



BLOOD TRIBE HONOURS PREMIER STELMACH WITH TRADITIONAL CHIEFTAINSHIP CEREMONY

StandOff The Blood Tribe honored Premier Ed Stelmach with a naming ceremony and headdress transfer during a traditional chieftainship ceremony on their sacred Sun Dance grounds, July 27.

“I am overwhelmed by this honour,” said Stelmach. “I have tremendous respect for the rich culture and traditions of Alberta’s First Nations people. They are an essential part of Alberta’s history and our province’s future. I am committed to building upon the Alberta government’s long-standing good relations with First Nations people and providing opportunities to ensure their full participation in Alberta’s economy. I will always cherish this special honour from the Blood Tribe.”

“The Blood people are pleased to adopt Premier Stelmach into our tribe with a traditional chieftainship ceremony,” said Blood Tribe Chief Charles Weasel Head, who extended the special invitation to the Premier. “We are proud of our culture, our heritage and our identity. We are equally proud to share all of this with Alberta’s Premier and welcome him into the Blackfoot nation.”

The two-hour ceremony took place on the Blood’s sacred Sun Dance grounds near Stand Off in southwestern Alberta. Premier Stelmach’s family were on hand to witness the traditional headdress transfer. As part of the chieftainship ceremony, Blood Elder, Pete

cont.

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Kainai Indian Days celebration

Premier Ed Stelmach’s visit to the Blood Sundance

Another Dinosaur find on the Blood Reserve



cont.



Ed Stelmach and family join with Chief Charles Weasel Head in a Remington Carriage

Standing Alone conducted the ceremony and bestowed the Premier with the name “Star Chief” prior to the transfer, and served as the Premier’s spiritual guide. As part of the ceremony, Blood veteran and spiritual leader, Jeff Bull Shields did the capture which was symbolic of a warriors capture of an individual that is to receive the headdress. The Premier received an eagle feather headdress which he may wear whenever he wishes which is also a symbol of a Chief.

Up to 200 people attended the Sun Dance camp where some of the traditional ceremonies of the Blood people take place. The rituals reaffirm tribal membership and cultural identity and ensure prosperity for another year. The 10,000-member Blood Tribe covers 540 square miles, south of Fort McLeod.



Participants of the Sundance ceremony honoring Premier Stelmach.



Jim Prentice Visits Kainai Fair.

A special guest who attended this year’s annual Kainai Pow-wow was Federal Minister of Indian Affairs , Jim Prentice at Chief Charles Weasel Head’s invitation.

In a very productive meeting prior to his visit to Red Crow Park during the annual Pow-wow on Sunday, July 22 the Minister listened intently as the Chief and some of Council discussed the matters the Tribe wanted to present to him.

Some of the matters that were put on the table were: Land claims development; The Big Claim is the largest the Blood Tribe has with the federal Government and to date it has sat for nearly 40 years with very little movement toward settlement. Another matter brought to Minister Prentice, is the concern for the overwhelming housing demands that exist here on the Reserve, the minister was aware of those concerns and stated that his office would revisit the housing programs and could possibly address those concerns. Another topic of discussion with Prentice, was in the area of natural resources and and revenue sharing with the

Provincial Government. Some of the other items brought to the table were, the Kainai Government Agreement, which is a department within the Tribe that will soon be involved in the development of legislation governing the Tribe in terms of Child Welfare, judicial system, health , education and a number of new developments.

In the area of education, Chief Weasel Head brought the concerns over escalating tuition agreements with the public schools and also the discrepancy between student living allowances and the rising rate of inflation, which has never been addressed. Economic Development issues were also brought up to the minister, there have been some economic development and small business proposals brought to Council and some of them are being held back due to the Indian Act legislation that does not allow entrepreneurs to come to the reserve for various reasons. Another major concern, was that of escalating family and community violence in the reserve community, the minister did not really have any comments other than that it was on his list of concerns that would be receiving attention soon.



Council member, Nina Buckskin and Minister Jim Prentice

Minister Prentice did have some good news to share, “We are very glad to say the Residential School settlement agreement is coming along very well and many of your people will be able to make those claims soon, the claims forms will start to be processed in a few weeks.” he stated.

Chief Charles Weasel Head was pleased with the minister’s visit and hopes that he will be taking our concerns to Ottawa.



A top of the line John Deere combine, just one of the assets powering the Farming Initiative.

Blood Tribe Farming Initiative Successful Harvest.

With the recent developments in the Blood Tribe Ag-Sector, the amalgamation of the Tribe’s agriculture projects, early indications are showing that the new competitive approach to farming on the Reserve is paying off. Recently the Blood Tribe Farming Initiative , which is in its second year of operation, began its harvest of winter wheat at the Band Farms location near the St.Mary Dam. Harvest began with a very good crop to bring in and experimentation with peas is also showing some promising results.

The Tribe’s new approach to farming includes high-tech farming equipment that is monitored

by a GPS(Global Positioning System) which has become standard equipment with most tractors and combine. It allows the driver to be completely accurate so there is minimum wastage of expensive seed and fertilizers. The tribe is also harvesting with their own combines, which in the past was contracted out and cutting profits. As part of the new approach, the grain prices and demand of agriculture products is monitored on a daily basis to keep updated on market developments. Canola has been in very high demand, and part of the crops grown by the Farming Initiative. This is part of the Chief and Council’s efforts to regain some of the cultivated lands that are currently being leased to non-tribal farmers and to create opportunities for the Tribe to farm their lands.



Blood Tribe employees trying out the latest equipment purchased by Blood Tribe Farming Initiative



KRI and Tyrrel Museum staff don’t mind getting a liittle wet on such a hot afternoon.

Dinosaur Bones found on St Mary’s River

Representatives from the Royal Tyrrel Museum in Drumheller and members of Kainaiwa Resources Inc. were examining the find site and extracting fossils from the river believed to prehistoric dinosaur bones. Calvert Many Grey Horses led the group to the site on Thursday August 2. Jim McCabe , preparations lab supervisor for The Royal Tyrrel Museum, was the contact person and will be working with KRI to preserve this amazing find.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AUGUST 2007



7th Annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference - hosted by the Blood Tribe / Kainai September 4-7, 2007 Medicine Hat Lodge, Medicine Hat AB

Topics to include:

- *Consultation
- *Border Crossing
- *Membership
- *Education
- *Traditional Land Use Studies

*Sept 4 - Traditional Ceremonies at
Cypress Hills*

*Sept 5 - Opening Ceremonies at
Saamis Tipi*

*Sept 6 - Entertainment, Banquet
and Arts & Crafts*

For more information please contact:
Kelly Tailfeathers @ 403-737-8112
or Annabel Crop Eared Wolf
@ 403-737-8105

Blood Tribe Tribal Government &
External Affairs

Kainai First Nations Elder's Association - LOGO CONTEST

Prize \$100 - to assist with school
books/supplies

Logo must have historical theme &
include traditional concepts of the
Blood Tribe's culture and heritage.
Logos will be reviewed by the Elders
Association and a final decision will
be made on August 23 - winner will
announced August 27

for more info:

contact Jason Bird 737-2888

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE 2007

INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT UPDATE

Common Experience Payment
1 800 O-Canada
servicecanada.gc.ca

The Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Settlement Agreement has been approved by the courts. The 150 day opt out period is underway and will continue until **August 20, 2007**. During this period, all eligible former IRS students and their families must decide whether to stay in the settlement or remove themselves (opt out).

If the agreement moves forward, Service Canada will be responsible for:

- making Common Experience Payment (CEP) applications available;
- providing assistance to former IRS students in completing their CEP applications;
- verifying identities of CEP applicants;
- receiving the CEP applications;
- processing payments when applications are approved; and
- responding to enquiries related to the CEP.

The official CEP application forms will be available only after the opt out period is over and it is confirmed that the Settlement Agreement will continue. Many former IRS students will receive application forms by mail. Applications will also be available at Service Canada Centres, and will be posted on the Service Canada Web site: www.servicecanada.gc.ca

Completing the application form

It will be important to complete the entire CEP application form. This will include:

- full names, including names you may have been known by at residential schools;
- complete mailing address, including postal code;
- the residential schools you lived at and when.

Everyone who receives a Common Experience Payment will have the option of receiving a cheque by mail or payment by direct deposit. Direct deposit is available in Canada only.

Information about the Settlement Agreement is available through the toll-free Residential Schools Settlement Agreement Information Line at 1-866-879-4913 or online at www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca



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