

# Blood Tribe Administration Review

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## Mountain Pine Beetle Threatens Blood Timber Reserve.

The recent spread of the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation in British Columbia has now reached into Alberta and is targeting the Southern timber lands of the Bow Crow Forest and Eastern Slopes, this includes the Blood Tribe's Timber Reserve.

The infestation of the Pine Beetle into Alberta is part of a movement of the insect east toward more healthier forests and fresh food sources. In a statement made by Christie Ward, Forest Health Officer for the Alberta Government stated "It is considered the most serious threat to forests in Western Canada" and she added "Alberta has declared war on the Pine Beetle" If it is not controlled it could virtually wipe out all pine forests in our region, and lately there is no stopping of this highly aggressive insect. It lives and thrives under the bark of the pine tree, and can survive throughout the winter protected by the tree's bark. The infestation in B.C. has had devastating effects on the forests there wiping out approximately 13 million hectares of forest and leaving dry stands of forest that become fire hazards, the increase of fires has been seen in that province



Mountain Pine Beetle

in the last 2 years. The movement of the beetle infestation has reached epidemic proportions and is considered out of control, it has gone across the mountains and is now infecting trees in Northern Alberta, reaching far into the southern regions as well, the Crowsnest Pass area will be seeing forests dying this coming summer, and we have already seen the telltale signs in the Blood Timber land, a sure sign is the dead red pine trees.

Why is the Mountain Pine Beetle so illusive and uncontrollable, there are a number of reasons; the insect is largely undetected because most of the activity occurs under the bark, by the time it is detected it has moved on to another tree. One beetle can affect 2-8 trees that will die within a year, and when you multiply that number by the numbers of the beetles which is in the millions, you can imagine what type of killing force it has on healthy pine forests. Most of the natural controls of the beetle are gone, for example, forest fires are a source of control but in recent years millions of dollars have been spent on forest fire control, this has affected the growth of the beetle populations. "Natural controls are virtually ineffective when they reach epidemic proportions, woodpeckers, viruses and weather events have no effect on it now" stated Chistie Ward and she added, "normally three days of -35 degrees C. would kill the beetle, but with Global warming happening and with climate change occurring the beetle populations

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*Pine tree showing effects of beetle attack.*

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## **ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH CALGARY HEALTH**

**REGION CALGARY, AB** (April 4, 2007) - Canada's New Government and the Province of Alberta today signed a partnership agreement with Calgary Health Region to promote career and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people. The agreement was signed by Ted Menzies, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and to the Minister of International Cooperation, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians; Harvey Cenaiko, Alberta Member of the Legislative Assembly for Calgary-Buffalo and Jack Davis, president and chief executive officer for Calgary Health Region, one of the largest fully integrated, publicly-funded health care systems in Canada. The agreement commits the parties to working with the Aboriginal community to recruit and retain Aboriginal employees and provide educational and training opportunities in the area of health care. The agreement is part of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative, which promotes the participation of all Aboriginal peoples – First Nations, Métis and Inuit – in the labour market. "To promote meaningful participation of Aboriginal people in the workforce, Canada's New Government is proud to be partnering with some of Canada's leading companies, public agencies, industry, professional and labour groups," said Mr. Menzies on behalf of Minister Prentice."



*Laverne community members turning sod for new arbor.*

## **Laverne holds Sod Turning Ceremony**

**March 28, 2007**

The Laverne Issuitapi Community Committee hosted a sod turning ceremony in the heart of Laverne, on Wednesday, to initiate plans to build a new Arbour. Committee Coordinator, Flora Scout welcomed guests and community, and gave a short speech on the committee's progress. Elder, Annie Bare Shin Bone, spoke on the history of the community and its early efforts to stick together in time of need and urged the people to keep that spirit alive. Members of Council, Rod First Rider, Marcel Weasel Head and Oliver Shouting were on hand to speak and to mark the occasion as well as members of the Blood Tribe Police - Ivan Healy, Brian Harmachek, Roxanne Davis, and Alan Eli. Community members dedicated to the betterment of their community braved the cold to come out and show their support. After the ceremonies, the community and people present were invited to a feast at the Laverne Community Center. The Arbour is scheduled for completion by May, in time for the Diabetes

Walk and will see its first Pow Wow during the First Annual Issuitapi Indian Days.

*pine beetle cont.*

have grown." This has most western regions susceptible and will have a social impact in regard to the lumber industry and tourism. But there is one consolation that is promising, by the 2014 the epidemic populations of the pine beetle suppressed because their numbers are expected to crash when they run out of food, but it will virtually wipe out all the pine forests in B.C. and Alberta. The Blood Timber Limits will no doubt be wiped out and presently there is a strategy being developed to deal with that inevitable event.



*Kristy Ward, Alberta Sustainable Resource Resource Development.*



## Integrated Service Delivery Program

The Blood Tribe leadership and entities have realized measures need to be taken to improve the life outcomes of the members of the Tribe receiving Income Support. As a result of collaboration between various departments of the Tribe including Social Development, Blood Tribe Employment and Skills Training, Blood Tribe Education, and Red Crow Community College and with the support of Chief and Council, the Integrated Service Delivery Program was created.

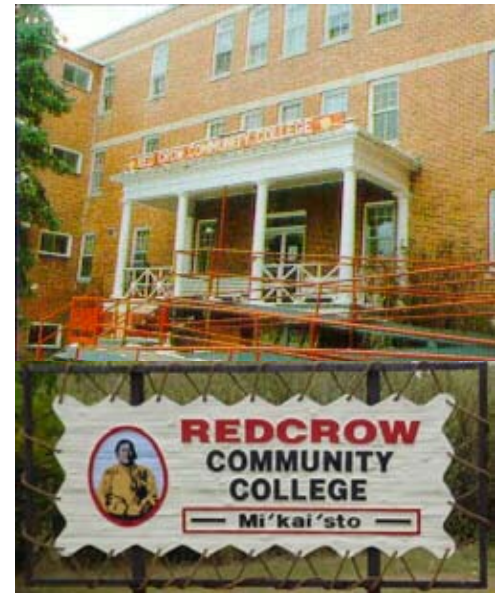
The leadership of the Blood Tribe realizes that existing support services for Income Support clients needs to be extended into assisting clients to find meaningful employment. Income support should be a last resort and treated as a temporary measure. More emphasis needs to be placed on empowering clients to become self sufficient and therefore improve the social conditions on the Blood Reserve as a whole.

The Integrated Service Delivery program has been mandated to assist clients utilizing existing resources and through collaborative efforts to find solutions. A whole new approach is being taken by including the front line workers of the various departments in the structuring of an innovative program which will fulfill the mandates identified by the Integrated Service Delivery Program.



*Human Resources offices in Standoff, enhancing opportunities.*

The Integrated Service Delivery Program is under the Public Service Pillar consisting of Randy Bottle, Marcel Weasel Head, Clement Soop, and Nina Buckskin. The ISD program is being spearheaded by Randy Bottle of the Blood Tribe Chief and Council. Any questions should be directed to Randy or the ISD Coordinator Anita Singer.



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## April 2007

### Notice to all members Blood Reserve School Bus Coop Special Meeting

(members only)

April 12, 2007

7:00 pm

**Teepee Room  
Social Services Building, Standoff**

At a meeting of the membership on March 23, 2007, a special meeting of the entire membership of the Blood Reserve School Bus Coop was called by the Membership and the Board of Directors. The special meeting is called pursuant to regulation 55/502 – sections 17(1), s. 19(2), s. 20(2)(a), s.20(2)(b), s. 24(3), s 63, s.66, s. 67 of the Alberta Cooperatives Act. All members of the Coop are strongly urged to attend as serious organizational matters are to be discussed.

#### Agenda Items to include:

- A Vote of Non-Confidence is to be held regarding the performance of the entire Board of Directors and Management of the Coop. Details of the reasons are attached.
- A possible election of new Board of Directors and Management may also be held pending the outcome of the non-confidence vote.
- Also several outstanding Membership issues must be resolved.

Meeting will be chaired by Blood Tribe/Bus Coop Liason Officer, Clayton Blood and Vote of Non-Confidence will be conducted by Independent Third Party.

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## Chief & Council Update 2007

### Chief and Council Notes

#### Meeting of March 19-20/07

**1. Mayor Bob Tarleck and assistant from the City of Lethbridge presented a Transit Initiative proposal which would link the City of Lethbridge and the Blood Reserve.** This would increase employment and post-secondary opportunities for Blood members. The Province of Alberta would fund this project for a period of 2 years under the Rural Alberta Initiative. The proposal was well received by Chief and Council and it may move forward

#### **2. Kainai Land Use and Dispute Resolution by-law. (draft)**

Blood Tribe Land Management were directed to develop a land dispute resolution that Chief and Council could use to begin resolving the many outstanding land disputes that exist among the membership. Council has been attempting to do this for some time and has only now begun to make any positive movement resolving these issues. The draft was well received but further developments need to take place before it is adopted.

#### **3. Kainai report to Chief and Council.**

A report was given by Phyllis Day Chief on a survey done recently by their group on some of the social issues facing the Blood Tribe people. The report had some shocking information on gambling addiction, illicit drug activity on the Reserve, community violence and other social issues of concern. They also presented a proposal for a wellness building titled "Pride Centre" This proposed centre would provide a place for recreation and wellness for community members.

#### Meeting of April 3/07

##### **1. Finance Committee review of budget 2007.**

Committee members are in final stages of budget for Fiscal Year 2007. All departments have submitted first draft for review. Second reading by committee will commence April 13/07 and presented to Chief & Council April 16, 2007.

##### **2. Ag-Sector update given by Harley Frank**

To achieve a more streamlined management of agricultural activities, Economic Development Committee has amalgamated all the ag ventures under one umbrella, Ag-Sector which will include; Kainai Agri-business Corp., BTAP, Blood Band Ranch, Kainai Farming Initiative, and Blood Tribe Forage Plant. A new CEO has been hired, Shaun Strang formerly from Myers Norris Penny, with an extensive background in agri-business. As a result of the Cornel Trading Corp. bankruptcy, the Blood Tribe has gained the services of Wilbur-Ellis, a multi-national corporation with marketing world-wide. This will begin to market BTAP products again and get forage production going for the coming year. In addition to these new developments, the Ag-sector requested start-up funds from the Tribe @ \$1.5 million. This was granted through other tribal revenues after much debate. It is important to note that this investment is necessary in order for the Tribe to regain use of the cultivated lands and strengthen our own economic base.

##### **3. Franklin White Quills information report on the activities at the old Catholic Church.**

Franklin reported that he has purchased the old Catholic Church in Standoff and is presently renovating the building. He will be using the building for wakes services and other activities for the community when loved ones are lost and Funeral services are necessary. He is presently employed by the Conerstone Funeral Services of Lethbridge, but he is the sole owner of the building.

##### **4. Kainai Youth Council. Update given by KYC staff.**

This update served as the annual report to Chief and Council. There was an activity review and some of the outcomes of these activities which are targeted for the youth of the Blood Reserve. Some of these youth programs include: summer youth camp, youth clubs on the Reserve, discussion periods @ tipi room, mentors program.