Dec. 10:	Bob Howsam, INAC - ON Region, Mchigeeng
Dec. 2:	Monique Smith, Lib. (Nipissing-Temisaming), North Bay, ON	Dec. 14-15:	UOI Board of Directors Meeting, North Bay, ON
Dec. 5:	Chiefs of Ontario Regional Caucus, Ottawa, ON	Dec. 15:	UOI Office Gathering, North Bay, ON
Dec. 6:	UCCM Lobby, Toronto, ON	Dec. 21-Jan. 4:	UOI Holidays

Acronyms

GCC Grand Council Chief / UOI Union of Ontario Indians / INAC Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / AFN Assembly of First Nations / IGA Intergovernmental Affairs / DGC Deputy Grand Chief / CAN Canada / COO Chiefs of Ontario / AHC Anishinabek Health Commission / FNIHB First Nations Inuit and Health Branch/ HEALTH Ontario Minister of Health / SOCIAL Social Development Dept. / AFOA Aboriginal Financial Officers Association / EDU Education Department / LEGAL Legal Department / MHP Minister of Health Promotions / NOSM Northern Ontario School of Medicine / OFIFC Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres / OFNTSC Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation / ROJ Restoration of Jurisdiction / BOD UOI Board of Directors / MNR Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources / ON Government of Ontario / NFN Nipissing First Nation / ATT Attorney General of Ontario / ROSA Santa Rose First Peoples Community

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The BUZZ

This is an overview of the discussions being undertaken on your behalf.

- Aboriginal Blueprint for Health, AHC/HEALTH/GCC
- Canada Pension Plan, GCC/AFN/CAN
- Chiefs Committee on Education, DGC/AFN
- Coordination of Elementary/Secondary Tuition, GCC/INAC/EDU
- Consultation and Accommodation Discussions, GCC/PO/UST
- Education Coordination Unit, DGC/COO
- Elections Initiative, PO/COMM
- Enforcement and Justice Diversion Pilot Project, GCC/IGA/LEGAL
- Exploring a Harvesting Test Case, LEGAL/IGA
- First Ministers' Meeting Implementation, Housing, GCC/AFN/NC
- FN Financial Intervention Pilot Project, GCC/AFOA/INAC
- Inter-treaty Harvesting Discussions, GCC/MNR/IGA
- Joint Priorities Planning, PO/INAC
- Legal Support to Anishinabek Harvesters, LEGAL/GCC
- Local Health Integrated Networks, GCC/AHC
- Nation Building Coordination, PO/AEI/AHC/WOMEN/ELDERS/YOUTH
- National Chiefs Committee on Languages, DGC/COO
- National Ab. Diabetes Research Project, PO/NOSM
- New Comprehensive, Negotiation Framework, GCC/INAC/ROJ
- Nipissing First Nation Fisheries, PO/IGA/NFN
- "Noondaagaawin" Strategic Planning Process, GCC/CEO
- OFIFC Partnership, GCC/LEGAL/OFIFC
- Ontario Aboriginal Justice Strategy, LEGAL
- Ontario Infrastructure Portfolio, GCC/OFNTSC/COO
- Pan-Aboriginal Approach in Ontario, GCC/COO/ON
- Proposed Regional Health Accord, COO/AHC/
- Regional Investment Management Board, GCC/MCA/COO/OFNTSC

Intergovernmental Affairs

In Brief

Alberta Cree claim a key victory

The federal government failed to adequately consult a native band when it ordered a road be built through the country's largest national park, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled on Thursday.

The Mikisew Cree First Nation in Alberta had argued the road could damage their traditional hunting, trapping and fishing rights, as granted in an 1899 treaty. Other First Nations are in favour of the road because it would provide links to larger communities.

Thursday's decision upheld a Federal Court ruling granting an injunction against the road's construction, and ruled that the government failed to properly consult the Cree.

"The government's approach, rather than advancing the process of reconciliation between the Crown and the Treaty 8 First Nations, undermined it," Justice Ian Binnie wrote in the unanimous decision.

"It failed to demonstrate an intention of substantially addressing aboriginal concerns through a meaningful process of consultation."

The case had been viewed as key test of native rights and federal regulatory power.

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www.Aborinews.com

All aboriginal news site with current, archived and international news along with links to prominent aboriginal organizations.



MUSKIE ON BOARD – During the Nearshore Community Index Netting project on Buckhorn, Chemong, and Pigeon Lakes, Darryl Rose shows off a muskellunge as Danielle Coppaway drives the boat. The Curve Lake First Nation technicians were conducting the project for the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre. These lakes are heavily used by anglers and recreational boaters and continue to undergo major habitat and fish community changes, and are assessed by the Kawartha Lakes Fisheries Assessment Unit (OMNR) approximately once every 4 years.



DOKIS COUNTS FEWER WALLEYE – Mable Dokis views the shoreline during the Woodcock Lake Fall Walleye Index Netting Project in Dokis First Nation. Out of 12 sets 29 walleye were caught, which is considered low. There was a near absence of younger walleye where there should have been a healthy amount considering the good growing season. A detailed habitat inventory was also part of this project collecting bathymetry data.



WHITEFISH SAMPLES PICKEREL – Luke Nebenionquit and Chris Corbiere from Whitefish Lake First Nation display a pickerel caught during a Fall Walleye Index Netting project on Blackwater and Round Lakes. On Blackwater Lake 17 walleye were sampled and 17 northern pike caught, while on Round Lake 12 walleye were caught along with 35 northern pike and 8 small mouth bass. A formal final report will be available from the Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre in 2006.

– Photo by Kimberley Carmichael



Stories and photos by
PERRY MCLEOD-SHABOGESIC
COMMUNITY LIAISON SPECIALIST, Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre

Forestry promises please Ramsay

KELOWNA, BC – Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources, David Ramsay, issued the following statement while attending the Meeting of First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders in British Columbia.

In April, Prime Minister Paul Martin made a commitment to help Ontario's forestry industry. I am very pleased to hear today that the federal government is fulfilling its commitment.

This much-needed federal aid complements the McQuinty gov-

ernment's \$680-million forestry package. By supporting the forest sector, we will attract new investments resulting in a strong and sustainable forest sector and a strong economy.

The importance of the forestry industry to Ontario, especially Northern Ontario, cannot be overstated. This sector employs about 90,000 Ontarians directly and is second only to automobiles in exports from the province. It has annual sales of about \$18 billion, and exports of about \$8 billion.



Treaty Research Call for Proposals 2006 - 2007

The Treaty Research Program of the Union of Ontario Indians announces a call for specific claim research proposals for the 2006 - 2007 Treaty Research Work Plan.

The specific claims research proposals will be reviewed and eligibility will be based on the 2006-2007 Funding Guidelines of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada. In February, communities will be notified by mail as to the status of their submissions.

The Union of Ontario Indians no longer flows funding directly to First Nations but administers the program centrally from our head office. Successful proposals will be assigned to a qualified researcher by the Union of Ontario Indians to carry out work for the program.

The deadline is January 9, 2006 and proposals should be submitted in triplicate, to:

Union of Ontario Indians
Sandra Restoule, Treaty Research Assistant
P.O. Box 711
North Bay ON P1B 8J8

Please contact Treaty Research Assistant, Sandra Restoule at (705) 497-9127 or by email at ressan@anishinabek.ca should you require a sample proposal or have any questions/concerns.

Wishing you all the timeless treasures of
Christmas . . .

. . . the warmth of
Home, the love of
Family and
the company
of Good
Friends



Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

from the Intergovernmental Affairs Staff.

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