



#### PAGE 2, September 25, 1987, WINDSPEAKER



# National president removed from office

Newly elected Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) president Donna Weaselchild, former president of the Alberta chapter, has been removed from office.

Jean Gleason, acting NWAC president, has indicated the national group is acting according to association by laws which state anyone who is elected nationally must have the full support of her own provincial group. According to Alberta Native Women's Association (ANWA) members Ruth Kidder and Doris Calliou, Weaselchild did not have that support.

As stated in an earlier Windspeaker report, Weaselchild has received exactly 51 per cent majority she needed to become national president. How-

including Canada's role in

ratifying article 27 of the

International Covenant on

The article ensures

minorities the right to enjoy

their own culture, religion

and language in their own

Civil and Political Rights.

ever, many Alberta members felt her election went against the spirit of the group's constitution because they were so unhappy with her performance as provincial president.

Gleason has acknowledged that Weaselchild can regain her position as national president if she can rally the support of her chapter.

Unfortunately, Weaselchild could not be reached for comment regarding another possible bid for the national title.



#### **By Dan Dibbelt**

The Meech Lake Accord is "a complete sham," said Kathleen Ruff, editor of the Canadian Human Rights Advocate addressing a crowd of more than 100 people at a weekend conference on the charter.

WEASELCHILD

...ousted by Alberta

"Meech Lake was a whole bunch of premiers locked in a room deciding for Canada serious changes for the whole country. Nothing will be changed," she added.

"Where is the input from

referring to the Charter. "You look at the spirit."

Ruff referred to the present as "the best of times and the worst of times. Ours is perhaps the only charter in the world that speaks about physical and mental disabilities," said Ruff, speaking of the positive aspects of the Charter. However, she quickly noted some negative examples.

"Cleaners for Canada Post saw their wages slashed, these are women, and their wages have been conference included Marc Arnal, regional director of the Secretary of State and Gordon Fairweather, chief commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

Fairweather talked of the history of Canada's charter

# **Cutbacks** blasted

communities.

#### **By Dianne Meili**

The Canadian Association of University Teachers is protesting the drastic education funding cutbacks to status Indians announced by the federal government last spring. According to Associate executive secretary Vic Sims, a letter has been sent to the appropriate ministers, including Bill McKnight of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, asking for a policy amendment. "It became apparent a few months ago that (education for status Indians) was not a high priority with the government," said Sims. "And the government had, for some time, made a commitment that it would fund any qualified Indian to attend

post-secondary school." The original funding program was "too successful -- it was working and "Canada has already been found in violation of this article with respect to the denial of status to Indian women," said Fairweather. "This led Parliament to repeal the offending section of the Indian Act." The conference which was sponsored by the department for the Secretary of State began at 6 p.m. Sept. 18 and concluded with an address from Wilson Head, president of the Urban Alliance on Race relations.



women, from disabled and from minority groups?" she asked.

Ruff was addressing participants of the Multicultural Canada: The Impact of The Charter of Rights and Freedoms conference Sept, 18 and 19 at the University of Calgary.

The conference's theme was multiculturalism in Canada and specifically section 27 of the charter which reads "this charter shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the preservation and enhancement of the multicultural heritage of Canadians."

"You don't look at the little letters, the periods or the commas," said Ruff pushed to below poverty level."

But Ruff considered recent rulings by the Supreme Court to be heading in a positive direction and a reflection of the spirit of the charter.

"The Supreme Court of Canada has said 'let's put an end to the kind of games that undermine human rights,' " said Ruff.

The conference featured six workshops dealing with aspects of education, discrimination in housing, jobs, and services, health and welfare issues, minorities and the media and minorities and the criminal justice system.

Other speakers at the

became too expensive for the government," Sims observes. The funding program began in 1981-82 and at that time 4,400 Indian students were enrolled in full-time university classes. That number has increased to 11,000 in 1986-87.

"So, now the government has decided to impose a number of conditions and criteria to limit the number of qualified people who could attend post-secondary classes," Sims explains. He points out his group is against anything that might prevent students in this country from gaining access to post-secondary education.

# **Conference to look at resources**

#### **By John Morneau Gray**

The third annual International Child Conference will be hosted at the Convention Centre in Calgary on Oct. 7 - 10 this year.

The conference objectives are "to present ways and means that will enable Aboriginal people to utilize their community and cultural resources in assisting the development of a postive future for our children."

Organizers from Alberta, one of whom is Lloyd Sutton, hope to present Native arts and crafts as a cultural resource at the conference. They have made provisions for a trade show to run in conjunction with the event.



#### CAMPIOU-ZARUTSKY

They are also allowing the craftspeople access to free booth space. The exhibitors will need only to provide their own transportation and accommodation expenses. The trade show will be coordinated by Martha Campiou-Zarutsky of Edmonton, craftsperson, designer of contemporary and traditional clothing and president of the White Braid Society dancers and drummers.

Artists and craftspeople from across the country have been invited. The response has been good and Campiou-Zarutsky commends the organizers for the free booth space. At other events, craftspeople sometimes pay exceptionally high booth rates that can range up to \$500. She also points out craftspeople and artists have a high overhead expense and other organizers should realize this. She states, "It's always been my belief that there needs to be promotion for artists and craftspeople who work on a small scale and free booth space at this conference will enable access to consumers due to the large international attendance."

Also scheduled on Oct. 8 is a fashion show "Native Reflections" presented by Campiou-Zarutsky, White Braid and Driftpile Wasisquan Dancers.

The trade show application deadline has been extended to Oct. 5. For information contact Campiou-Zarutsky at 447-3493.

#### BILL McKNIGHT ...receives protest letter

Research on education funding for Indians has been completed by the association and the next step is to meet with McKnight regarding policy amendments.

"We're satisfied that there's definitely some unfairness here. The policy as it existed was fine and (we) should go back to it," Sims said. He feels the time is ripe for the association to express its dissatisfaction of the cutbacks because of "the South Africans' cynical offer to train (Canada's Native people) and the dramatic endorsement of Native rights from the Pope."

NonstantFreed DidzenaPresidentFreed DidzenaGeneral ManagerBert CrowfootEditorDianne MeiliNews EditorLesley CrossinghamReporterMark McCallumReporterRocky Woodward

Production EditorKim McLainProduction AssistantMargaret DesjarlaisSales ManagerGail StewartCree SyllabicsJoe Redcrow

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# Provincial

# **Three northern Indian bands** head for the polls

#### **By Albert Crier**

Members of three northern Indian bands, who will be voting for their community leaders within the next few weeks, will follow different rules.

The Saddle Lake First Nation has scheduled the election of nine tribal councillors for Sept. 24, while the nearby Goodfish Lake band will hold elections for four councillors Oct. 6. The Whitefish Lake band, near High Prairie, will hold a by-election for two vacant councillor positions, Sept. 30.

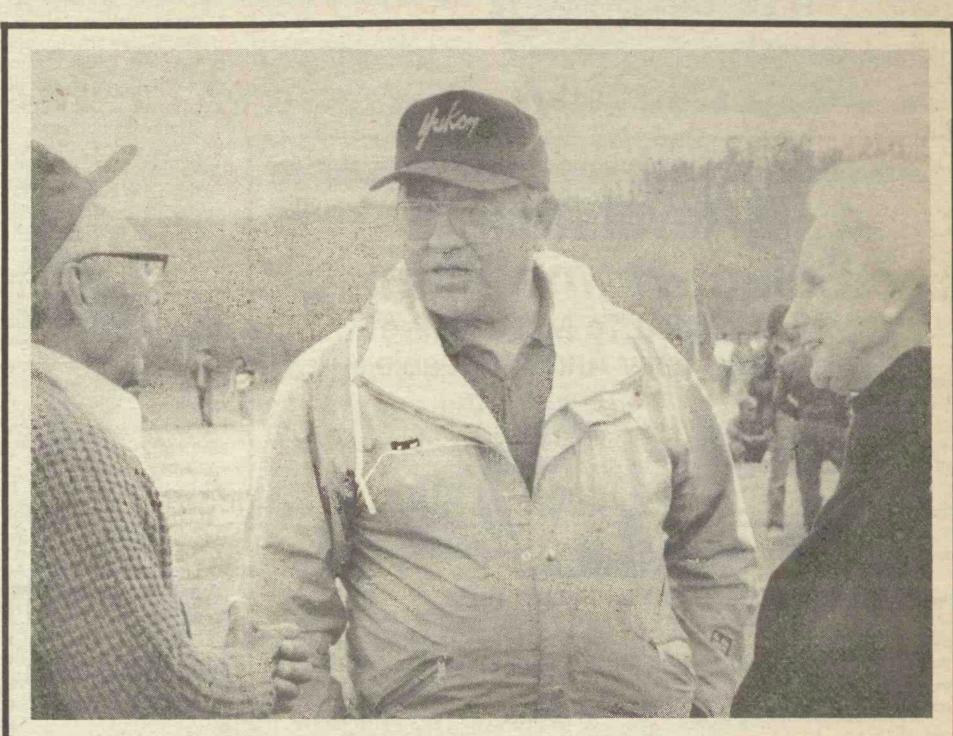
Saddle Lake, which follows its customary election procedures, will have 31 people vying for the nine councillor positions.

law, elects their Chief and Council for a three year term. Nominations for candidates closed Sept. 16.

also follows tribal customary

Candidates and voters must be band members, who are at least 21-yearsold and who live on the reserve. Only students living off the reserve will be allowed to vote and reinstated Bill C-31 members who live on the reserve can vote also.

The Whitefish Lake band, located northwest of Slave Lake, will follow the Indian Act regulations for band elections when they hold a by-election for two vacant councillor positions, Sept. 30. Two councillors. resigned recently in order to spend more time with their personal and family lives, say band officials. Voting will take place at the community hall, where electors will chose from eight candidates. The last election took place in January, when 250 voters, cast their votes for a two year term of the eight member Tribal Council. Indian Act band election rules require the electors and the Council candidates to be at least 18-years-old and to be residing on the reserve for at least six months, said band member Eddy Tallman. Members wanting to be candidates need one nominator and a seconder. However a person can run for both Councillor and Chief positions, if nominated. The Whitefish Lake band submitted a membership code June 30, but Indian Affairs since has added reinstated Indians to their band list, said Tallman. However, because reinstated people do not fill the six-month requirement, they are not eligible to vote. Indian Affairs will not be involved in the by-election. The band is affiliated with the Lesser Slave Lake Regional Council and runs its own programs, including elections. Dave Willier of the Reserves and Trust department, Lesser Slave Lake Regional Council, is the Chief Electoral Officer.



# Chief extends invitation to Gov.Gen.

Chief Harry Chonkolay, with translation help from former Metis Association president Sam Sinclair, invites Governor General Jeanne Sauve to the Dene Tha' Tribe's bi-centennial celebrations scheduled for next year.

thanked the chief and band members for their "kind invitation," adding she would inform her secretary and let the tribe know within the next few weeks.

The Assumption/Fort Vermilion area was opened up

On Oct. 8, a general election will be held to select the Tribal Chief.

Three former Chiefs, Eugene Houle, Henry Quinney and Eugene Steinhauer are in the running for the three year term of office, sources say.

Steinhauer and his council were removed from office in 1985, after a petition had been circulated. Voters then elected Houle and others to complete the Council term ending this year.

Election rules, obtained from Herb Cardinal, Chief Electoral Officer, state that qualified candidates must be recognized band members, who are at least 21years-old, who live on the reserve and have no criminal convictions. Councillor candidates require both a nominator and a seconder. Eligible voters are recognized band members who are at least 21-years-old, and band members who live off the reserve. But people reinstated under Bill C-31 are not permitted to vote because Saddle Lake has their own band membership codes.

Results of the election will be published in next week's Windspeaker.

The Goodfish Lake band, located north of Saddle Lake, will see 11 candidates contesting four councillor positions Oct. 6. A general election for their Tribal Chief, from the four successful candidates, will follow on Oct. 20.

Goodfish Lake which living on the reserve.

Whitefish Lake band has a total population of 852 with about 500 members though she couldn't make a firm promise yet, she its centennial with the Fort Chipewyan area.

Sauve said she was "delighted" with the invitation by European settlers 200 years ago next year. It shares

discrepancies and incorrect

"I know what I saw," she

said. "I saw one person who

is white voting, people from

another zone came to vote

and even said they came

from another zone. I saw

too many people who did

not have any identification

and the election officer

However, Daniels is

procedures.

# **Election disputed by president**

#### **By Lesley Crossingham**

The Metis Association general election is being disputed by three candidates, one of whom is newly elected president Larry Desmeules.

Unsuccessful Zone 4 director candidate. Ron LaRocque filed his protest with the Chief Electorial Officer, John Sinclair Sept. 21 and unsuccessful presidential candidate, Jo-Ann Daniels says she is set to file her protest also. They are joined with Desmeules, who says he is unhappy about irregularities in the Owl River local.

"There are only about 50 members there, yet about 150 people voted," he said. However, despite its flaws, Desmeules feels the election was 98 per cent "fair."

"Even if you take out the unfairness, the results would have been the same," he said, adding he felt LaRocque was "hypocritical" because he had designed the system for the 1985 general election and any problems experienced in this election had already been built into the system.

"We were not happy with the election system either, but we beat them at their

own game," he said. Desmeules added that

his office had not received an official complaint from Daniels and that the deadline for protest was Sept. 21. However, Daniels says she missed the deadline because she was unable to get any information from the election office.

allowed receipts. Too "I never even heard the many boundaries were result for some days after the election," she complainbroken...our election was a laughing stock," she said. ed. Daniels says she is protesting the election quick to deny her protest is because of very serious

#### **MAA ELECTION RESULTS**

The official results of the Metis Association general election were released this week. However, the election is being protested by three candidates, see story on Page 3.

PRESIDENT POLL: Larry Desmeules - 1082, Jo-Ann Daniels 929, Stan Plante - 519, Richard Tremblay - 80, Paul Sinclair - 78.

VICE-PRESIDENT POLL: Zone 1, Gerald Thom - 453, Joe Blyan - 326. Zone 2, August Collins - 108, Phyllis Collins -46. Zone 3, Peter Pelletier - 126, Jim White - 43, Joan Major-Malmas - 41. Zone 4, Dan Martel - 388, Ben Courtrille - 304, Mike Woodward - 272. Zone 5, Peter Campiou (acclamation). Zone 6, George Amato - 180, Lawrence Laboucane - 99. Florence Henry - 50.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS POLL: Zone 1, Elvina** Strasberg - 302, Joe A. Tremblay - 272, Lester Whitford 200. Zone 2, Roy Dumais - 98, Violet Wells - 55. Zone 3, Freda Martel - 122, Greg Lavallee - 84. Zone 4, Leonard Gauthier 363, Ron LaRocque - 288, Ed Karakonti - 245, Bruce Gladue 70. Zone 5, Harry M. Laboucan - 224, Clara Yellowknee 50. Zone 6, Dwight Carifelle - 162, Stan Sewell Jr. - 116, Edith Trump - 47.

"sour grapes" because of her loss, saying she took her defeat to former president Sam Sinclair in the 1985 election very well.

"It was a landslide," but I didn't complain. But this is a blatant abuse of the system," she said.

In his letter of protest addressed to Sinclair, LaRocque says many people who were not entitled to vote did so and that in Zone 4 "60 per cent of the people who voted at this poll were sworn in as 'new' members," yet LaRocque was not permitted to see the "Oaths of Electors."

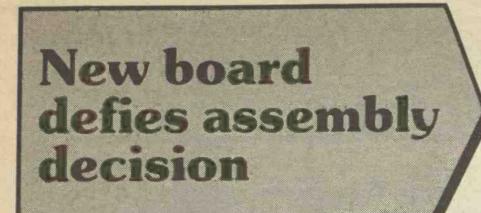
LaRocque also says that "many of the people who voted at Local #44...were status Indians. This must be looked into and if so, the votes from this poll must also be disallowed," he adds.

"Because of these and other irregularities, it seems obvious to me that the election which I thought was so clearly set up to be fair to all candidates is a sham," says LaRocque who adds tht if there is no response to the letter that "legal measures" will be taken.

The MAA general election took place Sept. 1



#### PAGE 4, September 25, 1987, WINDSPEAKER



#### **By Lesley Crossingham**

Zone 4 former vicepresident and director, Ben Courtrille and Ron LaRocque were removed as members of the Metis Association of Alberta during the first board meeting after the general election Sept. 12.

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According to president Larry Desmeules the unsuccessful candidates were removed from the membership list after alleged "financial" irregularities in the records of the Zone 4 office were discovered by newly elected vice-president, Dan Martell.

"They were not removed as Metis people, they will always be Metis, but membership in the MAA is a privilege," said Desmeules, who added that the board decision was unanimous.

A motion to remove LaRocque and Courtrille along with other members of the association was soundly defeated at the recent MAA assembly held near Peace River Aug. 15 and 16, however, Desmeules says he does not feel he is reversing the decision of the people.

"The people were not informed of the true



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picture," he said, adding he felt confident the membership would support the decision.

Contacted in his Zone 4 office. Martell refused to disclose details of the alleged discrepancies, but added that an investigation is currently being conducted.

LaRocque, however, says he is not surprised at the decision of the newlyelected board and added that he would be fully vindicated when a true financial picture was presented.

"They weren't working with all the information, only cheque stubs. When they look at all the financial records they will see the zone was not left in a financial mess," he said.

However, Jo-Ann Daniels, an unsuccessful presidential candidate who lodged a protest against the recent



I ARRY DESMEULES ...new prez

general election said she was disgusted with the board decision.

"If Ben (Courtrille) and Ron (LaRocque) are removed, who is next?" she complained. "No one is safe. Larry (Desmeules) has gone against the will of the assembly," she said.

# **Metis land deal** set for spring

#### **By Lesley Crossingham**

The Metis people may be close to achieving a permanent land settlement with the Alberta government that could form the model for future Aboriginal land agreements right across the country. Alberta Metis may be given ownership of 1.25 million acres of land and win some form of selfgovernment by next spring, says Premier Don Getty.

are optimistic that the Metis people will accept a municipal-style form of selfgovernment. The issue will be dealt with during the spring sitting of the legislature.

"We'll be moving with an amendment to the Alberta Act and have that entrenched in the Constitution ourselves for the Metis people of Alberta," Getty told the Edmonton Sun. However, although the Metis people will receive land they will not receive any provincial funding as part of the deal.



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Although the deal is still in the planning stages, Alberta government officials

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**MAYOR RALPH KLEIN** ...words anger local Natives

#### Lubicon Olympic boycott

# Mayor's decision blasted by Natives

#### **By Dan Dibbelt**

The city of Calgary has no jurisdiction in the Lubicon Indian's land dispute and is washing its hands of the entire issue, it was decided at the Sept. 15 council meeting.

City council heard a recommendation from another city committee, the Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (AUAC), to hear a representation from Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak, his representative or University of Calgary anthropologist, Joan Ryan.

"I'm not going to give people whose motives I suspect a forum to wave their placards," Klein is quoted as saying in a Sept. 23 Calgary Herald article.

In that article Klein is reported to have attacked Ryan as a political opportunist and the band's lawyers as hired guns.

Klein has also described Calgary as an "easy target."

"I'm saying the city of Calgary is being held ransom," he is quoted as saying.

"No one is holding the city at ransom," said Rosemary Brown, a Native studies instructor at Mount Royal College and member of the Committee against Racism in Calgary. "That is a ridiculous comment."

"I'm really surprised by their decision," said Andy Bear Robe, chairman of AUAC. "I think the mayor is forgetting that if it wasn't for the Treaty 7 and southern Alberta chiefs. who went over to Europe with the mayor to get the Olympics, Calgary wouldn't have them," said Bear Robe.

"They (the city) used the cowboy theme, and the Indian theme and culture to its fullest extent to get the '88 Olympics," he added.

Brown also said it was never believed that the Lubicon fell into the city's jurisdiction.

"It was always understood that this was not an issue to be decided by the city," said Brown. "But the city can resolve this dispute. It would really be a credit to the city if they came out with a public statement saying they understand the Lubicon's stand."

Ryan did not wish to comment on the personal attacks made against her by the major. But Brown was quick to dismiss Klein's comments against Ryan's character.

"Joan was involved with the Lubicon's long before she ran for an aldermanic position," said Brown. "She has nothing to gain politically or financially, she has worked in her capacity as an anthropologist."

"The fact that Klein stoops to personal attacks,

is, I think, an indication that he feels very uncomfortable with the issue," said Brown.

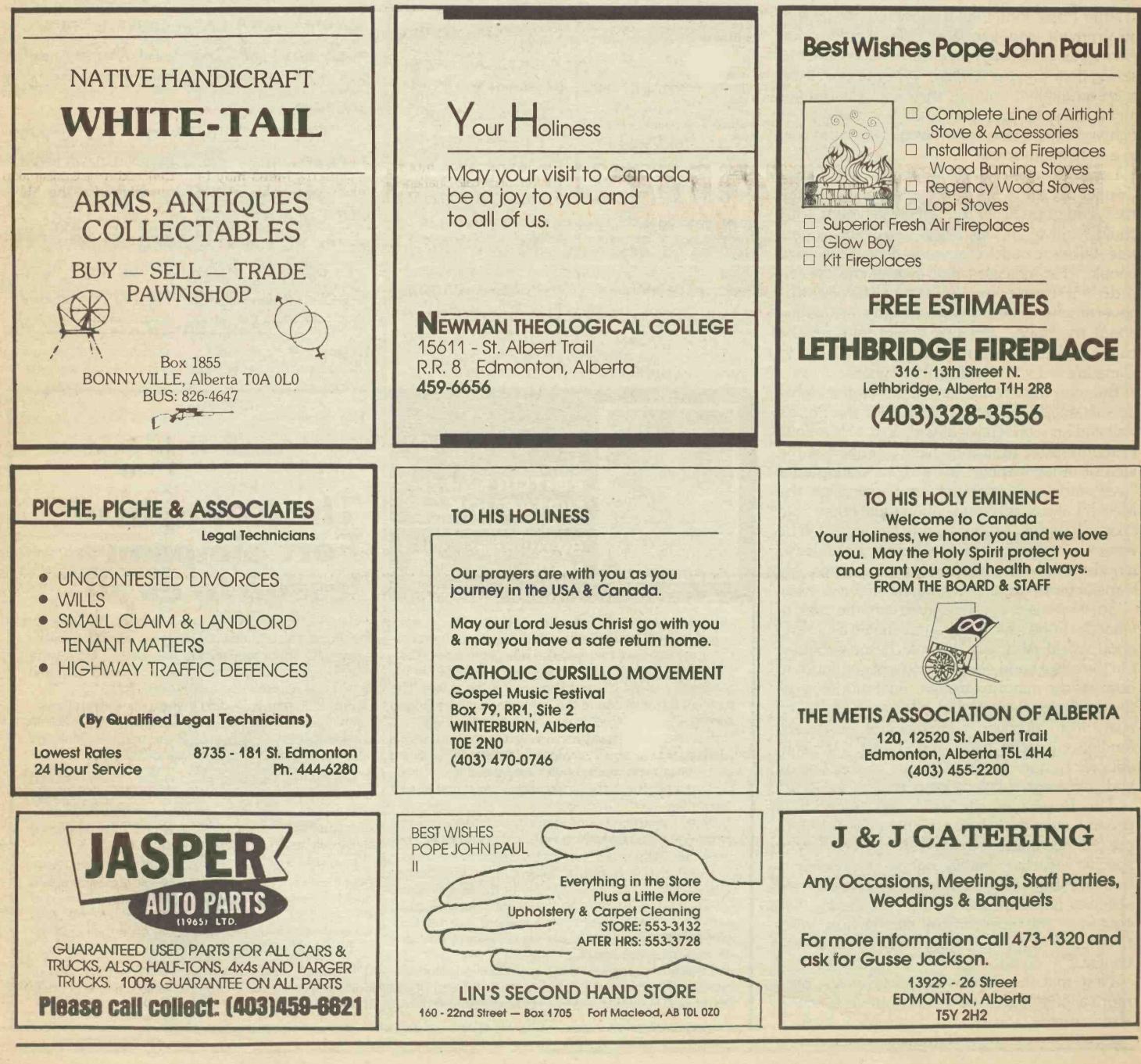
"I think it shows he doesn't have any really good reasons or arguments," she added.

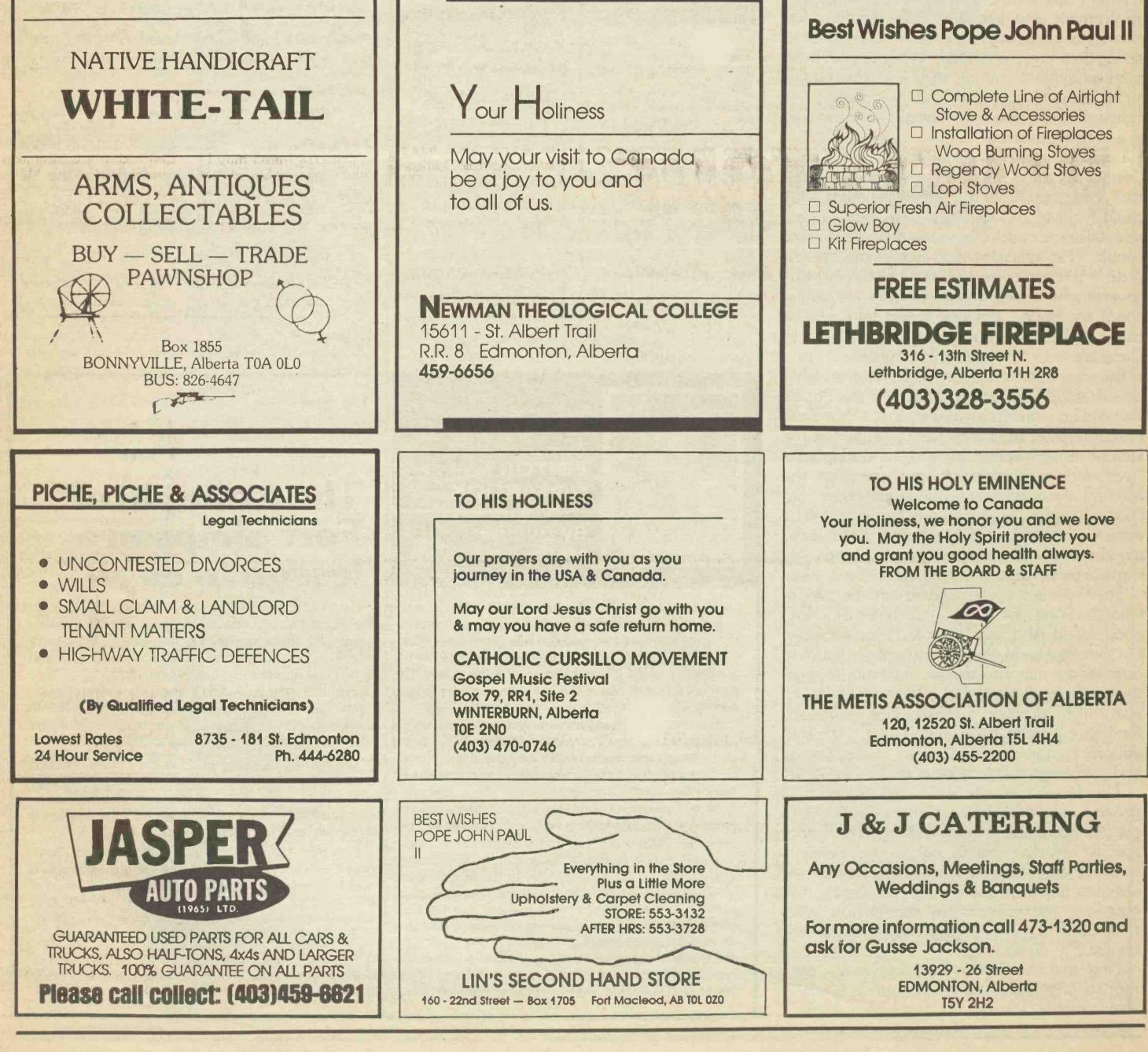
"I think it is in the best interests of the city and OCO '88 to help resolve this issue," said Bear Robe. As mayor he (Klein) has access to political and business people. A quick solution is possible."

Chief Bernard Ominayak, who was not aware of the AUAC's proposal to city council, said he was not really surprised by council's decision. He did point out he has yet to receive a letter from the mayor urging the opposing sides to resolve the issue.

Klein is said to have written all parties involved encouraging a quick resolution to the problem.

At press time Klein was unavailable for comment.

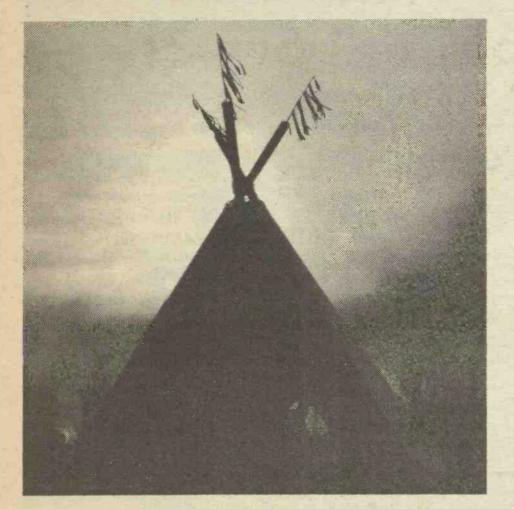






#### PAGE 6, September 25, 1987, WINDSPEAKER





## Will the Pope's message fade with time ...

After Pope John Paul II endorsed Native selfgovernment and fair land claim settlements, Aboriginal leaders felt they were much closer to seeing their dreams fulfilled. With support from such an exalted source, they felt government might snap to attention and give them their rights. Divine intervention would pave the way to a better tomorrow.

Louis "Smokey" Bruyere, head of the Native Council of Canda, felt the Pope's speech was the best kind of publicity the self-government issue could receive. It was like a free Native rights television commercial viewed by 12 million people. He indicated that even if the speech didn't prompt immediate talks on selfgovernment, at least people would start talking about the issue. Bishops would take up the cause and priest would carry the message to Canada's many Catholic church-goers. But, can this enthusiasm about Native rights be sustained? It's only a week after the Pope's visit and his words have already lost a little glow. Prime Minister Mulroney hasn't jumped at the idea of renegotiating. Instead, he's adopted a "wait and see" approach and maintains the Meech Lake accord ratification must come first. Closer to home, Premier Getty has indicated he agrees in part with the Pope, but he continues to wonder what self-government really means. He wants a more specific definition. So, it seems everyone agrees with the spirit of what the Pope said. They agree that in a just and good world Aboriginal people deserve better. On the other hand, the government continues to oppress the minority groups. Just months ago, the right to post-secondary education was taken away from qualified status-Indians as drastic funding cutbacks were announced. Without education, how can Natives pull themselves up and gain a rightful place in society? The Pope's words were too sweepingly general, even though last minute changes to his pre-planned address made it stronger and more specific regarding Native rights. The publicity was nice, but when it comes to brass tacks and specifics like education, land and the right to govern -- the government stands firm in its reluctance to give anything away and will likely continue to do so. Now that the Pope is back in Rome -- once more a lofty figurehead in a distant land, will his strong words fade into the past? Most likely.

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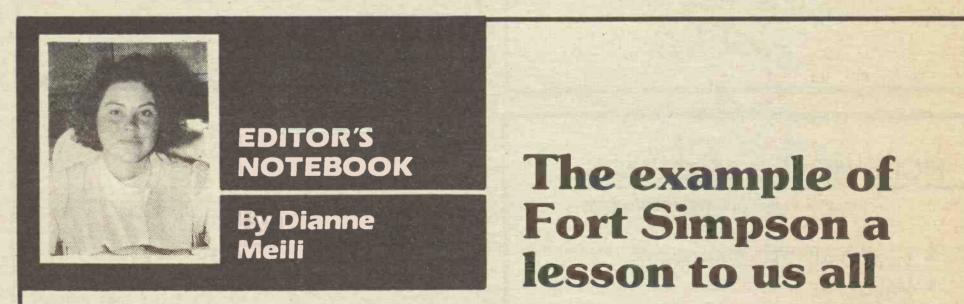
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It is midnight. The yellow and red flares that crisscross the starswept sky seem to reflect the quick sharp beat of the hand drum. Dancers pack together in the teadance -- their faces shining and lit by a fire. The dancers move as one to the beat of an ancient Dogrib song.

Just a few yards away the strong resonant sound of a Metis jig fills the air. Two Metis fiddlers -- elbows flying and feet tapping, pound out a traditional jig as three dancers perform the scarf dance and dozens of spectators tap feet and clap time.

Along the streets young men in their father's pickups cruise the streets; laughing and singing and calling out to all the pretty girls.

This is Fort Simpson on the eve of the Pope's visit. Everyone is having a good time. In the Dogrib camp Grandmas busily stoke the stoves and check the meat hanging to dry while keeping a sharp eye on their grandchildren -- there is an air of expectation and excitement -- you can almost taste it.

It has often been said that you don't need alcohol to have a good time, and no where was this old adage better illustrated than the town of Fort Simpson during the Pope celebrations. The town passed a bylaw closing all liquor outlets for nine days. Bars were boarded and shuttered and beer was under lock and key. Fort Simpson was a dry town.

But that certainly didn't stop the celebrations. Dogrib people swarmed into the tiny town which lies on the banks of the Mackenzie River, and the Dene and Metis of the area organized their own festivities.

During the days leading up to the Pope's visit and shortly after, Fort Simpson saw no drunks, no ugly scenes, no barroom brawls, only heart-felt celebrations of culture and heritage conducted with the reverence these celebrations deserve.

Fort Simpson should be proud of the stand it took over the alcohol issue. And the people of Fort Simpson and those who came to visit should be equally proud of their conduct. According to Fort Simpson RCMP, only seven drunks were picked up -- none on the papal site and the weekend was very quiet.

Perhaps we can all learn a lesson from the people of Fort Simpson. We should remember that it is really true -- you don't need a drink to have a good time.



# Opinion

# **Reader's many penpals teach him about himself**

#### **Dear Editor:**

Aah-hoo! My brothers and sisters at Windspeaker! First off, I want to thank you, for publishing my "call for penpals." I truly received a lot, not only in answers, but in happiness and spirituality. Therefore I'd like for you at Windspeaker to give special prayers for those who wrote me and have become my penpals, and I'm honored and truly grateful to them to have even noticed me. Each of them has taught me a little more about my "red" brothers and sisters and a little more about how to continue walking along "the red road."

A poem by a brother named Duke Redbird (Ojibway) which is enclosed really touched my heart and opened my eyes. I used to (still do, although I try not to -- and knowing is winning half the battle) walk the face of our Mother Earth with a chip on my shoulder, and hatred for

the whiteman in my heart! The above mentioned brothers and sisters opened my eyes to how many Indians still are spiritually active. I mean, I heard of powwows all over this continent; but, only saw them among my people, the Chippewa. I always thought that I was a large figure and real important. My brothers and sisters have been able to make me see that I am just (but, learning quickly) a big headed, small youngster (21)! There are many, many brothers and sisters out there with much, much bigger problems than my petty selfishness, in the search for penpals.

I also want to thank you brothers and sisters at Windspeaker for publishing a fine newspaper, and for teaching me about brotherhood. I feel ridiculous for having written that selfish letter, for it wasn't at all Indian! But, I do not regret having written, for it has taught me a valuable

**Paddle Prairie issue** 

lesson, in brotherhood! I wish that you might, let everyone at Windspeaker read this letter, because I am thanking all of you!

No longer do I feel anger and hatred for our white brothers. I feel an immense sadness for the plight that they are in. They (and some of our brothers and sisters too) want wealth and success. What is wealth? Our forefathers taught us that wealth is life on our beautiful Mother Earth! What is success?

two weeks or so?

Success, our forefathers taught us by example, is being in harmony with all our brothers. Also success is being in harmony with Mother Earth; father sun, and grandmother moon!

Now, I see civilization as a knife in our Mother Earth's side. I see technology as knowing what we were not supposed to know. The Indian should have respect for all life and also exercise brotherly love. I see my term in prison as the Great Spirit

setting time aside for me to learn the Indian way. There are many strong spiritual brothers and sisters in the prisons across North America. My brothers here in this yard I owe a lot of knowledge to, although many of them thought that I missed their teachings! I entered Arizona state prison, an apple (a white Indian) and now I am an apple with red veins.

I want you at Windspeaker to know that we here remember all of our

brothers and sisters across North America in our prayers! Thank you and please continue to print the original articles and the section "The Elders Speak." Many of us in this yard read Windspeaker.

> With brotherly love and respect. **Don Stow Dan Martinez Donald Babbit Johnnie Ashley Tim Stanley** Lee Schlock



knee-breaking good old Canadian hockey, in the last would like to wish a big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the oldest citizen of Conklin, Theophile McCallum, who turned 84-years-old on Sept. 15. From all of us here at Windspeaker, we wish you a happy birthday and many more. Slated for construction to begin next year on a community complex, many people in the community are looking forward to it because, "It's something we really need. There's nothing up here, not even a store. We're badly in need of it," said Edward. The complex will house the badly needed store, a laundry mat, arcade, restaurant and recreation hall. Conklin resident are also gearing up for the hockey and skating season. Recently acquired funding from Municipal Affairs has allowed them to start work on a full size skating rink. "Hopefully, it will be ready by freeze up," said Edward. Edward. Thanks for the news and we'll talk to you next week. LITTLE BUFFALO: A message to the principal of the Little Buffalo school from Terry Lusty reads: "Sorry I could not make it to our scheduled meeting and would like to apologize for any inconvenience it may of caused you." Terry was in a car accident near Jarvie (north of Westlock) while on assignment for Windspeaker where he was to meet with people of the Little Buffalo, Peace River and Cadotte Lake area. Since then Terry has been taken out of the intensive care unit at the University Hospital in Edmonton, and is recuperating very well from his injuries. He also extends his apologies to the principal of the Cadotte Lake school. It's just like Terry to be worried about commitments before himself. That's what makes him so unique. MOOSEJAW, SASK.: Thanks for the call Mavis Olsen. Mavis works over at the Native Friendship centre in Moosejaw, which is about 100 km from Regina and just wanted us to know, here at Windspeaker, how much they enjoy Native Nashville North. "We also have some great Native talent up this way that you may want to book for your show," Mavis commented.

# Is illiteracy really such a problem?

#### **Dear Editor:**

This is in response to the article that was published in your paper August 21, 1987 re the newly elected illiterate councillors in Paddle Prairie.

Regulation 55/66 of the Metis Betterment Act, that was pointed out by the protestors, is one I have to question -- were, or are most of our Elders not illiterate? Yet we go to them for their guidance and wisdom. We as Metis and Native people should respect this. Not all knowledge is learned from books -- is being able to

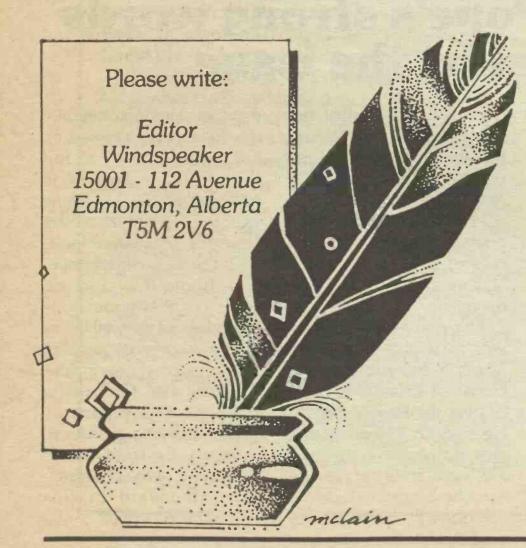
read and write the ultimate? A lot of times we just need to use our common sense and intuitions.

Most of our past councillors were illiterate. In retrospect, was this an advantage?

My interests lie in this northern Metis settlement as I was born and raised there and I will always consider it "home."

I hope that in the near future, all the problems facing this community will be resolved.

#### Sincerely, **Irene V. Loutitt Grande** Prairie



I was. I took my youngest boy, Cory to his practice over at Parkland arena and after watching all the kids on the ice skating, I began to think something strange had happened.

All these kids were Cory's size but for some reason they all skated, handled a hockey stick and moved better than Cory. At one point the coaches out there asked the boys to skate backwards ... all of them could except Cory. When I saw this I went to the phone and hollered at my wife Gail, who the heck was Corv's coach last year, because I don't think he taught him anything. My wife replied, "You were."

The Nerd family does it again! Because then she told me it was all her fault. She thought Cory was nine years old so she registered him in that age bracket. Her own son and she forgot his age?

I went over and told the coaches his age and we decided to let Cory finish his practice. On the way home I told him that he had just practiced hockey with boys one year older than him. I asked him if he was shy out there and Cory replied, "I was totally embarassed Dad!"

Yes hockey season is here and it's time for parent involvement to the fullest! But heck. I don't feel bad, I know one family that has six children entered in hockey. Can you imagine what their weeks are like?

Speaking of children that reminds me. The other day I received a phone call from an elementary student from the Lynburn Elementary school in the city.

"Hi," she said. "I am doing a school report on the Blackfeet and Blood Indian people and can I ask you a few questions about them?" she asked.

"Sure," I answered. "As long as the questions are not too hard."

"Do the Blackfeet wear the same clothes as us?" And did I laugh.

After I got control of myself I said to her, "Yes they do, why they even eat the same food as you."

Those were great questions Jennie Davidson and like I promised, help is on the way!

EDMONTON: Lyle Donald was just in and he informed me that Native recording artist, Robbie Brass and fiddler/recording artist and once member of the C-Weed Band, Clint Dutiaume, are coming to town. Lyle is still working on their promotion and will let me know when the big day will arrive ... so stay in touch, these are two great performers you won't want to miss. **CONKLIN:** How ya doing Edward Abby? Edward is the president of Metis Local 193 of Conklin, a hamlet located between Lac La Biche and Fort McMurray near the CNR railroad line.

Thanks Mavis.

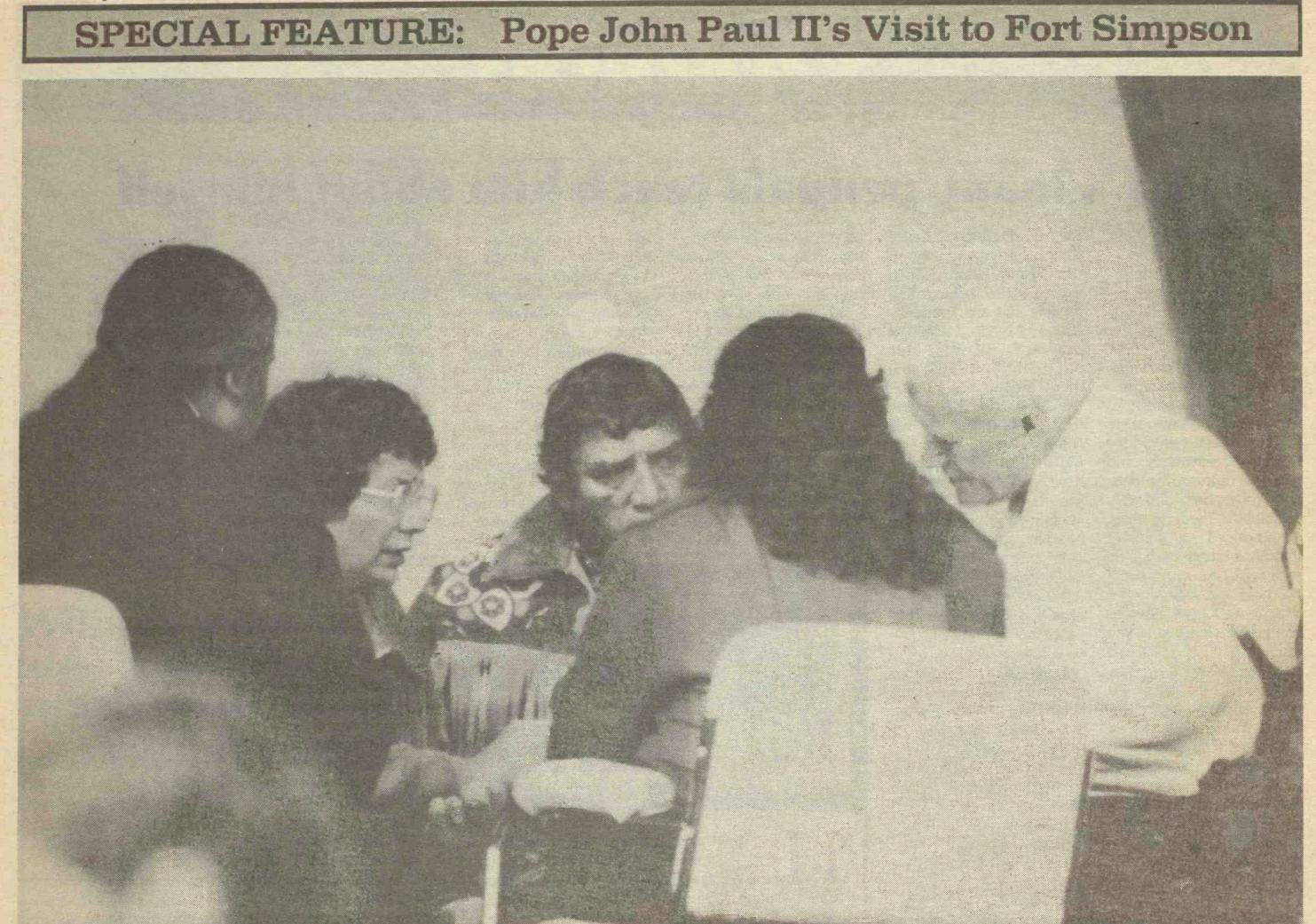
I would also like to thank Connie Laiten Rysstad, Prince Rupert, Patricia Letendre, Fort St. John and Marcel Gagnon from Prince George all of British Columbia for making themselves available to appear as guests on Native Nashville North.

Also a big thank you to Terrance Armstrong who organized the group to come up here to Edmonton. Without your support Terrance and people like you, it would of made my job very difficult in arranging for guests, so again thank you.

See ya all next week. Have a happy weekend.



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BRUYERE, ERASMUS, SINCLAIR - Pope hears impassioned plea from leaders.

# Native rights supported

#### **By Lesley Crossingham**

In a moving speech to about 5,000 people gathered in Fort Simpson on the banks of the McKenzie River, Pope John Paul II told his Native followers they are entitled to self-government.

The Pope reconfirmed his earlier statements made in his last visit to Canada in 1984 when he fully endorsed Aboriginal rights.

"I pray with you that a new round of conferences will benefit and that, with God's guidance and help, a path to a just agreement will be found to crown all the efforts being made," said the Pope.

His speech surprised many spectators because it deviated from the prepared speech that had been circulated before his arrival. The Pope added an extra paragraph fully endorsing self-government for Indian, Inuit and Metis people and urging the government to return to the bargaining table with Native leaders.

The Pope made the speech after meeting with Native leaders and representatives. Sam Sinclair. former president of the Metis Association of Alberta represented both the MAA as an Elder and the Metis National Council. Saskatchewan's Jim Sinclair also represented the MNC, Georges Erasmus represented the Assembly of First Nations and Louis (Smokey) Bruyere the Native Council of Canada.

The speech pleased the Native leaders in attendance. But, Bruyere felt the speech would not have any effect on the federal government, though it may influence the more than 12 million Canadian Catholics.

Metis National Council representative, Jim Sinclair said he too was pleased with the speech, but felt it didn't go far enough.

"You have to remember the Pope received letters from all Native leaders and the government of Canada. (Bill) McKnight, (Minister of Indian Affairs) had a part in that speech," he said.

However, Sinclair fears the attention the Pope's speech had drawn will soon be forgotten by an uncaring federal government because the Meech Lake agreement will make it almost impossible for Aboriginal peoples to get the right to selfgovernment entrenched in the Constitution.

"The government has dealt with Quebec and with the provinces, but Aboriginal people have been lost in the shuffle," he said.

The only criticism the leaders had with the Pope's speech was the fact that the pontiff did not apologize for the mistreatment of Native people by the church in the last century. The United Church recently made amends for similar shortsightedness by its missionaries.

"I feel the Pope should have apologized," said Georges Erasmus. "The church caused a lot of misery. They outlawed the drum...we were called pagans," he said.

In visiting Fort Simpson r

#### Sept. 20, the Pope fulfilled a promise to return after his 1984 visit was cancelled due to bad weather. The Pope also fulfilled promises made to Aboriginal leaders asking for his support of Aboriginal rights.

# Despite Pope's strong words feds still skirt the issue

#### **By Lesley Crossingham**

The fact that the Prime Minister has turned down the Pope's plea for the resumption of the first minister's conference, while at the same time reiterating his government's support of Aboriginal rights, does not surprise the Indian Association of Alberta.

"It's all rhetoric," says Association president, Gregg Smith. "We figured the feds (federal government) would skirt around the issue."

However, despite the

negative reaction of the prime minister, Smith says he was pleased with the Pope's endorsement of Aboriginal rights and felt the issue of Native selfgovernment might now receive public recognition. "Let me say I am cautiously optimistic," he added.

The prime minister was replying to questions posed by opposition parties in the House of Commons Sept. 21 over the Pope's speech. He said he welcomed the idea of re-opening the First Ministers' talks but refused to make a definite decision. Instead, the prime minister said he would take a "wait-and-see" approach, indicating that once the Meech Lake accord is ratified and Quebec signs into the constitution, the chances of Native selfgovernment would improve.

"I think it would be evident to anyone concerned about the well-being of the Aboriginal peoples that one of the principle reasons for Canada's failure in this regard at federal-provincial conferences was the fact Quebec wasn't part of the process," Mulroney said in the Commons recently.



# SPECIAL FEATURE: Pope John Paul II's Visit to Fort Simpson

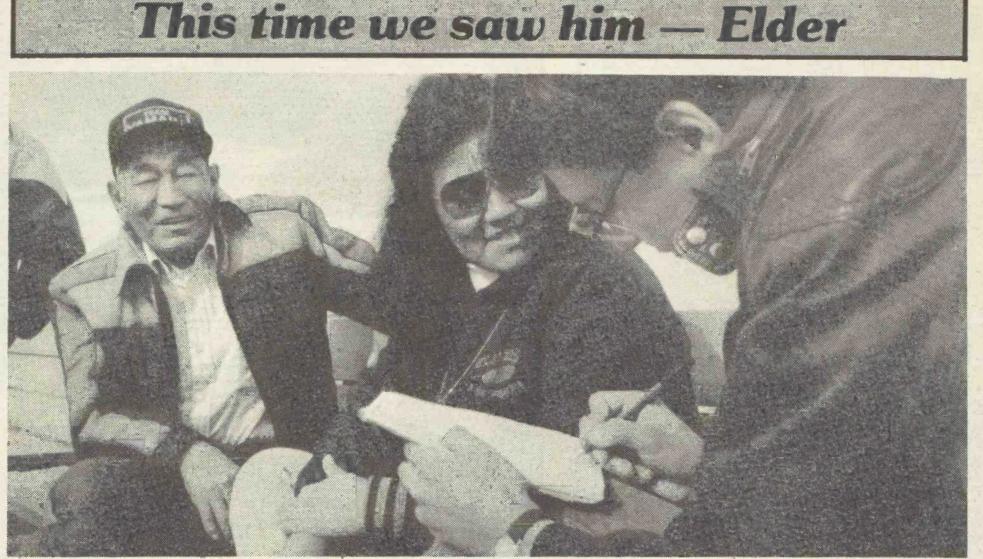
# 'No one will cry...on the trip home'

#### **By Mark McCallum**

Chilly September winds carried a sigh of relief and then eventual joy as the announcement was made to 5,000 people waiting on the banks of the Mackenzie River that the plane carrying Pope John Paul II landed safely in Fort Simpson.

The moment was made more special for Jimmy Dzeylion, who was in the tiny village located 1,400 km northwest of Edmonton when fog prevented the Pope's last visit in 1984.

The disappointment then was overwhelming, Dzeylion explained through a Cree interpreter. "It was like being scolded as a child, but the hurt inside was worst," said the 69year-old. Silently, Dzeylion and four friends wept as they made the long journey back to their home in Wallston Lake, Saskatchewan.



**DZEYLION SPEAKS TO REPORTERS** ...Windspeaker Cree translator Margaret Desjarlais kept busy in Fort Simpson

the promise made in 1984 to return, thousands of When the Pope fulfilled Indian, Inuit, Metis and

To see the Pope **Best gift received**  Dene followers couldn't have been more happy.

Though saddened, Dzeylion says his faith was never shaken, adding he teaches the Roman Catholic religion in a church on his

reserve, where he is considered a respected Elder by its 700 residents. Although he is Chipewyan by descent. Dzeulion translates the bible in both the Chip and Cree Native

languages and gives communion to others on the reserve.

in 1982 from the Vatican, signed by the Pope, asking Dzeylion to continue his

work with the church and spread the word of God to the young and elderly. He doesn't know how the Vatican found out, but thinks a local priest or bishop must have passed along a message about his work. Dzeylion was honored, however, because "it was like receiving something from the Creator," he explained, making gestures with his hands to define his point.

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It took Dzeylion four days to reach Fort Simpson, travelling first by plane over a distance of 640 air miles and then by bus for another 1,700. To comfort friends who feared the plane ride. he joked with one of them asking "What will you do when you go to heaven?" He doesn't know if it worked, but about 100 people from his reserve made the trip with him.

They came to sing Cree and Chipewyan hymns at the Papal visit. They patiently waited two days to A letter was sent to him see the Pope for only a few short hours. But, this time no one will cry on the long trip home.

#### **By Margaret Desjarlais**

We all have been to a special gathering at least once during our lifetime -- be it anniversaries, weddings, graduations, powwows, reunions, etc. These events are usually joyful experiences which will stay in our minds forever.

My most joyful experience was having the opportunity to be with the thousands of Native people during the Pope's visit to Fort Simpson. Joyful because I can almost feel the sorrow and grief these people experienced when the Pope's last visit was cancelled due to fog in 1984. Many had come from miles away and travelled for days for a once-ina-lifetime experience -- only to find the visit cancelled at the last minute. I can understand when they say it was a devastating blow which made many cry.

Last Sunday, these same people and many more had their wishes granted. The feelings and emotions were evident with smiling faces, sparkling eyes and tears of joy.

I had the opportunity to speak to many Elders the day before the Pope's arrival. When they spoke of the Pope, they spoke with delight and enthusiasm. With eyes rolling and arms outstretched one said, "Tomorrow is the day we see the Pope!"

The atmosphere throughout the visit was very relaxing and comforting. It was a mixture of contentment, warmth and happiness. How else can I explain when someone turns to me and speaks a Native language I don't understand? Yet I knew the comment was about the Pope and a positive one. What else can I say but nod and smile?

Many people came for different reasons. One jubilant elderly lady, whose birthday coincidently fell on the same day and also was receiving communion from the Pope, said, "This is the best birthday present I'll ever get." Another young lady brought her 12-year-old daughter, who was stricken with arthritis at the age of five, to receive a blessing from the Pope. Many came for comfort and consolation for lost loved ones. An elderly man explains how he and his wife travelled for three days to see the Pope in '84. His wife has since passed away and he sadly said, "If she was alive she would be here today." Still others came for a handshake and a glimpse of the Pope.

Yes, the Pope's visit was a happy occasion for many people, especially the Elders. The longawaited visit was worth the time and effort everyone put in to make it possible.

#### EAKING UUI





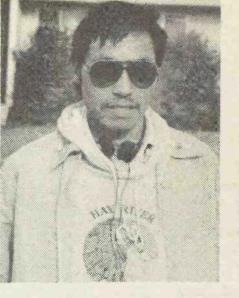
Margaret Giroux, 71, Grouard, AB, retired, Cree:

"He comes into reality with the grassroots people -tomorrow is my birthday and I'm also receiving communion by the Pope. This is the best birthday present I'll ever get."



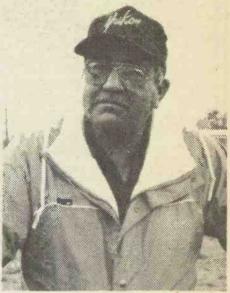
Joe Iron, 73, Canoe Lake, Sask., retired, **Cree:** 

"I'm glad to come back again to see the Pope. My wife and I came three years ago. If she was still alive she would be here today."



#### **Ricky Tetso**, 29, Fort Simpson, N.W.T., trapper, Slavey:

"A big happy group -everybody to see the Pope this time. They don't want to miss him again."



#### Sam Sinclair, Edmonton, AB, past MAA president:

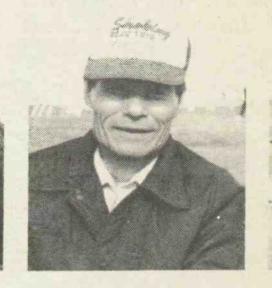
"I see the happiness of the people. I had seen them in tears when his last trip was cancelled. It's good to see the smiles and happiness around."



Kevin McCallum, 14, Beauval, Sask., Grade 81, Fort Norman, 7, Cree: "A handshake and a piece of bread."

Elizabeth Yakeneya, N.W.T., Elder:

"I will be pleased to see the Pope blessing my children of the Northwest Territories."



Philip Dryneck, 59, Fort Rae, N.W.T., retired. Dogrib:

"To see the Pope -- this is my first time."

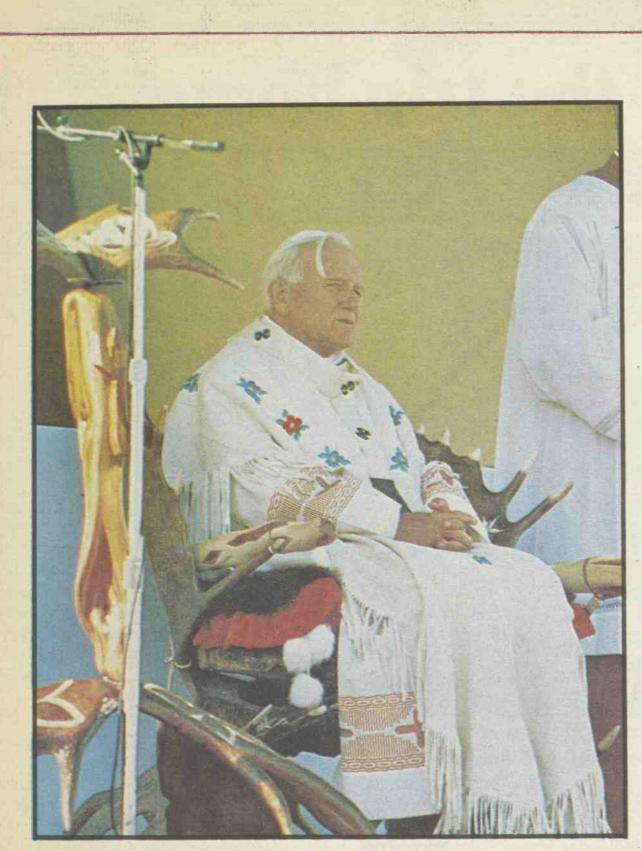


#### Jason Iron, 12, Canoe Lake, Sask., Grade 5, Cree:

"I expect a handshake and a piece of bread. I'm here with my grandpa."

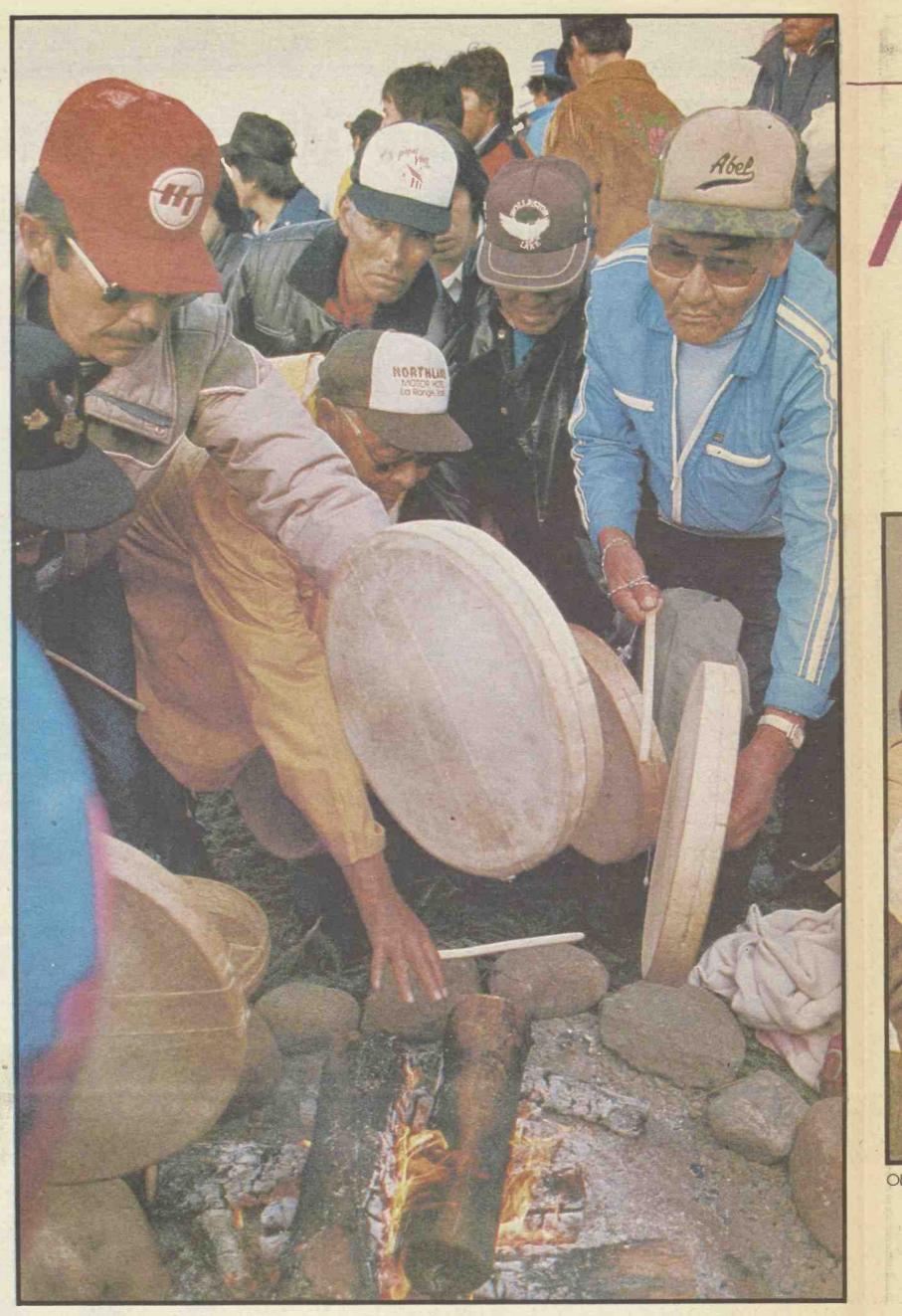


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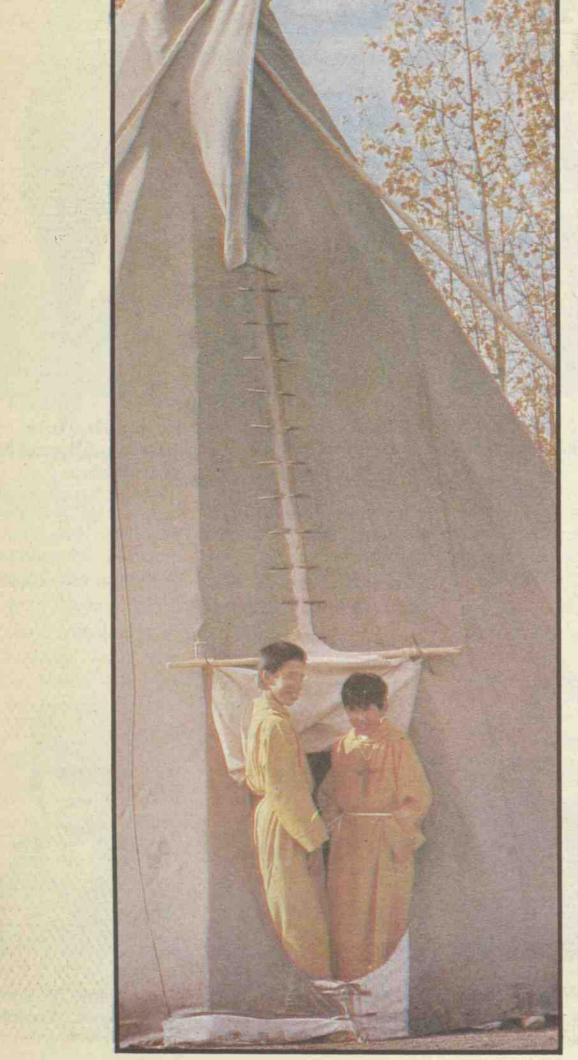


The Pontiff watches the crowd from antler chair.



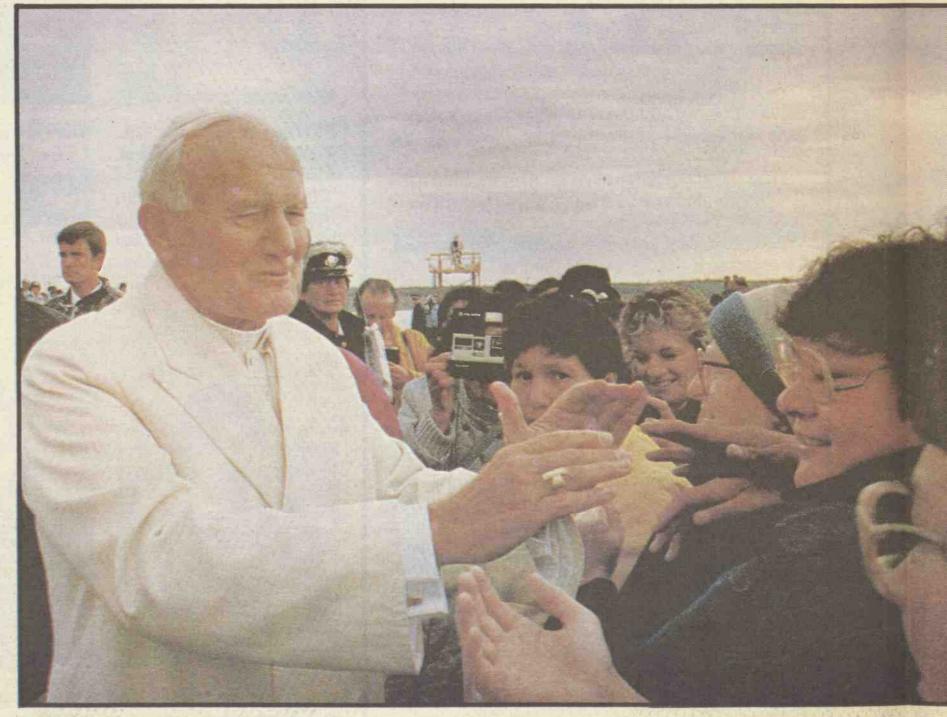


AT TATATA



Alter boys await the Pope's blessing.

Rae Lake warm their drum skins on the sacred fire.



The Pope mingles with the faithful.

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A.S. H.S. B.



# A long awaited promise fulfilled



housands huddled quietly around a huge 17 metre high tipi, watching and waiting patiently for Pope John Paul II to finish talking with their Native leaders.

The tipi and the 5,000 Indian, Dene, Inuit and Metis people had anticipated the Pope after his 1984 visit was cancelled when fog prevented the Pope's aircraft from landing in Fort Simpson, N.W.T. The Pope vowed he would return and Canada's Aboriginal people were rewarded for their long wait Sept. 20.

Although Native leaders gained political sway by the Pope's strong show of support for Aboriginal rights, resource claims and selfdetermination, the heavily anticipated Papal visit had enormous spiritual impact.

Matthew Lagasse, of Yellowknife, received his first communion from the Pope along with nearly a hundred others.

"It was all fluke," said the 11-year-old, who added that he was chosen for the "great honor" only hours before the Papal visit. He explained, "My priest said he'd try arrange it. But the decision was made so sudden, I didn't really expect it."

Fred Black travelled 20 hours from his home in Chard (located 120 km south of Fort McMurray) for a glimpse of the Pope. He was one of the many curious visitors who "just wanted to see the Pope."

Olive Blackwater from Standoff pays homage to the Pope.



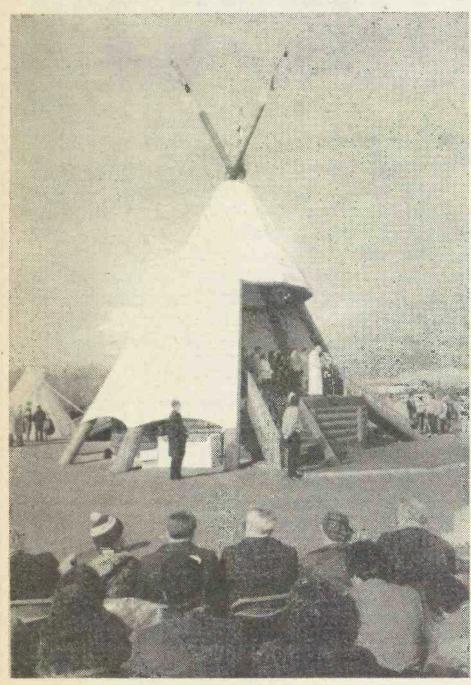
Mary Wadyto, Fort Rae and Madeline Dryneck, Snare Lake, smudging themselves with the sacred fire.



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# SPECIAL FEATURE: Pope John Paul II's Visit to Fort Simpson

# 5,000 Metis, Inuit, Indians gather Nature and people's devout faith combine to welcome "Yahtita"



**17 METRE HIGH TIPI** 

#### **By Dianne Meili**

As the waves of the Red Sea parted for Moses, so did the clouds divide to let the sun shine on Fort Simpson for the Pope's visit.

Steady rain had fallen upon worshippers early in the morning as they waited to greet the Pontiff. Everywhere, people huddled under large sheets of plastic and young people struggled to keep the Elders warm.

But, minutes before the Pontiff arrived at the site, the rain stopped, the cloud began to thin and a rainbow stretched across the McKenzie River and Fort Simpson. It was as though the Creator had summoned the forces of nature to welcome this man called "Yahtita" (priest of priests) by the Dene.

As the Pope stepped out of his limousine, many in the crowd of nearly 5,000 surged toward him. Everyhand and receive his blessing. After three years of waiting, the joy in finally seeing him was on every face. Children were hoisted up onto parents' shoulders and Elders were led toward the man in white.

A troupe beating caribouskin drums and singing traditional songs greeted the Pope. From a stone monument, which was designed according to Elders' instructions, the Pope spoke of the wonder of God's creations -- earth, fire, water and wind. He faced the four directions and kissed the monument before stepping down.

As he made his way toward the 17-metre (55 foot) high "tipi" in which he would meet with Indian leaders and celebrate mass, he delighted people by stopping to chat and give blessings. As the sun steadily gained strength, he hands of Elders and kissed the tops of babies' heads as they wiggled in their mothers' arms. Tears flowed down ancient cheeks and teenagers pushed forward to get a closer look.

Once on the open-faced tipi podium, the Pope settled into a specially made chair. It was constructed of two moose antlers carved with flowers and crosses and bolted together with a woven birchwood seat in between. A cushion made of tanned beaver hide covered the wooden seat.

Following a 20-minute meeting with national Aboriginal leaders, the Pope stood and addressed the crowd, saying he supported Native Canadians' struggle in gaining selfgovernment and a land base. The crowd enthusiastically cheered his remarks and later the leaders would tell reporters the Pope's speech was all they'd hoped it would be. With the political portion of the visit over, the Pope donned a white caribouskin robe to celebrate mass. The silk-embroidered garment featured stitches made by Native women from five northern communities -- Fort Rae, Rae Lakes, Lac la Marte, Snare Lakes and Dettah. Accompanied by 23 priests and four northern bishops, the Pope conducted mass. Catholic rites were intermingled with Indian chants and songs and parts of the gospel were translated for the audience into languages like Cree, Slavey and Dene. The Pope praised his audience for their deeply rooted faith in the Creator



and also urged young people to enter the work of the church, especially as priests.

Communion was served from porcupine-quill decorated birchbark baskets to many of the gathered people. One hundred Elders had been chosen to receive communion from the Pope and many were helped from their seats by friends and family. To the far side of the Pope's podium, an Elder held his tape recorder in front of giant loudspeakers so he could take the Pope's words home with him.

Following mass, the Pope said some final words to the crowd and stepped toward his waiting limousine as the crowd surged forward to get a last glimpse. The yellowjacketed security staff, who had struggled all day to keep people from crowding in on the Pope, gave up. After spending a few more minutes with his audience, the Pope was whisked away to the airport on the first leg of his trip back to Rome. An hour after the Pope had left, only a few stragglers remained at the grassy Papal site. The rays of the sinking afternoon sun bounced off the snowy white canvas sides of the tipi podium. The tipi will stand for generations to come as a reminder of the day the faith of many people was renewed. The day when Yahtita -- the priest of priests, returned to fulfill his promise.

...will stand for generations

one wanted to shake his grasped the grizzled old



#### **TRADITIONAL SINGERS PLEASE DANCERS**

Dozens of people crowd together; each steps to the fast beat of the hand drummers as they sing the ancient Dogrib songs. The fire flickers across the excited faces as they laugh and sing along with the song. This is the traditional tea-dance, one of the strongest traditions of the people of northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Assumption Elder Alphonse SchaSees watched the dancing and spoke of the significance of this special celebration. Through an interpreter SchaSees said that some of the tea-dances have religious significance although he felt this aspect was dying among many northern Natives. "But it is alive in Assumption," he says.

A religious tea-dance is celebrated about three times a year in Assumption, usually in April, August and October, but they can be held more often if necessary.

The dances are a prayer to the Almighty -- a prayer of thanks. Tobacco is thrown onto the fire as an offering

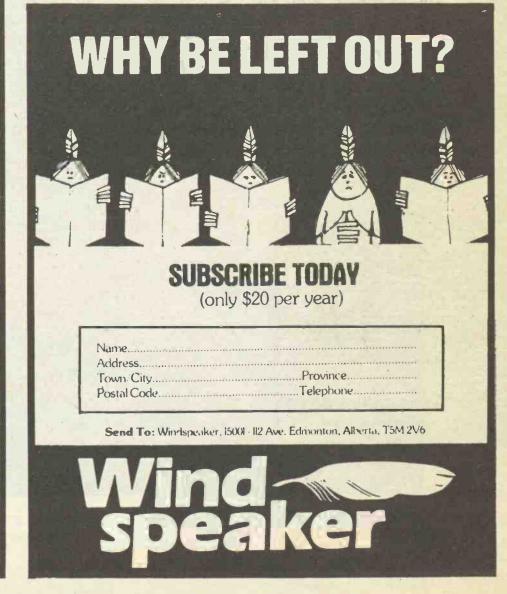
for help from the Almighty. The fire burns the offering, sending it into the air.

The songs are also very special. They come to the singers in dreams and are very religious. The song the dreamer hears must be sung at the next tea-dance, but if he cannot be at the dance, the song can be offered for him by other singers.

However, SchaSees fears that the religious significance of the tea-dances may be dying in the Northwest Territories as he felt the Fort Simpson celebrations lacked the true religious prayer he sees at Assumption.

"Many of the Dogribs have lost something...something of the ceremony passed them by," he says sadly.

Drummers from Fort Rae sang and drummed songs for a crowd of approximately 500 the night before the Pope arrived. Before each song the drummers warmed their drums on the open fire to improve the sound.





## SPECIAL FEATURE: Pope John Paul II's Visit to Fort Simpson

# Priest claims old and new religions are the same

#### **By Lesley Crossingham**

God's teachings were sent to Native people long before the first European settlers landed in North America, says an Ojibway priest, Father John Hascall.

"People talk about the old way and the new ways as if there were two, but all is one," he says.

As a chill breeze ruffled the golden leaves on the trees lining the banks of the McKenzie River, Father Hascall, dressed only in a short-sleeved shirt and trousers, spoke of his faith and ministry to Native people.

"I travel all over," he smiled. "Right now I am based in Montana, but I also visit northern communities."

He strongly defends his use of traditional Native religious items in his church ceremonies, maintaining the bundles, the drum and the pipe are as important to Natives as incense, candles and hymns are to non-Natives.

"These ceremonies bring out the love in our Native people; the love of their Native ways and traditions. It is the right thing to do...it is powerful," he says.

Father Hascall describes

# **Celibacy blocks** path to priesthood

When a priest is ordained he must take four vows including the vow of chastity and it is this vow that keeps so many Native people away from the ministry, says Father Cliff Sinclair.

"It has been our tradition for many years to raise a family," he says, adding that the vows of poverty. perseverance and obedience



FR. CLIFF SINCLAIR

how the bundle is opened before the congregation during Eucharist and how his church recognizes Native traditions such as puberty rites, coming of age rites and vision quests. "They are all part of our Catholic life," he says.

However, although Father Hascall is now devoted to the church, he admits he once questioned the teachings and the ways of the church. He felt the calling of the church was in conflict with his Native background as a member of the White Crane clan of the Ojibway nation, with its emphasis on family life, marriage and children.

"For three years I was in darkness. I searched and searched for the answer ...then I had a vision," he says, his head bowed and his eyes misting over with the memory of his quest. "Then I had another vision ... God answered my prayers."

Father Hascall won't talk about his visions, but says they pointed to the path he now follows, and he is content. However, he feels that the church must allow Native priests to marry because of the importance of the family to Native people.

"It will come ... eventually," he says. "The church will realize that his teaching goes against our heritage and it is very difficult for our people to leave that aside. I am praying for the day married priests can be ordained," he says.

Father Hascall is also aware of the criticism laid against the Catholic church over the mistreatment of Native people by Catholic missionaries.

"You have to remember the church was itself in a crisis in those days, many feared Christianity itself would die out. Of course, a lot of bad things happened, but we as Native people must find it within us to forgive; it is the Native way," he smiles.

As the priest quietly looks out across the choppy McKanzie River, he is greeted by dozens of Elders and old friends. He



#### **FR. JOHN HASCALL** ...all is one

gives each a long bear-hug and talks about old times.

One Inuit Elder, Elizabeth Yakeneya, grabs him by the hand, lands a big kiss on his ruddy cheek and tells him how excited she is to see the Pope.

"You see," he turns and winks. "This is the answer to all our questions. This is why I am here and you are here. This is where we renew ourselves and bathe in the faith and the strength of our Elders."

# Young people must accept Elders' values

are part of the Native tradition.

Sinclair says he has ance, especially in his ministries in Fort Vermilion and Canoe Lake in Saskatchewan where he is presently situated.

The atmosphere at the small community is a constant family feeling and the people "will give you the shirt off their back to help out."

Sinclair was Metis-born and raised in a family of 10 sisters and four brothers in the Slave Lake area; he is also the brother of former MAA president Sam Sinclair.

#### ...four vows

Before entering the needed his vow of persever- ministry he was a forest radio operator -- working with brother Sam. He also worked for the Slave Lake Friendship Centre as a milti-cultural instructor as well as teaching Cree at a local school.

In 1979 he entered the Kisemanito Centre where Native people train for the priesthood. After five years at the centre he was placed in Fort Vermilion before moving to Canoe Lake.

Sinclair was very excited about the Pope's visit and felt his trip had been worthwhile.

#### **By Irene Willier**

Native priests must adhere to the vow of celibacy but it is an obstacle for the Native community according to Father Guy Lavallee.

Although the road is long, it is important that Native people work within the church to try to right the inequalities and struggles of Aboriginal people, he adds.

Young Native people have a lot to learn from their Elders and must be open to accept the values and the teachings of their betters because these basic

truths are what the Elders hold dear to their hearts, he said.

"Native people today have within themselves the human resources to give expression to their faith according to their cultural framework and world views," he said.

Father Lavallee is a 47year old "full blooded Metis" from St. Laurent, Manitoba and is currently studying for his masters degree in anthropology at the University of British Columbia. He is the youngest of 14 children and although his parents spoke Saulteaux they never

taught their children the language.

Lavallee has been involved in community development, is a founding member of the Manitoba Metis Federation of the Native Council of Canada and was involved in the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood. His other accomplishments include such achievements as acting as a fund raiser for the World Council of Indigenous People and a social worker with the National Indian Brotherhood.

The priest has also worked with many Native



#### **FR. GUY LAVALLEE** ... celebacy vital

people in communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

# SPEAKING OUT... "What did you think of the Pope's visit?"



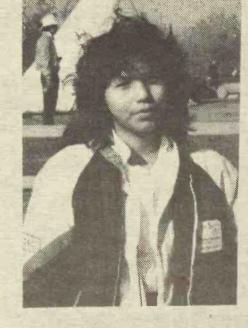
Elsie Ladouceur, 55, Fort Chipweyan, AB, housewife. Cree: "Really great. This is once in a lifetime thing. I was glad I was chosen to read in Cree during the ceremony."



George Poitras, 24, Fort Chipewyan, AB, **Housing** Program Assistant, Cree: "It was excellent. Because I worked as an usher I got close to the Pope. It was a very exhilarating feeling. It's a trip I'll never forget."

Francis Williah, 54. Fort Rae, N.W.T., **Forestry Worker:** "I feel good about it."

Alex Kappo, 82, Yellowknife, N.W.T., retired: "It's good. This is my first time to see him."



Wendy Martel, 13, High Level, Grade 6: "It's good. I've been waiting for this moment for quite awhile."



Carolyn Danais, 17. Chateh, AB, Grade 10: "I've never seen the Pope before. I'm only 50 yards away from him!"



#### PAGE 14, September 25, 1987, WINDSPEAKER



#### **By Mark McCallum**

When Ernie John lived in the inner city, he often visited the Bissell Centre for food, shelter but, most of all, friendship.

Although John doesn't live in Edmonton's downtown area anymore, he still returns to the centre when he can.

"I come here lots of times for food," he says, adding he made the trip to the centre more often before he quit drinking five years ago. "And, I come visit my

friends," said John, refer-

ring to the staff who encouraged him to stop drinking. "A lot of times people get stuck, so I tell them to come here."

The Bissell Centre has been in operation since 1910. It's one of the oldest establishments delivering such a service, but it's keeping pace with the times.

"We're not handing out charity, we're helping people make positive changes. By avoiding the parent/ child relationship with clients, we hope they become independent and have some self-determination in their lives," explains Kathy McCurrach.

The centre offers a wide variety of services such as a food bank, day care, counselling and recreation programs. Funded mainly by United Way and the United Church of Canada, the centre gives people of all ages the opportunity to attend a camp at Moonlight Bay (west of Edmonton). McCurrach says if people can't afford the camp, the Bissell Centre or social services will take care of the fees. Camps run until the end of the summer.

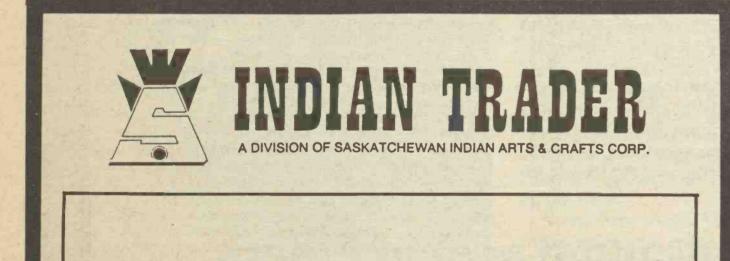
The 33 staff members and more than 400 volunteers operate a chain of programs, including a store, women's society and youth department.

McCurrach adds people like Ernie John are always welcome at the centre. "Our services are not limited to only the inner-city population because needing people can be found anywhere in Edmonton."

The Bissell Centre, situated at 9560 - 103A Avenue, serves sandwiches and coffee every morning. Call 423-2285 for more information. GUNSMITHS" GUNSMI

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# The Good Old Ways ...Working Today!

### Proud Moment For Alberta Indian Agricultural Development Corporation

A once in a lifetime, and without a doubt, a most envious award has been given the Alberta Indian Agricultural Development Corporation with the announcement they have been chosen to receive the Ivan Ahenakew Award.

Alberta Indian Agricultural Development Corporation

To be nominated and chosen by the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment from the numerous organizations dedicated to Native employment is an illustrious achievement in itself to be honored with the Saskatchewan Indian Agricultural Program.

In 1975, Ivan Ahenakew recognized the need for a coordinated effort to improve the employment of Native people. He, along with others developed the concept of the Interprovincial Association on Native Employment. Since the incorporation of IANE Inc. in 1977, the association has remained dedicated to bringing together of individuals who share his concern over native employr ient. Since Mr. Ahenakew's death in 1980, the IANE Inc. me nbership developed an award which symbolizes the need for concerted efforts to alleviate the unemployed and under mployment effecting Native people. This award is not restricted to association membership and may be granted by the Board of Directors to any organization, group or individual who have made a significant contribution to Native employment. AIADC was chosen in the main for the award for the 1987/88 Year because of their sincere contribution over the past five years to the development of agriculture on the reserves in Alberta. The high level of support given to individuals and band agriculture enterprises as well as many other community endeavors.

At the three day IANE Inc. convention, it was before this large group, the special award along with many voiced congratulations were handed out to the hard working and most deserving Directors and Staff of the AIADC.

Making the official presentation of the Ivan Ahenakew award were members of his family, Mrs. Lizette Ahenakew, daughters Gloria and Pat, son Alex and Grandson Trevor.

From the people of Western Canada, a well founded expression of sincere congratulations goes out to the Directors and Staff of AIADC on their excellent achievement. Because of their unselfish efforts towards the good of mankind, the eyes of the world have turned towards all the Indian people of Alberta and Canada.

AIADC working together with individuals, bands and industry to promote employment through agriculture supports the vision the great Mr. Ahenakew had when he said: "Support each other in developing harmony in the place of work, the places of living and in your recreational activities. Only when you learn to live together can you really be effective in working together."

#### **From Trapper To Rancher**

Trapping was the traditional source of income for David Auger, Bigstone Reserve at Wabasca-Desmarais, Alberta. During the early 1980's trapping became a very difficult way to earn a living.

David found it necessary to make changes in the way he made his living. To make such a decision and after a life time of trapping was not an easy decision to make, especially when living in a remote area where employment opportunities are far and few between.

After much consideration, David decided to try his hand at a Beef Production operation. Operating from a traditional land base with sufficient water, pasture and meadows which could be turned into production, David could see that he could support a small herd of beef cattle.

After deciding a cow/calf operation was a solid plan, David faced the next problem, how to get the money to buy cows. David

AIADC program supported by the Band, 10 pregnant cows were purchased.

David's work had just started as cattle shelters had to be enlarged, fences built, hay put up for the winter. By Fall of 1985, David's cattle operation was well organized and ready for the winter. During the summer, it was exciting to see David put up hay the traditional way using horse power, a team pulled his implements, a horse drawn mower and rake along with horse drawn hay rack. David could be seen in the hay meadows during the summer mowing, raking, spiking and stacking hay for the long cold winter.

With sufficient feed and tender loving care David had a 100% calving rate in 1985 and 1986. David's expansion plans are to keep his 1985 Heifers and breed them in the Spring of 1987.

AIADC Farm Advisor Gerald Hanington has provided continuing extension services to David. Gerald has given advice on feeding practices to winter the herd, calving practices, fly and insect control, etc.

#### Nicaragua Farmers Progress With AIADC Advisor

Marlin Johnson, AIADC Farm Advisor took a 6 week leave of absence from his job at St. Paul to work with Nicaragua Farmers. Marlin joined Oxfam Canada's Farmer Brigade to serve a Farmers Co-op farm near the village of Pueblo Nuevo. There was a revolution in 1979 and because of the ongoing war the people were sent to the area to establish a co-op farm. The people are of mixed ancestry of Spanish, Indian and Caribbean.

Marlin served the Nicaragua farmers through the volunteer organization which aims to improve the farm mechanical technology of the average and beginning farmers of this under privileged country.

Marlin states their goal was to teach preventative Maintenance procedures to the farmers. Training for some people is to start from scratch, while others had some training, but still lacking most of the basic mechanical knowledge. It's hard for them because they didn't grow up with mechanical things like trucks and tractors which are common place to any one in Canada. There are many people that only worked with oxen and horses and were now trying to learn how to operate tractors and stationary motors. So even starting a motor is a problem. Most of the cropping, planting and harvesting is done with machete and by hand. Fertilizer is used and is worked in by hand or foot.

Because of the war against the Contra Revolutionary Army over 60% of the national Budget goes towards the war effort. This presents serious problems for the farmers since there is limited supply of parts and tools. Any tools or parts obtained by the farmers must be paid for, even if the payment is small, it is the wish of the government to avoid a "give me" attitude. Tools are hard to come by. Johnson left his set of wrenches with a farmer who had two tractors to care for but had only one wrench to do repairs. The USA has placed a trade embargo on the country which prevents USA made replacement parts being shipped to this country which further complicates a farming operation.

The crops grown for export and food for themselves in a prime Agriculture industry include, coffee, cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, beef, and some fruits. The farmers' expertise in livestock and crops is limited. They do OK, but some major problems have developed since there is a lot of fungicides, herbicides and pesticides used.

The land is highly productive supporting 2 to 3 crops a year

learned about AIADC and approached the Treaty 8 Farm Advisor for help. It was known the Corporation was helping Status Indians to start farming and ranching on the northerm reserve lands. David's plan was reviewed by AIADC, the plan was sound and with some firm commitments, a way to get started was developed. The Farm Advisor prepared a complete operational plan to determine the need to develop land, purchase machinery, expand facilities and buy cattle. Under the

Gerald Hanington sums it up this way: "No! David Auger is not the largest Rancher in Alberta but he is an example to the residents on the Bigstone Reserve, that it can be done in Bigstone. Anyone with a desire to get into agriculture can benefit from AIADC agriculture programs."

#### Fairview College Prepares a Lady Agriculturist

Ms. Trisha Kay, Clear Hills Horse Lakes Band entered the class-room at Fairview College, March 1987, to join 16 other students to attend especially designed agriculture courses. AIADC in co-operation with Canada Employment and Fairview College presented 2 three week course to selected students in Management of a Cow/Calf Operation and Farm Machinery Operation and Maintenance.

Trisha Kay was involved in extensive class room instruction learning the theory of machinery operation. With her class mates they got practical experience with hands on experience, branding, vaccinating, ear-tagging and castration of calves.

Harry Oliver, Fairview College instructor comments, "Our young lady was a tiny bit nervous when she took over the controls of a New Holland Combine." However, when it came to operating other machines, servicing or performing minor repairs with safety precautions in mind, all these came second nature to her.

The College program organized and planned tours to successful mixed cattle and grain farms, auction market and the machinery dealers. During these tours the students had a great opportunity to visit and ask a large number of questions.

The College training teaches students to assume the function of agriculture managers. . . and this skill not only applies to technical skills but to be able to apply all the training to the actual farm operation.

The students summarize the course in the following manner "We would like to attend this type of training program again."

#### The Last Word "President's" Message

As President of the Alberta Indian Agricultural Development Corporation, I am pleased to provide you with the following report.

- A.I.A.D.C. undertook to prepare a submission to the NATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM seeking assistance to establish and capitalize an Alberta Indian Agricultural Loan Company.
- On February 6, 1987, the Honorable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of State Small Business and Tourism, advised our Corporation the application had been given Department approval subject to the terms and conditions offered by N.E.D.P.
- The terms and conditions of the capitalization are to establish a farm credit program to provide a \$3.3 million Guarantee Loan Fund and a \$3.7 million Direct Loan Component.
- A public corporation was set up for the Loan Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Alberta Indian Agricultural Development Corporation.
- A Board of Directors for the Loan Company was appointed by the Board of Directors of the A.I.A.D.C.
- Basic lending and monitoring policies are now being developed under sound guidelines to include a determination of eligibility criteria, security requirements and establishing working relationships with Financial Institutions.
- It is anticipated the Loan Company will meet all of N.E.D.P. operational criteria and should be operational by early 1988.
   The future is positive with your Corporation by bringing new and expanding opportunities to the Indian Agriculturists of Alberta.
   R. Clement Doore,

depending on the crop and whether or not irrigation is used. Crops grow quick in the heat an example is Taiwan grass grows 7 to 9 feet tall in less than 45 days.

Marlin states these friendly hard working people are dedicated to make a life for themselves despite the war and a bitter revolution. The people live a very simple life and have few material possessions but are always willing to share what little they have. Marlin lived in the village and lived on the standard Nicaraguan diet of beans, rice and tortillas.

Marketing crops is a problem for the present Government. The system in place has the farmer bringing the crop to be marketed to ENCAFE, an agency that sells internationally, a system very similar to a farmer in Canada taking a load of grain to their local elevator and selling it to Canada Wheat Board. Transportation is the major problem getting the goods to a road for some and using the slow travelling roads with not enough vehicles to get the production to the major ports.

The main thing on the minds of an average Nicaraguan farmer is to achieve peace and carry on with their experiment in developing agriculture in their country. There have been a lot of lives and property lost during the revolution and with the Sandinista-Contra War, the people hope to carry on with the land reform allowing more people to make their livelyhood from their own land. The plans are to improve health care, by carrying on with the immunization program.

The Nicaraguans' are providing basic education to children and adults in areas that never received any schooling before now. Many people are learning to read, write and do mathematics and higher technical education is beginning.

Marlin states: "Considering the obstacles facing their challenge, they have set some high goals for themselves. These goals are accepted as rights to many of us. The war will slow the progress but I am sure they will succeed. I have never before experienced the determination I saw with these people."

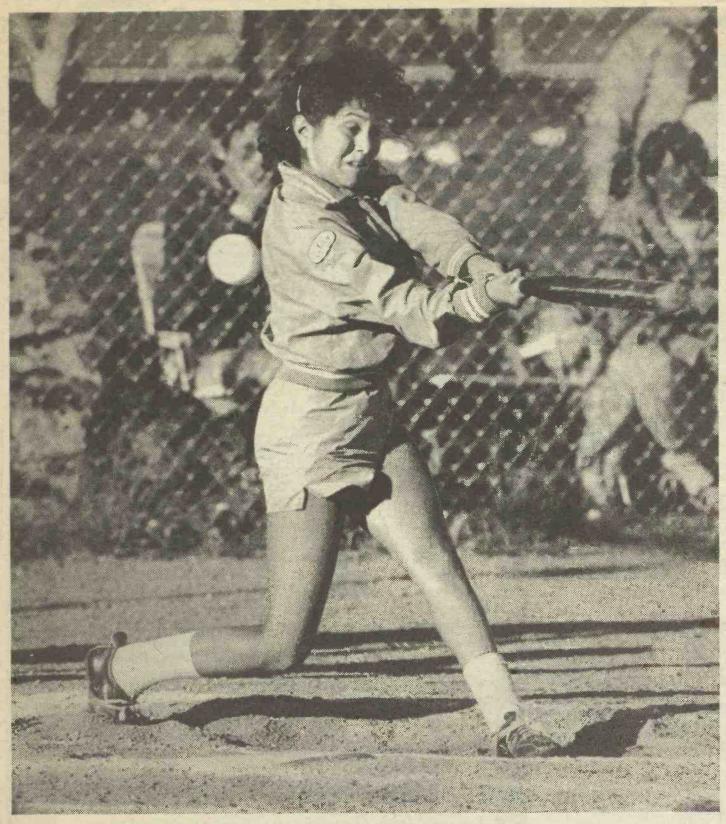
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PAGE 16, September 25, 1987, WINDSPEAKER



ILENE FROM VANCOUVER ...Ilene strikes out in losing effort

Sports

# Women athletes vie for top honors

#### **By Mark McCallum**

They do it for the "pride and prestige." There's no cash involved.

The NIAA (Native Indian Athletic Association) Women's Fastball Championships attracts "top calibre ball players from across the country," says 15 year veteran Lorna Arcand. "And, the trophy doesn't even matter. It's just knowing you're the best in North America."

Arcand attended her tenth NIAA championship in September at Hobbema and noted the game, its players and coaches have improved greatly. "The girls hit harder, run faster and throw bullets," said the 33-year-old Prince Albert

Royals infield regular.

Some of the best "girls of summer" play for the CNFC (Canadian Native Friendship Centre) ball club, a team packed full of "pride and prestige."

The CNFC soft ball team toppled' all of the competition at the 11th annual NIAA showdown. CNFC beat a Vancouver North Shore ball club by a score of 8 - 2 in the final game. The team's coach Gordon Russell says the reason for their success was the return of four and five year veterans. The team placed tops in NIAA honors four times in the past seven years, finishing second out of last year's Oklahoma

"top dogs."

Russell expects much of the same next year because veterans will be returning. Joining the team's line-up is some good talent, explains Russell, "players we've been breaking in this year."

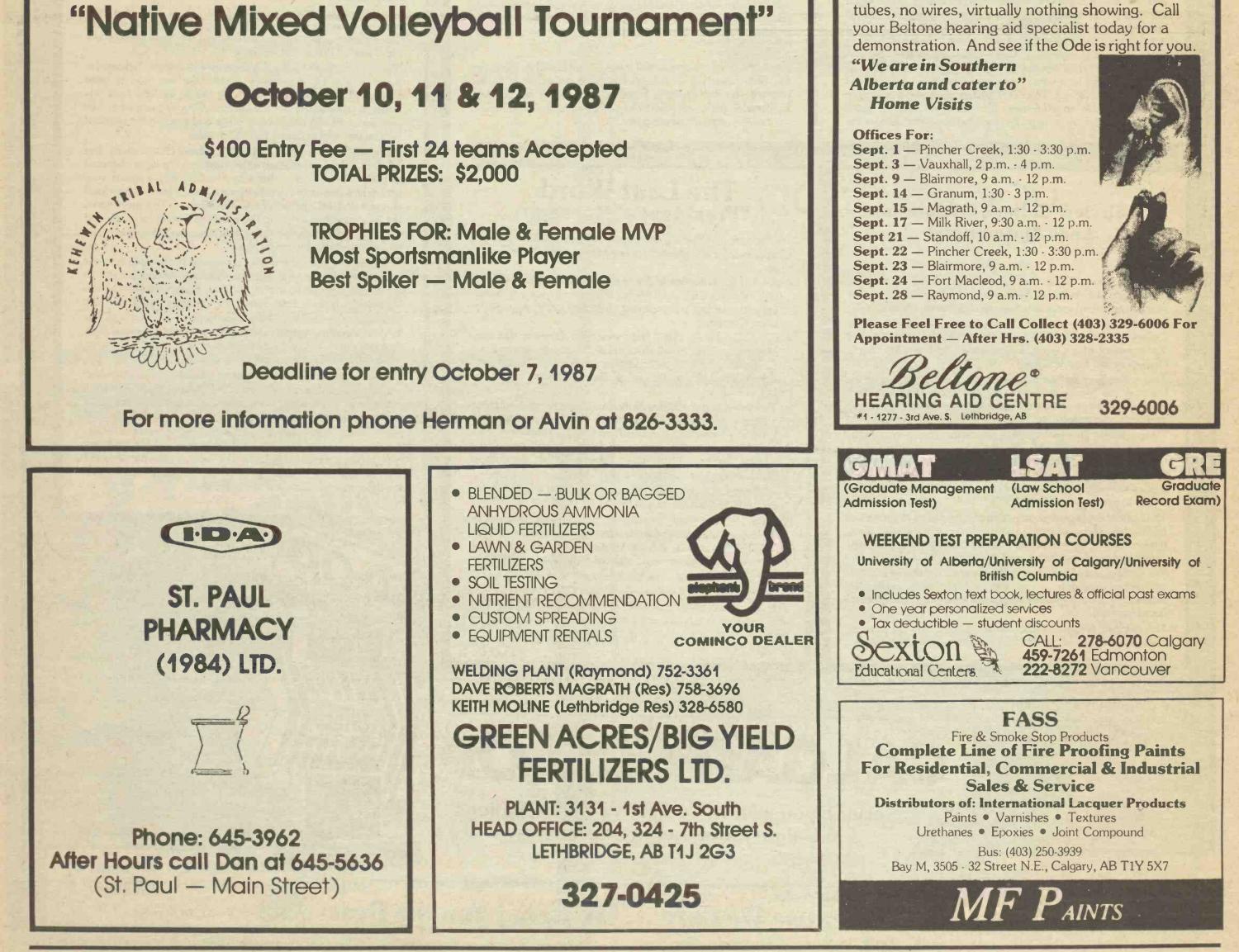
The team's improvements don't stop there, however, because they've already received calls from players in other provinces who want to try-out. There's only so many spots available, so players will have to prove themselves in April when training camp opens.

The NIAA championships will be decided next year in California, where Russell is confident his team will successfully defend its title.

#### Beltone's New Ode is changing the way people feel about Hearing Aids.

If one of the reasons why you've put off getting a hearing aid is size, then you must see and try Beltone's new Ode, a canal aid. There are no tubes, no wires, virtually nothing showing. Call

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Did you notice the new picture and name just above? That's me, Kim McLain, the new writer for Sports Roundup. Let me introduce myself to you.

First of all, I have a massive background in the sports field. I am a graduate of the Yorkton School of Sports Writing, have a doctorate in Sports Psychology and wrote a 450-page thesis entitled The American Indian and Sports. And finally, I'm pulling your leg.

But honestly, I did do some boxing and hockey when I was a kid. I learned how to skate at the Grouard skating rink just next to the AVC. I couldn't skate very well (always on the inside of my ankles) so they always stuck me in goal. But that didn't work out too well either -- one night they had to cancel the game because I got my tongue stuck to the crossbar.

Didn't have much more luck with boxing either. Never got a bloody nose or knocked out, but the ligament on my jaw got stretched from being hit so much. Now when I yawn my mouth gets stuck open and I have to pull my jaw out and down to close my mouth -- really embarrassing.

And that's about it for my sports career, other than the odd volleyball game, golf, baseball, mud-wrestling, etc.

Okay, now that the introductions are over let's get on to your community sports events. Just a word of warning though, most of Alberta is in the middle of that change-over from summer to winter sports -- meaning the sports scene is kind of dead. But anyways, there is still some great things happening around Indian country.

PEACE RIVER: Lot of things happening here.

Any readers aged 12 - 17 are invited to youth

# **'Last chance' rodeo** set for Morley

recreation night every Wednesday from 4 - 6 p.m. The free drop-in is at the Al "Boomer" Adair Peace River Recreation Centre. Sounds like a great opportunity for Peace Country teenagers to meet over a game of volleyball or raquetball, etc.

There's a couple of clinics, too. One is a speedskating clinic to be held Oct. 16, which by the way, is a school holiday. The clinic will be held at the Kinsmen Arena Complex.

The other clinic is for wrestling to be held Nov. 11 at the Glen Mary school. To register for these clinics contact Kathy at Peace River Community Services, 624-1000.

# **PAUL BAND:** Old hockey players don't fade away, they just join the Alberta Major Senior Teams League.

The Paul Band is putting together a team for the league called the Blackhawks. They're joining the three year old league to compete against Stony Plain, Leduc, Mundare, Fort McMurray and the Alexis Band. The league was started because hockey players too old for the juniors had nowhere to play. According to rec director Alex Belcourt the league is "the next best thing to playing college or pro hockey."

We'll keep you up to date on that league's standings once they start their season. Sounds like some highcalibre hockey talent.

#### **INDIAN RODEO COWBOY ASSOCIATION:**

Indian rodeo season is just about over -- one more rodeo for the 1987 season aptly titled The Last Chance Rodeo this Sept. 25 - 27 weekend at Morley. Winners in the various categories at that rodeo plus the cowboys/cowgirls with the most money won during this year's circuit will advance to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the National Indian Rodeo Finals to be held in early October. Some cowboys have a guaranteed spot at the nationals, like Collin Willier from Sucker Creek. He's runaway with the bullriding championship with \$5,531 earning this year, he's four thousand dollars ahead of the next contender. Collin, in his early twenties, is a bullriding phenomenom. Last year was his first season and he won that too. He's placed in almost every bullriding event this year and that's almost unheard of these days. We'll be rootin' fer ya at the nationals.

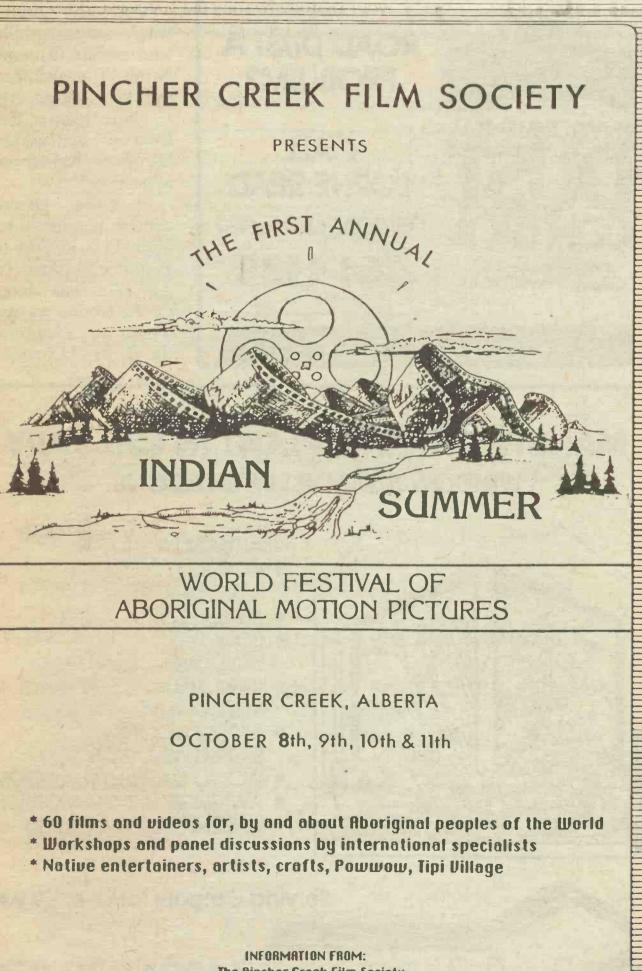
And still out in front for bareback bronc riding is Bill T. Head with \$3,873 winnings this year. In saddlebronc, Louis Littlebear has the top spot with \$2,584. David Shade is holding on to the steerwrestling title with \$2,962. Hobbema's Carter Yellowbird has team roped himself \$2,713 and number one position.

Big battle going on in senior barrel racing between Loretta Lefthand and 13-year-old Chantelle Daychief. Right now Loretta is out in front with \$6,050 but Chantelle is just behind by a nose with \$6,019.

The ole pro is back and calf-roping will never be the same. You'll never guess who came in halfway through the season and roped himself first place and \$3,827 --Jim Gladstone. He was the 1977 World Calf Roping Champion and I guess he just couldn't stand by and watch anymore, now he's showing the young fellers how it's done.

A special thanks to Monica Wilson who kindly provided me with all the IRCA standings. Windspeaker will call her next week to get the Last Chance Rodeo results -- then we'll know who's going to the nationals.

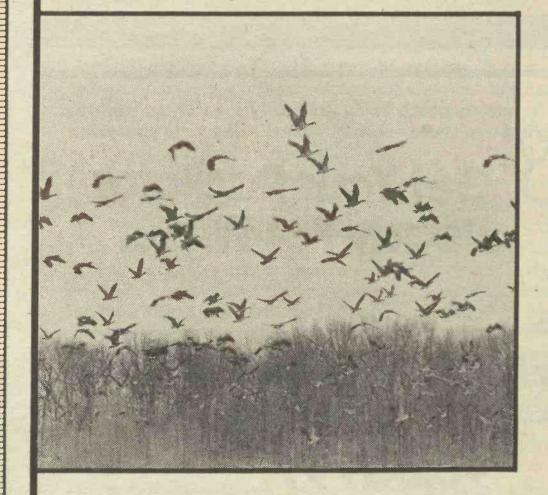
But we'll have to wait until next week -- this is all the space I have. Feel free to drop me a line about any community sports event in and around your area and I'll do my best to get it published. The Windspeaker number is 455-2700. Looking forward to next week, catch ya later.



INFORMATION FROM: The Pincher Creek Film Society P.O. Box 2800, Pincher Creek Alberta, TOK 1W0 Phone (403) 627-4813 NISTAWOYOU FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 8310 Manning Avenue Fort McMurray, Alberta 19H 1W1 (403) 743-8555



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## JOB OPPORTUNITY

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Duties:** Responsible for supervision staff preparation and monitoring of budgets, program development and proposal submissions.

Qualifications: Appropriate level of education administrative experience and knowledge of proposal writing and funding sources.

#### Inquiries and resumes to:

**Pat Cavanagh High Level Native Firendship Centre Box 1735 High Level**, AB **TOH 1Z0** 926-3355



# Metis mayor steps down to pursue new career

#### **By Terry Lusty**

After living 24 years in High Prairie, the man who has been the mayor there for the last 16 years, is moving to Edmonton.

Fred Dumont, a Metis born at Girouxville in northern Alberta, has been named chief executive officer of the Alberta Electric Marketing Agency. He will oversee offices in Edmonton, Lethbridge and other locations in the province.

He leaves behind him 35 years of dedicated service to the education field, but says he looks forward to the change from "education to kilowatts." The admin-

#### Development Council.

In the latter 70s, he was responsible for the development of a mechanism, Education North, to involve parents in the school system but continuation after 1982 was stymied due to provincial austerity measures.

Over the past eight years, Dumont filled the role of president for the Alberta Vocational Centre (AVC) at Grouard. Two items specifically addressed by him were the limited number of available courses and "very little commitment on the part of the clients," explained Dumont.

The program increased from two basic ones -- basic

perceives his involvement with AVC as his "greatest accomplishment." However, the restructuring of Northland School Division No. 61 (NSD) "was a Herculean task," as well, according to Dumont.

Some of the priorities within the division was to establish good facilities, develop curriculum resources and to reduce the dropout rate of Native students. All were accomplished.

In reflecting on his 35 years in the field of education, Dumont says that the only real change he would have made if he were able to do it all over again would be to rush the idea of





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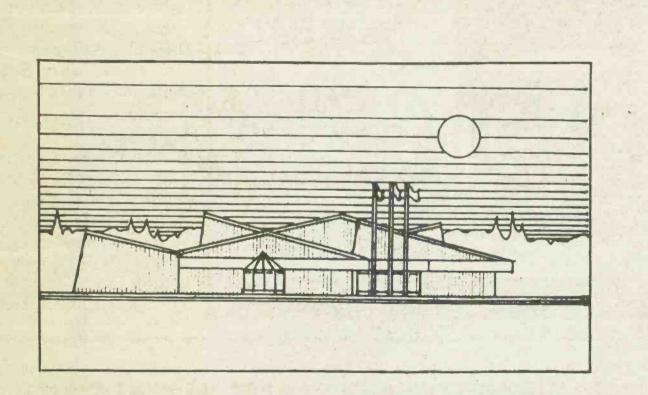
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wish to express thanks to the Dene Tha Band in Assumption, Alberta for selecting our firm to design the exterior renovations to their school.

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Ferguson Simek Clark congratulates the Dene Tha Band in completing another successful project that will serve to enhance their community.



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#### **Executive Co-ordinator** OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CO-ORDINATOR SHOT ON BOTH SIDES BUILDING STANDOFF, ALBERTA

**Job Summary:** Under the general direction of Chief and Council, the senior position co-ordinates, facilitates, and monitors the financial and administrative affairs of the Blood Tribe Departments, and Corporate Legal Entities. This includes overseeing the Band Budget Process, Policy Formulation and Implementation, ensures that the Band Banking Transactions are in order, and further ensures that there is always a sufficient cash flow to maintain Band operations. Serves as liaison between Chief and Council and Directors, outside organizations, and the BAnd membership at large. Submits reports of all related matters on an ongoing basis to Chief and Council. Will have direct supervision over two positions and the functional direction over all Program Directors. Represents Chief and Council at various meetings when required. Negotiates Audit Fees with the External Auditors.

**Duties include:** Must have knowledge of the Band Process, Financial Audit functions appropriate to Tribal Government organizations, and the Department of Indian Affairs. Must have a sound understanding of Accounting Procedures. Must be able to read and write in an effective manner. Must be able to prepare written proposals, submissions, B.C.R.'s, reports and budgets. Must be able to deal with the public and external business agencies in a tactful and diplomatic manner. Must be able to supervise and direct effectively. Must have the ability to administrate, co-ordinate plans, negotiate, develop, implement and evaluate programs for effectiveness by following Financial Policy and other Policies and Procedures. Must be able to travel for business and training. Must have a sound knowledge of provisions of various Acts and their effect on the band. Must be able to understand the needs of the band community. Must be able to supervise staff. An ability to speak and understand the Blackfoot language and culture would be an asset.

**Basic Qualifications:** Must have post-secondary education in the areas of management. Financial control and tribal development or equivalent experience relating to education requirements. Must have three to five (3 - 5) years extensive experience in the area of Tribal Management and Development.

Deadline for applications: September 30, 1987.

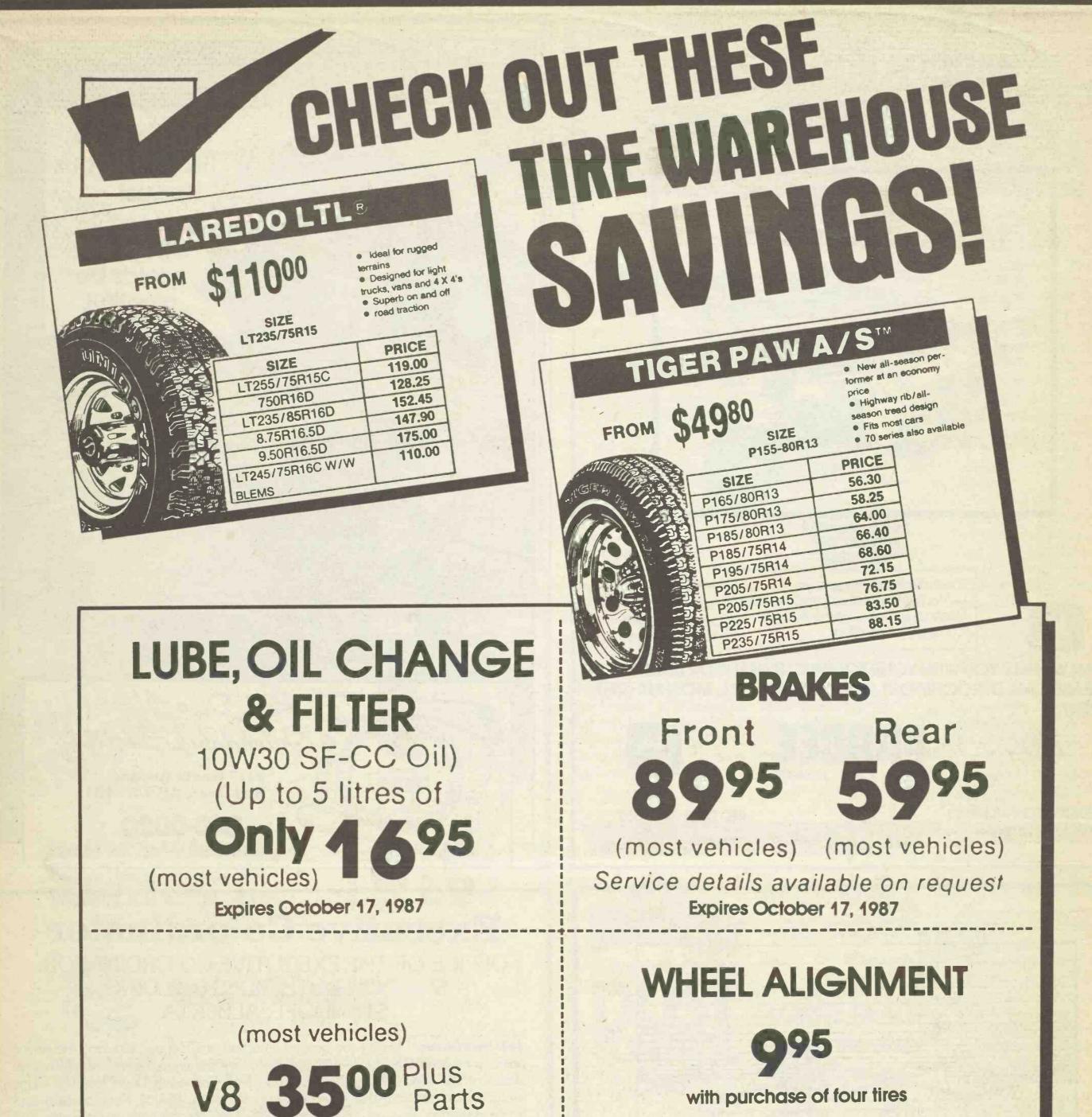
Submit applications and resumes to: Blood Tribe Personnel Dept.

c/o Fred Weasel Fat Box 60 Standoff, AB TOL 1Y0

Mark applications "Personal & Confidential."



PAGE 20, September 25, 1987, WINDSPEAKER



with purchase of four tires

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Expires October 17, 1987

