

# Blood Tribe Administration Review

## Tsinikssini

FREE

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### Blood Tribe members complete Aboriginal Drilling Rig Training

A group of 16 men from the Blood Reserve recently completed a two week Aboriginal Drilling Rig Training program, which was co-sponsored by the Kainaiwa Resources Inc., Savanna Energy Services and the Provincial Government of Alberta. The training program which took place on the Blood Reserve provided on-hands experience working on an oil rig for one week and a weeklong betterment course which provided some opportunity to deal with issues that may affect them in their employment.

The new rig hands learned to operate rig equipment, safety courses and other job-related skills. The have gained the skills to work in the physically demanding and often dangerous job of drilling for oil and



Graduates from the Aboriginal Drilling Rig Training Program during drilling demonstration

gas on rigs anywhere from Northern Alberta to Texas. Some of the men who completed the course have been offered positions on rigs, in Alberta and the U.S. The Training program helps to provide more workers for the redhot Oil patch in Alberta, some of participants will no doubt be going to Northern Alberta within days of the completion of their training.

### Levern Community Working Together

Members of the Levern Community in recent months, launched a Community Development Initiative that brings together families of the community to join in activities and other social events that would contribute to the betterment of all its members. The Christmas activities recently was a good example of some the positive outcomes of such an effort. With the support of The Blood Tribe Police, the community

Liason group at Levern, Blood Tribe Food Bank, Councillors Rod First Rider and Marcel Weasel Head and Nina Buckskin and a core group of elders, Levern hosted a very successful Santa Claus Parade, a Christmas Dinner and food and hamper drive. These activities provided an opportunity to strengthen the community and create bonds that were weakened in recent years. With the efforts of The Blood Tribe Police, Community Policing Officer Ivan "Buzzy" Healy, who worked

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Kainai Food Bank Check Stop

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closely with community members, some positive things happened, and according to Lavern Community member Flora Scout, “this is only the start of the many activities we could be involved in building a better community”.

The Christmas activities were great for the children and also the adults who had an opportunity to socialize in a very positive manner. In the past, the Lavern Community was well known for its community activities and community spirit, it is now being rekindled.



*Participants at the 2006 Lavern Santa Claus Parade*



*And Santa Claus himself.*

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## **BLOOD TRIBE FCSS THROUGH THE FOOD SECURITY PROJECT OFFERS:**

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN:** Come and learn some easy recipes and basic cooking lessons we can also provide some child care provided ample time is given to coordinator, we are currently accepting volunteers and recruits for other areas of the reserve. This is an opportunity to get involved with your community and the reserve.

**GOOD FOOD BOXES:** An abundant box of fresh fruit for \$10.00 and \$15.00 also meat boxes \$10.00 and \$15.00 orders are taken on the third Thursday of each month and picked up on the second Thursday of each month call 737-2888 to place an order.

**COLLECTIVE KITCHEN:** Are a type of community kitchen the difference is that you cook in quantity and the participants split the meals and take home their families. This is a wonderful way for busy families to get together and make pre-cooked meals that can be either eaten as soon as you arrive home or can be frozen till you are on the go and do not have the time to prepare a meal just heat and serve call 737-2888 BTFCSS for more information.

## **KAINAIWA BOTTLE DEPOT HOURS OF OPERATION**

### **MONDAY - SAT**

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### **SUNDAY/ HOLIDAYS:**

CLOSED

(ACCEPTING LAST CUSTOMER  
15 MINUTES BEFORE NOON &  
CLOSING)

## **News Briefs**

### **Aboriginal children are poorest in country: Report Says**

A national network of advocacy groups released a report on Friday that paints a bleak picture of poverty facing First Nations children in Canada. The report says one in four children in First Nations communities lives in poverty, and it calls upon federal and provincial assistance.

### **A cry for Help Unsafe Water Continues to Affect Native Communities**

Most Canadians take it for granted that the water coming out of their taps is fit for human consumption, but that's not the case for native communities.

In some native communities in Canada, the water isn't even safe for bathing, let alone fit to drink.

### **Implement Kelowna deal on native poverty: Fontaine**

The Harper government should move immediately to implement the Kelowna accord on improving the lives of Canada's aboriginal people, Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine said recently.

Speaking to the House of Commons committee on aboriginal affairs, Fontaine said mass poverty in native communities was “the single most important social justice issue facing the country.”

He told MPs that the \$5-billion deal agreed to in Kelowna last November between native groups, provincial premiers and Ottawa was not being honored.

# BLOOD TRIBE TRADITIONAL LAND USE AND OCCUPANCY STUDY

Provided by  
Dorothy T. First Rider

Historically, First Nations were never consulted by industry or by government when resource development took place within First Nation traditional territory. As a result numerous significant and historic sites such as tipi rings; bison jumps, and cairns have been destroyed. Now that the Courts have made it mandatory for industry and government to consult First Nations prior to resource development. the Blood Tribe, through the Tribal Government and External Affairs Department, is conducting a traditional land use and occupancy study (TLUOS) within the traditional territory. The traditional territory is bordered by natural boundaries and ranges from the North Saskatchewan River to the Yellowstone in Montana, west to the Rocky Mountains and east to the Cypress Hills.

The TLUOS began in 2006 and has relied heavily upon the input of a core group of elders. To date the Tribe has managed to engage in traditional land use and occupancy studies in the following areas; Cypress Hills Park, Great Sand Hills, the AltaLink Transmission Line from the Genesse Sub Station to Langdon, Ab, and an area west of the Milk River that is approximately 20 miles North West of Coutts, Alberta.

The cost of the study has been off set by industry. Significant sites identified by the elders have been GPS and go into the Blood Tribe TLUOS data base. Digital maps are produced and mitigation protective measures are negotiated with industry. To date,



*Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Study Group on Site*



*Many interesting discoveries were studied and documented by the crew.*

the Blood Tribe has been bombarded with numerous co management agreements and now, relying on the information from the studies, the Tribe will be able to participate in more meaningful discussions as well as making informed decisions. Utilizing scientific methodology the TLUOS will assist the Tribe with existing claims and with new claims, and the study is assisting the Tribe in documenting Blood history.

A vital component to the study is the genealogy. Although Blood movement within the traditional territory was restricted after the Blackfoot Treaty was made in 1877, the Bloods continue to have an interest within the traditional territory and need to be consulted by industry and government whenever resource development is contemplated. The genealogy

validates our use and occupancy within the traditional territory.

Blood Tribe Tribal Government & External Affairs Senior Researcher, Dorothy First Rider is the TLUOS Project Coordinator. J.J. Shade is a GIS/GPS Technician and Data Entry Clerk and Roxanne Oka is a GIS/GPS Genealogy Clerk. Researcher interviewers and translators are Harrison Shade and Dennis First Rider. The TLUOS team is assisted by Mike Tailfeathers, Tribal Government Computer Technician.

Blood elders having information on the traditional and current use within the traditional territory are encouraged to contact Dorothy First Rider @ 737 8236 to arrange for an interview.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events December 2006

### **Holiday Pow Wows**

Come celebrate the festivities with the Horn Society on *December 25, 2006* at the **Senator Gladstone Hall**

Dance into the New Year with Brave Dog Society on *December 29, 2006* also at the **Senator Gladstone Hall**

### **Memorial Pow Wows for the late Mr. and Mrs. Jim Young Pine**

*December 27, 2006*

Grand Entry 6:00 pm sharp  
Senator Gladstone Hall

First 3 drummers will be paid

Special - Men's Jingle Dress Dance

Other Competitions 1st and 2nd Place winners - All age Chicken, Fancy and Traditional, Jingle and Ladies Traditional.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED

### **Blood Tribe Chief & Council PUBLIC NOTICE December 20, 2006**

**Due to numerous inquiries and complaints with Blood Tribe Chief & Council regarding the December 2006 Cash rent Loan Arrangements with Scotiabank - Stand Off Branch Chief and Council have now obtained clarification from the Bank of Nova Scotia regarding the Notice.**

**Chief and Council will be meeting with representative of Scotiabank in the new year to address the Scotiabank lending policy and concerns of the Blood Tribe members.**

**We apologize for any inconvenience at this time. Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.  
BLOOD TRIBE CHIEF & COUNCIL**

## Chief & Council Update

### **Meeting of Dec.18/06.**

#### **Pandemic Flu Presentation.**

A group from the Blood Tribe Health Department consisting of: CEO Chris Shade, Barbara Freeman-Williams, Bonnie Mistaken Chief, Lori Healy, and Seneal-Environmental Health Officer, presented Council an update of the disaster plan if and when there should be an outbreak of the dreaded Avian Flu, commonly called the Bird Flu. Since Pandemics normally occur every 30 years, it is speculated that this flu could hit globally at any time. The Health Department has been working on creating awareness of the possibility of such a pandemic and what individuals should do if this happens. The details will be published at a later time.

#### **Internet Upgrades.**

Blood Tribe Health Dept. relaunching Supernet after nearly two years of technical problems. With a re-organization of the infrastructure, Health Dept. officials are confident there will be improved service to the Blood Tribe Departments and Entities who subscribe to the network. The Health Dept. under FNIHB funding, bought into the Supernet to provide high-speed internet for medical purposes.

#### **Blood Tribe ScotiaBank negotiations.**

The Blood Tribe Lands Management Department gave Council the latest development on the Scotia-Bank restrictions placed on grain assignments to land occupants with cultivated land. The bank will only allow set loan amounts to those who have over-extended credit. They have remained firm despite efforts to negotiate for larger amounts. Those

not exceeding their credit limit are not affected.

#### **Economic Development Opportunities.**

Rob Crow, Blood Tribe Economic Development Director presented Council with guidelines on applying for Casino and Gaming profits generated by other First Nations operating Casinos on their Reserves. A portion of their profits are contributed to non-profit initiatives that the Blood Tribe would be eligible for.

Kainai Industries was also on the table for discussion. Recent interest from outside investors in a housing industry have sparked and interest in renovating Kainai Industries and possibly re-opening its doors for business. With the hot housing market in Alberta, and a high demand for houses, the factory could become a feasible economic development venture. There have not been any final decisions made. Since the Kainai Industries could cost as much as \$600,000.00 to renovate and retrofit to an operational state.

#### **Blood Tribe Forage Processing Plant.**

With the recent demise of Cornel Trading Corp., the Tribe has been pressured to find a marketing partners to work in the Pacific Rim countries, this is being explored, but the immediate re-opening of the plant was top priority. A proposal was presented by the Economic Development Committee for bridge funding to get the operation back in business and compressing the hay that is sitting in the storage buildings. Most of that will be sold to U.S. markets but it needs to be processed first. If the proposal is approved, the plant will be re-opening in the new year.



## Chief 's Message



Oki and Greetings from our family, and from the Blood Tribe Council. We all have special feelings for the Christmas season and many of our families get a chance to get together and enjoy each others company. And we all hope for a safe Christmas Season.

This also gives me an opportunity to report to you some of the activities of Chief and Council and to share some of the information that comes from our dealings with government and the Business Sector. I will try to update you on some of the issues that are of concern to all of us.

One of our top priorities is Housing. This past year we were able to build 50 new homes and we have tried to be fair in the way the selections were made. It is a difficult job to meet the great demand for housing on the Reserve, but with the support of Council we will continue to try and provide opportunities for housing for members of Kainai. I have met several times with the Minister of Indian Affairs, Jim Prentice, to ask for more financial support in meeting our housing demands. He has agreed to support us and will come to the reserve as some future date to meet with us on Housing and a number of other issues. We have not been able to secure a date at this time. We are also looking at other ways that we can meet the demand for housing, through financial institutions that are willing to mortgage houses. With good credit and a willing institution, it may be possible

to purchase a home. In recent months the Council and I have been looking at a new housing project. There have been a number of ideas on development of the north-end for housing. This is an excellent idea and council is in discussions on a plan for a housing development at the north-end. This would help in providing housing for many who live in Lethbridge and must pay rent or high mortgages and taxes. A feasibility study is being done.

We are still recovering from the flood of 05, the Tribe has had to fund many of the urgent repairs caused by the flood, the infrastructure and the damages done to homes. As you will recall, the costs of damages done were approximately \$ 6.3 Million . We received only about 50% through Federal and Provincial Government funding, their financial support fell far short of what we requested. With the experience we have gained from the disasters in recent years, we are learning how to deal with these disasters more effectively. Of course we hope that we don't see another flood for awhile.

Another priority with Council is in Lands. We are dealing with some of the land issues here on the Reserve. As many of you know, there is a moratorium on the settlement of land disputes, This was placed by a previous Chief and Council a few years ago. Early in the new year, we will be looking at a draft of a land use policy that has been developed through our Lands Dept. It will be the basis of how we use our land and the resources that may come from our lands. We are also concerned about environmental matters and will incorporate the protection of our environment in this land Use Policy.. This shows some positive movement in dealing with land issues.

In the matters of economic development, I am happy to report that we are showing some very good revenues from our oil and gas resources and the other industries that are linked to it, our oil drilling rig is a very successful economic venture. Recently 16 of our members went through a rigorous training course to give them skills in working on oil rig crews. There is an open invitation for them to go to our rig, Blood Tribe 10, and other rigs owned by Lakota drilling Services, our partner. Our oil rig revenues have helped us fund some very urgent financial shortfalls. Disaster Relief from the Flood of 05', post-secondary funding crisis, and contributions to infrastructure, the Christmas per capita distribution payment. There have been numerous requests for financial contributions, but we cannot accommodate everyone, it would not take long to deplete our resources. Kainai Resources Inc., the administration arm of our resources

publishes regular reports on the revenues gained from our Natural Resources.

Other Economic Development ventures are being explored; a wind generation project that would capture energy from the wind and turn it into electrical energy that we sell, a partnership with Altalink on an electrical transmission line that would run through the Reserve, we would own part of it and gain revenues from royalties, the development of small business and tourism, the Blood Tribe Farming Initiative which had a very successful crop this year with high yields, and there are other initiatives but it is too soon to disclose the details. We continue to explore economic development ventures that bring revenues and create employment for our members.

In the area of Tribal Government, there have been a number of events that have occurred that would be of interest to you. The recent Blackfoot Confederacy Conference that was held in Billings, Mont was hosted by the Amsakapi Pikaani. At the conference as we do every year, all the Blackfoot speaking Tribes have a chance to get together to share our common concerns regarding trade and commerce, common political situations, health, housing, policing and many others. It gives us a chance to strengthen our alliances and to work toward the preservation of our Blackfoot history, language and ceremonies. This year the group has made some progress in special classification at the Canada-U.S. Border for our members, it may be possible to gain entrance at the border with a Indian Status card which would suffice for a passport when the U.S. begins calling for passports in Jan.09. There are also matters of free trade that are yet to be dealt with. Next year Kainai will host the Blackfoot Confederacy Conference in Medicine Hat in June. We have chosen Medicine Hat because it lies within Blackfoot Territory and it may be a good time to remind all Canadians that we still know where our traditional territories lie.

Also, as part of our activities regarding Tribal Government, Chief and Council are looking at the development of a Justice System that would address most governance issues concerning the Blood Tribe.. It could also move the Provincial Court to the Reserve where our members that are incarcerated can be tried by a Native judge. This same court could deal with Tribal by-laws under a Kainai Court system. There is much to be done in this regard and we feel Kainai is ready to take over our own Justice.

We have also been dealing with other governance issues such as FNOGMMA(First Nations Oil and Gas Moneys and Management Act) which was passed in Ottawa and will affect us in a positive way, we are one of three First Nations that are ready to administer our own Oil and Gas activities and revenues. There is a major

information and awareness campaign in the works for the communities on the Reserve, it will also mean a referendum will take place in the future. You the members of the Tribe will decide what course of action we take with regard to FNOGMMA. There are many challenges that face us in the area of governance, but the Council and myself as well, feel we have governed ourselves for centuries past and we have a great wealth of knowledge in our Elders. We have been working with them to help guide our activities and to help us make good decisions that will benefit all our members.

There have been a number of inquiries in regard to the Agricultural sector, and specifically the recent events at the Blood Tribe Forage Plant. We were caught in an unfortunate situation with one of our business partners, namely Cornel Trading Corp. who was marketing our forage products in Japan. Cornel has gone bankrupt, this has impacted our operations at the Forage Plant, however we have protected our interests and did not allow any hay to leave our plant. At present all the hay has been sold and the operation will continue in the new year. This does not affect the operations of BTAP which is in full operation.

Another priority that Council has is that of Community Development. A major concern of ours is the Family Violence that is occurring in our communities, there are a number of reasons why this is happening, much of it has been handed down to this generation from previous events. But we are fully aware of what needs to be done to make our communities safer. We have been working closely with the Task Force and the Blood Tribe Police in trying to provide more service to the community. There is a Foot Patrol in Standoff and Moses Lake that assist the police in patrolling those two communities. We have also been responding to requests for improved policing which we are addressing through our Police Commission Representative. But we need the support of the community, to work together and provide a better place for our children. I am sure this will happen in the coming years.

There are many other things I would like to share with you, however we have limited Time to go into detail. I would invite anyone to call me to discuss some of these matters in more detail. I continue to make myself available to anyone. I thank you for this opportunity to report our activities and wish you the best for this season

*Respectfully submitted by Chief Charles Weasel Head 2006*