Volume 14 Issue 5

April 2014

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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 161st Issue!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL ELDERS BORN IN APRIL!

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

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!!

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Easy Bakers Corner – Heavenly Pecan Cake—14 servings

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Combine 1/2 cup of butter and 1 cup of shortening. Add 2 cups of granulated sugar. Cream well. Add 5 egg yolks and mix well.

Combine 2 cups of all-purpose flour and 1 tsp. of baking soda. Add to creamed mixture alternately with 1 cup of buttermilk. Add 1 tsp. of vanilla, 1 1/2 cups of coconuts and 1 1/2 cups of chopped pecans. Fold in 5 slightly beaten egg whites.

Spoon into 3 - 9 inch layer pans. Bake for 25 minutes.

Butter Pecan Frosting

Cream 1/4 cup of butter. Add 4 cups of powdered icing sugar, 1 tsp. of vanilla, 4-6 Tbsp. of evaporated milk.

Cream until of spreading consistency. Stir in 1/2 cup of chopped pecans and ice cake. 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

Donation:

- 1. TAHLTAN BAND COUNCIL
- 2. PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY
- **3.**

- 1. First Nations Tax Commission
- 2. The Story Telling Elders

FROG LEVEL - \$750

- 1. Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation
- 2.

SISIUTL LEVEL - \$500

- 1. Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC
- 2. First Nations' Emergency Services Society of BC
- 3. Osovoos Indian Band
- 4. Tsleil-Waututh Nation
- 5. Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation
- 6.

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. Akisqnuk 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
- **17.**





38TH ANNUAL ELDERS GATHERING

JULY 7,8,9TH,2014 PENTICTON TRADE & CONVENTION CENTRE



The Purpose of the Elders Gathering is so the Elders can come together and take their rightful place as advisors, teachers and leaders. Many Elders are involved and work at the community level throughout the year. They participate at meetings, workshops and various events to support the Youth, education committees, Band Council and so on. The Gatherings are a time to socialize and celebrate their accomplishments as well as regenerate themselves for future work. It provides an opportunity for Elders to share traditional ways with visiting cultural and linguistic groups. This is done through songs, dances and ceremonies throughout the event.

Contact Information Dianne Garner 604 798 4519 elders38@telus.net Inez Pierre 250 493 0048

Request King & Queen Mike Pierre 250 493 7799 King is Emory Gabriel & Queen Vera Gabriel

of the Penticton Indian Band/Okanagan Nation

"Honouring our Old Ones, Story Tellers & Teachings"

http://pentictonelders2014.com

www.facebook.com/38thBCEldersGathering



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

ELDERS GROUP REGISTRATION FORM



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.

GR	OUP/ NATION / TRIBE:				
GR	OUP CONTACT NAME:		EMAIL:	П	
PHO	ONE:		FAX:	Г	
ADI	DRESS:				
ON	SITE CAREGIVER NAME:		CONTACT#	! :	
Ho	TEL/MOTEL NAME:		PHONE:		
ADI	DRESS:				
PAF	RTICPANT NAMES:				SABLITIES, AND/OR DIETARY NEEDS ADDE WORN BY ELDER FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
PLEASE MAIL COMPLETE REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHEQUE OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: PENTICTION INDIAN BAND RE: 38 TH 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		AM ENCLOSI OR(# AM ENCLOSI OR(NG I #) PA NG I (#) P	STRATION FEE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES ARTICPANTS @ \$125.00 EACH LATE REGISTRATION FEES ARTICPANTS @ \$150.00 EACH E/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 38 ™ ANNUAL ELDING GATHERING CORE COMMITTEE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST OR STOLEN ITEMS, NOR INJURIES OR ILLNESSES DURING THE EFENT~



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.38th bceldersgathering.com

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

First Name:			Last Name:			
Mailing Address:						
City:	Provinc	ce:			Postal Code:	
Phone:	Alterna	ite Phone:			E-mail:	
Age (check one): * 🗆 Youth (16-17 Ye						
Medical Number:			Illne	ess/Allergy:		
Emergency Contact Information						
Contact Person:		Phone:				
Address:		City:				Province:
			$\overline{}$			
Signature:				Date:		
Description of Possible Voluntee	r Duties	(Please com	nole	te the volunte	er schedule or	the following page)
Registration –July 7, 2014. Will as		-	•			
Giveaways – Assisting coordinate	r with all	giveaways for	r gat	hering		
Elders Rest Area – Assisting in qu	iet area fo	or Elders				
Elders Support – Runners for wat	er, snacks	s, servers, dan	nce p	artners		
Food Server/clean-up - will assist	with duri	ing meals and	l ligh	t clean-up.		
Transportation – directing to bus	es, conne	cting with tou	urs			
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: rtterbasket@friendshipcentre.ca or Fax: 250-490-0891 or Phone: 250-490-3504

"HONOURING OUR OLD ONES, STORY TELLERS & TEACHINGS"

~THE 38 M 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.38TH BCELDERSGATHERING.COM

Name:							
Please check your top four (4) volunteer areas:							
	Registration (Monday only)	\neg	Tours	\neg	Accommodations		
	Giveaways	\neg	Entertainment	\neg	Elders Rest Area		
	Transportation	\Box	Food Server	\Box	Elders Support		
	Venue Guide	\Box	Food Clean-up	\Box	Arts /Crafts Support		
	Information Booth	\Box	Cultural Events	\Box	Cultural Foods		
	Security	_	First Aid	_	Souvenir Booth		
	Volunteer Booth	\neg	Set-up Monday	\neg	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	N/A			N/A
10:00pm to 1:00am				

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: rtterbasket@friendshipcentre.ca or Fax: 250-490-0891 or Phone: 250-490-3504

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38[™] 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.38th bceldersgathering.com

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

First Name: Last Name:		Last Name:				
Mailing Address:						
City:	Provi	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 <u>loading and unloading only</u>. 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 CHEOUE 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 ☐ or money order ☐	Initial:



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 <u>Family Members</u> as defined in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement and the Terms and Conditions;
- <u>Terms and Conditions</u> 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.

Enhanced Role in Major Funding Announcement

Friendship Centres Welcome Enhanced Role in Major Funding Announcement

[February 6, 2014 - Ottawa] The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) welcomed a renewed and enhanced partnership with the Government of Canada in a major funding shift announced today, expressing their enthusiasm in playing a greater service delivery role for urban Aboriginal people in Canada.

"This is the most significant realignment of funding in the past 35 years, and is great news for Friendship Centres and urban Aboriginal people," said Nelson Mayer, NAFC President. "We see this as an opportunity to show leadership and to collaborate more closely with our federal partners, and other organizations, to innovate in program delivery and reach more Aboriginal people in a number of new and exciting initiatives."

Under this funding realignment, the responsibility to deliver a number of programs will be given to the NAFC. The NAFC will administer \$43 million of the \$50.8 million announced today for the new UAS. The goal of the realignment is to increase the services for urban Aboriginal people and foster greater collaboration and develop partnerships between all levels of government, organizations, urban Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders to increase the participation of urban Aboriginal peoples in Canada's economy.

"Today's announcement highlights the trust we've earned through many decades of partnership and hard work," said Jeffrey Cyr, Executive Director of the NAFC. "It's a recognition of the incredible impact we make in the lives of countless urban Aboriginal people every day."

Nearly 60% of Aboriginal peoples live in urban areas and the Aboriginal population is growing at a faster rate than the non-Aboriginal population. Friendship Centres are a highly effective resource for many Aboriginal people, achieving 2.3 million points of contact nationwide annually. In 2011/12, Friendship Centres across Canada delivered over 1,490 programs and services to approximately 700,000 urban Aboriginal people.

"We have many reasons to believe that Friendship Centres are the most effective way to deliver the necessary services to urban Aboriginal people," said Mayer. "By working together for nearly 60 years, we have been successful in meeting our people's unique needs."

The NAFC is democratically governed, status blind and is accountable to the federal government and directly to the urban Aboriginal community. Friendship Centres are Canada's most significant off-reserve Aboriginal service delivery infrastructure. Established in 1972, the NAFC is a network of 119 Friendship Centres from coast-to-coast.

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For more information contact:
Jeff Cyr, NAFC Executive Director

Phone: 613 563 4844, E-mail: jcyr@nafc.ca

Updated: Fri, 07 Mar 2014 13:30:34 GMT | By CBC News, cbc.ca

No call for national inquiry in MPs' report on aboriginal women

A final report of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women is being tabled in Parliament today. A Sisters in Spirit rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Oct. 4, 2013 was held to remember missing and murdered aboriginal women such as Maisy Odjick (left) and Shannon Alexander (right). Sean Kilpatrick/Canadian Press

A long-awaited report from MPs on the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women tabled Friday makes 16 recommendations but does not call on the federal government to launch a national public inquiry.

The report, titled "Invisible Women: A Call To Action," was tabled alongside dissenting opinions from the opposition parties.

NDP Aboriginal Affairs critic Jean Crowder said immediately after it was tabled "the final report basically said that the status quo is fine and most recommendations suggest that things should continue as is."

Liberal Aboriginal Affairs critic Carolyn Bennett said the final report does not accurately reflect the recommendations made by the witnesses that appeared before the committee.

"Those were replaced by a disappointing list of what aren't even recommendations ... the number one thing they wanted to have happen was a national public inquiry," Bennett said.

While the Conservatives have resisted mounting calls from a number of groups to launch a national public inquiry, they say the federal government has taken action to address the issue of violence against women with several anti-crime initiatives passed into law since 2006.

"I believe that this report will go further to take action," said Conservative MP Stella Ambler, the chair of the special committee, moments before it was tabled.

A spokesperson for Minister of Status for Women Kellie Leitch told CBC News in an email, "We would like to recognize the hard work and diligence of the members and witnesses of the Special Committee on Violence Against Indigenous Women.

"We look forward to reviewing and responding to their report," the email said before the report was tabled.

URGENT Petition: Restore Specific Claims Funding - Ensure Justice for All

Petitioning Stephen Harper March 4, 2013

On February 19, 2014, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) notified specific land claims research associations and First Nations across Canada that funding for specific claims research and development will be drastically cut beginning on April 1, 2014.

The shocking and unprecedented extent of the funding cuts will result in massive layoffs to specialized research staff and potential closures of research centres that will be unable to meet basic administrative costs.

The most severe costs will be borne by First Nations, most of whom have been seeking justice for decades.

Specific claims deal with Canada's failure to fulfill historical lawful obligations to honour its treaty promises to First Nations and to protect reserve lands and assets from illegal alienation and mismanagement.

Across Canada thousands of reserve lands subject to legislative protection were illegally cut off and sold; fishing areas were seized or compromised by development; rights to fish and access water were systematically denied; and sacred sites and grave sites were illegally disrupted and removed.

The Harper Government introduced The Specific Claims Action Plan: Justice At Last in 2007. Justice At Last promised to resolve specific claims quickly, fairly, and through negotiations and established an independent Tribunal to make final, binding decisions on claims that the federal government either rejected or failed to negotiate.

The sweeping cuts to research funding deny basic justice to First Nations, and entrench a climate of mistrust and desperation akin to the 1990 Oka crisis that arose due to a land dispute that was denied justice through the specific claims process.

These grievances will not disappear. The failure to resolve specific claims will place incredible burdens on our children and grandchildren and foster further uncertainty and instability.

Restitution for past wrongs must be a priority for all Canadians concerned about justice and the availability of economic opportunities for all. Justice and reconciliation must take precedence over bureaucratic or ideological goals.

Please add your signature to this petition and remind the Harper Government about its commitments in Justice At Last.

http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/stephen-harper-urgent-restore-specific-claims-funding-ensure-justice-for-all

Reconciliation: A new generation of aboriginal Canadians weighs in

Reneltta Arluk believes Truth and Reconciliation Commission is helping indigenous people find their voice

By Connie Walker, CBC News Posted: Mar 25, 2014 9:00 PM ET Last Updated: Mar 26, 2014 2:32 PM ET

Reneltta Arluk is a writer and actor of Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Chipewyan-Cree descent who is originally from the Northwest Territories. (Pat Kane)

Connie Walker is the lead reporter at CBC Aboriginal and was previously a producer on the "8th Fire" series. She is Cree from the Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan. Follow her on twitter @connie walker

How have you been affected by the legacy of residential schools?

My mother being a survivor and through the hardship that she's encountered, I definitely carry a pain that she carries without the action being [done to] me ... but in saying that she has also given me a strength to overcome things in my life.

Because she survived, I feel like I can survive.

Have you participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

The Walk for Reconciliation was held in Vancouver in September 2013. (Lisa Johnson/CBC)

Yes, in Vancouver last year they had that amazing walk. It surprised me. I felt overwhelmed that so many people had come out and heard about the TRC that were non-aboriginal. There were so many mixed cultures that were part of that walk and it was so welcomed.

Because when you've gone through something that you feel ashamed for, even though you don't need to feel ashamed... to be so celebrated by the community was incredible to see.

How do you think the TRC has had an impact?

You're surrounded by survivors, if you're indigenous. They're in your family, they're your friends, they're your uncles, your aunts, so you can't dismiss the impact that it has on the communities.

This week, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada hosts its final national event in Edmonton. We've asked voices from the first generation of aboriginal people who didn't attend a residential school to share their thoughts on reconciliation and what the legacy means to them.

The feeling [at a TRC event] is that you get permission to speak. We [indigenous people] are working on finding our voice and now our voice is getting stronger and we are uniting.

And we are doing that in so many ways – through teaching, through the arts, through journalism, through being advocates in your communities.

I feel that TRC is just a huge voice where people can go and share theirs and it's so heartbreaking but it's so vital because we are not alone in that pain and that we share it is so necessary.

What are the biggest challenges facing reconciliation?

Acceptance. Acknowledgement. I am full of heart that the [media] coverage we are getting is so much better. We're getting more specific, we're getting actual recognition that is positive AND negative, not just negative and slanted.

But I'm constantly discouraged by the comments on articles. When articles are so good and so interesting and intelligent and you read the comments at the bottom and you're just like, really? I can't read those comments.

Canada needs to change its mind. I can only hope that if we keep growing and uniting and having a stronger voice that is positive and intelligent, then Canada will change its mind.

Article from www.cbc.ca

Updated: Sun, 30 Mar 2014 12:59:39 GMT | By The Canadian Press, cbc.ca

Truth and Reconciliation: nearly 4 years of hearings wrap

The commission delving into the sordid legacy of Canada's Indian residential schools was wrapping up nearly four years of public hearings Sunday, where thousands of victims recounted stories of cruelty and abuse at the hands of those entrusted with their care.

The heart-breaking accounts — almost all videotaped — will now form part of a lasting record of one of the darkest chapters in the country's history.

For many, being able to tell their stories was at once cathartic and a validation.

"Many times, I was hearing my own story being told in front of me and that became very emotionally challenging because I need to deal with that personally," Chief Willie Littlechild, a commissioner and himself a residential school survivor, told The Canadian Press.

"At the same time, I think it helped on my own healing journey."

Vicki Crowchild, 80, of the Tsuu T'ina Nation outside Calgary who attended a school as a child, agreed that the opportunity to talk of her past after her abuser told her no one would ever believe her was hugely beneficial.

Others, she said, felt the same way.

"A lot of people got healed just by telling their story," Crowchild said.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, under Justice Murray Sinclair, visited more than 300 communities after it began hearings in Winnipeg in June 2010.

Now, it would take more than two years to play back the more than 6,500 statements — they range in length from 10 minutes to five hours — survivors gave the commission.

About 150,000 First Nations, Inuit and Metis children were taken from their families and forced to attend the church-run schools over much of the last century. The last school, outside Regina, closed in 1996.

Children separated from families

The children, the commission heard, were sent hundreds or thousands of kilometres from home. Many were kept largely isolated from their families, sometimes for years.

Siblings were separated and punished for showing any affection to one another. Survivors talked of constant hunger, of beatings and whippings, of sexual abuse. Many died of disease or unexplained causes. Some killed themselves.

The damage done to those who did survive was often lasting.

"When I came out of residential school, when they finally shut it down, I went back into a community that was 95 per cent alcoholics," said Martha Marsden, who attended a school in Alberta.

"That is how our parents were dealing with children being taken out of their care, being ripped out of their arms."

As part of a class-action lawsuit settlement reached in 2007, the federal government apologized for the schools and set up the \$60-million commission. The mandate was to create as complete an historical record as possible of the system and its legacy.

The commission has frequently found itself at loggerheads with the federal government.

Some of the battles have ended up in court, with various judges castigating Ottawa for failing to turn over records.

Just this past week, Stan Loutit, grand chief of Mushkegowuk Council, urged Justice Minister Peter MacKay to fire government lawyers for fighting to withhold records related to the notorious St. Anne's residential school in Fort Albany, Ont.

Sinclair himself complained a few days ago that Ottawa would be cutting a program aimed at helping survivors of the system to heal.

Still, the end of the hearings — which wrapped up with a four-day event in Edmonton attended by thousands — marked another beginning, said Littlechild, a former member of Parliament.

"It's really a start of reconciliation," he said.

Calvin Bruneau, of the Papaschase First Nation in Alberta, said he, too, looked to some lasting goodwill emerging from the inquiry into the painful residential-school legacy.

"I am hoping it leads to better all-around relations between First Nations people and the government," said Bruneau, whose grandmother was abused at a residential school.

The commission has been given until the end of June 2015 to report out.

Article from www.news.ca.msn.com

THE ABORIGINAL EXPO



The Long House of Culture & History

Pavilion will consist of aboriginal history, cultural arts, and performing arts with cultural protocols and recognition of the traditional territories.

Children and adults can come participate in making medicine wheels, dream catchers and other cultural crafts that they can make to capture some of the stories and teachings through out the pavilion.

There will be vendors for people to purchase some art work, jewelry, clothing and much more.

The Long House of Economic Development

Exhibits will include displays of programs that promote education, economic development, community development and partnerships.

Promoting communication strategies that combat social constructions of perceptions that limit aboriginal people's social and economic activities. This is an opportunity to show how business benefits from engaging aboriginal people and how we have a valued, qualified human resource that can contribute to the economic prosperity of the region.





Dene Moore, The Canadian Press Published Tuesday, March 4, 2014 3:56PM EST Last Updated Tuesday, March 4, 2014 6:39PM EST

VANCOUVER -- The Federal Court of Appeal has dismissed Ottawa's attempt to stop a class-action lawsuit filed by several British Columbia First Nations for students who attended native residential schools by day and were excluded from the residential schools settlement.

The Attorney General of Canada was seeking a stay, arguing that the Federal Court does not have jurisdiction to hear the case.

The court dismissed the application first last year, and the Federal Appeal Court has now upheld that decision.

"It is important to understand from the onset that what is in issue in the main is Canada's residential schools policy and not abuses that may have occurred in the course of its implementation," the court wrote.

"According to the statement of claim, the intent of this policy was to educate Indian day students in a manner which caused them to lose their language and culture. This is the alleged wrong...."

In 2006 -- with dozens of residential school lawsuits wending their way through courts across the country -- the federal government reached a national settlement for students forced to live at "Indian" residential schools.

But the settlement did not include students who attended but did not live at the schools. The class-action suit on behalf of those students was filed in August 2012 by the Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc and Sechelt bands against the federal government.

The statement of claim seeks a declaration from the court that Canada breached the aboriginal rights of those students, and that the residential schools policy caused irreparable cultural, linguistic and social harm.

Neither Sechelt Chief Garry Feschuk nor the lawsuit co-ordinator for Tk'emlups returned calls seeking comment Tuesday.

The lawsuit said Canada has already acknowledged the devastating impact of its residential schools policy on aboriginal peoples.

From 1920 to 1979, all aboriginal children aged 7 to 15 had to attend though they were not obliged to reside at the schools, the claim said.

But the purpose remained the same: to obliterate their traditional language, culture, religion and way of life.

The Kamloops Indian Residential School and the Sechelt Indian Residential School -- both run by Catholic missionaries -- were located in those aboriginal communities. Children did not have to leave the community to attend, but their attendance was mandatory.

"The children at the identified residential schools were indoctrinated into Christianity, and taught to be ashamed of their aboriginal identity, culture, spirituality and practices," said the statement of claim.

"They were referred to as, amongst other derogatory epithets, 'dirty savages' and 'heathens' and taught to shun their very identities."

In response to the lawsuit, the federal Attorney General filed a third-party claim against the religious organizations that ran the schools, including the Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in B.C., the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Kamloops and the Sisters of Saint Ann.

The federal government then applied for the stay of proceedings, arguing that the Federal Court didn't have jurisdiction over a claim against the religious orders.

Both levels of the court found that it did, and a judge is expected to hear arguments later this year on certifying the lawsuit as a class-action.

Fifteen former students are listed as plaintiffs on the lawsuit, but Tk'emlups Chief Shane Gottfriedson has said that he hopes the class-action, if approved, will eventually represent thousands of day students who attended schools across Canada.



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.





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".



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Viha.ca/news March 14, 2014

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Parents and Caregivers can Prevent Poisoning

Every hour one child in British Columbia is poisoned, yet the majority of these incidents are preventable. Children between the ages of 0 to 6 years old are at the highest risk, often resulting in hospitalization.

During *Poison Prevention Week 2014* (March 16-22), Island Health is encouraging parents and their caregivers, including grandparents, to take the following precautions to prevent poisoning in children throughout the year:

- \cdot Read the label before buying or using a household chemicals and follow the instructions each time you use the product;
- · Keep chemicals, medications, cleaning supplies and art supplies safely stored in a locked cabinet or box, out of sight and out of reach of children. Put materials back in a safe and secure space after use.
- · Regularly gather expired and unused medications and take them to a pharmacy for proper disposal
- · Make sure all child-resistant containers are functioning properly. Keep in mind that child resistant **DOES NOT MEAN** childproof
- · Keep household chemicals and medicines in their original containers and leave the original labels on the products.
- · Make sure children understand the hazard symbols on household chemical products, so they do not unintentionally harm themselves or others.
- · If a poisoning is suspected, contact the local <u>Poison Control Centre</u> at 1 800 567 8911 or 911 immediately.

Higher than average rates on Vancouver Island

On Vancouver Island in 2012, the number of children between ages 0-14 who were hospitalized due to injury and poisoning was higher (5.3 per 1,000) than the provincial rate (4.4 per 1,000).

Common Situations Where Poisonings Occur

- · An increase in poisonings can occur when there is a disruption in a child's daily routine such as a serious family illness, when families are moving, and/or entertaining visitors. This can lead to divided attention and therefore less supervision.
- · Children whose parents and caregivers are preparing lunch and/or dinner are less likely to be supervised. This can also result in a child being able to explore their surroundings more freely and therefore can lead to an increase in poisonings due to their increase curiosity.
- · Three quarters of childhood poisonings involve substances that are in use at the time or are not in their usual storage place. Ensure all medications are in a locked cabinet or closet.
- · Do not refer to medication as candy. This can be dangerous as most children will seek out candy. Always call it by its proper name.

Products with an appealing or familiar-looking package, taste or appearance are possibly more likely to be ingested by a young child.

More information

B.C. Drug and Poison Information Centre—www.dpic.org

B.C. Drug and Poison Information Centre (free Prevention Materials)

http://dpic.org/content/poison-prevention-materials

Canadian Association of Poison Control Centres:

http://www.capcc.ca/page0/page0.html

Updated: Fri, 21 Feb 2014 13:13:52 GMT | By The Associated Press, thecanadian press.com

Cleanup crew returns discarded Ohio birthday card

MEDINA, Ohio - A birthday card containing a \$50 bill is back with the intended recipient thanks to northern Ohio sanitation workers who spotted the unopened purple envelope in the trash and drove it to the home where it was mistakenly discarded.

Lucy Hamer tells The Medina County Gazette (http://bit.ly/1f3IwX8) she was stunned and impressed when the workers showed up at her home with the card her sister-in-law had sent her.

Worker Josh Kerns remembered noticing the card in the trash can and says he held onto it and eventually opened it to make sure it wasn't something important. He said \$50 is a lot, and it needed to be returned.

Hamer jokes that she may have been spared an awkward encounter with her sister-in-law if she never thanked her for the gift.

Information from: The Medina County Gazette, http://www.medina-gazette.com

Updated: Wed, 26 Feb 2014 06:59:59 GMT | By The Associated Press, thecanadianpress.com

Accidental invite to 61,000 caused Stockholm chaos

Jobseekers swarm around a Stockholm office for Sweden's national jobs agency in central Stockholm, Wednesday Feb. 26, 2014, after 61,000 people accidentally were invited to a meeting instead of 1,400. (AP Photo/TT News Agency, Bertil Enevag Ericson) SWEDEN OUT

STOCKHOLM - Police say they were called in to restore order in downtown Stockholm after Sweden's public employment service accidentally sent an email invitation for a recruitment event to 61,000 jobseekers instead of 1,000.

Police spokesman Ulf Lindgren says staff at the job centre alerted police Wednesday after several thousand people showed up to an event where jobseekers would have a chance to meet with potential employers. He said many people were upset but no arrests were made.

Clas Olsson, acting director general of the employment service, said he deeply regrets the mishap and wishes to send his apologies to all those affected.

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

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EASTER QUOTES

"The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances." Robert Flatt

"The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice."

Henry Knox Sherrill

"Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise." Phillips Brooks

"On Easter Day the veil between time and eternity thins to gossamer."

Douglas Horton

"The stars shall fade away, the sun himself Grow dim with age, and Nature sink in years; But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth, Unhurt amid the war of elements, The wreck of matter, and the crush of worlds." Joseph Addison

"But from this earth, this grave, this dust, My God shall raise me up, I trust." Walter Raleigh

ARIES - The Daredevil (Mar 21 - April 19)

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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