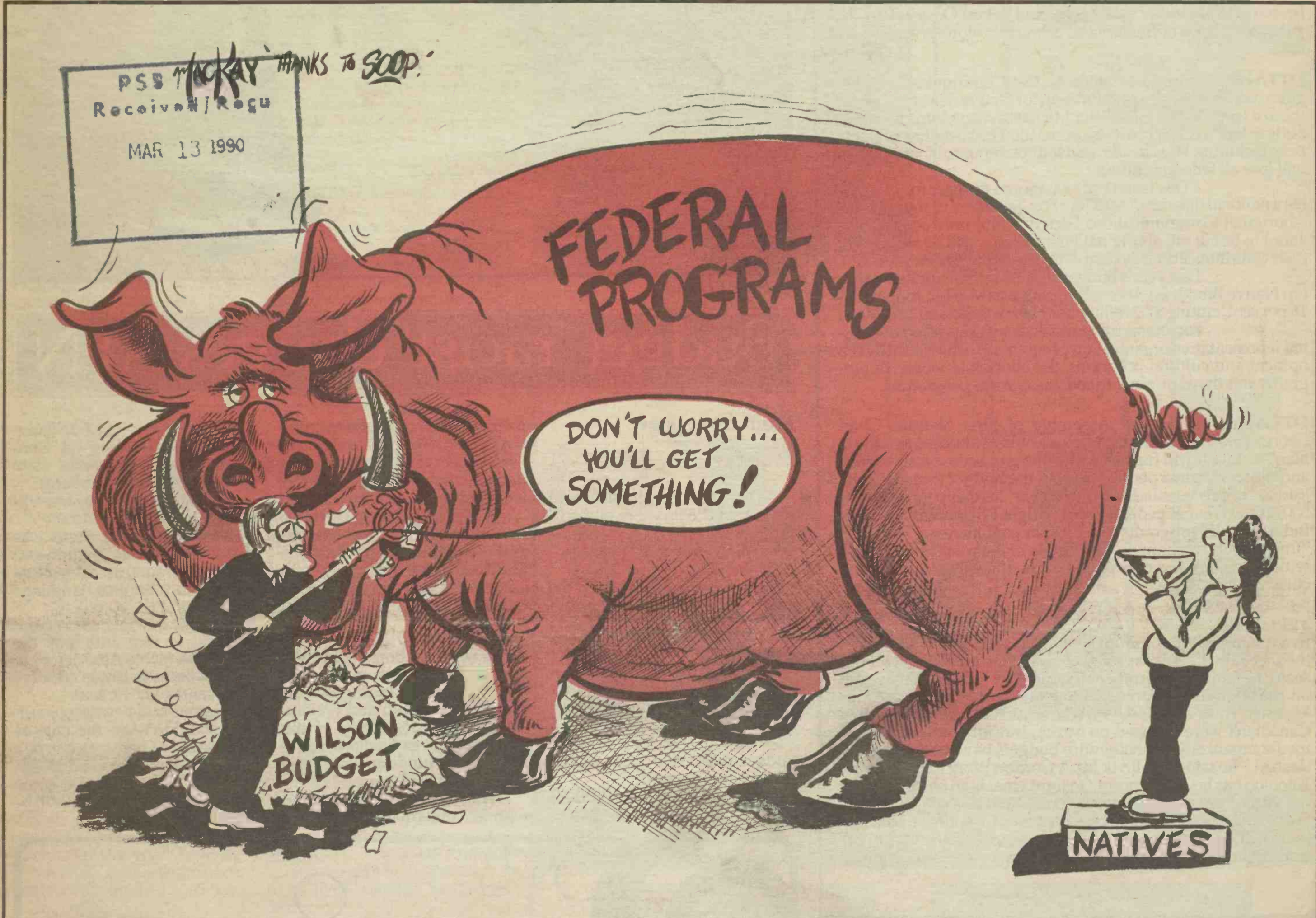


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INSIDE
SPECIAL
BUDGET
EDITION

Wind
speaker

March 2, 1990 North America's No.1 Native Weekly Newspaper Volume 7 No. 51



Budget 'racist' charges AFN

Violence could follow, hints Erasmus

By Dana Wagg and
By John Holman
Windspeaker Staff Writers

OTTAWA

Georges Erasmus has struck back at the minister of secretary of state calling him an "absolute racist." The national chief of the Assembly of First Nations is also hinting the recent federal budget may lead to violence by Native young people.

"What do they have to lose when our people are being told across the country they don't have a distinct society and their languages are not worth protecting? The government is cutting off all the political organizations. They're cutting off the communications societies. We're being told we don't matter, that we don't count," said Erasmus in an interview.

The younger generation will respond in the only way left to them, he said. They will demonstrate, march in the streets and

hold office sit-ins, but it "could get a lot worse than that."

"It's very likely our young people will take things into their hands. We will get organizations that are not listening to a moderate, elected leadership or to the elders," Erasmus maintained.

"I'm just wondering if that is what this government is after. Maybe they're trying to discredit the Native movement by doing that," he suggested.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was one of more than three dozen Native organizations to lose all federal funding, because of budget cutbacks by secretary of state.

"There's a very racist process underway," said Erasmus in a national news conference with Native news media. "The cuts can clearly be called what they are."

"They've gone to certain parts of their budget and taken a cleaver and just butchered it and left other parts completely intact. We're calling what they're doing

racist, because they're virtually picking on everyone else except the French," he said. "Our institutions are open to being cut and the French institutions are not."

He said secretary of state officials singled out Native organizations by chopping \$9 million from their budgets, more than one-third of the \$23 million cut by the department.

Erasmus charged that Secretary of State Minister Gerry Weiner was an "absolute racist" and had asked Native people to carry a much higher burden of budget cuts than other people in Canada.

"This was the first minister, who focused virtually on Native people and the multicultural community. He hasn't had the balls to do it (make cuts) across the board," he said.

Erasmus said while the cuts to Native organizations and newspapers will weaken the political position of aboriginal people, it will strengthen their "political resolve."

Native groups have channelled the energy and vitality of the younger generations "into moderation, into non-violence, into very peaceful protests," he said.

With those mechanisms gone or disappearing, the full power of the youth will be unleashed when they realize they're dealing with an insensitive government, he said.

"There will be an increase in Native militancy amongst the Native people," said Erasmus.

But a national AFN strategy for a massive Canada-wide campaign to overturn the cuts should prevent that, he said.

If Native political and media groups fall, the political state of aboriginal people would return to that of the late 1960s, he said, "when we didn't have organizations that could represent our Indian government."

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Con't page 2

Budget Briefs

OTTAWA — *Windspeaker* has learned federal restraint will cost Treaty Indians \$100 million over the next two years. There'll be restraint in the areas of welfare, economic development, capital facilities and band management, which will get \$50 million less in 1990 than had been expected, said John Murray, assistant deputy minister of finance with Indian Affairs. Belt tightening will cost Treaty Indians a similar amount next year.

"Our budget for Native people is roughly \$2.4 billion. That's an increase of \$180 million," said Murray, noting however Ottawa had earlier planned to increase the budget by \$230 million. "So it's not a cut, it's a lessening of an increase."

The impacts on Alberta Indian programs will not be known for another two weeks, said Albert Oostendorp, the Alberta director of finance and administration for Indian Affairs.

OTTAWA — The \$3.4 million Native Communications Program, which provides core funding for Native newspapers, got the axe when Finance Minister Michael Wilson introduced his budget last week. The decision means 11 aboriginal newspapers, including *Windspeaker*, and four communications societies will lose all federal funding.

"This is not only a national disaster for Natives, it's a national disgrace," said Ray Fox, president of the National Aboriginal Communications Society. "Not only are 100 jobs about to be cut off, aboriginal First Nations will be stripped of their communications system. Our voices have been silenced."

Last year's budget of \$13.2 million for the Northern Native Broadcast Access Program was also hit, reduced by 16 per cent, cutting \$2.2 million for Native radio and television.

Secretary of state budget cuts also affect aboriginal representative organization programs, Native social development and cultural programs, the aboriginal women's programs and the aboriginal friendship centres programs.

OTTAWA — National Assembly of First Nations Chief Georges Erasmus slammed Michael Wilson's budget as "draconian" saying it will further widen the gap between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people. He said the budget measures will lead to "unprecedented and intolerable" hardship for Canada's 500,000 aboriginal people. In his budget Wilson limited some Indian Affairs programs to a five per cent increase. Wilson is "treating First Nations as if we're one of the wealthy provinces with a large tax and economic base to offset federal spending cuts," said Erasmus.

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT — The Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly has come out swinging in support of aboriginal media cut by Ottawa in last week's federal budget. "It would seem the federal government has directed its budgetary wrath on the aboriginal people of Canada," said Communications Minister Titus Allooloo. "Programs affecting non-aboriginal Canadians were reduced or frozen, but for some aboriginal media organizations their entire budgets have been viciously slashed," he said. Kivallivik MLA Gordon Wray told the house Allooloo has his full support "to fight what is an obscene act on the part of the federal government." Two newspapers in the NWT could be forced to close, because of the cuts. Radio stations will also be forced to trim operations, because of a 16 per cent cut in the Northern Native Broadcast Access Program.

Alberta doesn't need AFN, says Louis

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

The president of the Indian Association of Alberta, whose past political decisions have caught the ire of provincial Native leaders, has come out in favor of disbanding Canada's top Indian political voice.

Roy Louis said Alberta Natives will not be affected by the financial squeeze facing the Assembly of First Nations, which stands to lose its federal money along with 29 other Indian organizations on July 1.

"The thing we have to realize is money isn't everything," Louis said in response to the announcement that secretary of state is slashing AFN funding.

"Certainly it's going to hamper them (AFN). But it's not going to disrupt Native unity."

The federal government recently announced it will be cut-

ting \$9.9 million in funding to Native organizations and communications groups as part of the attack on the country's deficit.

The IAA, whose funding has been cut by 15 per cent, can manage to represent its member bands without AFN involvement, Louis has suggested.

"I'm looking at Alberta and what we're doing here. Our treaties are strong," he said.

AFN national chief Georges Erasmus fears Native unity will be in jeopardy if political groups are forced out of business as a result of the budget cuts. But Louis believes Native organizations should concentrate on their own areas without national involvement.

"Community is the most important thing," said Louis, who is still getting the cold shoulder from Treaty 8 chiefs angered over his backing late last year of a \$1.3 billion pulp mill, which is proposed to be built near Athabasca.

The Budget



Georges Erasmus

File Photo

Budget 'racist' charges AFN

From front page

"There's no way in the world that in the 1990s we're going to go back to where we were 30 years ago, no way in your life," he maintained.

He ridiculed a decision by the government to leave \$13.5 million in the budget for Canada Day firecrackers and balloons untouched.

He said the decision to cut newspaper funding of \$3.5 million to Native newspapers, which he called "peanuts" in a \$2.3 billion secretary of state budget will leave print media "devastated," he said.

"This is also a tactic on their part to get rid of some of the

media, which gives them unfavorable coverage," he charged. "We're generally in a confrontation situation and Native media are generally more sympathetic."

AFN's entire \$562,000 budget from secretary of state was cut and the organization was given just three months grace. They're among 29 Native organizations facing the loss of core funding on July 1.

Erasmus said the AFN will not cease operations, because it also gets funding from six other departments including Indian Affairs and Health and Welfare Canada. But for many of the other treaty organizations, secretary of state funding was a large part of their budget.

"The minister had to come up with \$23 million (in reductions)

and there was a lot of deliberation before deciding on what areas," said secretary of state spokesman Len Westerberg.

Aboriginal people weren't singled out, he insisted.

Westerberg said there was also cuts in women's, youth and disabled programs as well as French and English language programs.

The only indigenous program that didn't face cuts was the Native Women's Association of Canada because it was "doubly disadvantaged," he said.

Erasmus said newspaper officials shouldn't see the cuts as irreversible. "There seems to be a fair amount of doom and gloom out there," he said. "Do some political lobbying and we'll be there with you."



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The Budget

Federal budget hits close to home Windspeaker lays off six people

EDMONTON

Finance Minister Michael Wilson's budget has hit close to home.

In the face of federal funding cutbacks, which have affected Native communications societies across Canada, *Windspeaker*, which has captured numerous North American newspaper awards, was forced this week to slash by half the number of staff positions.

Following a board meeting Thursday, Bert Crowfoot, general manager of the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (AMMSA), advised staff that 10 positions would be cut from a total of 20.

Four of the positions were vacant. The six staff people affected by the cutback were Karen Powless (receptionist), Susan St. Laurent (office manager), Josie Auger and John Holman (both of whom were reporters), Doreen Cardinal (administrative secretary) and Carol Russ (Director of Finance and Marketing).

Crowfoot said he regretted the loss of the jobs but said the organization had to look at things realistically and from a business point of view.

"We analyzed what positions were essential and then selected staff who could fulfill the job," stated Crowfoot. "It's unfortunate because the people we had to lay off are excellent and were very valuable to the organization. Carol Russ is one of the best financial individuals in Canada and will remain with the organization on a part-time basis.

"*Windspeaker* may have been knocked down, but we are definitely not out," stated Crowfoot, and the newspaper will continue to publish, but on a bi-weekly basis.

AMMSA had established a five-year goal of self-sufficiency three years ago and was on track for achieving that goal. Advertising revenue and subscription sales last year totalled \$360,000.

"The cutback forced us to deal

with self-sufficiency today instead of two years from now, so we have to change gears and meet the challenge.

"We have to be positive and look at this as an opportunity and the people selected to meet that challenge are the best people in the business," he said.

When asked about how the federal government cuts were administered, Crowfoot said "the cuts should have been handled in a more humane manner. We were given five weeks to deal with a 100 per cent cut in funding. The situation should have been handled like the Alberta government did. We were given six months notice the Alberta government was going to phase out funding for Native newspapers and that it was going to be done over a three-year period. Each year the funding was decreased by a third. We were able to adjust and make up the difference with advertising revenue. The Alberta government was there to offer any help or advice if we required it."

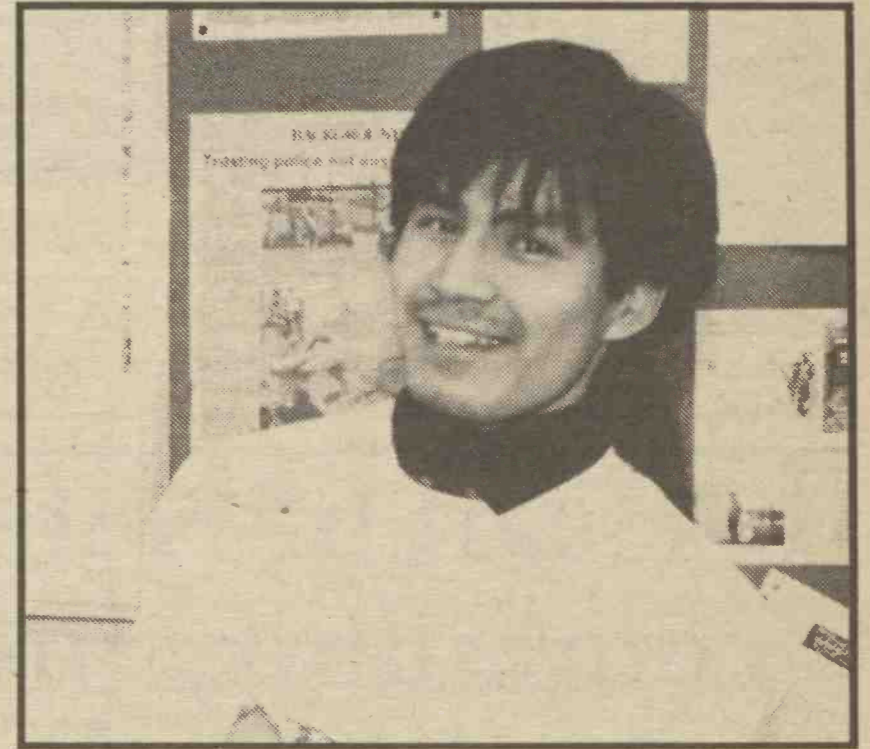
Crowfoot was also concerned about the decision to cut only certain programs. He felt that if \$23 million had to be cut from a \$3.5 billion budget, then the total cut to newspapers would be less than 1 per cent if the cut was made across the board.

"You wonder what the priorities of this government are when they cut certain programs 100 per cent and leave the official language and Canada Day celebration budgets intact. Are balloons and fireworks more important than people!"

On the radio side of the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta, the Native Perspective program was cut by 16 per cent or about \$77,000. There was only one position lost in the cut and the radio program will continue to broadcast 15 hours per week on CBC-TV. It also will continue to broadcast 24 hours per day on the CFWE satellite radio network.



Josie Auger



John Holman



Bert Crowfoot, right, being interviewed by a CBC-TV reporter.

Tina Wood, *Windspeaker*

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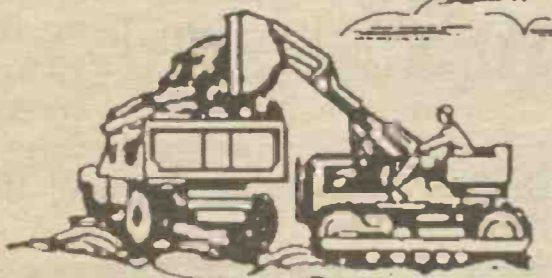


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Windspeaker

Windspeaker is published by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (AMMSA) each Friday to provide information primarily to Native people of northern Alberta. Windspeaker was established in 1983 and is politically independent. Indexed in the Canadian Magazine Index and indexed on-line in the Canadian Business & Current Affairs Database and Canadian Periodical Index. 35mm Microfilm: Micromedia, 158 Pearl St. Toronto, Ont M5H 1L3

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Bert Crowfoot
General Manager

Carol Russ
Finance Manager

Heart of Native community hit by brutal budget

The federal budget introduced last week should, if nothing else, unite Canada's aboriginal people from Newfoundland/Labrador to British Columbia.

It strikes at the heart of the very organizations, which lead them.

The budget, which was intended to quickly and painfully kill at least 40 Native organizations, should be fought with all the vigor that aboriginal people can muster.

For it intends to set back Canada's Native people by decades.

Secretary of State Minister Gerry Weiner approved cut-backs intended to destroy Native newspapers, radio stations and organizations like the Assembly of First Nations. What was most insidious was his government's suggestion grants to Native organizations were a cause of federal over-spending.

The deficit is a national problem Native and non-Native alike and Native organizations are more than willing to contribute their share in reducing that deficit.

The objection is the manner in which these cuts were administered. A \$23 million reduction in a 3.5 billion budget is less than one per cent across the board. Entire programs were slashed while balloon and firecracker budgets and official language programs remained untouched. What are the federal governments priorities! A good time and votes — or people?

With the country's most vocal special interest groups being forced out of business by the secretary of state, there arises an eerie feeling the tide is turning against the aboriginal people of Canada, who have poured blood, sweat and tears into the struggle for justice.

Canada has an atrocious track record in dealing with its aboriginal people and what better way to cover its tracks than to silence Native voices.

These officials will have fewer Native communications groups and leaders rallying other Natives to support the Lubicon in northern Alberta, the Innu in Labrador and the Teme-Augama in Ontario, who dare to stand up for their rights.

As Canada's aboriginal people rise up to claim what is theirs, they need communications to inform them as to what's happening in their communities and in other Native communities across the country.

They need communications to keep them up-to-date on the latest moves of the federal and provincial governments.

They also need communications to praise them when encouragement is required and to criticize them when that's in order.

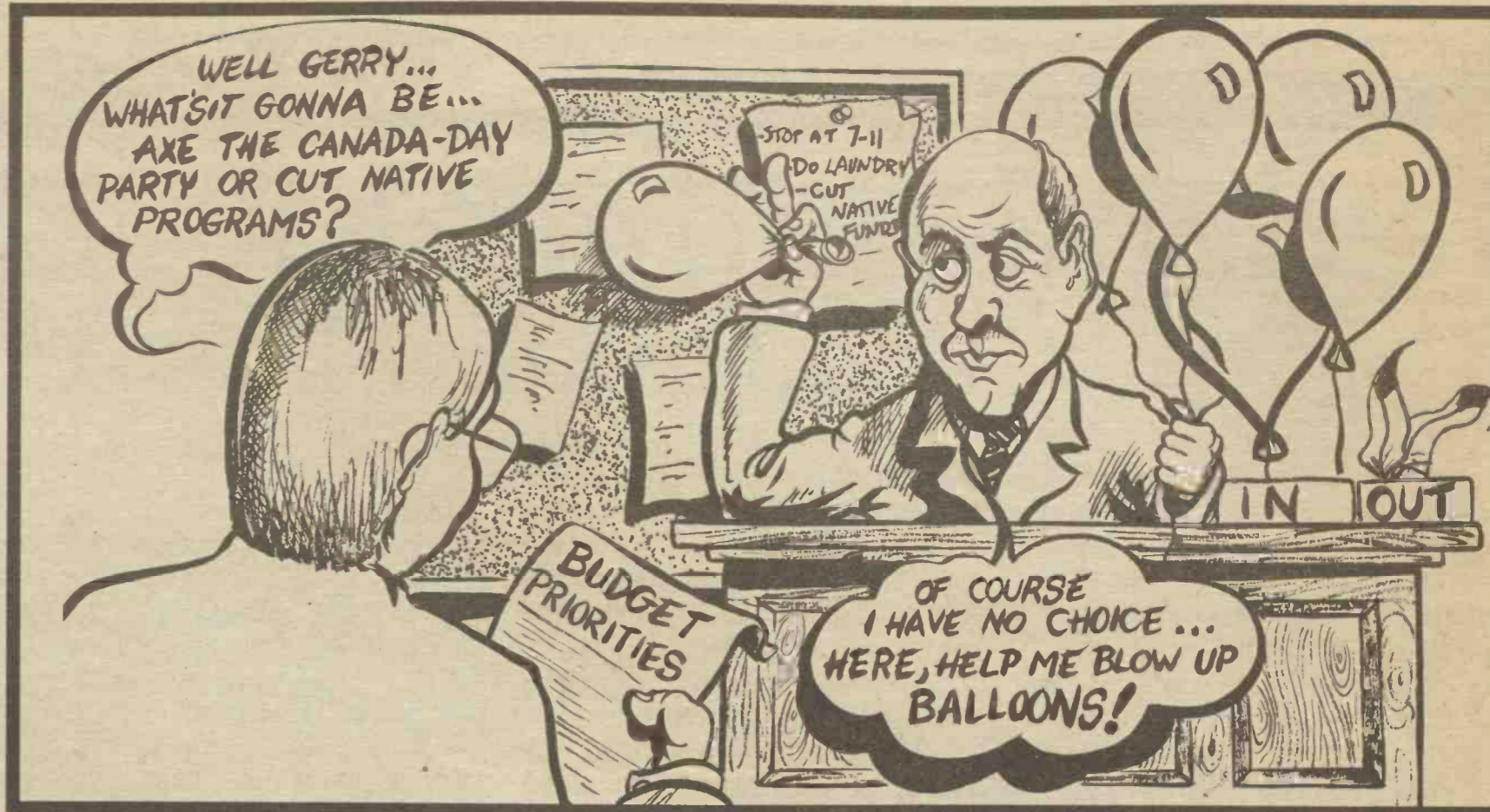
Needed? No doubt.

The challenge is now for the organizations to unite and to fight back, to demand they be treated with the same respect as the French newspapers and institutions in this country, which weren't brutalized by last week's budget.

Organizations like WINDSPEAKER, which are working towards self-sufficiency, will survive, although not without setting a different course. The fire will keep burning.

But other organizations will die. Their voices will be silenced.

That's a shame, a DAMN shame.



Government will spend \$13 million for firecrackers and balloons for Canada Day but couldn't find \$3.5 million for Native newspapers, said A.F.N. Chief Georges Erasmus.

Backgrounder

Budget-thrashing won't keep Native people down

The federal government is no longer able to mask its on-going campaign to destroy the aboriginal cultures of Canada. In its latest attack on Native unity, it succeeded in violating the very essence of democracy.

But as history repeats itself, so do its consequences.

By abolishing the organizational and communications structures of 40 Native groups and publications across the nation during the latest budget crunch, federal politicians have opened themselves up to more trouble than they have bargained for.

Besides strengthening Native resolve with the most blatant attempt to discredit Indian unity since the Buffalo Jump of the 1980s, the Mulroney regime is now threatening to wipe out aboriginal people with a "divide and conquer" technique, which has frightened elders for generations.

But now, according to the grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, the new wave of Indian activists won't stop their fight for justice, simply because of a government attempt to silence them.

"It's very likely our young people will take things into their own hands," Georges Erasmus said in response to Finance Minister Michael Wilson's decision to slash secretary of state funds at the expense of Native interests.

He's calling for mass demonstrations and nationwide protests and predicts Native leaders will be more militant than ever.

The threat of cultural genocide has never been more apparent than it is now, but the Native movement has never been more powerful.

Hidden behind the guise of deficit reduction and the promotion of self-sufficiency, the Tory government has finally come out, in full force, to try to crush Native unity from Labrador to British Columbia. In doing so, however, they're spitting on the rights of all free citizens to promote their own cultures.

Every democratic country on earth relies on the exchange of information from one organization to another to keep the process of civilization growing.

Even as South American journalists put their lives on the line to expose state corruption and



ANALYSIS

by Jeff Morrow

drug-running cartels in Columbia and underground Chinese newspapers continue publishing in the face of government suppression, the Canadian government is striving for Native people to stop what the Tories believe to be petty complaints of injustice and discrimination.

But what Wilson didn't consider when he made his budget announcement scrapping grants to Native groups and newspapers, was the unrelenting effort of Indian people to keep the fire burning.

Not since the 1985 Neilson Task Force report, which was inspired by the 1969 White Paper on Native issues, have Native people faced such a flagrant attempt to extinguish their heritage and force them to adapt to the rest of Canadian society and to accept the status quo.

The Tories should have considered history before introducing their recent ill-fated budget. They need only have looked at the failed but ruthless attempt by former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau to eradicate Native ancestry through ethnocide, which only ignited a flame of contempt.

The Buffalo Jump, a term coined by a senior Indian Affairs official to describe the government approach to force Native people to assimilate into society is being tried once more.

The plan again, as it has always been, is to crush the Native movement and to make Indians comply.

When Native groups become too powerful and the issues too public, it becomes time for the

government to put its foot down. Herding Native people over the cliff to meet their doom is the worst case scenario for the country's aboriginal cultures while the Canadian government foolishly believes otherwise.

But Native leaders continue to beat back the flames of ethnocide even though their unity is under attack. They are attempting to fight off the plot to wipe out their heritage.

Now, as the Assembly of First Nations and other Native groups throughout Canada, including *Windspeaker*, try to survive Wilson's budget thrashing, they will have to change gears, but, by no means, will they disband.

The mean and ugly federal budget introduced last week should, if nothing else, bring Canada's aboriginal people closer together, united against government oppression.

Ottawa would like to head off more nationwide campaigns for Native rights, as happened with post-secondary education and criminal justice. But Native leaders and their followers are more organized than ever and more determined to do everything they can to keep the spirit in their hearts and souls.

Even during the current fight against the budget cuts, FAX machines in Native newspapers and organizations are humming with the latest news, so all know what role they have to play.

There is no doubt the road will be harder to travel, but the Native movement in Canada is alive and kicking as it should be in the face of insurmountable odds.

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Opinion

War against Native people continues

This is a bloody war! Native communicators and leaders have been prime targets of the federal budget. The federal government used its deficit as an excuse to try to annihilate Native people.

Since learning of the 100 per cent cutbacks to the Native Communications Program across the country I've been in a state of shock. It's like the heart of our nation is under siege and I'm scared. It's like living in a secure little nest until suddenly one day a strong wind comes along and blows it all away.

Rumors of the pending bad news were circulating in Ottawa even before the budget was announced.

I was wishing it was only rumors, but the news was confirmed Feb. 20 that Native newspapers across the country funded by secretary of state would lose all their funding.

But the worst was yet to come. It was later learned the Assembly of First Nations, our national Native political body, had been given just a short three-month period to establish a financial base before its funding would be slashed.

It seems to me the federal government has been waging a private war against Native people for centuries and that this private war will never stop.

A prime example of this was the Indian residential schools or assimilation schools, which were an experiment to see if the government could make brown Indians, white. It took three generations for the government to realize the experiment wouldn't work.

During the 60s, 70s and 80s, Native people struggled to undo the damage caused by the fed-

eral government. Native leaders lobbied the government to resolve issues like Bill C-31, treaty rights and land claims. But the federal government made only a weak attempt to resolve the issues. After all, they continue to treat Native people as though we're a wasted expense.

The Native Communications Program amounts to just \$3.5 million annually, a mere drop in the bucket when you look at the federal government's huge deficit. In slashing the program, they have slashed our throats!

And so the private war continues.

I say war because any strategist knows the two targets hit first in a war are the communicators and leaders. After that's done it's easier to pick off the rest of the groups as they wander aimlessly and helplessly.

It's now rumored the government's next plan is to go after reserves and treaty rights to sweep the "Indian problem" under the rug. They hope to scratch us off their lists so they will never have to fund Native programs again.

The federal government considers us a problem and have taken a parental attitude towards us, making us dependent upon their system. Perhaps they regret not shooting us all as the Germans did the Jews.

When you compare Canada to the rest of the world, other countries are dealing with government oppression and working towards democracy. The world watches blacks, Asians and white people in Europe and Africa winning their freedom and getting a democratic government. The Berlin Wall is almost completely down and Nelson

Mandela has been finally given his freedom in South Africa. But back in Canada the government isn't keeping up with the times. It continues to oppress its own Native people. It's a national disgrace Native people have been fighting to stop.

The Canadian government has used the federal deficit to douse and discourage our fires that rage within.

What will be slashed next is the question? The coming months will go down in the history books. Native people may no longer have treaty status or reservations. If we don't have special status we'll be like everybody else, except far poorer. Hasn't that been the goal of the federal government all along, to

On the Front Line

By Josie Auger

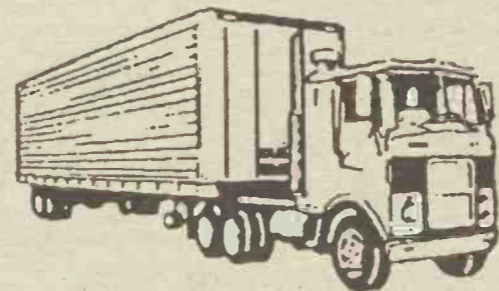


make us like the rest of Canadians?

I really hate feeling like some laboratory specimen. When will the bloody federal government quit with these experiments? People are tired of living under Third World conditions and of having to beg for money from the federal government.

They're playing with the lives of men, women and children — not mice.

(Josie Auger, a Windspeaker staff writer, wrote this column before learning she and five other people at the newspaper would be laid off because of budget cutbacks.)



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The Budget

Restraint to cost Indians \$100 M

By John Holman
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Windspeaker has learned federal restraint will cost Treaty Indians \$100 million over the next two years.

The belt tightening announced by Finance Minister Michael Wilson has outraged federal NDP Native Affairs' critic Bob Skelly.

"When you look at the health statistics, it is absolutely clear that far from capping funding to Native people in this country, we should be increasing funding so they can enjoy a high standard of living like anyone else in the country," said the MP for Comox-Alberni, British Columbia. "I am absolutely outraged they would cut Native programs when we're dealing with some of the poorest people in Canada. They have been legislated to the margin of our society and don't have adequate services in their community," he said.

Some Indian Affairs programs have been limited to a five per cent increase. The budgets of education, comprehensive claims, program administration, self-government and of lands, revenues and trusts will be unaffected, said a senior department official in a telephone interview from Ottawa.

But there'll be restraint in the areas of welfare, economic development, capital facilities and band management, which will get \$50 million less in 1990 than had been expected, said John Murray, assistant deputy minister of finance with Indian Affairs. Belt tightening will cost Treaty Indians a similar amount next year.

"Our budget for Native people is roughly \$2.4 billion. That's an increase of \$180 million," said Murray, noting however Ottawa had earlier planned to increase the budget by \$230 million. "So it's not a cut, it's a lessening of an increase."

The \$50 million reduction will be in the areas of:

- Capital facilities and community services, which had its budget increase trimmed back by \$26 million. The budget was bumped to \$592 million instead of to \$618 million,

- Economic development, which saw its budget jump to \$92 million from last year's figure of \$72 million, but the increase was \$2 million lower than planned,

- Administration of welfare programs, which will get \$7 million less than last year. But the overall welfare budget still increases this year to \$619 million from \$569 million, and

- Band management, which had its planned increase chopped by a hefty \$15 million. That budget will jump to \$224 million, a \$5 million increase, instead of to \$239 million as planned.

"I haven't seen the increases of other budgets, but I'm sure we have the largest increase of any department," Murray said. "It's

important the media not say our programs have been cut."

He agreed there are deficiencies in Indian and Inuit programs.

"We can never say we have enough. We don't have enough until every need has been met," he said. "We certainly realize there's needs and deficiencies out there."

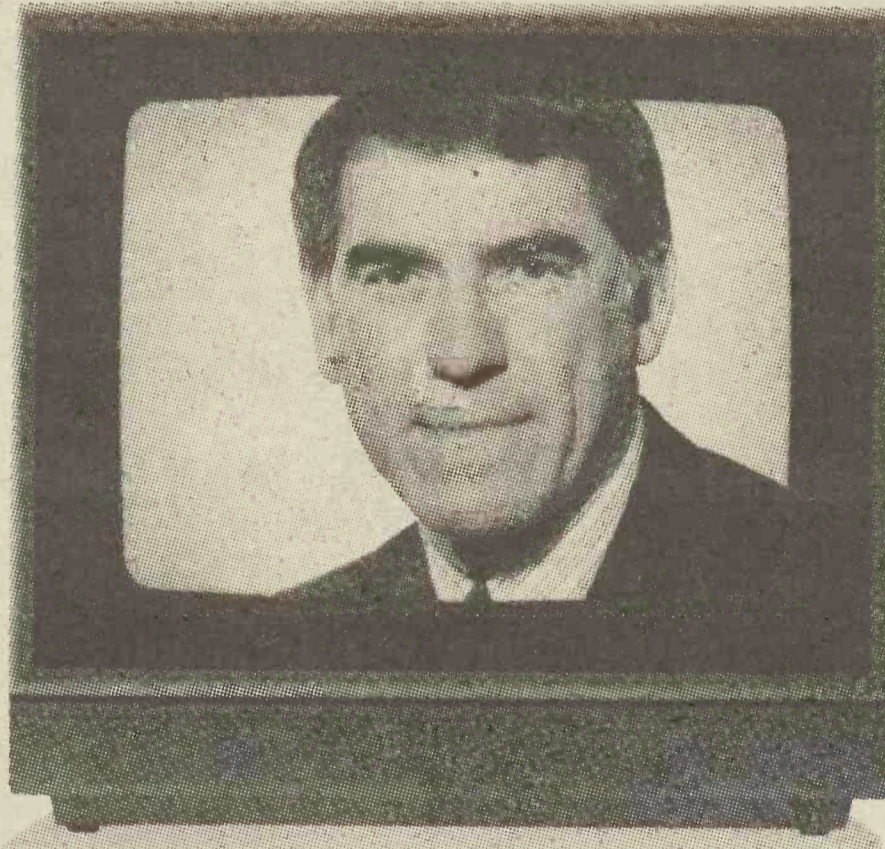
The impacts on Alberta Indian programs will not be known for another two weeks, said Albert Oosteadorp, the Alberta director of finance and administration for Indian Affairs.

He said Indian Affairs' offices across the nation will share the \$50 million reduction. Last year \$231,034,400 was spent on Indian Affairs in Alberta; \$83 million was spent on education and \$58 million was spent on welfare. Oosteadorp gave assurances increases in those areas will be untouched.



Bob Skelly

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The Budget

Native newspaper funding axed

Five societies also cut loose by feds

By John Holman
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

The voice of Native people across Canada will soon be silenced. The \$3.4 million Native Communications Program, which provides core funding for Native newspapers, got the axe when Finance Minister Michael Wilson introduced his budget last week.

"This is not only a national disaster for Natives, it's a national disgrace," said Ray Fox, president of the National Aboriginal Communications Society (NACS). "Not only are 100 jobs about to be cut off, aboriginal First Nations will be stripped of their communications system. Our voices have been silenced."

"It seems we've done our job too well," Fox said. "We've been watching the government for our people for, in some cases 25 years. Somebody in government doesn't like it."

NACS, the umbrella organization for Native communications societies across Canada, discovered last week five aboriginal newspapers, including *Windspeaker*, and two Native communications societies, will lose all federal funding at the end of March. The newspapers also include *Native Press* and *Tusaayaksat News* in the Northwest Territories, *Wawatay News* in Sioux Lookout, Ontario and the *Kinatuinamot Ilengajuk Newspaper* in Nain, Labrador. The two societies, Taqramiunt Nipingat Incorporated and Tewegan Communications, are located in Val D'Or, Quebec.

Five other newspapers and three societies, including NACS, were given six months grace before their funding is gone as well. The newspapers include *Kainai News* in Standoff, Alberta, *Kahtou* in Vancouver, the *New Breed* in Saskatoon, the *Saskatchewan Indian*, also in Saskatoon and the *Micmac News* in Nova Scotia. The other societies are Ye Sa To in Whitehorse, Yukon and the Native Media Network in Winnipeg.

Last year's budget of \$13.2 million for the Northern Native Broadcasting Access Program was also hit, reduced by 16 per cent, cutting \$2.2 million for Native radio and television.

"Operations like the award-winning Inuit Broadcasting Corp., and Canada's three largest



Bert Crowfoot Photo

aboriginal radio stations — CFWE in Lac la Biche, CHON-FM in Whitehorse and CKNM in Yellowknife — among others, will be permanently crippled," said a NACS news release.

Fox was in Ottawa last week after the budget was handed down lobbying furiously and rallying interest groups to protest the cuts. He was encouraging Native communications societies to strongly protest the cuts.

When NDP Native Affairs critic Bob Skelly received official word of the cuts he was "outraged".

"The worst possible thing is to deprive Native people in this country of the ability to communicate among themselves and communicate information of what's going on in Canada," he said.

"If you read the newspapers published by the major networks in this country, they virtually ignore Native people. This is the only form of communication Native people can rely on to get their news across both to themselves and to the general public."

The "reduction" is part of a

\$23 million cut to the planned secretary of state budget, which was to increase by \$24 million this year, said department project officer Stan Metcalfe.

The restraint means this year's budget of \$275 million is a net increase of only \$1 million over last year's budget, he said.

The cut will occur in the \$81 million grants and contribution fund, preserving the department's \$193 million operating fund.

Metcalfe said the cuts also affect aboriginal representative

organization programs, Native social development and cultural programs, the aboriginal women's programs and the aboriginal friendship centres programs.

He could not confirm which Native programs have been eliminated, saying final budget details and allocations are still being discussed and haven't been released.

Secretary of state media officer Len Westerberg said the cuts will help aboriginal groups become independent.

"We're encouraging people to look for other avenues of support," he said. "There are some groups that have been supported for a long time — 10 years or more — and they have not really made any attempts to try and secure funding elsewhere. These are organizations that solely rely on handouts from the federal government."

The regional director of secretary of state could not be reached for comment on what impacts the budget would have on Native programs in Alberta.

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The Budget

Cutting papers 'disastrous' — Littlechild

By Leta McNaughton
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Wetaskiwin MP Willie Littlechild says he'll be going to bat for Native newspapers hit by "disastrous cutbacks" in last week's federal budget.

Budget cuts by Finance Minister Michael Wilson totally eliminated federal funding for *Windspeaker* and 10 other aboriginal newspapers across Canada. Funding to radio stations was also chopped by 16 per cent.

The decision to axe Native newspapers hit a soft spot with Littlechild.

"I think it's disastrous," he said. "As a person who was instrumental in beginning the Native Communications Society in Alberta, I'm very concerned there's going to be a serious impact on them." Littlechild was one of the society's first board members.

Littlechild said he's written a letter to Wilson on behalf of the National Aboriginal Communications Society (NACS) asking for details on the cutbacks.

"I'm going to try and go to bat for Native communications, which I see as very essential to the communities, especially northern or isolated communities."

"To be put in this kind of predicament is very serious," said Littlechild. "I would like to have the minister of Secretary of State appear in front of the aboriginal affairs committee to respond to questions about the budget." Littlechild is a member of that parliamentary standing committee.

tee.

Athabasca-Lac la Biche MLA Mike Cardinal says the axing of Native newspapers "absolutely will have a negative impact on the Native communities. That's going to be a real setback in Native communities. Those papers do a fantastic job in relaying activities not only in Native communities but also about programs that are very, very positive for the Native community."

Cardinal said he was upset by the chopping of the newspapers and indicated he'd do "everything in our power" to help reverse the decision.

Lesser Slave Lake MLA Pearl Calahasen said loss of the newspapers would "most definitely" affect northern Alberta.

But her concerns are largely with employment, education and health care and whether there are cuts in those areas.

"I think it hits us more than any other province (in those areas)," she said.

Cardinal said he was concerned funding provided to private industries for job creation could be cut back.

"That could, no doubt, mean cutting back on Native funds designed for economic development."

He said if that happens it could really have a negative impact on the Native community, which depends on those programs.

Although Littlechild is upset Native communications was hit so hard, he is pleased with the overall budget. He said the government had to cut the deficit and has done it in this budget.

Meanwhile, at least two local



Windspeaker was a victim of federal cutbacks

Bert Crowfoot Photo

organizations are happy with the cuts to government-funded Native newspapers.

Larry Desmeules, president of the Metis Association of Alberta (MAA), said he's particularly pleased to see *Windspeaker* — with which he's had a running feud — cut.

"Some ways it (the budget)

will have a positive impact, in other ways it will have a negative impact," he said. "I understand you people are being cut out, that's a positive impact."

He said the MAA doesn't get much money from the federal government, therefore "it doesn't really matter."

Alberta Native News, a pri-

vately-run paper, also welcomes the government's decision, which will force Native papers across Canada to become self-sufficient or to fold, said associate editor Deborah Shatz.

"We applaud a move that would take taxpayer's money away from newspapers," she said.

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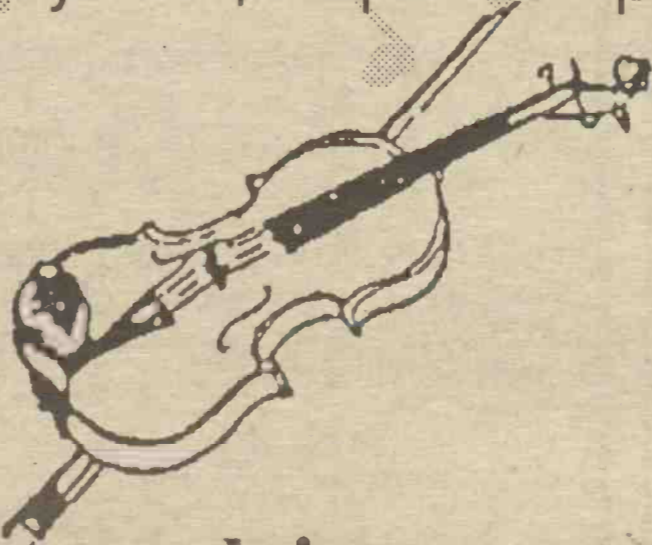
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The Budget

Layoffs loom at Native Press

Radio station also squeezed

By John Holman
Windspeaker Staff Writer

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

A northern Native newspaper was to issue layoff notices March 1 if no options were found to replace funding it lost from the \$3.4 million Native Communications Program (NCP).

The newspaper, *Native Press*, is published in Yellowknife by the Native Communications Society (NCS) of the western NWT, which also operates CKNM-FM radio.

"It's a lot like losing a loved one suddenly in your family. It's hard to believe it actually happened," said Cathy MacQuarrie, executive director of NCS. "We didn't have a lot of time to sit around feeling sorry for ourselves. We had to get into action."

"We've given ourselves until March 1 to find some kind of assistance and then we're going to start issuing layoff notices," she said.

Michael Wilson in his budget last week pulled all federal funding from 11 aboriginal papers across Canada, including *Native Press*, and he chopped 16 per cent from the Northern Native Broadcast Access Program (NNBAP).

Native Press had an annual budget of \$217,000, which was covered entirely by the federal government. Funding was cut off effective March 31, 1990. CKNM-FM also faces an \$83,000 cut to its annual \$520,000 budget.

Funding for both operations had been frozen, without cost of living increases, for the last five years.

MacQuarrie was shocked when she first heard of the cuts

last week. She said the organization is fighting against the cuts through the national media in an effort to pressure the government to back down.

"We've been doing major media campaigns. This issue has hit *As It Happens*, *Newsworld*, and *Time* magazine. You'll also see articles in the *Globe and Mail* and the *Toronto Star* — the *Ottawa Citizen* has already picked it up," MacQuarrie said. "I don't think the government had any idea there would be this kind of national attention to what is basically a very small program."

In conjunction with the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) and the Inuit Communications Society, NCS has appealed to NWT Native residents to call secretary of state in Ottawa. The radio station issues the department's phone numbers every 20 minutes and asks people to call to help save the radio station and newspaper.

Support from the people is crucial for Native communications, said MacQuarrie. She's confident pressure would encourage the federal government to reverse its decision and said the campaign is already well underway.

"IBC started a petition opposing the cuts in Baker Lake (Feb. 22) and within five hours they had 546 signatures. That is about half of the community," she said.

In the meantime NCS is negotiating for emergency funding from the government of the NWT for *Native Press* and CKNM, should the campaign to overturn the cuts be unsuccessful.

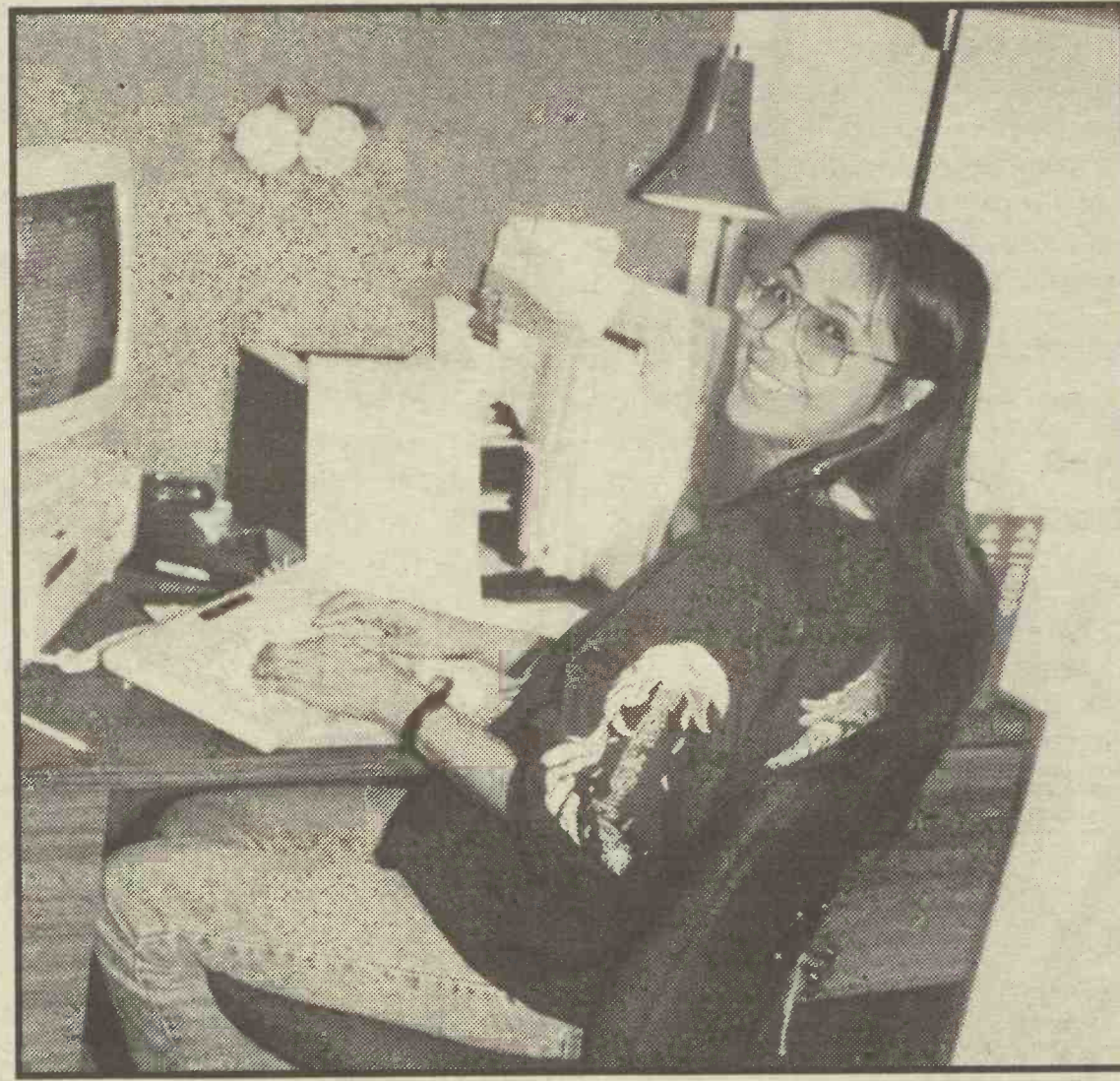


Photo courtesy Native Press

Typesetter and layout artist Phoebe Nahanni flashes a smile in the face of the problems *Native Press* will face in the future.

ful.

"There is assistance available from the departments of economic development and culture and communications," MacQuarrie said. "But it's not very much. This government just got hit with cuts themselves. At the very least they will help us develop a business plan and do everything they can to make sure nobody loses their job. But they're making no promises."

She said *Native Press* can achieve self-sufficiency but not in

time for the new fiscal year, which begins April 1.

"We need time and suddenly the federal government just gave us six weeks to do it," MacQuarrie said.

Native Press employs eight people and publishes twice a month. It's circulated to all 26 communities in the western Arctic. CKNM radio employs 10 people and gives news and coverage in four different languages including Chipewyan, South Slavey, Dogrib, and English.

There's also three administrative staff shared between both operations.

The 16 per cent cut to the \$13.2 million NNBAP, which funds CKNM, has put the station out on a limb.

"If the funding had stayed the same without any cuts, starting in April we would have had to cut back in programming and perhaps in one or two staff positions at the end of the year," said CKNM's general manager Percy Kinney.

"I think CKNM radio will survive in some form," he declared. "We can take the \$400,000 and produce less programming. Whether we can maintain that on our own private network is another question."

The station also received \$25,000 a year from NCP for training radio announcers and to maintain transmitters in the 26 communities it serves.

When radio station equipment breaks, money will have to be found in the station's meagre budget further affecting the quantity of programming or staffing of the station, said Kinney.

CKNM will now also have to shoulder the full cost of administrative staff and the rent; *Native Press* paid half those salaries and a large portion of the rent.

"That's an extra \$80,000," Kinney said.

He just hopes, like many people across Canada, enough pressure can be exerted to convince the federal government to reverse the cuts to the Native communications programs.

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The Budget

'Draconian' budget will be intolerable — AFN

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Reaction by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to last week's federal budget was swift and strong.

The budget measures introduced by Finance Minister Michael Wilson will lead to "unprecedented and intolerable"

hardship for Canada's 500,000 aboriginal people, said the AFN.

National AFN Chief Georges Erasmus said in a prepared statement Wilson's "draconian" budget will further widen the gap between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people.

In his budget Wilson limited some Indian Affairs programs to a five per cent increase. That includes self-government, economic development, lands, reve-

nues and trusts, capital facilities and community services and band management. The five per cent cap doesn't apply to education, social assistance and comprehensive claims.

Wilson is "treating First Nations as if we're one of the wealthy provinces with a large tax and economic base to offset federal spending cuts," said Erasmus.

"It's insidious. When do First Nations stop playing catch up? Program capping means our children will have to continue to attend dilapidated schools over the next two years. Capping means 40 per cent of our people will continue to live in substandard and crowded housing. Capping means our communities will not be able to build much needed water and com-

munity infrastructure systems. The Mulroney government is cutting basic services — services most Canadians take for granted," he said.

"There is a great misconception out there the federal government is improving the social and economic well-being of First Nations by pouring billions upon billions of dollars into our communities. That is a complete distortion of the truth," said Erasmus.

"In fact since 1984 we have witnessed a steady net loss in available program dollars, because the federal government refuses to fully compensate for inflation and our immense population growth. Wilson's capping on Indian programs represents the worst case scenario as far as our people are concerned,"

stated Erasmus.

He said First Nations live under deplorable conditions and face unparalleled economic hardship with unemployment rates ranging from 30 per cent to 90 per cent in most communities. On-reserve housing is in bad shape in many cases with 30 to 50 per cent of on-reserve housing in need of major repair compared to a rate of less than seven per cent for Canadian homes.

Erasmus also took Ottawa to task for slashing funds for Native communications societies and political organizations as well as funding for aboriginal cultural and language preservation programs.

"The federal government through these cuts is effectively erasing a distinct and unique characteristic of Canada."

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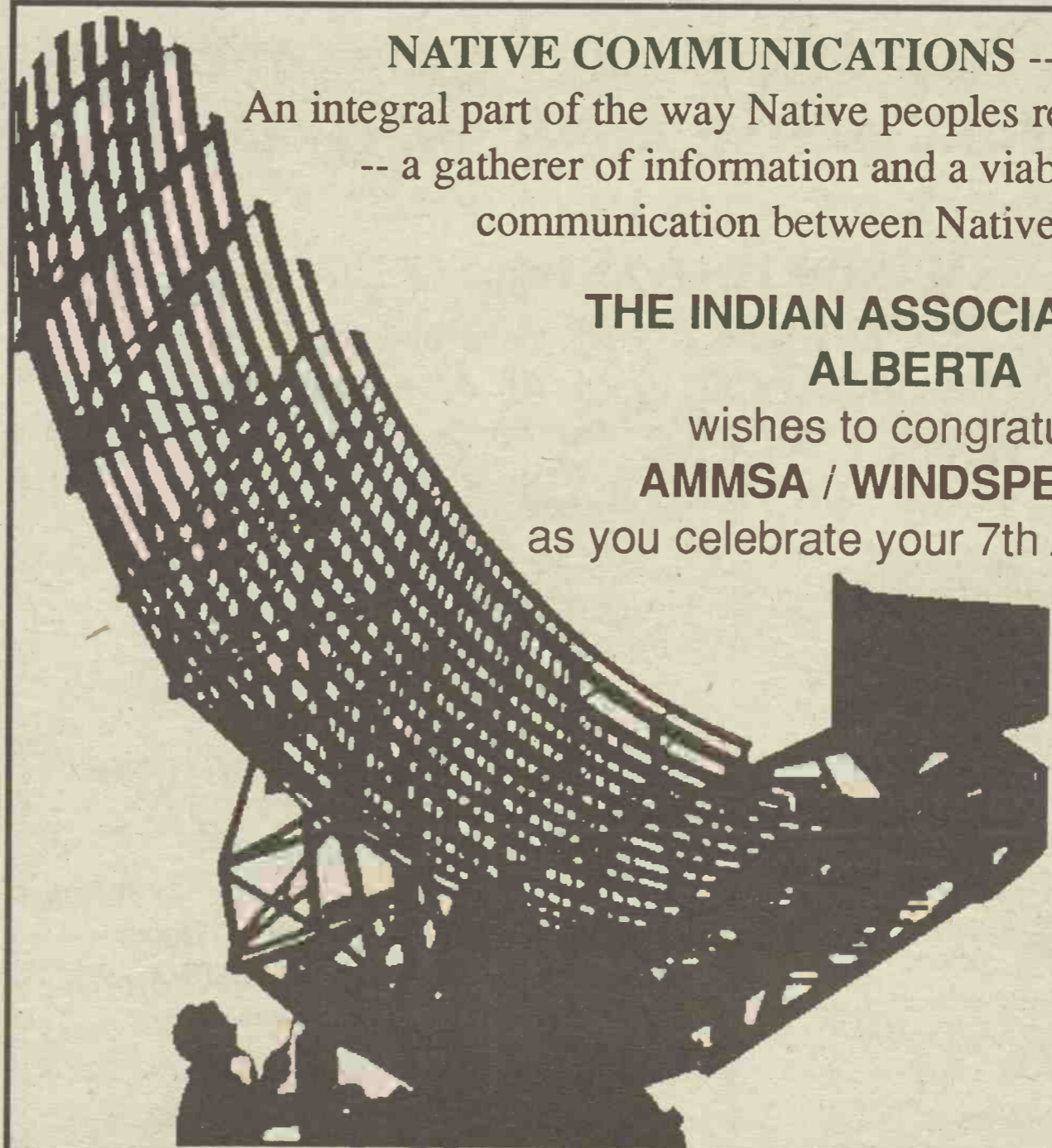
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The Budget

NWT fighting 'obscene' media cuts

By John Holman
Windspeaker Staff Writer

YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

The Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly came out fighting for aboriginal media when it learned of budget cuts to the federally-funded Native Communications Program (NCP).

"It would seem the federal government has directed its budgetary wrath on the aboriginal people of Canada," said Communications Minister Titus Allooloo, an Inuit representing Amittuq riding.

"Programs affecting non-aboriginal Canadians were reduced or frozen, but for some aboriginal media organizations their entire budgets have been viciously slashed," said Allooloo, who is spearheading the fight on behalf of the government.

Allooloo said the cuts were "outrageous" and "disproportionate." He plans to meet with Gerry Weiner, Minister of Secretary of State, to try to persuade him to overturn the decision.

NWT programs affected include the Native Communications Society (NCS) of the Western NWT, the Inuvialuit Communications Society and the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) program. IBC will lose about \$615,000, about 25 per cent of its budget. As many as 20 jobs could be lost at IBC. There also will be cuts to drama productions and children's programming, pointed out Kivallivik MLA Gordon Wray.

He told the house Allooloo has his full support "to fight what is an obscene act on the part of the federal government."

"IBC provides the only aboriginal language television programming in the eastern Arctic.

It is the only link our aboriginal people have with their language on television," he said.

The legislature plans to keep the pressure on the federal government to reverse the decision last week by Finance Minister Michael Wilson to axe the \$3.4 million NCP budget.

The decision stranded 11 aboriginal newspapers, including two in the NWT. As well, the \$13.2 million Northern Native Broadcast Access Program for indigenous radio and television was slashed by 16 per cent. Both are secretary of state programs.

Government leader Dennis Patterson said he will let Allooloo lead the campaign.

"I think sometimes it's good strategy to save the big guns for last," he said. "I as government leader would follow up with the prime minister to intervene and see what can be done if, perish the thought, Mr. Allooloo meets obstacles."

The Native newspapers and radio stations are responsible for linking indigenous people in isolated communities "to the rest of the world," Allooloo told the legislature.

"It is a bitter irony indeed the Royal Mint has just yesterday released a new coin commemorating International Literacy

Year. The coin depicts an Inuit mother with a baby in her amauti facing a small child, both the mother and child writing," he said.

"Can the federal government really celebrate literacy by taking money away from Native communications and instead stamp Native images on the unused coins? Such a bitter twist of image demonstrates extremely poor communications between federal programs," he said angrily.

Don Morin, MLA for Tu Nedhe, agreed with Allooloo and said that *Native Press*, published by the NCS, has "done a great deal to increase literacy levels and improve race relations in the North."

Native Press has been a "bridge over the communications gap between the media and Native people," agreed Yellowknife Centre MLA Tony Whitford.

The NCP funding cut "will not only alter the quality of political debate, but it will leave a monopoly on news and current events to the major non-Native media in the NWT," he added.

This will reduce programming to many people who only understand and speak Inuktitut, added an Inuktitut MLA.

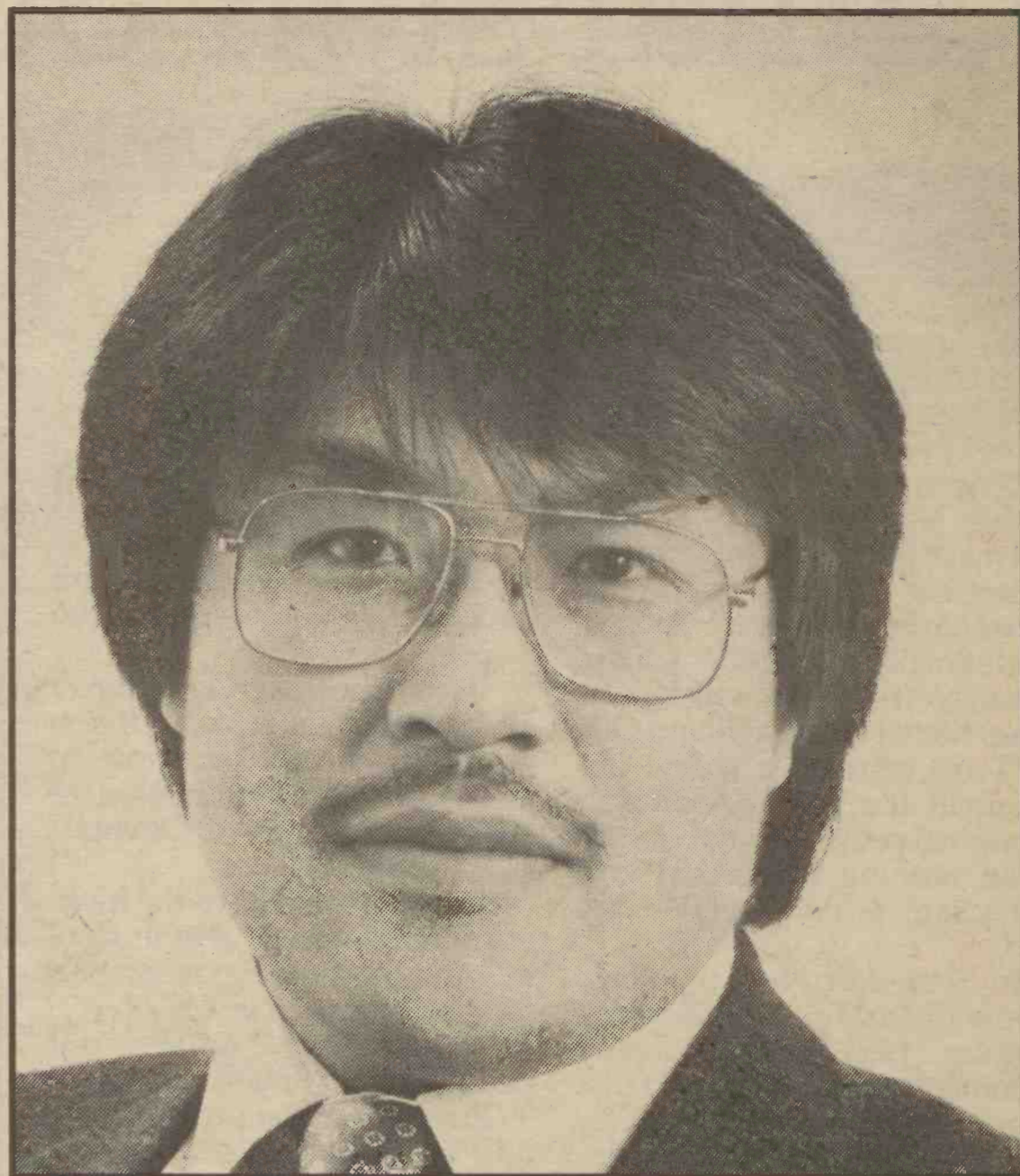


Photo Courtesy GNWT

NWT Minister of Culture and Communications Titus Allooloo spearheaded the movement to try to persuade Secretary of State Gerry Weiner to overturn the budget cuts

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Kainai staff outraged by cutbacks

By Josie Auger
Windspeaker Staff Writer

STAND OFF, ALTA.

Staff at Kainai News are shocked and outraged at Ottawa's decision to axe Native newspapers.

"The cutbacks are designed to further isolate Native people and make them vulnerable to the ignorance and actions of the Canadian government," charged Marie Smallface, president of the Indian News Media, which publishes Kainai News at Stand Off.

"I am extremely angry! It's criminal! It's further evidence aboriginal people of this country mean nothing to the existing Canadian government!" she said.

In September Indian News Media officials met with senior Ottawa personnel Florence Woolner and Roy Jacobs to discuss policy changes to the Northern Native Broadcast Access Program.

"They lead us to believe there would be policy changes and that the changes would be positive. This was less than six months ago. To have made this decision the way they did is incredibly callous! I think it's a mistake that has to be corrected," said an angry Smallface.

Woolner and Jacobs couldn't

be reached for comment.

The so-called improvements for Kainai mean it has six months to find an alternate means of survival.

Smallface encourages all Native communications societies to mobilize public support and to demonstrate dissatisfaction with the way this decision has been made.

"For all the lip service given to multiculturalism and citizen development and participation this is overt discrimination of aboriginal people of Canada!" cries Smallface.

Native people have the highest unemployment rate in Canada and the federal government is cutting more than 100 jobs.

"It's discouraging our people!" cried Smallface.

Freedom of the press in Canada is limited to only a few people because most rural areas are denied any access to communications, said Smallface. Mainstream media do not report Native news as accurately and sensitively as Native media, she said.

The federal government would rather put its money into an archaic defence system than Native newspapers and would



Bert Crowfoot Photo

The latest issue of Kainai brings the bad news about cutbacks

rather serve multi-national interests than its own people, said an angry Smallface.

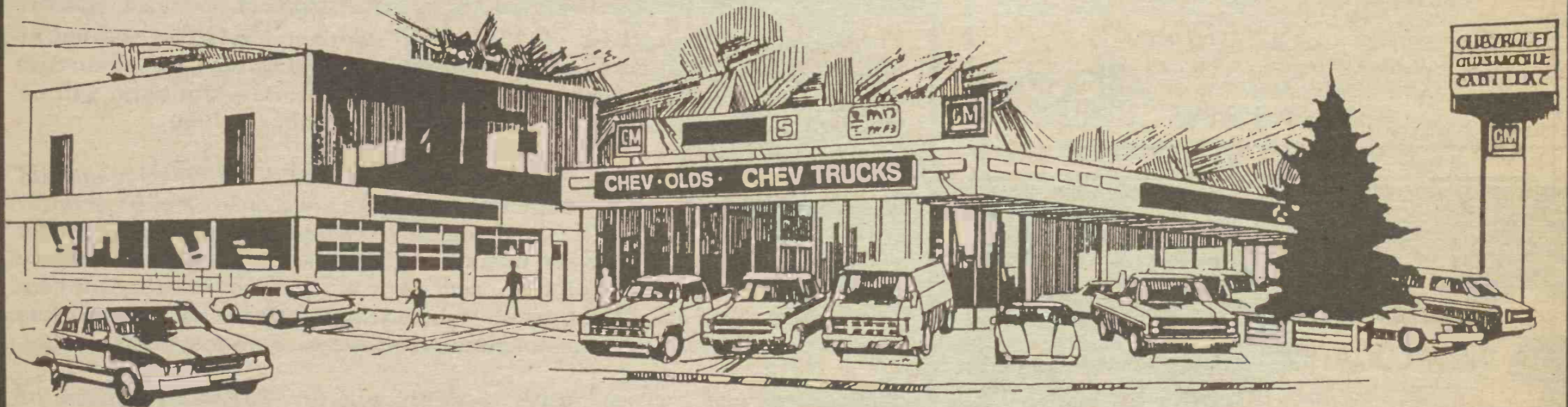
Kainai has been in existence

for the last 22 years and the newspaper employs 12 people. Last year secretary of state

funded the newspaper for

\$273,280. They now have six months left to drum up alternate sources of funding if they're to continue publishing.

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—A Profile of the Slave Lake Region—

Native communities want coverage

Natives in northern Alberta are hungry to have *Windspeaker* reporters visit their community.

That message came through loud and clear on my recent swing through the Lesser Slave Lake area.

They're eager to have a reporter out to shine a spotlight on their community, so the rest of the world can see.

I can understand the frustration felt by some people, who haven't seen a reporter out their way for some time — we are after all a community newspaper.

We've heard the complaints and we've listened. There's been recent discussion in fact at the newspaper about getting reporters on the road more often.

Just as it looked as if that would happen, out of the blue came Michael Wilson's budget.

Ottawa pulled all of our federal funding. We're going to have to change gears to deal with the reduced funding, starting immediately. For instance, instead of arriving in your mailbox every week with the latest Native news in Alberta, we'll be coming every month.

Just what impact Wilson's budget will have on road trips and travelling to your community still isn't clear though.

We cover a large area at *Windspeaker*. In fact I can't think of another weekly, uh make that bi-monthly, newspaper in Alberta that covers such a vast area. Sending reporters on the road, especially to distant northern communities, can be expensive and time-consuming. Expenses for motel bills, phone calls, food and gas really do add up.

So, please be kind to us if we don't get out your way as often as you'd like.

We do like getting out there.

Speaking for myself, I like the opportunity. It gives me a chance to meet new people and to report on grassroots organizations.

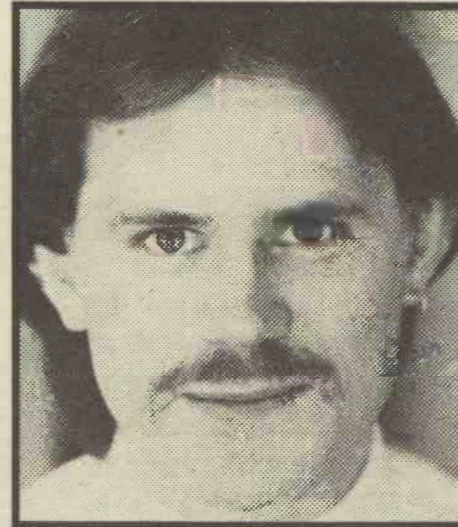
It's refreshing and often allows me to take a look at the world and my life from a new perspective.

I'd like to do it more often.

Of course, I didn't get to meet everyone while I was in the Slave Lake/High Prairie area, but hopefully, next time and sometime soon, we'll get back to the rest of the communities.

Meanwhile, my trip, while tiring, did live up to my expectations and I came back with some good stories, most of which you'll find in this issue.

Hope you enjoy them.



ON THE ROAD...

With Dana Wagg



Native woman makes business history

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SLAVE LAKE, ALTA.

A Native woman has made business history in Slave Lake.

And she's loving every minute of it — well, almost every minute.

"It makes me rather proud and I'm very happy Slave Lake businesspeople considered me to be the best one for the position," says Ann Thompson, president of the town's Chamber of Commerce.

She's the first Native and the first woman to hold the post.

A 44-year-old single mother of four children ranging in age from 19-years-old to 25-years-old and a grandmother of six, Thompson hopes her involvement will encourage other Native people, particularly women, to play a greater role in the business community.

As a Metis woman, Thompson says she knows well both Native and non-Native cultures. "The conflict is there as we all know. I've been very lucky to have been enhanced by both cultures and to have a complete understanding of both cultures."

But being a Native in the business world brings with it special conflicts, she freely admits.

Alberta Energy Company is building a 110,000-tonne-per-year chemithermomechanical pulp mill 19 kilometres west of Slave Lake, which is scheduled to go into production in December.

Thompson, who is also commercial and residential property manager for Sawridge Band's off-reserve Slave Lake area holdings as well as general manager of Sawridge Plaza, says she has

mixed feelings about the project and similar forestry developments proposed for the north.

"I struggle with it. My spiritual teachings are in conflict with my business mind. The pulp mill is going to bring good things for Slave Lake. On the other hand," she says, her voice trailing off.

"I've talked to many Native people about this. It hurts inside thinking about it. It will create jobs for our people. It may even create training for some if they wish to go into it and it will help some families live a better life financially," she says.

But Thompson says she's concerned about the project's impact on the environment.

"Our Mother Earth, our water, our air, our trees, these are all living things to me that are being destroyed. Hopefully with the technology we have, these things will be looked after properly so the destruction isn't greater than the (benefits) the pulp mill will produce," she says.

Despite the downsides that come with being Chamber president, Thompson, a card-carrying member of the Metis Association of Alberta, is thrilled she's living her dream.

"Slave Lake really excites me. It's not your typical town, it's beautiful, it's natural. And there's money to be made here. I could see much of our money was being spent in Edmonton. I wanted to be a big part of the future of Slave Lake. And I really dream of helping make Slave Lake a regional centre," says the Cree/Cherokee woman.

Born at St. Albert and raised by her grandparents in her youngest years, Thompson moved to Edmonton to be with her mother when she was six.



Ann Thompson

Dana Wagg, *Windspeaker*

Her grandfather helped her be proud of her Native heritage. "My girl, never be ashamed of who and what you are," he told her. "Always be proud." "That's always stayed with me."

"I have a great love of life, because of my Native heritage. I have been taught to treasure life above everything else. I have been given many gifts by the elders and my grandparents as per my Nativeness.

"It's important to know where you come from so you can go forward," says Thompson, who believes education holds the answers for Native people.

Proud to be a Native woman and a Native pioneer, Thompson also celebrates the political breakthrough made by Lesser Slave Lake MLA Pearl Calahasen, who in the last provincial election became the first

Native woman to be elected to the Alberta legislature.

Thompson, who was living in Edmonton at the time, has since become a board member of the Lesser Slave Lake PC Association.

In Edmonton she had managed the Hillsborough Place apartment complex on 109th Street for a development company.

The Nechi-trained Thompson was also an addictions counselor in the provincial capital. It's not a typical background for a Chamber of Commerce president.

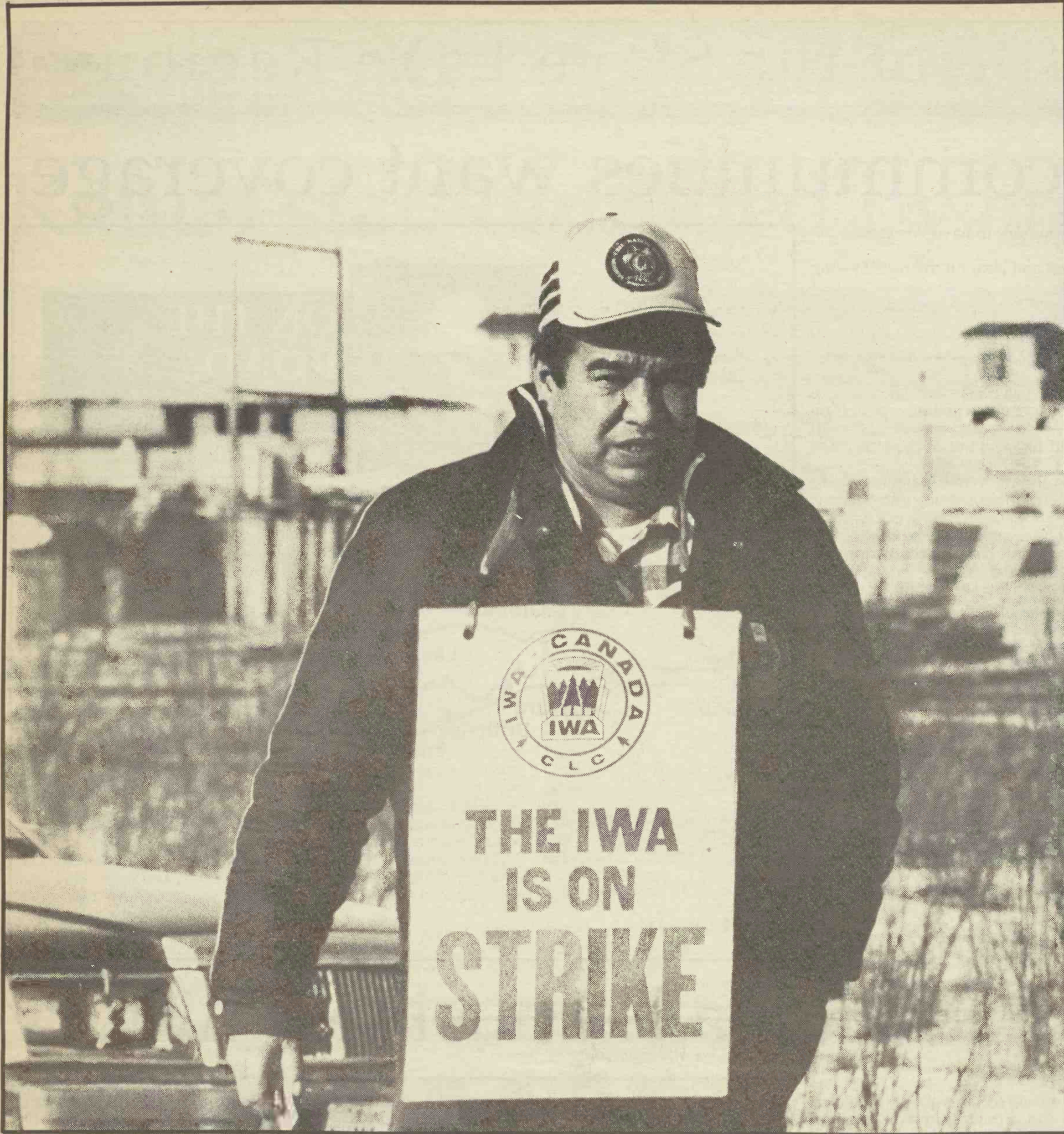
In fact a number of years ago while living in Slave Lake before moving to Edmonton, she was an assistant to an AADAC counsellor, who worked at back lakes like Trout Lake, Loon Lake and Peerless Lake.

She was just starting when six people died at Peerless Lake from drinking photocopying fluid. "It was terrible, absolutely terrible. That's when I started in earnest."

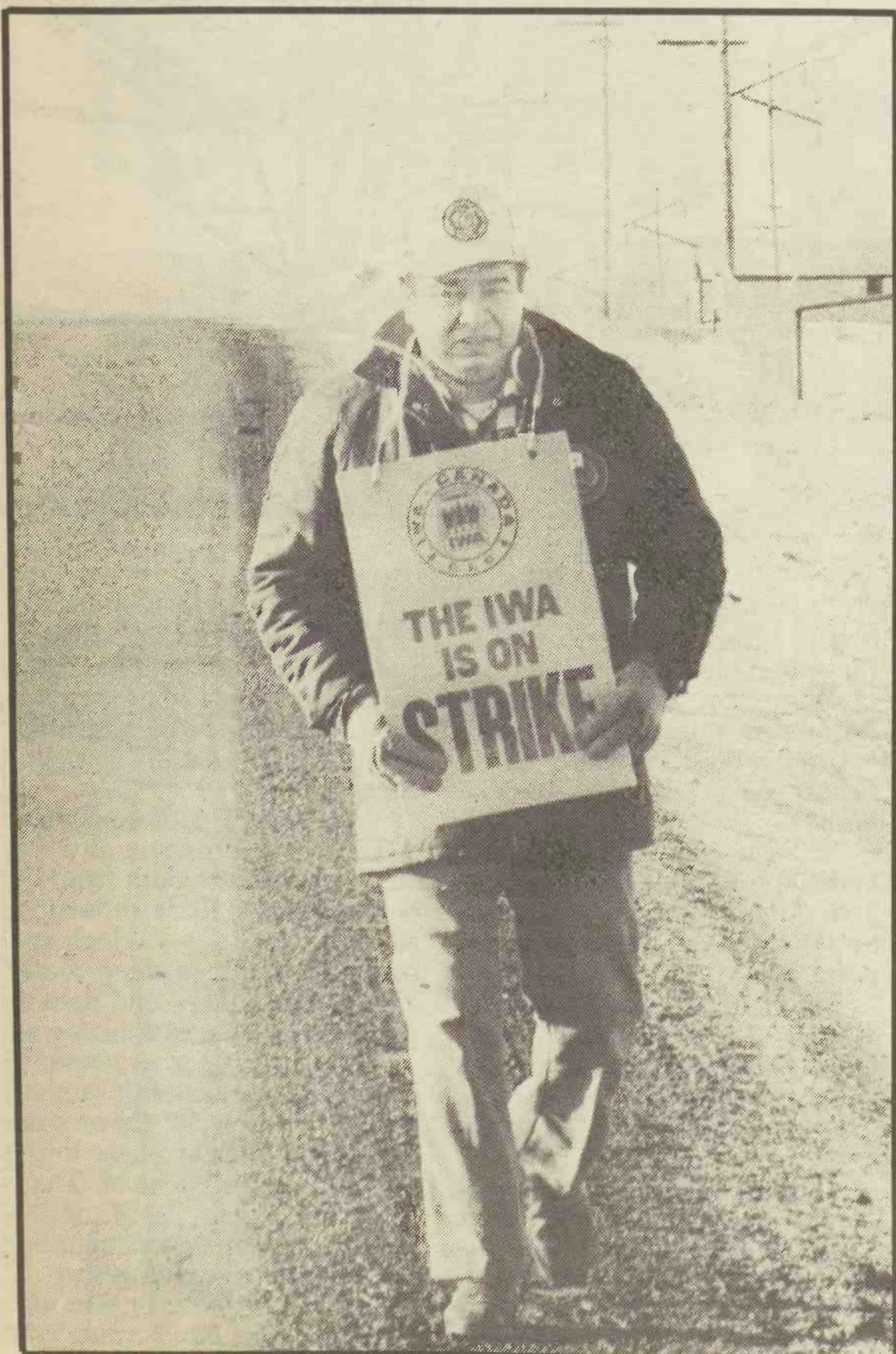
With the help of Nechi and AADAC, Thompson and her supervisor took youth from the back lakes on a 10-day bus trip to Alkali Lake, B.C. — which successfully fought a deep-rooted alcohol problem — and then on to a sun dance in Saskatchewan.

Thompson says her responsibilities are onerous, but says she has more time for them since she's single. "I have time to put into the dreams I have. That's what I am doing. All of the jobs put together are very demanding but I enjoy it tremendously."

"There's a place in the business world for any Native, who wants to be there," she says.



Felix Auger outside the Zeidler plant



Walking the line in the Mitsue Industrial Area

FELIX AUGER LIFE OF THE L



Truck arrives with another load of logs

Strike goes on an

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SLAVE LAKE, ALTA.

Feb. 7 marked Felix Auger's 1,399th day on strike against Zeidler Forest Industries Ltd., but to him it was just another day.

"I never count the days. I just come."

Although public opinion in nearby Slave Lake isn't on the side of the strikers, the 40-year-old Metis man is more determined than ever to see the almost four-year-old strike through to the end.

He insists he'll be on strike "as long as it takes."

Auger is one of 40 members of IWA Canada Local 1-207 still picketing the veneer plant located in the Mitsue Industrial Area east of Slave Lake. Sixteen of the picketers are Native people.

"The longer it takes, the stronger the 40 of us get," he says.

"We're all in this together as brothers and sisters. If they kick the union out, what do you think you're going to be working for — \$4 an hour? The union is the only reason we have high wages."

But, as for being in high spirits, well, that's another thing.

"I don't know if anybody has any spirits left," he says with a chuckle. "Everybody comes here, because they believe in the union. They believe the union is going to win this."

But pressed on the matter he wavers — "It all depends what side of the bed I get up on."

On April 11, 1986 Auger and about 95 co-workers walked off their jobs to protest plans by Zeidler to introduce a two-tier wage system and to cut back on pension benefits. The latest offer would see workers get an average wage of about \$16 an hour. Wages would start at \$10.53 an hour and rise to \$15.24 after six months. They were earning about \$13 an hour when the strike began.

Zeidler fired 20 workers at the plant, who were charged with picket-line violence, and two more at its Edmonton plant, where workers walked out in March 1988. The union insists the 22 people be rehired; Zeidler is adamant they will not be.

"We know we have a very fair offer on the table, a good offer," says John Heffernan, Zeidler's manager of human resources.

But there's "an impasse" over the fired men, some of whom were convicted of extreme violence such as rolling vehicles

onto their sides with managers inside, he says.

Others beat up workers, he says. "People really did fear for their lives."

Well over 100 charges were laid.

Heffernan estimated about 15 of the 40 remaining strikers were terminated; Auger was not.

Every Wednesday Auger puts in an 11 1/2 hour strike shift and can be found inside the green union shack outside the Zeidler plant from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

He doesn't question spending almost four years of his life on strike. "I believe my kids are going to be working in the union, too, and I'm doing it for them as well as your kids."

"If I had to come here every single day I would."

He has lots of time on his hands the rest of the week but doesn't socialize much with townspeople from Slave Lake, where he says there's no support whatsoever for the strike.

"They don't understand anything in Slave Lake. They're only out for themselves. To hell with them, if that's the way they want to be."

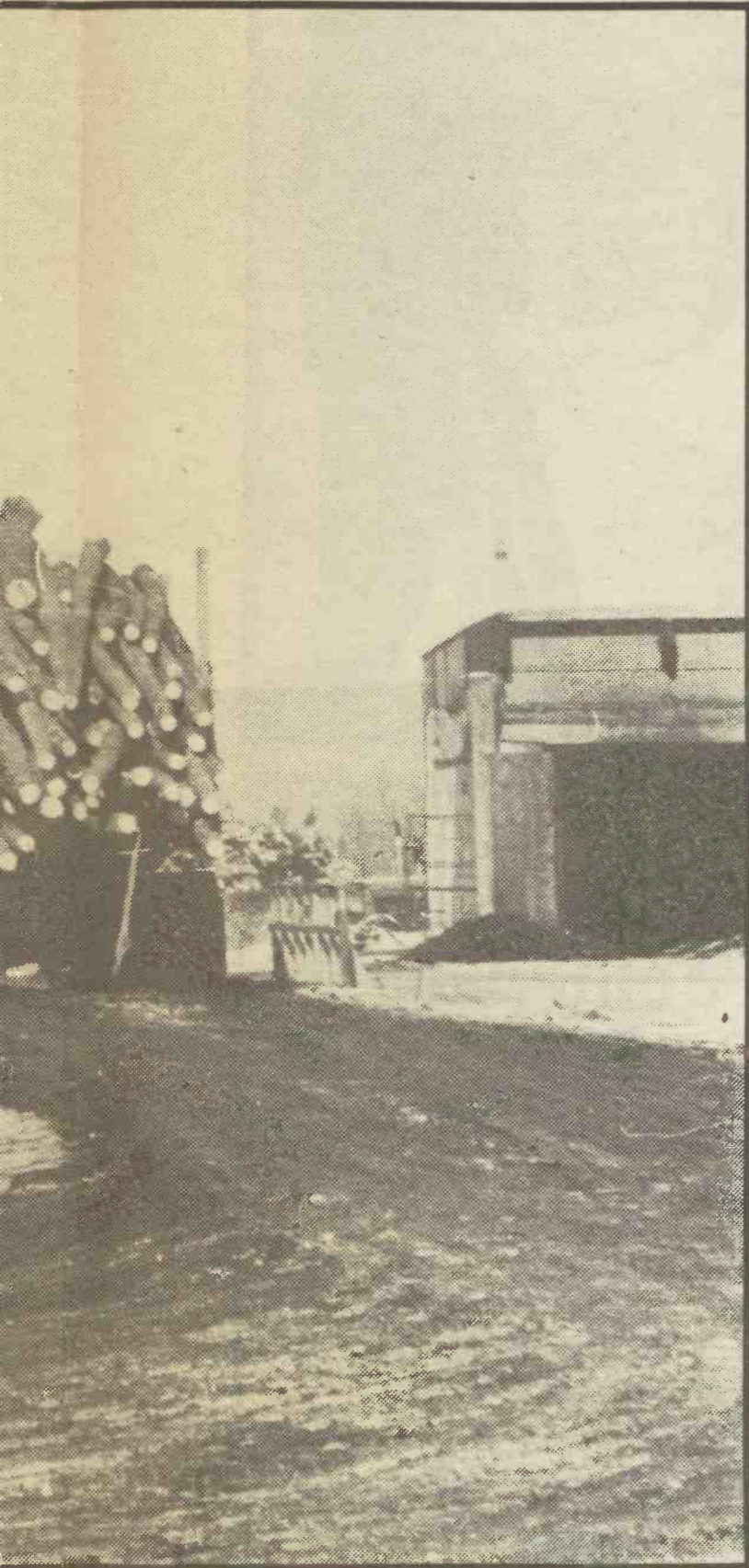
"When you've got nobody supporting you, you don't want to do anything anyway, (except) just stay at home."

AUGER: ON LINE

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LOCAL 1-207
ON STRIKE 1399 DAY'S
SUPPORT THE UNION

PHOTOS
BY DANA
WAGG

The sign says it all



of logs



The entrance to the plant

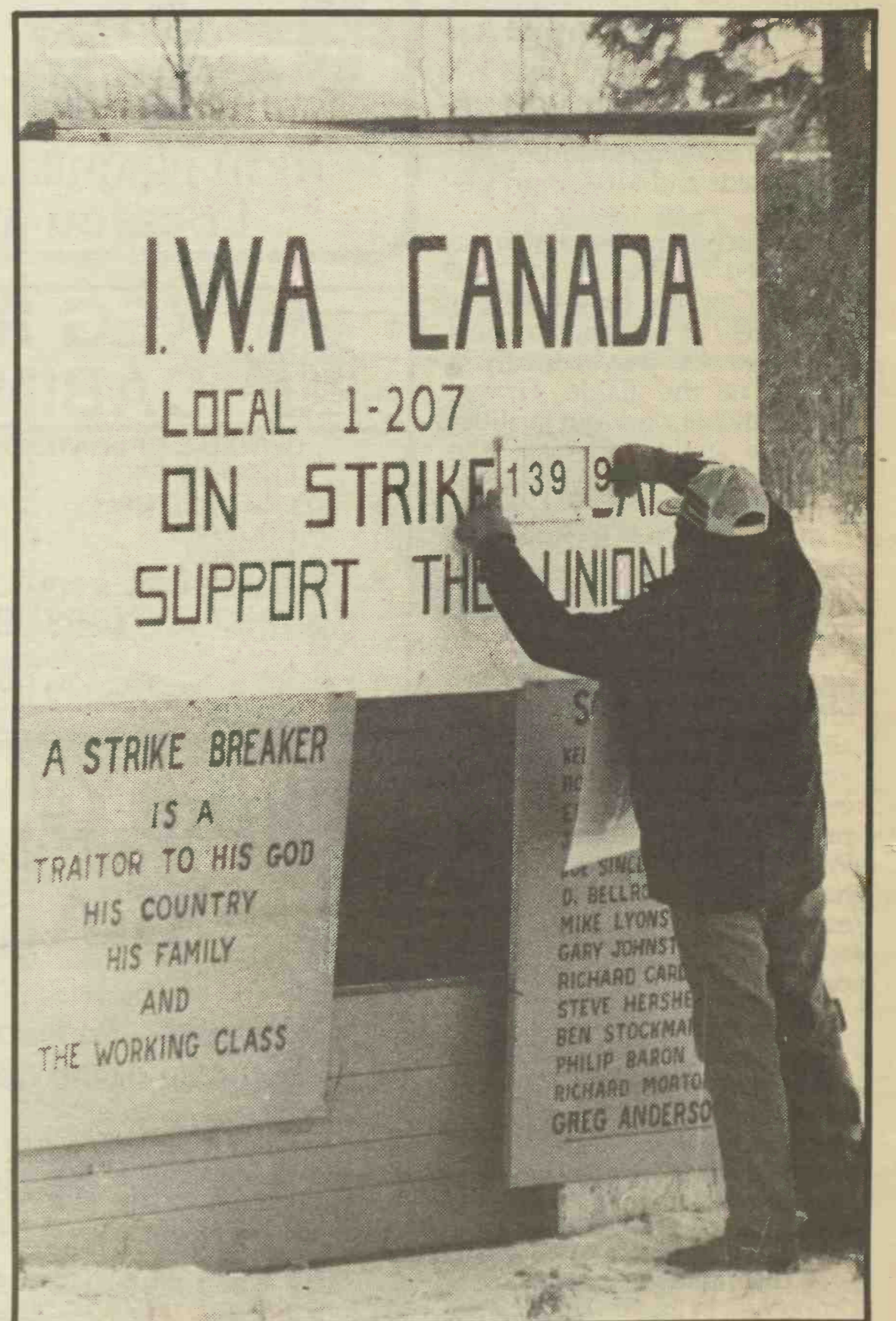
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Besides, most of his friends are at Wabasca, where he and his wife were born. The couple have six children (two girls/four boys) ranging in age from five to 15. "It gets pretty rough sometimes, like last Christmas when they couldn't get what they wanted." The older children understood and were supportive but the younger children like five-year-old Lisa didn't understand. Lisa, who was a toddler when the strike started, still doesn't know where her daddy goes when he leaves the house. "She figures I'm coming to work." Unlike some of the more fortunate strikers, Auger, who has lived in Slave Lake since 1974, doesn't own his own home and has to make monthly mortgage payments. But Alberta Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been "pretty supportive" helping the family balance its budget by reducing monthly house payments. Of course it'll take longer to pay off the house. Auger was a loader operator at Zeidler, where he had worked for six years when the strike began. He was bringing home about \$1,200 every two weeks. Strike pay now gives him \$784 every two weeks, 65 per cent of what he used to make.

"We had to cut down on quite a lot of things like recreation. There's no more picture shows for the kids. They don't get their bikes like they used to. They don't get their shoes; now we make sure they're worn out before they get a new pair." Even those who have found jobs elsewhere would be more than willing to come back to work if the strike ended, says Auger. Meanwhile, some of them have found work at Weldwood of Canada's nearby oriented strandboard plant. Others are working as laborers. In all 14 people, including two Natives, have crossed the picket line to go back to work. No women have crossed. But no one has crossed since October. That strikebreaker's name is in large letters on the so-called scab list just across the road from the plant's main gate. Everybody felt "terrible," says Auger, as he recalls while changing the strike day to read 1,399. Two video cameras inside the Zeidler gate follow him capturing his every move. Coincidentally, the man, who crossed in October, crossed at the same time as the company alleged there'd been an attempted fire at the plant. Zeidler is offering \$10,000 for information about

the fire and about tree-spiking on the 160-acre plant site. Auger denies the allegations. "Nobody from the picket line did that. I'm sure of that," he says. Heffernan says there's no proof "yet" the IWA or the picketers were involved. The police investigation is ongoing and very active, he says, noting fingerprints were obtained at the site. Heffernan says those involved "got damn close" to carrying out their plans. "It was very well thought out and very professional," he says. A security guard making an unscheduled patrol with a guard dog found igniters, hundreds of feet of rope, apparently to be used as a wick, numerous cans of flammable mixtures like kerosene and alarm clocks set to go off at a specific time. Meanwhile, the clock continues to tick on the walkout while the plant is operating at full capacity with over 100 employees staffing three daily shifts — there were two before the strike. If there's no settlement, the strikers will mark their 1,500th day May 19 as they march towards their fifth year. But then, who's counting? Slave Lake is 251 kilometres northwest of Edmonton.



Another day, another date change

A Profile of the Slave Lake Region

Success putting the squeeze on High Prairie centre

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HIGH PRAIRIE, ALTA.

The High Prairie Friendship Centre has become a victim of its own success. Cramped for space, because of its popular and expanding programs, it's on the hunt for more space.

"We've run ourselves out of room," said Loraine Duguay, the centre's executive director.

The organization is considering renovating the existing building or constructing a new building. "We're definitely looking at more space either way."

Duguay said it's also possible the centre might decide to have two buildings — one could be used for administrative purposes while the other could be used for recreation purposes like an expanded weight room and racket-ball courts.

She said the centre has applied for \$15,000 in provincial funding to do an engineering study, which would help assess the need.

Duguay said at least twice as much space as the existing 5,000 sq. ft. building is needed.

A building savings' account, provincial and federal grants as well as fund-raising would make the new \$500,000 to \$700,000 building a reality, she said.

The friendship centre has been in the existing building at 4919-51st Ave. for eight years.

Meanwhile, centre staff are focusing their efforts on the upcoming Volunteer Appreciation Night March 10. This year volunteers from other High Prairie agencies and surrounding communities are being recognized with those from the friendship centre, said assistant director Kathy Bellerose.

She said about 300 people are expected to attend including MP Jack Shields and MLA Pearl Cahahsen.

Volunteers are essential to the continued operation of the centre. They not only help out extensively at parties, banquets and bingos, but they're totally in charge of the Eagle Fitness Centre and its work-out facilities like the stationary bike, the weights and the universal station.

"We couldn't do it without all the volunteers," says secretary Penny Roberts. "They've all given countless hours."

The fitness centre, which is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., has a low membership fee of \$2 a year, although it's due to rise to \$50 a year. The existing fee doesn't even cover operating costs, notes program co-ordinator Lonnie Willier, while the new fee would help pay some of the costs of an expansion.

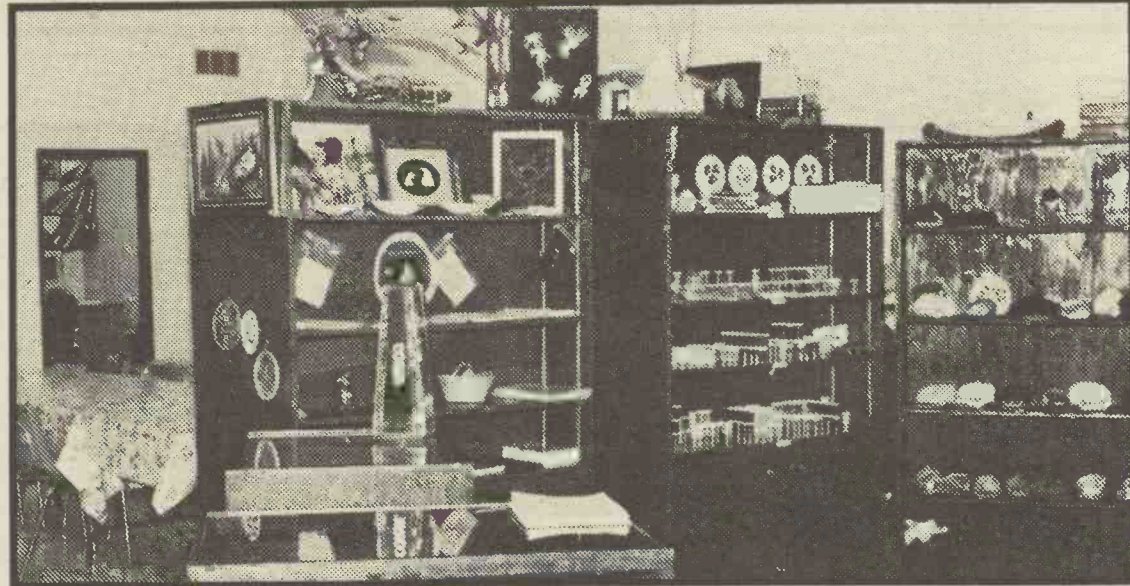
"We do offer quite a lot for the price of membership," he says.

As well as being a helpful source of information, the centre operates a thrift shop, where clothing can be obtained, and an area for crafts bought from local craftspeople.

And on Fridays soup and bannock can be had for \$1.50.

Free coffee is always on.

"The friendship centre is very important in this area. High Prairie is surrounded by a lot of reserves and it's some place for



The crafts area

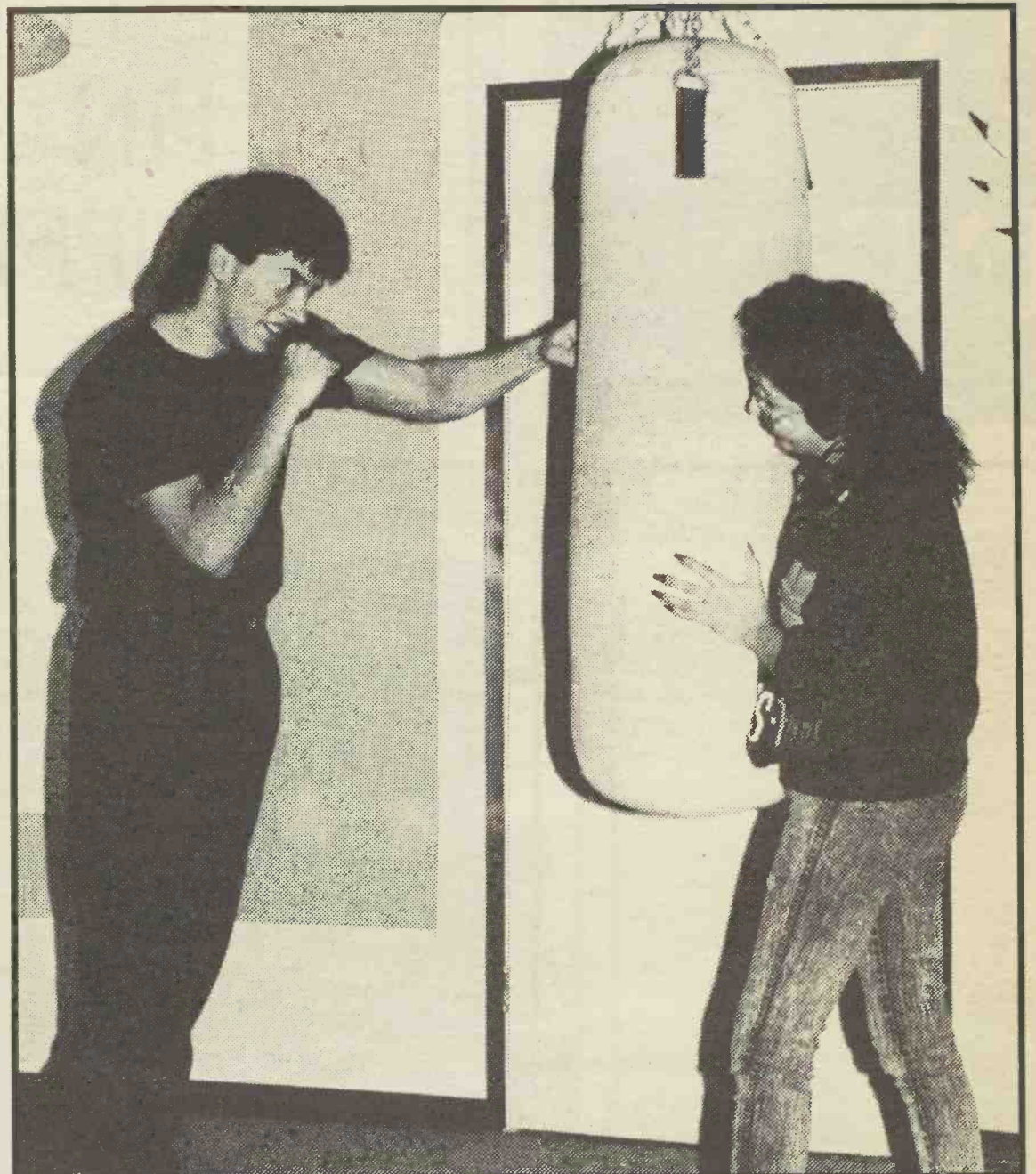
Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

Native people to go to get a helping hand. But the centre isn't just for Natives; it's for non-Natives as well," says Bellerose.

United Church minister, Rev. Paul Logan, one of the centre's board members, uses the fitness centre about three times a week. The centre plays a valuable role by promoting cross cultural ac-

tivities, he says.

"We get every class of people in here from people, who sleep on the streets to lawyers working out. So it affects a lot of people," says Roberts, noting the centre meets many different needs. It will even lend a hand to people needing assistance in filling out unemployment insurance forms.



Lonnie Willier and Kathy Bellerose

Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

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OBJECTIVES

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- To experiment with adapting traditional Indian healing practices and remedies to the modern situation in terms of professional services and facilities.

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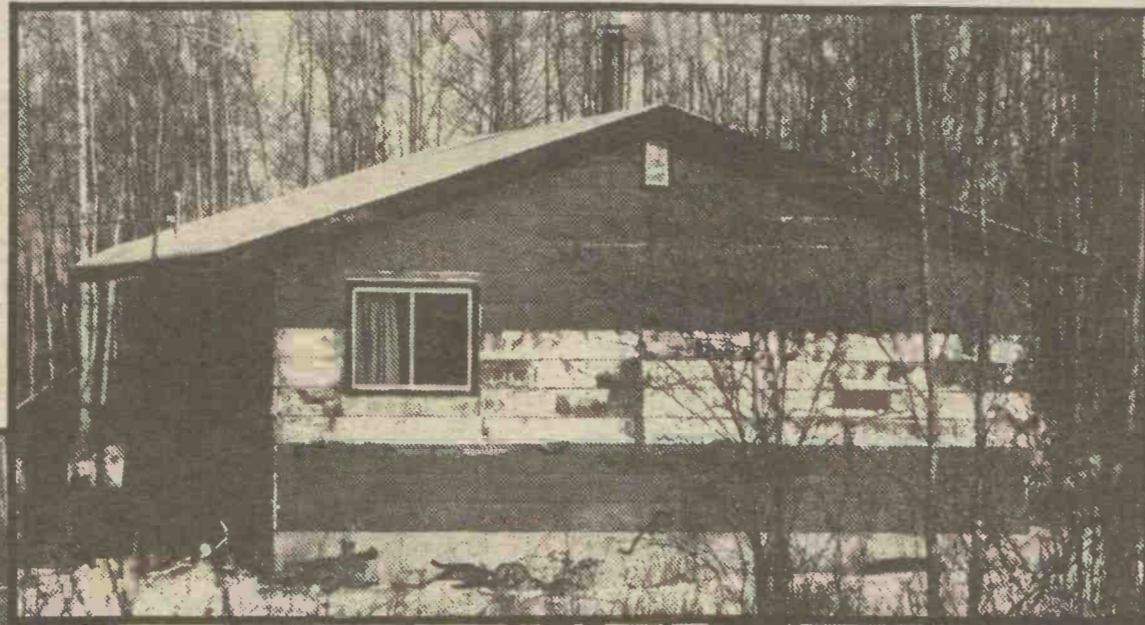
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A Profile of the Slave Lake Region



Hank Giroux with the band's cattle Inset: house on Driftpile reserve

Cattle may hold key to solving Driftpile housing crunch

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

DRIFTPILE RESERVE, Alta.

When Driftpile Councillor Hank (Tiny) Giroux eyes the band's cattle, he doesn't see hamburgers, he sees houses.

The band is considering building an abattoir and using some of the profits to tackle the severe housing crunch on the reserve — an average of two families live in each house.

It's a frustrating situation, said Giroux. The chronic shortage is usually raised three to four times at each council meeting by band members, but he said Chief Clifford Freeman and the nine councillors can do little except throw their hands up in frustration.

"There's not much we can do, because we don't have the facilities to pass out," said Hank.

"It's like banging our head on a door or a wall trying to figure out where we put these people or how we help them out," he said.

The overcrowding is "not acceptable at all emotionally or health-wise," said band administrator J.R. Giroux, brother of Hank.

Driftpile is a have-not band and has to depend on the federal government for housing money. That isn't putting a dent in the problem.

Ottawa overlooks the re-

serve's growing population and continues to provide only enough funding for eight units a year. And at that, Ottawa is meeting only half the cost of each unit. "I think they should be doing a lot more," said Hank.

There were 32 applications for housing last year while 28 have been submitted this year.

According to George Erasmus, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Driftpile Reserve has lots of company. "There is no First Nations community in Canada that does not have a housing shortage; the building of the one, two or half a dozen houses allotted by Indian Affairs, regardless of how great the need is, is not the answer," he says in the recently-published book *Drumbeat*.

"In housing, our people face a desperately critical situation, as they have done for generations. Statistics Canada in 1985 acknowledged a backlog of 12,000 housing units needed on reserves. Some 2,000 units are being built every year, not enough even to keep up with new family formation," he said.

"This severe shortage will be worsened by the return to reserves of people, who have been restored to status. If only half of them return, we could need an extra 25,000 houses," Erasmus said.

Driftpile is raising about 70 head of cattle, but it doesn't enjoy the meat, because the cattle

have to be shipped a considerable distance to Grande Prairie or Edmonton to be slaughtered. Substantial shipping costs are incurred.

Building a reserve abattoir would not only give band members fresh meat at competitive prices, but it would provide jobs and profits for other ventures, according to Chief Freeman.

A marketing study done for the band by Canadian Executive Services Overseas shows the project is viable, he said.

"The likelihood (of the project proceeding) is very good as long as there's a go-ahead from chief and council," said Freeman.

He doesn't know how much the venture would cost.

The abattoir could also process wild game for band members, said Freeman. As many as 10 people a month ship game off reserve for processing.

The band isn't shy about trying new ventures, said the chief. "If we fail, we just keep trying again."

J. R. said the reserve has an unemployment rate of about 70 per cent; more than 80 people are social assistance recipients.

But things are looking up — 15 people have found work at a nearby planer/sawmill. In addition to the abattoir, the band is exploring plans for a world-class Indian village as well as development of a beach area on Lesser Slave Lake.

DR. R.F. HAYNES

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A Profile of the Slave Lake Region

Driftpile band driven to be self-sufficient

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

DRIFTPILE RESERVE, ALTA.

Although it's a have-not band, Driftpile Reserve has been slowly, but steadily moving towards greater independence, according to band officials.

"We're moving along at our own pace without having to bring in a consultant at \$300 a day," said Chief Clifford Freeman.

The band bites off only as many challenges as it can chew at any one time, so growth is in line with the resources available to handle it, he said, noting the band wants to stay away from hiring off-reserve workers.

"As a leader, sometimes my expectations are too high," he said. "There's a lot of growing to do by our administration, which would allow them to take on new initiatives."

Even small projects can be tricky to implement, Freeman said.

The band's administration is the only one he knows of in Alberta totally run by Natives, said Freeman with pride. And the employees are all members of the Driftpile community.



J.R. Giroux

Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

The band employs 41 people, including 20 at the school.

He said the band, despite being a have-not band, is closer to attaining self-government than many others.

"With your own community members, you're able to get 110 per cent versus somebody coming here, who will get the job done just for the money," said band administrator J. R. Giroux.

He sought and obtained the council's approval when he took the job three years ago to set up a

training plan, which would allow community members to upgrade their skills in areas like accounting, so they would be eligible to compete when vacancies arose.

The results speak for themselves.

It's somewhat of a blessing in disguise for Driftpile that it is a have-not band, says the chief, since it has made the band self-sufficient.

It doesn't have the money to pay for outside expertise so if it

wants something done, the band members have to do it.

"For a have-not band, you're in a position that whatever you do in order to accomplish it, you have to do it yourself as opposed to a band, which has a lot of resources. Whatever they want to do, they just go hire and have it done. They don't get the hands-on experience of how to do that particular task," said Chief Freeman.

"In our situation we have no choice. If we want it, we have to go out and do it. It's not as though we can look in our bank account and hire someone to do it for us. That made a large difference for us. It didn't leave us sitting and waiting for someone to come and do it for us. That kind of experience really pays off," he said.

"Suddenly we became rich," said Giroux, 36, a former special constable.

The band's drive to self-sufficiency includes aggressively seeking to hire out its equipment for contract work. For instance a

band Caterpillar is at Grande Prairie grading right-of-way for a pipeline.

Meanwhile, the band hopes to cash in on employment opportunities provided by the pulp mill being built at Slave Lake. "We're concerned about the environmental impact of any pulp mill development, but we're realistic enough to see the economic benefits," says Giroux.

More than 500 people live on the 15,688 acre reserve — the band has about 1,150 members — which despite its have-not status has its band-operated school with about 130 students in attendance.

Headway has been made in the education field, too, said Giroux, pointing out the average grade level has risen two grades in the last five years, from Grade 3 to Grade 5.

And the number of Grade 12 graduates has also risen dramatically from one graduate in 1980 to five graduates in 1988.

Driftpile is 65 kilometres west of Slave Lake.

Band gives town first enclosed mall

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SLAVE LAKE, ALTA.

Slave Lake has its first enclosed shopping centre thanks to the Sawridge Band.

The band plays a large role in the local economy, notes Ann Thompson, general manager of Sawridge Plaza. In addition to the new mall, the band's Slave Lake holdings include Sawridge Truck Stop and Sawridge Hotel as well as a modern apartment complex.

"The band has been a definite asset to the town of Slave Lake, because of its economic development," she says.

The mall, which is wholly-owned by the band, is filling up slowly, but Thompson is confident the \$5-million plaza will be full by fall.

"Shoppers are very, very excited about the mall," which brings an uptown feel to the area, she says. "It's one of the most beautiful buildings I have had an opportunity to work with."

The first tenant, 8,180 sq. ft. Fields, opened in August while a 20,000 sq. ft. Woolworths opened in November. There'll be about 30 tenants when the mall is fully occupied.

An 80-seat food court located near the centre of the mall will be home for four fast-food outlets, including two which have already opened: Fuzzy Orange and Burgers Plus.

The centre court, which will be used to host community events, was used by a local high school band at Christmas to entertain shoppers. It will also be used for things like flea markets and arts and crafts displays.

"We intend to do our utmost to make this a community mall."

Most of the space in the 101,000 sq. ft. mall, which is identical to a Spruce Grove shopping centre, has already been taken, says Thompson noting about 73 per cent of the space has been leased.

The Bank of Nova Scotia will be opening a branch in the shopping centre. There'll be a large lottery and magazine centre. And the band itself plans to get in the grocery business.

It hopes to open a 25,000 sq. ft. Plaza Food Fare April 1 south of Fields, which will complement the band's hotel and truck stop, observes Thompson.

The band saw the potential

several years ago of building a mall and had market studies done, she says. "This wasn't an overnight decision.

"Slave Lake as a whole has been doing a complete face-lift. We as part of downtown are very happy other retailers will be doing face-lifts on their fronts," says Thompson.

"It was time for it to happen. Slave Lake is a very progressive town."

Meanwhile, even before the paint is dry at Sawridge Plaza, the owners are thinking of expansion, but Thompson won't talk publicly about Phase 2.

In addition to its local holdings, the band has hotels at Jasper and Fort McMurray.

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— A Profile of the Slave Lake Region —

Steady growth for AVC — Lesser Slave Lake

GROUARD, ALTA.
 Alberta Vocational Centre (AVC) — Lesser Slave Lake, the largest educator of Native students in Alberta, just keeps getting larger.

As of September the centre, which also ranks as the second largest rural institution in the province after Lakeland College, had 46 programs in 21 communities with over 800 students. That compares to Sept. 1988 enrolments of 689 students in 35 programs in 18 communities.

"We've had a steady increase in the number of students," said communications consultant Rhonda DeLorme.

College president Dan Vandermeulen said he was "extremely pleased with the growth. Even though the centre is a very large institution, the need for community involvement and representation is clearly recognized. The input from these communities has been a critical factor in the centre's growth."

AVC Lesser Slave Lake provides services to over 22 communities in an area of over 85,000 square kilometres.

It provides programs in Chi-

pewyan Lake, Peerless Lake, Trout Lake, Loon Lake, Cadotte Lake, Atikameg, Wabasca/Desmarais, Gift Lake, Calling Lake, Peavine, East Prairie, Little Buffalo, Peace River, Falher, McLennan, Valleyview, High Prairie, Faust, Kinuso, Swan Hills, Flat Bush, Grouard and Slave Lake.

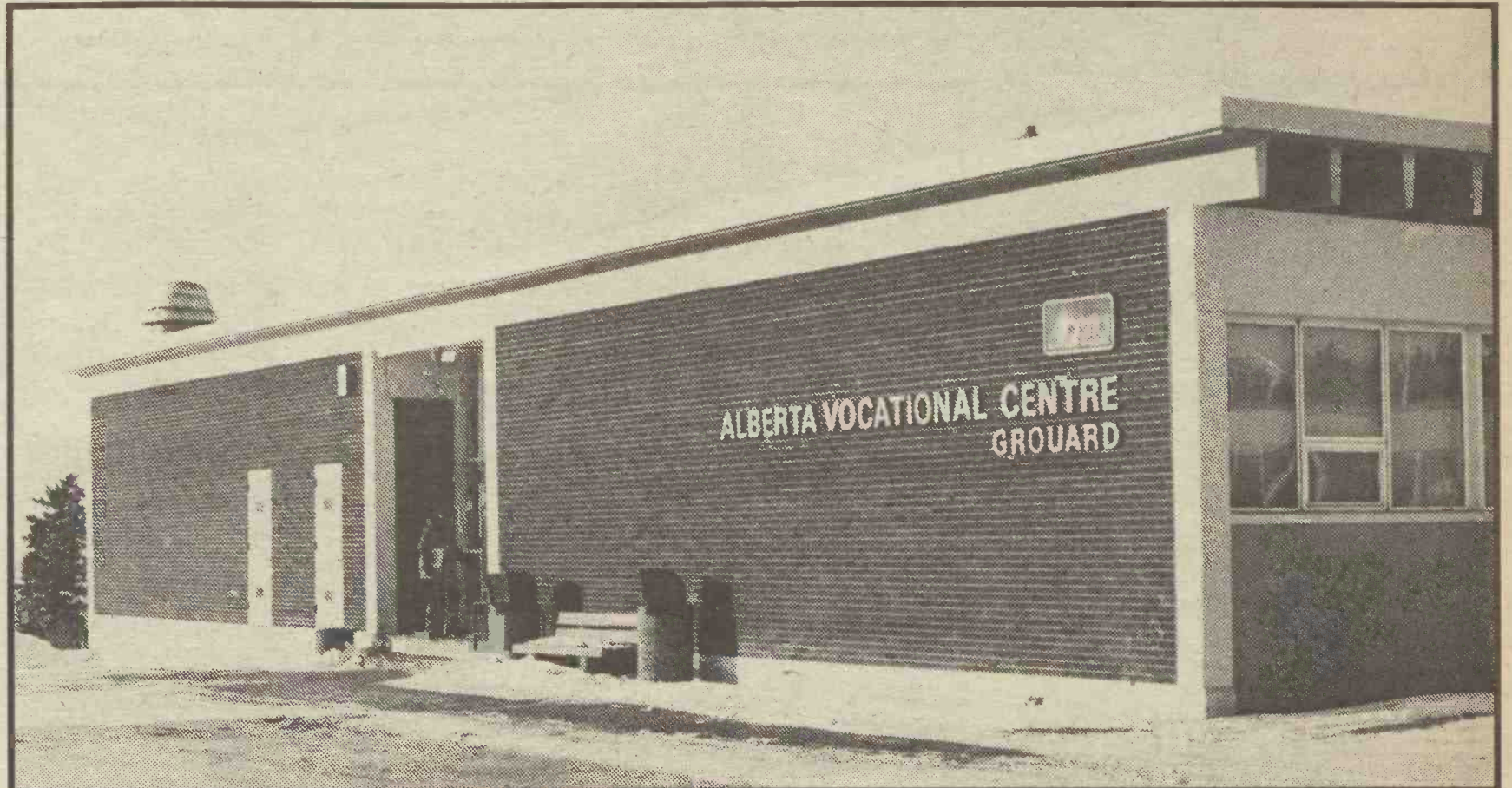
A number of new facilities are also underway including an \$11-million facility at Slave Lake, which will open in the fall of 1991. It will house 28 classrooms, a full-service cafeteria, a day-care centre, a gymnasium and an aquatic centre.

A new facility has also been approved for Wabasca/Desmarais; it will be a combined AVC Campus and Opportunity Corps building. Construction is scheduled to start this spring.

This past fall an 18-unit student family housing project opened at Grouard campus, which also boasts a new 60 child day-care centre.

The majority of career training programs are offered at the Slave Lake and Grouard campuses.

Adult basic education and high school education are offered at the other 19 campuses.



AVC - Lesser Slave Lake (Grouard Campus)

Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

"It makes it a lot easier for them if they haven't finished their Grade 12 to go to school in their own communities, especially if they have families," said DeLorme.

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A Profile of the Slave Lake Region

Friendship centre a helping place

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SLAVE LAKE, Alta.

Peggy Roberts is in the middle of an interview with a newspaper reporter when the phone rings and she asks to be excused.

The reporter entertains himself with a cup of coffee in the waiting room while watching a local man get help from the secretary filling out a form.

Roberts, the executive director of the Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre, returns about 15 minutes later.

The call was from a Native Counselling worker, who needed help for a woman, who had no food or heat in her log house. Roberts quickly provided some emergency help, which will see the woman through her crisis.

Meanwhile, a wake has just ended in the centre's hall and women are browsing in the clothing room while they search for what they, their children or families need.

In a small office not too far from the reception area, Theresa LaRocque and Heather Moss field calls as they try to drum up support for a safe house for abused women and their children.

And at the other end of the building in the weight room Harold Norberg, an operator for Husky Oil, works out with his son Mark and fiancée Heather Gullion. Norberg, who lost his right eye in a traffic accident after he fell asleep while driving, works out at the friendship centre five times a week.

The centre touches the lives of many people and Roberts is visibly pleased. She talks enthusiastically about the vital role it plays in the Slave Lake community and doesn't appear rattled at the demands on the huge centre and her time.

There seems to be no end to the activities or services provided: dances, translation services, a summer assistance program for seniors, a curling bonspiel, a talent show, volunteer appreciation night, a fun in the sun summer program for children, Moms 'n' Tots.....

Roberts doesn't just sit behind



Harold Norberg

Dana Wagg, Windspeaker

a desk. She's a hands-on director. "I never know when I'm going to be in the kitchen washing dishes, making a lunch or moving something," she says.

"You always have to be prepared and you have to be able to think on your feet."

During the disastrous flood, which hit Slave Lake in July 1988, the community pulled together. The friendship centre was converted to an emergency babysitting service. The Red Cross provided diapers while eight centre

staff members tended to 60 children. "It was pretty hectic," chuckles Roberts. "We just sat here and held babies."

"We're fortunate to have such a large centre," says Roberts, who has held the post of executive director the last two years.

She also has a full plate of other responsibilities holding down a position on a day-care board and a health services committee. She also sits on the Slave Lake Advanced Education Board, the Interagency Steering

Committee and she's a provincial member of the Slave Lake Housing Authority.

"As a director you have to get out there."

The centre is highly regarded in the community and enjoys strong support from local businesses. Roberts attributes much of that to the prominent people, who serve on the board.

The board members include Henry Sinclair, Ray Dupres, lawyer Phil Lokken, town councillor Pally Pillay, Fred and

Marie Auger, Butch L'Hirondelle and special constable Alex Courtoreille.

"Our work is made easier by the community. Slave Lake really backs us in donations."

It's in the middle of renovations but Roberts is dreaming of making a \$100,000 expansion to the recreation area a reality. The added income could contribute to the centre's operating costs.

As it is the centre is just two years away from burning its mortgage. Paying it off will give the centre more freedom and will allow for program expansion.

A member of the Tallcree band, Roberts, 39, spent a decade working with the provincial government in the Native Affairs Secretariat, then she moved over to Native Counselling Services and then to the Edmonton Public School Board, where she worked as a liaison worker with the Sacred Circle program.

"I can relate well to people. That's one of my biggest strengths," she says, sounding like she loves her job. "It's challenging, it's exciting and the pay is reasonably good."

It's rewarding, she confides "knowing you get some rewards, knowing you are able to help people."

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The Budget

Native media 'vital', says Hodgson

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Native newspapers and radio stations are "vital" programs in the aboriginal community, says the executive director of Nechi Institute.

"If you don't have Indian media promoting what's happening, each community becomes isolated," said Maggie Hodgson, a leading figure in the Native community's fight against substance abuse.

She said she was "shocked" to hear the extent of federal budget cuts to *Windspeaker*, which along with 10 other Native papers will lose all federal funding because of the budget recently introduced by Finance Minister Michael Wilson.

Hodgson said while she had expected most government departments to be cut, "it's beyond belief you guys are experiencing that cut."

The federal government mistakenly saw Native newspapers as soft programs and frills, which could be cut, rather than as the "vital" programs they are, she said.

She encouraged the Native community to protest the cuts to the government. "It's up to the Indian community to say 'Mr. Wilson this is not a soft program. This is a very necessary and vital part of our society, a way of communicating with each other.'"

"*Windspeaker* has done a lot to promote the positive developments in Indian communities starting from ANCS (Alberta Native Communications Society) days. Before that, Indian communities were isolated while regular media tended to sensationalize (things like) deaths at Peerless Lake. Mainstream society and Indian people heard about failures," said Hodgson.

She said *Windspeaker*, which publishes an annual section in its newspaper on the fight against substance abuse, "has furthered the cause of fighting substance abuse in a vigorous way."

Hodgson implied the government may have had another reason for slashing funding to Native newspapers. "The biggest form of community mobilization is the media. A good way to silence people is to silence their press."

She said Nechi helped head off a massive cut in its budget in

1988 through an extensive and lengthy letter-writing campaign to then Health and Welfare Minister Jake Epp.

Hodgson said Native leaders and people have to do a better job of selling their successes to non-Natives if they hope to tap into them for support since politicians are often unresponsive to

Indian concerns, because Indians make up such a small percentage of the population and typically don't vote.

For instance, she said she brings the Nechi message to many white people. "There are a lot of good, mainstream people, who could and would support us if they knew they were sup-

porting something meaningful," she said.

The sober walk sponsored by Nechi and Poundmaker's Lodge drew 700 people this past year and attracted many non-Natives. In its first year, participation was almost exclusively Native, drawing about 200 people, said Hodgson.



Maggie Hodgson

Dana Wagg, *Windspeaker*

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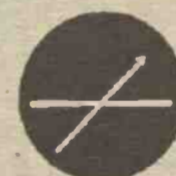
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Canada

The Budget

Kahtou

The voice of B.C.'s First Nations



Volume 8, Number Two

Monday, February 5, 1990

Salute to the 31st Annual All Native Basketball Tournament

Tribal group sign agreement with feds

A framework agreement signed at Kispox between the Gitksan-Wet'suwet'en and the Federal Government of Canada is a process which is expected to form a basis for first nations self government.

On Jan. 13, 1990 the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Pierre Cadieux, and Don Ryan, speaker for the

stated Cadieux in a recent press release

However, Ryan is not that optimistic in his assessment of the agreement and feels it is not that significant. The significant things he sees are the things they can get out of the exercise. The agreement does not mean anything unless people can get to a point where they can present their



Bert Crowfoot Photo

There's an air of uncertainty at Kahtou

A black week for Native papers and staff

By Josie Auger
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

It's been a black week for Native reporters and newspapers.

Across the country Native newspapers funded by the secretary of state will have their funding slashed 100 per cent, because of cuts in last week's federal budget. The funding for the 11 Native newspapers had amounted to \$3.5 million.

"It's a mere drop in the bucket to cut aboriginal communication. The slice has basically cut off Native communication!" slams Ona Fiddler-Berteig, New Breed's managing editor.

The decision means newspapers like *Windspeaker*, *Kainai News*, *Kahtou*, *New Breed*, *Native Press*, *Micmac News* and *Dannzha* will have to find other means of survival.

Plans to save the newspapers and the over 100 jobs at stake are being made.

Meanwhile, cries of outrage are being heard across the land.

In Vancouver at *Kahtou* an air of uncertainty hovers over the office.

"It's not a very good feeling. It's a time to think things over and see where we are at. We're not taking dramatic actions; instead we'll think things through rationally," said office manager Tim Isaac.

The secretary of state funded *Kahtou* for \$240,000 a year and has given the paper a six-month grace period before money is cut off.

Saskatoon's *New Breed* Native newspaper, which was funded \$120,000 a year, has also been given a six-month grace period. Fiddler-Berteig is hoping the provincial government will come to the paper's aid as it moves towards self-sufficiency.

Officials at the newspaper plan to hold a series of news conferences to make mainstream media more aware of the situ-

ation. *New Breed* is also attempting to mobilize Native people to write letters of protest to Ottawa.

Dannzha, a Native magazine from the Yukon, has also been given six months to find alternative funding and will have to restructure its operation to compensate for lost revenue. It's losing \$151,000 each year.

"We received an overwhelming response to our magazine. We're going to do everything we can to keep publishing," said Eileen Vance-Duchesne, executive director for Ye Sa To Communications Society, which publishes *Dannzha*.

"Every communications society is going to have to look at cuts," she said.

Secretary of state also cut back funding to multiculturalism and citizenship programs as well as aboriginal representative organizations, Native social development cultural programs, aboriginal women's programs and friendship centres.

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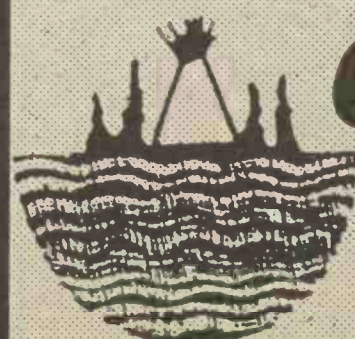
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This Commission Meeting will include a discussion on Pay Equity, and is open to the public and the media.

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What's Happening

Indian Country Community Events

To have your event appear in "Indian Country Community Events" call Tina Wood at (403)455-2700.

ALBERTA PEDWAY DISPLAY; Feb. 9 - Mar. 30; 9804 - 107 St., north of the Legislature; Native Indian Arts & Crafts; for more info. call (403)427-7362.

HEAD-SMASHED-IN BUFFALO JUMP; mini-events every Sunday at noon thru to March 25; Mar. 11 - *Native Films*; for more info. contact Louise Crow Shoe, (403) 553-2731 or Calgary, (403) 265-0048.

METIS DANCE CLASSES; every Sunday, 2-4 p.m.; St. Peter's Church (110 Ave. & 127 St.), Edm.; for more info. call Georgina Donald at (403)452-7811.

ANY CHILD CAN PROGRAM & YOUTH PROGRAM; every Tuesday 6 - 9 p.m.; Westmount Community Hall, Edm.; for more info. call Brian at (403)452-7811.

C.N.F.C. Aerobics Program; Mondays 7-8 p.m. & Tuesdays 5 - 6 p.m.; Oliver Elementary School (117 St. & 102 Ave.), Edm.; for more info. call Brian at (403)452-7811.

COLD LAKE FIRST NATIONS WINTER CARNIVAL; Mar. 2, 3 & 4; for more info. call (403)594-7183, ask for Randy Muskeg, Rick Janvier or Eric Grandbois.

NATIVE AWARENESS DAYS; Mar. 7-9; University of Alberta, Edmonton; for more info. contact Dexter or leave

message at (403)492-1992.

ABORIGINAL FILM FESTIVAL; Mar. 7 - 9; University of Alberta, Edm.; for more info. call Everett Lambert at (403)492-1992.

ROUND DANCE; Mar. 9; Frog Lake Hall; for more info. call (403)943-3737.

TALENT SHOW; Mar. 9; Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre; for more info. call June Houle at (403)849-3039.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BANQUET & DANCE; Mar. 10; High Prairie; for all volunteers of the High Prairie Friendship Centre & area; for more info. call (403)523-4511.

ABORIGINAL STUDENT COUNCIL ROUND DANCE; Mar. 10; University of Alberta, Butterdome, Edmonton; for more info. call Dexter at (403)492-1992.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOUP & GREEN BANNOCK (\$1.50); Mar. 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; High Prairie Native Friendship Centre; for more info. call (403)523-4511.

4TH ANNUAL WABASCA/DESMARAIS MAD TRAPPERS WINTER CARNIVAL; Mar. 16, 17 & 18; Desmarais Centre, Desmarais; for more info.

call Chris Gladue at (403)891-3818 or Jim Blair at (403)891-3777.

GOODFISH LAKE KINGS NO-HIT HOCKEY TOURNAMENT; Mar. 16, 17 & 18; Lakeside Arena; for more info. call Henry Cardinal at (403)636-2863, work or (403)636-2194, home.

NATIVE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT; Mar. 16 - 18; Grant MacEwan Jasper Place Campus, Edm.; for more info. contact Brian at (403)452-7811.

BOY'S HOCKEY TOURNAMENT; Mar. 16-18; St. Paul; for more info. call Andy at (403) 645-4491, Crystal or Verne John at (403) 826-7866 or leave message at (403) 645-4455.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT; Mar. 16-18; St. Paul; for more info. call Andy at (403) 645-4491, Crystal or Verne John at (403) 826-7866 or leave message at (403) 645-4455.

SENIOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT; March 16-18; Regina Exhibition Stadium - Exhibition Park; Regina, Sask.; entry deadline Mar. 9; for more info. contact Milton Tootoosis at (306) 584-8333.

1ST ANNUAL NATIVE CO-ED VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT; Mar. 16-18; Edmonton;

sponsored by the C.N.F.C.; for more info. call Rene or Cathy at (403) 452-7811.

ANNUAL NATIVE AWARENESS (SPEAKING FROM THE CIRCLE); Mar. 19-23; Blue Quills First Nation College, St. Paul; for more info. call Darrell Bretton at (403)645-4455.

ALL CHIEFS HEALTH CONFERENCE; Mar. 20, 21 & 22; Continental Inn West, Edmonton; for more info. contact Audrey or Henry at (403)426-1213.

METIS WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF EDMONTON ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK SUPPER; Mar. 23; supper 5 p.m., meeting 6 p.m.; 11339 - 88 St., Edm.; for more info. call (403)479-4352.

NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES LAST WORKSHOP; Mar. 23, 24 & 25, 1990; Regency Hotel (7230 Argyll Rd.), Edm.; for more info. call (403)421-0991.

HIGH PRAIRIE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 3RD ANNUAL TALENT SHOW; Mar. 24 at 7:00 p.m.; Elk's Hall (downtown); for more info. or to enter, please call Loraine at (403)523-4511.

EDMONTON NATIVE SNOWBIRDS (LADIES FASTBALL) TRYOUTS; Mar. 31 to Apr. 1; Enoch, Alberta; for more info. call Gordon Russell at (403) 456-1039 or 479-8609.

NATIONAL FILM BOARD; every Wednesday at noon; special screenings; NFB Theatre, 120 Canada Place, 9700 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton; admission is free; for more info. call Muriel at

495-3012.

WESTERN CANADIAN NATIVE CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS; Apr. 6, 7 & 8; Wetaskiwin Recreation Centre, Wetaskiwin; sponsored by the Hobbema Curling Club; for more info. or entries call Dale Spence at (403)352-0059 or (403)421-1606.

POUNDMAKER'S LODGE 1ST ALUMNI MEETING; Apr. 7, 4:00 p.m.; for ex-clients; \$10/ticket; for more info. call Florence Cayenne or Elaine Papin at (403)458-1884.

NATIONAL INDIAN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Men/Ladies), April 7 & 8, 1990; University of Regina Physical Activity Centre; entry deadline Mar. 29; for more info. contact Milton Tootoosis at (306) 584-8333 or fax (306) 584-0955.

12th ANNUAL SPRING POWWOW; April 14 & 15, 1990; Canada Centre, East Building, Regina Exhibition Park; for more info. contact Melody Kitchemonia at (306) 584-8333 or fax (306) 584-0955.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION - "STAND AND DELIVER"; April 18 to 21; Convention Inn South and Coast Terrace Inn, Edm.; for more info. call Anita at (403)962-0303.

ELIZABETH SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE & COMMUNITY HALL GRAND OPENING; May 11; Elizabeth Settlement; for more info. call Pam Anderson at (403)594-5028.

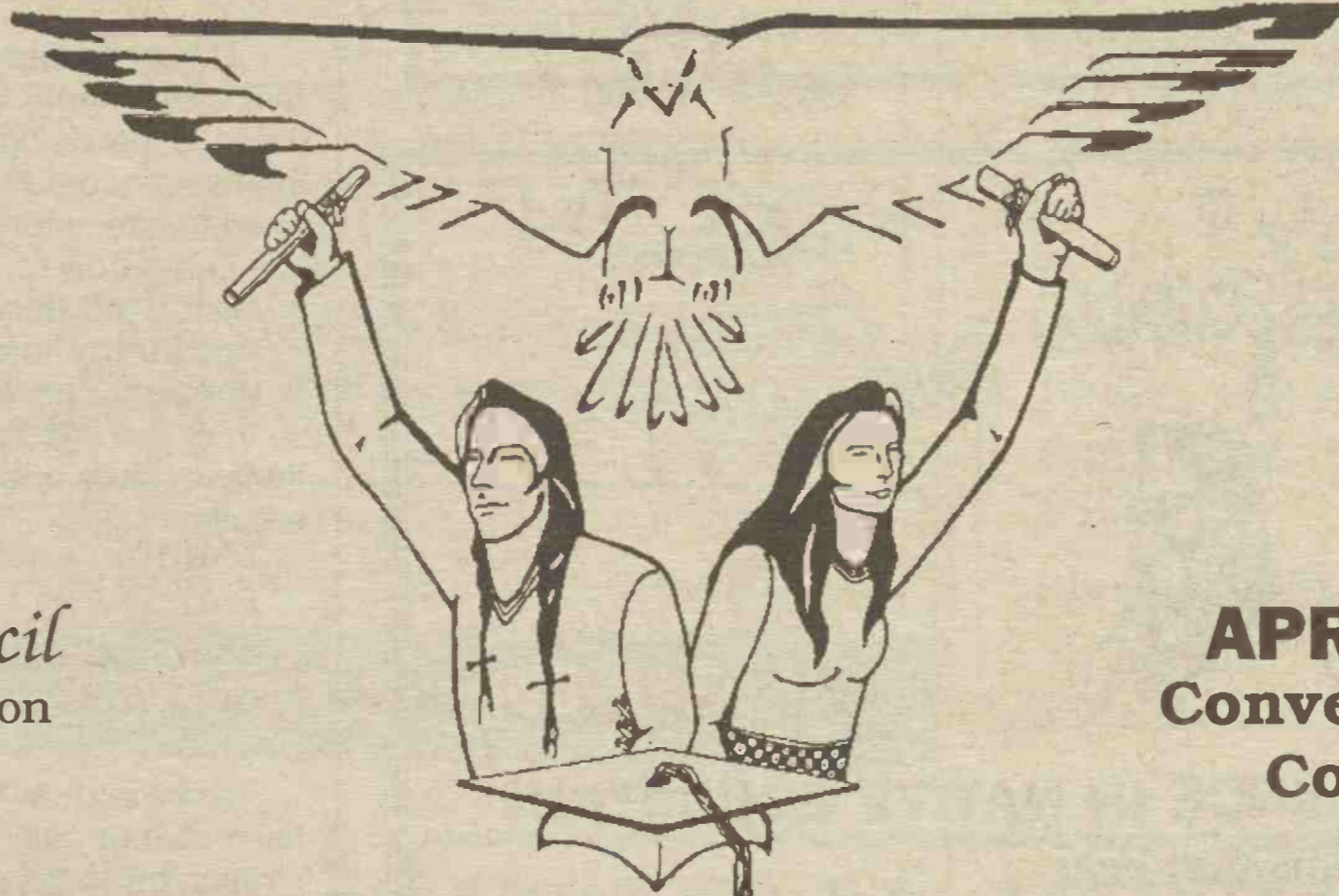
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- Knowledge of the English language

APPLICATIONS OR RESUMES MAY BE FORWARDED TO:



Saddle Lake Tribal
Administration

Box 100, Saddle Lake, AB. TOA 3T0
726-3829

CLOSING DATE
FOR
APPLICATIONS:
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