

ATTENTION: Elders Contact People Please Make Copies of the EV Each Month For Your Elders, Chief & Council and Boards of Directors if possible.

EV'S 160th Issue!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL ELDERS BORN IN MARCH!

The 38th Annual Elders Gathering
The dates for next years event
have been announced as
July 7, 8, and 9th 2014 and will be held at the
Trade And Convention Centre in Penticton.
Watch the EV for further press releases on the
Gathering from the new host.
Contact: Inez Pierre, Elder's Coordinator
Email: ipierre@pib.ca
Tel: 250-493-0048
Fax: 250-493-2882
TF: 1-877-493-0048

Dear Elders,

The Personal Credits info on Pgs. 10-11 is time sensitive. I don't know why there would ever be such a fast deadline for the elders to access this \$3000 credit for themselves or a family member for educational purposes, but if people aren't going to use them then they really should be pooled to do some good in each community. There isn't much time though if someone is going to organize a traditional language group, etc. as it takes time to plan these things out. But I strongly encourage people to see what they can do with these credits before it is too late.

Sincerely,
Donna Stirling, BCECCS Coordinator

Inside this issue

Easy Bakers Corner/Website	2
List of Paid Support Fees	3
Irving K. Barber Aboriginal Student Award Information	4
Elders Group Registration Form for the 2014 Elders Gathering	5
Volunteer Form for the 2014 Elders Gathering	6-7
Gathering Vendor Form	8
Sponsorship Opportunity for the Annual Gathering	9

Pgs. 10-11: \$3000 Personal Credits Info
Pg. 12: B.C. Domestic Violence Plan
Pgs. 13-14: Prime Minister Stephen Harper Announces Governments Plans For Fixing First Nations Education
Pg. 14: IRSSS: Funding Available
Pg. 15: Silent Stroke Risk Factors
Pgs. 16-17: Missing, Murdered Aboriginal Women Honoured In Marches
Pgs. 18-19: Fed. Gov. Sues Catholic Groups
Pgs. 19-20: How To Boost Your Memory
Pgs. 21-22: Aboriginal Tourism BC /Nuxalk Community
Pg. 23: Harper Government Slams Door
Back Page: Annual Elders Gathering Corner Contact Information, Quotes and Horoscopes

Easy Bakers Corner – The Best Pumpkin Bread - makes 2 loaves

Heat oven to 350°F. Grease 2 9x5 inch loaf pans and dust with flour.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the 2 cups of canned pumpkin, 3 cups of granulated sugar, 1 cup of water, 1 cup of vegetable oil, and 4 eggs. Beat until well mixed.

Mix 3 1/3 cups of all-purpose flour, 2 tsp. of baking soda, 2 tsp. of cinnamon, 1 tsp. of salt, 1 tsp. of baking powder, 1/2 tsp. of nutmeg, and 3/4 tsp. of ground cloves. Stir until combined.

Slowly add the dry ingredients into pumpkin mixture, beat until smooth. Slowly add the dry ingredients into pumpkin mixture, beat until smooth.

Evenly divide the batter between the two pans.

Bake for 60-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Cool for 10-15 minutes. Remove bread from pans by inverting them onto a rack and tapping the bottoms. Enjoy!

What Can you please share?

The following is a short list of Elders suggestions of what might be shared: Your local Newsletters/Upcoming Local Events/Prayers/Poems/Quotes/Comments/Storytelling/Drawings/Articles of Interest/Native Songs Lyrics/Wellness Seminars/Obituaries, etc. Submissions are best forwarded to me via email by the 15th of the preceding month. If you are interested in providing articles, please do so, I look forward to hearing from anyone who wants to contribute to the content of your newsletter.

Gilakasla, Donna Stirling

‘PRESERVING THE PAST’

The *First Ever* Elder's Website "Preserving the Past" is now online (as of Sept. 2002). Registration forms, booth forms, maps of the host territory, accommodation information, etc. concerning the Annual Elders Gatherings are available each year on the BC Elders Communication Center Society's website www.bcelders.com as soon as they are made available from each new host community.

As of Aug. 1st. 2011 issues of your Elders Voice Newsletter will be emailed out to all contacts as well as posted on the website www.bcelders.com the 1st of each month. Although we mailed out the issues for almost 11 years (128 issues) we can no longer afford the cost to do so. Please email bcelders@telus.com to be added to the email list. Thank you

Disclaimer:

Health articles, etc. are provided as a courtesy and neither the BC Elders Communication Center Society's Board/ Members or anyone working on its behalf mean this information to be used to replace your doctor's and other professional's advice. You should contact your family physician or health care worker for all health care matters. Information is provided in the Elders Voice for your reference only. And opinions contained in this publication are not those of Donna Stirling, Coordinator unless her name appears below the material.

BCECCS 14th Year GRATITUDE LIST

Support Fee from Dec. 1st 2013 – Nov. 30th 2014

(In the past the fee has always been \$250 yearly, but in these economic times it has become necessary to ask groups to consider assisting more, if possible, to make up for groups who cannot help.)
Your support is much appreciated!

LEVELS OF SUPPORT

\$1000 – Salmon

\$750 – Frog

\$500 – Sisiutl

\$250 - Hummingbird

SALMON LEVEL - \$1000

1. TAHLTAN BAND COUNCIL
2. PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

FROG LEVEL - \$750

- 1.

SISIUTL LEVEL - \$500

1. Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC
2. First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC
3. Osoyoos Indian Band
4. Tsleil-Waututh Nation
5. Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation

HUMMINGBIRD LEVEL - \$250

1. Union of BC Indian Chiefs
2. Lake Babine Nation
3. Irving K Barber BC Scholarship Society
4. Skidegate Band Council
5. Seton Lake Indian Band
6. Xaxli'p Indian Band
7. Mamalilikulla Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em Band
8. McLeod Lake Tse'khene Elders Society
9. Lytton First Nation
10. Akisqnuq First Nations
11. Doig River First Nation
12. Weiwaikum First Nation
13. Pacheedaht First Nation
14. Hailika'as Heiltsuk Health Centre
15. Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc
16. St. Mary's Indian Band

Donation: First Nations Tax Commission

OPEN DOORS, GO PLACES



WITH A BC ABORIGINAL STUDENT AWARD

OPEN TO BC RESIDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN THEIR SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY AND ARE PLANNING TO STUDY IN BC IN:

An approved trades training or apprenticeship program

A certificate or diploma program

An undergraduate or graduate degree program

APPLY NOW! DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2014

Visit www.bcscholarship.ca



THE IRVING K. BARBER
British Columbia Scholarship Society

ADMINISTERED BY

VICTORIA FOUNDATION



38TH ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING

HOSTED BY PENTICTON INDIAN BAND ELDERS
 RR #2 SITE 80 COMP. 19 PENTICTON, BC V2A 6J7
 PHONE: 250 493 0048 □ FAX: 250 493 2882
 WEBSITE: [HTTP://38THBCELDERSGATHERING.COM](http://38thbceldersgathering.com)

ELDERS GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION

JULY 7, 8, & 9, 2014
 SOUTH OKANAGAN EVENTS CENTRE &
 PENTICTON TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE
 853 ECKHARDT AVE W, PENTICTON, BC

REGISTRATION

EARLY BIRD – BY MAY 10, 2014 \$125.00 PER GUEST

LATE – AFTER MAY 10, 2014 \$150.00 PER GUEST

*REGISTRATION INCLUDES CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, LUNCH,
 AND DINNER PER AGENDA FOR ONE PERSON; WELCOME PACKAGE;
 SCHEDULED TRANSPORTATION; PARKING; AND TOUR OPTIONS.

GROUP / NATION / TRIBE:			
GROUP CONTACT NAME:		EMAIL:	
PHONE:		FAX:	
ADDRESS:			
ON SITE CAREGIVER NAME:		CONTACT # :	

HOTEL/MOTEL NAME:		PHONE:	
ADDRESS:			

PARTICIPANT NAMES:		HEALTH CONCERNS, DISABILITIES, AND/OR DIETARY NEEDS <small>(THIS INFORMATION WILL BE ON BADGE WORN BY ELDER FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES)</small>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM WITH
 CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

PENTICTON INDIAN BAND
 RE: 38TH ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING
 RR #2 SITE 80 COMP. 19
 PENTICTON, BC V2A 6J7

*FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORMS;
 NO REGISTRATION WILL BE SECURED WITHOUT PAYMENT

REGISTRATION FEE

I AM ENCLOSING EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES
 FOR _____ (#) PARTICIPANTS @ \$125.00 EACH

I AM ENCLOSING LATE REGISTRATION FEES
 FOR _____ (#) PARTICIPANTS @ \$150.00 EACH

TOTAL CHEQUE/MONEY ORDER

ENCLOSED: \$ _____

FOR FURTHER REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND/OR CHANGES PLEASE CONTACT:

SABRINA ENEAS, REGISTRATION COORDINATOR

EMAIL: SENEAS@PIB.CA PHONE: (250) 493 0048 EXT. 135

“HONOURING OUR OLD ONES, STORY TELLERS & TEACHINGS”

~THE 38TH ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING CORE COMMITTEE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS, NOR INJURIES OR ILLNESSES DURING THE EVENT~



38TH ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING

HOSTED BY PENTICTON INDIAN BAND ELDERS
 RR #2 SITE 80 COMP. 19 PENTICTON, BC V2A 6J7
 PHONE: 250 493 0048 | FAX: 250 493 2882
 WEBSITE: WWW.38THBCELDERSGATHERING.COM

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

First Name:		Last Name:	
Mailing Address:			
City:	Province:	Postal Code:	
Phone:	Alternate Phone:	E-mail:	
Age (check one): * <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (16-17 Years) <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18 – 24 Years) <input type="checkbox"/> Adult (24 Years +)			
*please note that if you are under 18 you will need a chaperone with you when you are volunteering			
Medical Number:		Illness/Allergy:	
Emergency Contact Information			
Contact Person:		Phone:	
Address:		City:	Province:
Signature:		Date:	

Description of Possible Volunteer Duties (Please complete the volunteer schedule on the following page)

- Registration – July 7, 2014. Will assisting staff with the registration process.
- Giveaways – Assisting coordinator with all giveaways for gathering
- Elders Rest Area – Assisting in quiet area for Elders
- Elders Support – Runners for water, snacks, servers, dance partners
- Food Server/clean-up - will assist with during meals and light clean-up.
- Transportation – directing to buses, connecting with tours
- Fundraising – assisting with 50/50 sales
- Arts & Craft Support – Checking in with vendors for any support required.
- Cultural Activities - will assist with duties related to the Cultural activities (may be with feast, luncheon).
- Venue Guide – July 7-9, 2014 will direct delegates who are looking for specific rooms or venues.
- Entertainment Aid – will assist with entertainment activities.
- Security/First Aid - provide assistance during gathering.
- Set-up/Take-down – Helping with setup (could be stage, chairs, etc.)

Please submit completed volunteer application forms by fax, mail or e-mail to:

Rhonda Terbasket, Volunteer Coordinator
 38th BC Elders Gathering
 146 Ellis St. Penticton BC, V2A 4L5
 E-mail: rterbasket@friendshipcentre.ca or Fax: 250-490-0891 or Phone: 250-490-3504

“HONOURING OUR OLD ONES, STORY TELLERS & TEACHINGS”

~THE 38TH ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING PLANNING GROUP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS, NOR INJURIES OR ILLNESSES DURING THE EVENT~



38TH ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING

HOSTED BY PENTICTON INDIAN BAND ELDERS
 RR #2 SITE 80 COMP. 19 PENTICTON, BC V2A 6J7
 PHONE: 250 493 0048 | FAX: 250 493 2882
 WEBSITE: WWW.38THBCELDERSGATHERING.COM

Name: _____

1. Please check your top four (4) volunteer areas:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration (Monday only) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Accommodations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Giveaways | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Elders Rest Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Server | <input type="checkbox"/> Elders Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Venue Guide | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Clean-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts /Crafts Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Booth | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Foods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security | <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Souvenir Booth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Booth | <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up Monday | <input type="checkbox"/> Take Down Wednesday |

2. Please check the days & shifts you are available:

Shift	Sunday July 6	Monday July 7	Tuesday July 8	Wednesday July 9
Morning: 6:30 am to 10:00 am	N/A			
Mid-day: 10:00am to 2:00pm				
Evening: 2:00pm to 6:00pm				
Night : 6:00pm to 10:00 pm				
Late Night 10:00pm to 1:00am	N/A			N/A

You may not be assigned to the entire time block as listed (i.e. – evening shift). We will only assign up to four hours of volunteer hours per shift depending on the schedule needs.

Thank you! The volunteer coordinator will consider your volunteer choices, your availability and assign an overall volunteer schedule for you. If you have any questions in the meantime please contact:

Please submit completed volunteer application forms by fax, mail or e-mail to:

Rhonda Terbasket, Volunteer Coordinator
 38th BC Elders Gathering
 146 Ellis St. Penticton BC, V2A 4L5

E-mail: rterbasket@friendshipcentre.ca or Fax: 250-490-0891 or Phone: 250-490-3504

“HONOURING OUR OLD ONES, STORY TELLERS & TEACHINGS”

~THE 38TH ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING PLANNING GROUP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS, NOR INJURIES OR ILLNESSES DURING THE EVENT~



38TH ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING

HOSTED BY PENTICTON INDIAN BAND ELDERS
RR #2 SITE 80 COMP. 19 PENTICTON, BC V2A 6J7
PHONE: 250 493 0048 | FAX: 250 493 2882
WEBSITE: WWW.38THBCELDERSGATHERING.COM

ARTS & CRAFTS BOOTH REGISTRATION FORM - July 7, 8 & 9th, 2014

First Name:		Last Name:	
Mailing Address:			
City:	Province:	Postal Code:	
Phone:	Cell (Event):	E-mail:	
Booth Information:			

Emergency Contact Person Name:	Phone number:
--------------------------------	---------------

Signature:	Date:
------------	-------

PAYMENT:

- \$420.00 includes: Parking and Meals (Mon & Tues: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Wed: Breakfast & Lunch). Additional payment of \$120.00 to cover cost of meals for 2nd person.
- \$300.00 Booth Cost Only
- Vendor registration fee is payable with registration.
- Method of payment – certified cheque or money order.
- Upon receipt of registration with payment, you will receive 1. Confirmation of payment 2. Assigned a floor space.
- A donation of goods from your booth would be appreciated – that will make up a portion of the prizes drawn throughout the event and promote your booth.

BOOTH SET UP:

- One table and 2 chairs will be provided for each 10 X 10 X 10 X 10 space
- Set up can begin at 1:00 pm on Sunday July 6, 2014
- Booths are to be set up no later than 11:00 am Monday July 7, 2014
- Electrical outlets will be available advance \$45.00 by June 15th or onsite \$55.00 Please contact coordinator to request Power Order Form.
- Registration table will be set up for you where you will receive your assigned booth and meal information
- For safety reasons and out of respect for individuals requiring chairs & walkers, vendors must stay within the assigned space and not have merchandise outside of area.
- Arts & Crafts Booth is allowed 2 people per booth.
- Parking in loading zone is for loading and unloading only. Parking is provided in designated area.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

- Vendor booths may not sell food, drinks or raffle tickets of any kind. Please note your buyers are Elders with limited budget.
- No burning will be allowed in the booths as some elders may have respiratory ailments.
- If a booth is not set-up by 11:00 am on Day 1 of the Gathering, the booth will be re-rented with no refund to the original booth registrant.
- Any merchandise pertaining to alcohol and drugs will not be permitted for sale or display.
- Notice of cancellation must be provided by June 1, 2014 in writing to be issued a refund. No exceptions.

By signing this form you agree to the guidelines as set out above

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

**PENTICTON INDIAN BAND RE: 38TH ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING
RR #2 SITE 80 COMP. 19 PENTICTON, BC V2A 6J7**

Inquiries: Arts & Crafts Coordinator – Joanne Cel 250.280.7194 or Email: vendors38@telus.net

For Committee use only

Payment received date:	Method: Certified cheque <input type="checkbox"/> or money order <input type="checkbox"/> Initial:
------------------------	--

“HONOURING OUR OLD ONES, STORY TELLERS & TEACHINGS”

~THE 38TH ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING PLANNING GROUP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS, NOR INJURIES OR ILLNESSES DURING THE EVENT~



Invitation to become a Sponsor Partner with the 38th Annual BC Gathering Elders

On behalf of King Emory Gabriel, Queen Vera Gabriel, Chief Jonathan Kruger and all the members of the Penticton Indian Band, we would like to invite you to join with the 38th Annual BC Elders Gathering as one of our esteemed Sponsor Partners. The 38th Annual BC Elders Gathering, hosted by the Penticton Indian Band and the elders of the Okanagan Nation, will be held on July 7, 8, 9, 2014, bringing many thousands of Elders, care givers and their families from across the land to Penticton, British Columbia. As one of our invited Sponsor Partners, we wish to offer you an opportunity to join with the elders on our journey together through witnessing, sharing stories and participating in traditional *syilx* cultural events and feasts during the gathering. The Annual BC Elders Gathering provides corporations a wonderful opportunity to get to know, understand and respect the traditions, cultures, complexity, protocol and diversity of First Nations. It is vital that business people come to learn who they are dealing with and the context of how to move forward. To do this a positive relationship needs to be developed and grown. Building such a relationship will help to enlighten corporations of the complexities of First Nations that will lead to deep lasting partnerships to bring certainty to projects that will be of benefit to all our futures.

38th Annual BC Elders Gathering Sponsor Partnership Levels

• Co-Presenting Sponsor Partner -	\$100,000 +
• Co-Supporting Sponsor Partner	\$50,000 - \$99,999
• Media Sponsor Partner	\$25,000- \$100,000
• King and Queen Host Sponsor Partner	\$35,000
• Coordinators Host Sponsor Partner	\$30,000
• Diamond Level Sponsor Partner	\$25,000
• Platinum Level Sponsor Partner	\$15,000
• Gold Level Sponsor Partner	\$10,000
• Silver Level Sponsor Partner	\$5,000
• Community Level Sponsor Partner	\$1,000 - \$4,999

Sponsor Partners entitlements dependent on the Sponsorship level

- Be invited to provide 5,000 gifts which will be placed in each of the elder delegate giveaway bags.
- Be provided space for an information booth at the Sponsor Partner booth
- Be invited to a photo shoot with King Emory Gabriel and Queen Vera Gabriel
- Receive all event VIP passes to the 38th Annual BC Elders Gathering
- Be invited to participate in the grand entry and opening ceremony
- Be invited to attend the Sponsor Partnership and Special VIP Recognition Traditional Feast
- Be invited to use the 38th Annual BC Elders Gathering Logo on company marketing material
- Be invited to have your company logo on the 38th Annual BC Elders Gathering Web Site
- Be invited to have your company logo included in the 38th Annual BC Elders Gathering Program

Residential school settlement offers \$3K education credits

Common Experience Payment recipients can use them or give them to family members

CBC News Posted: Jan 24, 2014

Residential school settlement offers \$3K education credits

Thousands of people from across the north are now eligible to receive an education credit from the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

The settlement agreement stipulated that if more than \$40 million was left in the trust fund after the Common Experience Payments were made, the leftover money was to be used for educational credits for CEP recipients.

Crawford Class Action Services is now mailing applications to people who received the Common Experience Payment. They can use the one-time personal credit of up to \$3,000 at universities, trades programs, or for courses.

People can also transfer the credits to family members or they can choose to pool them to develop programs that promote traditional knowledge.

Paul Andrew, who chaired an addictions forum in communities across the N.W.T. last year, said he heard people say again and again they want more on-the-land programs to help with healing.

"While they're still feeling that, feeling fresh about that, I think we can talk about this — pooling their credits together and using it for the benefit of the community.

"This is an opportunity for us to learn more from our own people. This is an opportunity to sit down with an elder out on the land, and get that education started."

But Andrew worries it will be a challenge to fit that less formal teaching into the paperwork required, and the deadlines will come quickly.

People have until Oct.31 to decide how to use the credit. Then the organization or school they chose has until Dec.1 to apply to redeem it.

About 5,000 people in the Northwest Territories, 2,500 people in Nunavut and 1,400 people in Yukon are eligible for the credit.

Personal Credits

The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement stipulates that once all Common Experience Payments (CEP) have been made, if more than \$40 million remains in the Trust Fund, the funds are to be made available to CEP Recipients, upon application, in the form of non-cash Personal Credits of up to \$3,000 each for educational purposes.

- CEP Recipients will be able to choose to transfer their Personal Credits to certain [Family Members](#) as defined in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Terms and Conditions;
- [Terms and Conditions](#) for Personal Credits have been developed by Canada and the Assembly of First Nations and by Canada and Inuit Representatives to determine which Education Entities and Groups and which Educational Programs and Services are eligible;
- Once the Personal Credits have been distributed, any amount remaining in the Trust Fund on January 1, 2015 is to be paid to the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund and the Inuvialuit Education Foundation to be used for educational programs.

Important Deadlines

Deadline to submit your Personal Credits Acknowledgement Form: postmarked by October 31, 2014.

Deadline for Education Entity or Group to submit Personal Credits Redemption Form: postmarked by December 1, 2014.

All inactive files will be closed on December 1, 2014.

Applying for Personal Credits

In January 2014, a Personal Credits Acknowledgement Form will be mailed to each CEP Recipient who has received a CEP payment. The Acknowledgment Form must be completed and returned to the Personal Credits Administrator postmarked no later than October 31, 2014.

If you have not received your Acknowledgement Form by February 1st, 2014, please call the Personal Credits Help Desk at 1-866-343-1858 or 1-877-627-7027 (TTY).

You will receive a letter by mail once your Acknowledgement Form is received to let you know that we received it. If we have any questions about your Acknowledgement Form we will contact you by telephone and/or mail so it is important to keep us informed of any changes to your address or telephone numbers. You can contact us:

By Phone: 1-866-343-1858 or 1-877-627-7027 (TTY) By Fax: 1-888-842-1332

By Mail: Personal Credits Administrator
Suite 3 - 505, 133 Weber St N Waterloo, ON N2J 3G9

By Email: IRSPersonalCredits@crawco.ca

Incomplete information may lead to delays or denial of your request for Personal Credits.

You will receive another letter by mail once your Acknowledgement Form has been reviewed. If your Acknowledgement Form is approved, the letter will include a Personal Credits Redemption Form that you, and/or your Family Member(s), will need to provide to the Education Entity and/or Group. The Education Entity and/or Group will then need to fill out the Personal Credits Redemption Form and send it to us in order for the Education Entity and/or Group to receive the value of your Personal Credits.

B.C. domestic violence plan aims to address needs of vulnerable woman

The Canadian Press From www.bc.ctvnews.ca

Published Wednesday, February 5, 2014 12:17PM PST

VICTORIA - The B.C. government is aiming to develop a domestic violence program that would include specific approaches to help aboriginal, immigrant, refugee and disabled women.

Children's Minister Stephanie Cadieux says various groups were consulted as part of a three-year plan to provide new and enhanced services for vulnerable women and kids. The B.C. government promised to launch a domestic violence program after the 2008 murders of three children in Merritt by their mentally ill father.

Cadieux says the plan will consider ways to provide social housing and transportation for women and children in rural and remote communities. She says community groups will provide input into intervention programs for perpetrators to hold them accountable for their behaviour as the number of domestic violence units is increased.

The first year of the plan will involve development of more prevention programs while existing public awareness campaigns are enhanced and the Justice Ministry continues to explore the possibility of domestic violence courts.

Read more: <http://bc.ctvnews.ca/b-c-domestic-violence-plan-aims-to-address-needs-of-vulnerable-women-1.1672027#ixzz2sU3MIBtK>

QUOTES

"In the depths of winter I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer." A. Camus

"The snow doesn't give a soft white damn whom it touches." E. E. Cummings

"One kind word can warm three winter months." Japanese proverb

"Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour." John Boswell

CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER ANNOUNCES THE GOVERNMENTS PLANS OF FIXING FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION IN CANADA AFTER A MEETING WITH NATIVE LEADERS IN STAND OFF, ALBERTA, FEBRUARY 7, 2014.

JESSICA HUME | QMI AGENCY

Credits: REUTERS/Todd Korol

OTTAWA - First Nations declared victory as Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a major new deal on native education Friday.

The agreement, that both sides said signals a "new era" in relations between the feds and First Nations, includes more First Nations control over the on-reserve system and a promised \$1.25 billion over three years beginning in 2016.

First Nations had long protested what it saw as too much involvement by the federal government in educational programs and swiftly rejected the government's proposed First Nations Education Act last year.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn Atleo had decried federal oversight on everything from funding to infrastructure to the curriculum, which he said devalued aboriginal cultures and languages.

The First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act, announced jointly by Harper, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt and Atleo on Friday, gives responsibility to First Nations "to administer their education system on-reserve," establishes a "stable and predictable statutory funding regime that accounts for language and cultural programming."

The legislation will be tabled in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

Atleo hailed the announcement.

"The approach we are announcing today embraces the essential and connected components of First Nations control of First Nations education founded on our rights, jurisdiction and treaties," he said.

Atleo also praised the "secure, sustainable and fair funding that supports our students' success and strengthens their languages and cultures."

The new funding comes with the promise of a guaranteed annual increase.

The feds also pledged an additional \$700 million over seven years, starting in 2015, for infrastructure.

That is slated to kick in starting 2015.

Nova Scotia-Newfoundland Regional Chief Morley Googoo said the agreement and funding marked "new era" for First Nations children and also in the relationship between First Nations and the government.

"First Nations leaders rejected the October proposal put forward by the government and stood together to set out the requirements for change," he said. "We are closing the gap in funding and we will close the gap in education between First Nations and non-indigenous students."

The plan includes standards that would be more consistent with provincial ones, and allows for First Nations communities to create their own education authorities to act like school boards.

Speaking at the Kainai High School on a reserve in Alberta, Harper hailed the agreement as historic and said its development underwent an "unprecedented" amount of consultation.

"This bill represents the appropriate, necessary and positive change that First Nations education requires," Harper said to a welcoming crowd that included many Conservative MPs and chiefs from across the country.

"It will be a stronger system and help to ensure that First Nations youth can become full participants in Canada's prosperous future."

NDP Aboriginal Affairs critic Jean Crowder said she was "cautiously optimistic" but wondered why the funding won't kick in for years, and if that delay threatened the Tory plans.

"The Conservatives may not even be in power in 2016," she said.

From www.sunnewsnetwork.ca



Funding Available: Group Healing Opportunity for Residential Schools Independent Assessment Process Claimants

The Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat is encouraging community and individual healing through the Group IAP Initiative. The program funds groups of individuals who are claimants of the Independent Assessment Process (IAP). The funds are to support program delivery of healing activities and support IAP claimants on their healing journey. The group healing funds can be put towards: Workshops, support groups, transportation costs for healing, administration costs etc. The Group IAP program provides funding to established groups to support healing and reconciliation for group members, their families, and communities. This program provides an opportunity for individuals to come together as they go through their individual IAP claim and/or shortly thereafter.

For more information regarding the Group IAP visit <http://www.iap-pei.ca/former-ancien/group-eng.php> - If you have enquiries about the Call for Proposals (CFP) process, please send them to the following email address: groupiap@iap-pei.ca. Enquiries specific to the CFP process will only be answered between February 3rd and March 31st, 2014. During this time, to ensure fairness and transparency, additional information stemming from the enquiries received will be posted on this website. You can also contact the Indian Residential School Survivor Society at 1-800-721-0066 for more information about the process.

Don't Let Silent Stroke Risk Factors Sneak Up on You! www.medbroadcast.com

To reduce your risk of a stroke, you need to know your risk factors. Risk factors are things that increase your chances of having a stroke. Some risk factors can be changed and controlled, while others can't. But did you know that some of the biggest controllable risk factors can be "silent" conditions that you often can't see or feel?

Here's how to stop these "silent" risk factors from sneaking up on you:

1. **Get checked for "silent" stroke risk factors.**

Some medical conditions greatly increase your stroke risk but may not have any symptoms. Ask your doctor if you need to be checked or treated for any of these:

Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heartbeat, also called *AFib*. AFib increases the risk that a blood clot will form in the heart and move to the brain, causing a stroke. With AFib, the risk of a stroke caused by a blood clot is 3 to 5 times what it would be otherwise. Up to one-third of people with AFib have no symptoms.

Diabetes damages blood vessels and may increase blood pressure, both of which can increase your risk of a stroke. If you have diabetes, you are twice as likely to have heart disease or a stroke versus someone who doesn't have diabetes. And over one-third of people with diabetes don't even know they have it because it often causes no symptoms.

High blood pressure damages blood vessels and makes them more likely to clog or burst, causing a stroke. It is the number one controllable risk factor for stroke. High blood pressure usually causes no symptoms, and about 1 in 6 people with high blood pressure have no idea that they have it.

High cholesterol clogs the blood vessels with fatty deposits, which could block blood flow to the brain and cause a stroke. About 40% of Canadians have high cholesterol, which usually causes no symptoms.

*Please note that the list above does not include all possible medical conditions that may increase the risk of stroke; ask your doctor for more information.

2. **Get a treatment plan, including a specific plan to reduce your stroke risk.** Even though you can't see or feel your silent risk factors for stroke, it's very important to control them so that you can reduce your risk of a stroke.

Ask your doctor for a treatment plan, which may include medications and healthy lifestyle changes, to control your medical condition and reduce the risk of a stroke.

Talk to your doctor for a stroke risk assessment and to learn more about your stroke risk reduction options.

3. **Follow your treatment plan and talk to your doctor if you need help.** Your treatment plan will only work if you follow it! Here's what you can do:

- o Take your medications as recommended by your doctor.
- o Make the healthy lifestyle changes recommended by your doctor. You may need to do this in "baby steps," but remember that every little bit counts!
- o **Talk to your doctor** if you have any questions or concerns about your treatment plan.

Updated: Fri, 14 Feb 2014 10:27:25 GMT | By CBC News, cbc.ca

Missing, murdered aboriginal women honoured in marches

Gladys Radek holds a picture of niece Tamara Chipman close to her heart, something she has done every day since Chipman disappeared in 2005 along Highway 16 in northern British Columbia.

"It kind of hit too close to home for me, first of all because she is my niece, she is my brother's only natural child and she was also a young mother," Radek said from her home in Orillia, Ont.

The shock of losing her niece jolted Gladys Radek into action. She had been attending annual memorial marches for murdered and missing aboriginal women since 1994, to support friends and relatives who have lost loved ones. But in 2005, the fight for justice became personal.

"Here I am eight years later and there is still no sign of Tamara and there is still no sign of a lot of the other girls ... some have gone missing for decades. They are treated as they are disposable."

On Friday, Radek, of the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en First Nations, is hosting the first annual Memorial March for Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women in Orillia, one of 20 confirmed cities participating in this year's event.

The now national march started in 1991, after a woman was murdered on Powell Street, in Vancouver. Her name is not spoken today, to honour the wishes of her family.

The Women's Memorial website says, "This woman's murder in particular was the catalyst that moved women into action. Out of this sense of hopelessness and anger came an annual march on Valentine's Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Coast Salish Territories."

Raising awareness

Like the annual march, Radek's activism surrounding violence against aboriginal women has been years in the making.

She co-founded Walk4Justice, a campaign to raise awareness and seek justice for missing and murdered women. In 2008, the first walk was held and women fighting for justice marched 4,000 kilometres, from Vancouver to Ottawa.

Spreading awareness about the heartbreaking losses in so many indigenous families, Radek said, was done with the help of her War Pony — a van covered in pictures of missing and murdered women and girls.

“She [the van] carried the spirit of our women through all our walks, she’s been on six walks, she’s been on several journeys across Canada, she’s raised awareness, been to every parking lot you can imagine.”

The War Pony has been on about four Valentine’s Day marches in Vancouver, and has carried many family members to and from the Pickton inquiry into missing and murdered women, many from Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside.

“For a lot of people, it [the War Pony] was an eyeopener for them; their response was usually sorrow in realizing this was happening in Canada.

Now Radek, as well family members and walkers, want the van — now out of driving commission — to become a missing and murdered women’s memorial on the highway outside Winnipeg.

In 2011, on National Aboriginal Day, Radek set out on a caravan with volunteers, and brought a message to Parliament Hill. In the House of Commons, she told MPs that a national public inquiry for missing and murdered Indigenous women was needed.

“The majority agreed, they all felt that yes it was needed. The main concerns that Canadians have is the cost, but from my view, it would be cost effective.”

Pressing for national public inquiry

She said an inquiry would deal with some of the systemic or root causes of violence against women — poverty, lack of affordable housing, human trafficking and exploitation, for example.

This week’s federal budget included renewed funding — \$25 million for five years, beginning in 2015 — to reduce violence against aboriginal women and girls. There was no promise of a public inquiry.

Radek said it’s just a drop in the bucket.

“When you think about the levels of violence especially with aboriginal women, we have 637 bands in Canada affected by violence — the budget is over five years, so that’s five million a year — it’s not enough.

“A public inquiry is going to show where the ball was dropped — in the seriously flawed judicial system itself.”

But she says there’s one thing anyone can do to help. “If you do hear about a missing or murdered women, you know to take your blinders off and help the family ... there’s a lot of pain that is involved with it... and we also want people to know that we are still pushing for a national public inquiry.”

Canadian government sues Catholic groups over residential schools funds

Posted By The Catholic Free Press January 29, 2014 | 2:11 pm

By Deborah Gyapong, Catholic News Service

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) — The federal government is suing Catholic entities involved in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement over \$1.5 million in contested funds.

Archbishop Gerard Pettipas of Grouard-McLennan, Alberta, who chairs the board of the Corporation of Catholic Entities Party to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement, said the entities had requested mediation and binding arbitration over the contested funds, “but the federal government said, ‘No, we are going to court and let the court settle this.’”

The corporation represents dozens of Catholic entities, either dioceses or religious orders, that ran Indian residential schools for the Canadian government. An estimated 100,000 aboriginal children passed through these schools, which were abolished in the 1990s. They were established and paid for by the Canadian government in the late 1800s, but were administered by church organizations of several religions.

Residents of the schools said they suffered forced acculturation and, in some cases, physical and sexual abuse. The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement of 2006 was signed, among others, by representatives of the Canadian government, the Assembly of First Nations and Inuit leaders, and leaders of the Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches. Catholic entities were responsible for 79 million Canadian dollars.

Catholic agencies agreed to come up with CA\$29 million in cash by 2011 for healing and reconciliation programs for those impacted by residential schools and CA\$25 million of “in-kind services,” such as counseling programs or help for children with fetal alcohol syndrome. They also were to also raise an additional CA\$25 million.

Some of the \$29 million portion was mitigated by pay-outs in lawsuits settled before the residential schools agreement was signed. Archbishop Pettipas said about \$8.5 million had been paid out in previous court settlements, leaving the corporation responsible for \$20.5 million.

Of that money, the corporation of Catholic entities understood it was to pay 80 percent to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and 20 percent to other programs chosen by the church, the archbishop said. Church leaders chose to fund the Returning to Spirit program, a Catholic program focused on reconciliation and spiritual healing for aboriginal people affected by the residential schools.

Also under the settlement agreement, the entities were allowed to apply to the federal government for a mitigation of the \$20.5 million they owed “if those expenses came out greater than the interest we would make on our money,” Archbishop Pettipas explained.

Expenses did come out to be more than the interest, he said, and Catholic entities requested the amount be lowered. The government conceded some expenses, but “there is a remaining amount of \$1.5 million that is in dispute,” he said. Archbishop Pettipas also expressed frustration with the Canada-wide campaign to try to raise the final \$25 million. “It is evident to us now we are not going to meet that goal,” he said.

“It’s a ‘best-efforts’ campaign,” he said. “We’re supposed to exercise our best efforts. We could contend we have exercised our best efforts. Short of a miracle, I don’t think we’re going to be able to make it. “The advice we got was that the public sector, businesses and industry would be better positioned to help us reach

this goal than the Catholic sitting in the pew,” he said, but added, “We got practically nothing from the business sector.” Another strategy was to take up a collection in the dioceses of Canada. Some dioceses made a contribution without holding a collection. A collection in a number of dioceses in early December to coincide with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe raised “about \$1 million for the best-efforts fundraising campaign.” “Out of \$25 million, that’s not, shall we say, enough,” Archbishop Pettipas said. “It’s been a struggle.

How to Boost Your Memory: Habits for a healthy memory

When someone says "memory," we tend to think of a thing, like the "misty, water-coloured memories" of song. Memories can be nostalgic images and visions we recall, or bits of facts, figures, and knowledge we've accumulated. Or it can be like this space inside of our head where we tuck treasured thoughts away, a kind of mental file cabinet.

But when it comes to keeping your memory healthy, it's good to think of memory as a verb - remembering. To remember, to create a memory, is active - to make sense of a new piece of knowledge, store it away in our brains, and retrieve it later when we need it. And to keep our memory robust and agile, we need to be active and proactive.

We need to move often. You can't literally jog your memory. But our brains absolutely *love* exercise. When we exercise, our brains get a workout right along with the rest of our body. Regular physical activity helps us to reach or maintain a healthy weight, improves circulation, and keeps cholesterol and blood pressure in check. Some research has shown that if you were to get a brain scan right after your workout, you would see your brain lit up with activity, and some parts may have even grown in volume! To really get the most memory power out of exercise, try activities that integrate three big brain benefits - movement, learning new skills, and socializing. Think partner or group dance classes, martial arts, or team sports like soccer and softball.

We need to socialize. Social isolation among the elderly may be to blame for at least some degree of cognitive impairment that happens with age. Evidence supports this, and people who forge ties to others tend to experience less memory decline as they get older. Whether it's a deep, stimulating conversation or just a chat with neighbours on the way to the mailbox, socializing is about making a connection. Our brains thrive on these connections. Interacting with others engages so many parts of our brains: we listen, we watch, we read facial expression and body language, we hunt for the right word to describe emotions or sensations, we call up past events, we reach out to touch and shake hands or give a goodbye fist bump. All of this communication provides the brain with mental exercise.

We need to relax. You know that feeling in your body when you're tense? Tight shoulders, clenched jaw, et cetera? Well, your brain feels the strain, too. Chronic anxiety or depression can cause the brain to be constantly bathed with the stress hormone cortisol. Some evidence shows that all of that cortisol may cause a part of the brain's temporal lobe, the *hippocampus* (which helps us stow short-term memories so they'll turn into long-term ones), to shrink. To de-stress, cultivate relaxation techniques, like meditation or yoga. Or organize your time to minimize stress using day planners, to-do lists, and handheld digital devices. And don't take on more than you can effectively manage.

We need to sleep. While relaxation is a conscious and focused effort, real rest should be a purely unconscious thing! Deprive yourself of good sleep and you're more likely to experience memory loss. Not to mention that when you're overly tired, it's hard to deal well with stress, which we know can affect memory, too. But get plenty of sleep, and you allow your body and brain to be rejuvenated and replenished. Even a quick cat-nap has its brain benefits. Doze for just 5 to 10 minutes, and you may be able to better remember something you've recently learned or memorized. A longer lay-about, and you'll get an energy and concentration boost.

Snatching a snooze for more than 45 minutes may hone your declarative and procedural memory - that is, it might be easier to remember and explain facts and to perform physical tasks you've just learned, like sewing, playing a tune on the piano, or dancing the tango.

We need to eat well. As it goes with exercise, so it goes with food: What's good for the heart is good for the brain! In that case, we should feed our memories foods that are lower in artery-clogging saturated and trans fats, like lean protein and whole grains. We must remember to up our intake of the beneficial fats, including omega-3 fatty acids found in fish, nuts, and olive oil. Vitamin- and antioxidant-packed fruits and vegetables should find their way into every meal and most snacks. The brain will gladly gobble up foods rich in B vitamins, like folate, B12 (cobalamin), and choline. And vitamin E, especially when coupled with vitamin C, has been linked to reduced cognitive decline with aging. Of course, everything should be taken in moderation - some studies suggest that high-calorie diets may increase the risk of disorders like Alzheimer's or Parkinson's.

We need to sip smart. Faced with a mentally challenging, memory-dependent task, you may feel tempted to down a coffee or caffeinated energy drink. While caffeine can perk you up, it might actually undermine your memorizing and recall efforts. One study showed this stimulant may impair an important chemical messenger in the brain that helps us to recall newly-created memories. And though it's said that some drink to forget, one study showed people who drink occasional alcoholic beverages may have a memory advantage over those who never drink. And we also need to seek out and tackle cognitive challenges. Grab some tips, tricks, and strategies for this brain-building habit here. Article from www.medbroadcast.com



The FNESS Safety Expo will be held in Smithers, BC on June 25-28, 2014.

It Includes Chiefs, Council Members and Fire Chiefs Leadership Convention; Fire Services, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Forest Fuel Management training and workshops; Provincial Fire Fighter Competition; FNESS AGM and special events.

Come cheer on the First Nation Fire Fighters on June 28th at Walnut Park in Smithers and be a part of an event that promotes safety in your community! Call 1-888-822-3388 for more info!



Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives!


FNESS has sent over 16,000 Smoke Alarms to 114 BC First Nations. Check our website at www.fness.bc.ca to view the details of the Smoke Alarm program. We strongly encourage all communities to install and have working smoke alarms on each floor of each home.

In order to provide your family with the best chance of surviving a home fire, installing and maintaining smoke alarms is the first step.



**ABORIGINAL
TOURISM BC**

AtBC Update: January 24th, 2014

ABORIGINAL MARKETPLACE EVENTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  ABORIGINAL
TOURISM BC

INTERNATIONAL ABORIGINAL TOURISM CONFERENCE

WHISTLER | APRIL 15TH - 16TH, 2014

AT THE BEAUTIFUL SQUAMISH LIL'WAT CULTURAL CENTRE &
FAIRMONT CHÂTEAU WHISTLER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA



International Aboriginal Tourism Conference

Have you registered for the International Aboriginal Tourism Conference yet?

Aboriginal Tourism BC continues to share experiences with Indigenous groups from across the world, and have opened their doors to Indigenous tourism operators to come and share their best practices and stories of working in the cultural tourism industry. The Honourable Alyssa Hayden MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Premier and Minister of Tourism Australia, will be speaking about Indigenous Tourism Australia.

This will not be an event to miss. The tickets are going quickly, get yours today!

New Associate Stakeholder

AtBC would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest Associate Stakeholder Uchucklesaht Tribe Government

One of the five First Nations involved in the Maanulth Treaty with Canada and Province, the Uchucklesaht Tribe has 263 Uchucklesaht enrollees/citizens, 10 living in the village and 253 living away from the village. The Uchucklesaht Tribe has two villages that are situated approximately 24 miles down the Barkley Sound, southwest from Port Alberni. The first village is immediately past the Uchucklesaht Inlet on the West side of Barkley Sound, named "Cowishulth". The second village is located at the head of Uchucklesaht Inlet and is named "Hilthatis".



Keith Henry

Chief Executive Officer

Ph: (604) 921-1070

Tf: 1-877-266-2822

khenry@AboriginalBC.com

Nuxalk Community Continues Aboriginal Cultural Tourism Planning for Future

February 5, 2014 [Aboriginal Tourism BC](#)

(Bella Coola, British Columbia – Nuxalk Territory) Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia (AtBC) representatives attended three days this week focusing on intense Aboriginal cultural tourism planning in partnership with the Nuxalk Development Corporation and the Nuxalk leadership.

AtBC is currently in year 2 of the current five year strategy entitled The Next Phase 2012-2017. One of the key priorities in the strategy was a continued focus on regional planning. AtBC and approximately 27 First Nations worked to initiate a Cariboo Chilcotin Coast regional, Aboriginal tourism plan which was completed in September 2013. Since this completion AtBC has initiated a number of implementation steps which included this continued work with the Nuxalk community.

AtBC CEO Henry stated; "I am extremely thankful to the leadership and staff of the Nuxalk community.

AtBC was welcomed through proper protocol and an official welcome from a delegation of Nuxalk hereditary Chiefs. We met with elected leadership, numerous local artists and some current tourism businesses. The highlight was a community forum held Monday evening where over 150 community members attended to better understand AtBC and the key initiatives and work we are undertaking as a provincial sector organization. We provided a thorough overview of the current growth and what we are seeing for future demands."

AtBC CEO Henry added; "Hereditary Chief Noel Pootlass took time to provide AtBC representatives some of the key history of the community and culture. He showcased his significant cultural art work and shared a number of stories about the land."

AtBC Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Regional Director Mr. Douglas Green stated; "I was thankful for the chance to let the community know about AtBC and my role as the regional representative. I shared my journey in Aboriginal tourism and assured the community that I was there to assist. I was also able to reconnect with family living in the Nuxalk community which made this work much more meaningful now and into the future."

AtBC CEO Henry concluded; "Thank you to the Nuxalk Development Corporation led by President and CEO Mr. Randy Hart and his team, including Mr. Chris Nelson. They were gracious hosts and together we have committed to strong next steps. Going forward AtBC will further explore ways to market and support local Nuxalk artists, support operational and feasibility work for Nuxalk tourism priorities, and develop recommendations for future Aboriginal cultural tourism development. The Nuxalk territory is a beautiful area, rich in culture, and natural beauty. There is no question further respectful tourism development can support the local economy and bring domestic and international visitors a once in a life time experience."

For more information about the Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia is available at www.AboriginalBC.com.

UBCIC: Harper Government Slams Door on Land Claims Resolution

Access to Justice Blocked by Massive Funding Cuts to Research News Release. February 20, 2014

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – February 20, 2014) First Nations claims research organizations across Canada yesterday received notice that their research funding is being radically cut. Cuts range from 35% to 60%.

Chief Maureen Chapman, Chair of the UBCIC Specific Claims Working Group observes, “By cutting funding to develop claims, the Harper government denies these claims the access to justice that is offered by the Tribunal, the only part of the specific claims resolution process that seems to be upholding the honour of the Crown. These funding cuts are forcing research organizations to stop work on claims where research is well underway and to forgo researching new claims. None of these claims can access the Tribunal. None of these claims can be resolved.”

Claims research organizations develop specific land claims for member First Nations throughout Canada. Specific claims arise when Canada fails to meet its lawful obligations to protect reserve lands and assets from illegal alienation and fails to honour treaty promises. In 2008, the process to resolve these grievances was overhauled by the federal government in a new Specific Claims Action Plan. Justice at Last promised to resolve specific claims quickly, fairly and through negotiations and established an independent Tribunal to make final and binding decisions on claims that Canada either rejected or did not negotiate.

The Government of Canada’s failure to settle specific claims in a fair and just manner contravenes key provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), to which Canada is a signatory. It violates the basic human right of Canada’s Indigenous People to access “effective mechanisms for prevention of, and redress for... any action which has the aim or effect of dispossessing them of their lands, territories or resources.”

“Specific Claims are not discretionary matters,” UBCIC President Grand Chief Stewart Phillip observes. “They are lawful obligations on the part of the federal government arising from its misappropriation of Indigenous lands and assets. They represent damages to be paid. They form part of the federal government’s deficit. Preventing specific claims from being developed and resolved increases the federal government’s liabilities and transfers its financial burden to our children and grandchildren.”

The duty to resolve specific claims arose initially from the federal government’s acknowledgment that it had a legal obligation to protect Indigenous reserve lands and assets from illegal alienation – an obligation that it failed to fulfill. That government took steps, unilaterally, to remediate its breach, in part by establishing a specific claims resolution process, which included funding to research and develop claims. Yet, the government’s actions have not brought about resolution, reconciliation or remediation but have focused on ignoring its obligations and minimizing its liabilities.

Phillip adds, “These massive funding cuts signal clearly the Harper government’s intent to walk away from specific claims. The problem for the Harper Government is that, because they remain unresolved, the claims themselves won’t go away. These are the same circumstances that preceded Oka: Canada walked away from the federal duty to address specific claims and was dismissive of First Nation grievances. Canada abandoned negotiations and instituted destructive funding cuts. Does the Harper government expect a different result now when they are using the same means to deny Indigenous people justice?”

Media inquiries: Grand Chief Stewart Phillip (604) 684-0231

Chief Maureen Chapman (604) 796-9129

**BC ELDERS
COMMUNICATION
CENTER SOCIETY**

ADDRESS:
1415 Wewaikum Rd.
Campbell River, B.C.
V9W 5W9

Phone: 1-250-286-9977
Fax: 1-250-286-4809
Toll-Free: 1-877-738-7288
Coordinator:
Donna Stirling
Website: www.bcelders.com
Email:
bcelders@telus.net

**BCECCS HAS GONE
PAPERLESS!
AND NOW
ELDERS VOICE ISSUES
ARE EMAILED OUT TO
ALL CONTACTS AND
POSTED ONLINE BY THE
1ST OF EACH MONTH!**

QUOTES

**“All good things are the fruits of originality.”
John Stuart Mill (1806 - 1873)**

“Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for he is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold.”

Proverbs 3, 13 - 15

“All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable and those that move.”

Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

“They are able who think they are able.” Virgil 70 -19 BC

“The art is not in making money, but in keeping it.” Proverb

“He who begins much, finishes little.” Proverb

“Better the best of the worst than the worst of the best.”

PISCES - The Dreamer (Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Generous, kind, and thoughtful. Very creative and imaginative. May become secretive and vague. Sensitive. Don't like details. Dreamy and unrealistic. Sympathetic and loving. Kind. Unselfish. Good kisser. Beautiful.

**Annual Elders Gathering Grand Entry Photos are on:
www.bcelders.com each year**

ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING INFO CORNER

The 38th Annual Elders Gathering
The dates for next years event have been announced as
July 7, 8, and 9th 2014 and will be held at the
Trade And Convention Centre in Penticton.
Contact: Inez Pierre, Elder's Coordinator
Email: ipierre@pib.ca
Tel: 250-493-0048
Fax: 250-493-2882
TF: 1-877-493-0048