



WATERTON-GLACIER INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK 75TH ANNIVERSARY

A special international conference to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Waterton - Glacier International Peace Park was held in Waterton, Sept. 9-12 and was attended by international delegates. The conference goal was to create a gathering of international significance to discuss trends, experiences and best practices in transboundary protected areas management with a special emphasis on Peace Parks. One of the highlights of the 4 day gathering was the traditional naming and headdress transfer ceremony recognizing the two superintendents of the Glacier Park Montana, Mick Holm, and Waterton Park, Rod Blair. The Ceremony was conducted by elders from the Pikanni and Kainai

Tribes, as well as Amskapi-pikanni. The dream of a Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was inspired by local people, to celebrate peace and friendship between Canada and the United States. In 1931, a resolution by Rotarians from Alberta, Canada and Montana, USA and subsequent negotiations with their respective national governments provided the impetus to make the dream a reality. In 1932, the US Congress and the Canadian Parliament each created legislation establishing the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park - the first in the world. Today each park continues to work together to celebrate and protect the significant natural features of this region while fostering the original concept

Above: Headdress transfer ceremony held in Waterton. Pikanni elder Leonard Bastien painting recipient Rod Blair.

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of respect and cooperation between nations as well as with neighbouring communities.

The Peace Park concept has since evolved into close working relationships and many collaborative initiatives throughout the globe.

Right: Chief Charles Weasel Head with Alberta Finance Minister, Lyle Olberg who previously had a headdress bestowed on him.



Unveiling of Blackfoot Confederacy Landmark at Cypress Hills.

The seventh annual Blackfoot Confederacy Conference held in Medicine Hat (Saamis), Alberta Sept. 4 -7 , 2007 and hosted by Kainai, once again brought together members of the four Confederacy Tribes; Siksika Nation, Amskapi Pikuni(Blackfeet), Kainai(Blood), and Piikani(Peigan Nation) to share common concerns affecting all four member Nations and to strengthen alliances that have existed for centuries.

The site of Medicine Hat and particularly the Cypress Hills, was chosen to re-affirm their traditional territory and to establish their continued interests in those lands. The first day of the four day gathering brought the conference participants to the Cypress Hills to place a traditional landmark in keeping with a centuries old Blackfoot tradition. The elders re-established that site as sacred. Chief Charles Weasel Head of the Blood Tribe made these comments “Blackfoot Confederacy members can now stop there and make an offering when they travel through the area.”

The remaining three days of the conference took place at the Medicine Hat Lodge where a number of presentations and activities were scheduled. Of common concern and



Above: Siksika Chief, Adrian Stimson pointing out the four directions in the ceremony at Cypress Hills

up for discussion are social, economic, cultural and historical issues.

More specifically on the agenda are: border crossing issues, education, health, housing, social and economic conditions faced by all Tribes, membership, policing, and culture and language. An on-going concern are the Treaty matters that include the Blackfoot Treaties, particularly the Lame Bull Treaty of 1855 and the Blackfoot Treaty of 1877, now referred to as Treaty #7. There are many unresolved matters with both the U.S. and Canadian governments.

Next year’s Blackfoot Confederacy Conference will be hosted by Siksika, the location has yet to be determined.



Above: The Blackfoot Confederacy logo, which was the basis for the landmark



Blood Tribe - Indian Residential School Settlement Application Process for Common Experience Payment

* Blood Tribe Chief & Council / Administration / Service Canada will be coordinating the Indian Residential School Settlement (IRS) Common Experience Payment - Application Process

* Available to all Blood Tribe members who attended Residential School and are applying for the Common Experience Payment

* No Fee required

* No Lawyers required

Application Process

SEPT 20 - 28
9:30 - 4:30 WED - THURS 10-8pm
SAIPOYII OLD SCHOOL GYM
(applications will be provided)

Common Experience Payment (CEP) Now Becomes Available.

Since the opting out period for Indian Residential School Settlement has expired, former students may now complete their application and pay-

ments will be coming within months. Service Canada has been designated to process the CEP applications at any of their offices, there is an office located in Lethbridge.

The settlement provides:

1) At least \$1.9 billion for “common experience” payments to former students who lived at one of the schools. Payments will be \$10,000 for the first school year (or part of a school year) plus \$3,000 for each school year (or part of a school year) after that.

2) A process to allow those who suffered sexual or serious physical abuses, or other abuses that caused serious psychological effects, to get between \$5,000 and \$275,000 each—or more money if they can show a loss of income.

3) Money for programmes for former students and their families for healing, truth, reconciliation, and commemoration of the residential schools and the abuses suffered: \$125 million for healing; \$60 million to research, document, and preserve the experiences of the survivors; and \$20 million for national and community commemorative projects.

You won't have to show you were abused to get a common experience payment, and you can get one even if you had an abuse lawsuit, and even if you won, settled, or lost.

Family members who were not students will not get payments. However, former students—and family members—who stay in the settlement will never again be able to sue the Government of Canada, the Churches who joined in the settlement, or any other defendant in the class actions, over residential schools.

For more info: call 1-866-879-4913, or go to the website, and download a claim form .

A number of lawyers have been

authorized to assist anyone who needs legal assistance, however they will probably charge a fee of 15%. Service Canada has indicated that the application form is very easy to fill, in most cases legal advice is not necessary. Two pieces of identification is require: birth certificate, Indian status card, or provincial driver's licence are sufficient (only 2 pieces of ID are required. A marriage certificate is required in cases where ladies have a different maiden name. The former students of the Residential Schools will have up to five years to decide if they wish to make an application for the CEP.

Call 1-866-879-4913 with questions, or go to www.residentialschoolsettlement.ca to read a detailed notice or the settlement agreement. You may also write with questions to Residential Schools Settlement, Suite 3-505, 133 Weber St. North, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 3G9.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2007

Blood Tribe Employment & Skills Training for the 2007-2008 Youth Work Experience Program.

The Program gives out of school and unemployed youth an opportunity to learn valuable skills in a pre-employment setting and hands on training in a work placement. Youth spend six weeks (October 15-December 14, 2007) for more info: 737-8149

NOTICE TO BLOOD TRIBE MEMBERS

DEPT OF HEALTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING October 26, 2007

All Blood Tribe members are invited to attend the Blood Tribe Department of Health Inc. Annual General Meeting

Friday Oct 26 @ 10:00 am
at the Great Hall (KCCC)

lunch will be served at 12:00 noon

SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANCE

FOR SENIORS 65 AND OLDER Applications available at FCSS

\$5000 Grant provided by Alberta Seniors & Community Supports for allowable expenses & Special Needs for Seniors daily living.

Applications are being accepted from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

Applications available from Jason Bird at 737-2888

Questions or comments call:

Alberta Senior's and Community Supports @ 1-800-642-3853

or 1-780-427-7876

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE 2007



Council Notes. Sept. 11/07 @ Council Chambers.

1. Blood Tribe Tele-Communications proposal.

A proposal was presented by Network administrator/Delphi Solutions/MTS Allstream to discontinue services from Telus (except basic service line) and to initiate our own services using our own resources. This would greatly improve tele-communications and could be extended to all members of the Reserve.

2. KRI update

- presented by David Shade. The update consisted of the latest developments on the Oil and Gas management initiative (First Nations Oil and Gas Moneys and Management Act) Presently the communications strategy is being implemented. The date of the referendum has not been determined.

3. Tribal Government Committee.

Update on the "Big Claim" The Blood Tribe has opted for a "no comment" on the issue until more information and the impact of the Indian Claims Commission recommendation to Indian Affairs Dept. has been established. Walsh-Wilkins-Creighton did update on other legal cases

4. Police Commission Report.

Applications for new Blood Tribe Police Commissioners have been closed with a satisfactory number of applicants. The list of applicants will now go to Council who will select the most suitable. Three positions with the police commission are vacant and will be filled as soon as possible.



typical Blood family. circa 1880
Glenbow photo.

Published by Blood Tribe
Administration Public Relations Dept
Darlene Plume - Senior Executive Officer
Rick Tailfeathers - Editor
Myron Fox - Production Technician
Roxanne Scout - Public Relations Assistant
Nadine Tailfeathers - Policy Manager
Published by the authority of
Blood Tribe Chief & Council
Box 60 Standoff, AB T0L 1Y0
403-737-3753
www.bloodtribe.org