



PRIME MINISTER HARPER APOLOGIZES

The Prime Minister of Canada delivered an apology to the First Nations peoples on behalf of the government's involvement of the residential school abuses suffered by those who attended these institutions. Standing in the House of Commons before a room filled with politicians and First Nations' peoples, Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke to the many generations of residential school survivors who listened intently in what Prime Minister described as a 'sad chapter in our (Canada) history.' Harper said the federal government's involvement began in the 1870's in what was described as an 'obligation to educate aboriginal children' and marked the government's role in the development and administration of the residential school systems. "Two primary objectives of the residential school system were to remove and isolate children from their home, families, traditions and cultures and

to assimilate them into the dominant culture," said Harper. "These objectives were based on the assumption that aboriginal cultures and spiritual beliefs were inferior and unequal." The apology in the House of Commons was attended by Assembly of Nations Chief Phil Fontaine and other dignitaries who represented the approximately 150,000 aboriginal children who were oftentimes forcibly removed from their families to reside in the church-run residential schools. Fontaine, who went public in sharing some of his residential school experiences, said the apology from the Prime Minister on behalf of all Canadians, could have a significant impact on the future relations between Canada and the First Nations' peoples. "The significance of this day is not just about what has been, but equally important, what is to come," he said. "Never again will this House consider us the Indian

Inside...

BTA Employees help clean up Standoff

Levern POW WOW

Aboriginal Day Festivities

Blood Tribe Police Service report

Treaty 7 runners carry staff to Tsuu Tina

Chief & Council report

cont. from front page

problem just for being who we are.” Fontaine said the apology should be viewed upon as a move forward. “Today is not the result of a political game. Instead, it is something that shows the righteousness and importance of our struggle. What happened today signifies a new dawn in the relationship between us (First Nations) and the rest of Canada,” he declared. “We are, and always have been, an indispensable part of the Canadian identity. Our peoples, our history, and our present being, are the essence of Canada. Together, we can achieve the greatness our country deserves.”

Blood Tribe Chief Charles Weasel Head, who is also the Treaty 7 Grand Chief, viewed the Prime Minister’s apology with a number of Treaty 7 representatives in Tsuu’Tina. In an earlier interview (Lethbridge Herald), Chief Weasel Head said the apology, which was heard across Canada, marks the occasion of the government’s acknowledgment and role in this era. “It definitely puts a mark of accountability on everybody’s shoulder. Aboriginal people will no longer bear the full burden of what happened in residential schools.”

In 1857, the Gradual Civilization Act (GCA) was passed in Canada to as-

similate Indian people. Between the years 1870 to 1910, a more aggressive approach to support the GCA was a period of assimilation where the objective of the churches and the government was to assimilate aboriginal children in what is described as the lower fringes of Canadian society. In 1996, the last federally operated residential school on the Gordon reserve in Saskatchewan closes. And, in 1998, the Assembly of First Nations establishes the Indian Residential School Resolution Unit to begin dealing with the growing number of abuse cases emerging from residential school survivors.



Morgan Soon to Begin Operations on the Blood Reserve

As the retrofit of the Kainai Industries Building nears completion, Morgan Structures based in the U.S. is gearing up for operations to begin. With no definite date finalized, it is hoped production could start in July. When the retrofit of the building is complete, it will house Morgan’s factory, the eighth in North America and part of their expansion into Canada.

Morgan USA has been preparing for this for a number of months, with a training package for Blood Tribe employees who have been hired by the company to work in their factory.

Three groups of workers were sent to Hallettsville, Texas for two weeks to train on the production of transportable structures, pools and spas, their main products. According to Morgan’s information, everything went well and the workers have returned and are ready to go to work.

Morgan USA and the Blood Tribe announced their agreement to manufacture portable buildings, outdoor spas and swimming pools, during the signing ceremony January 24 at the Council Chambers in Standoff. Morgan’s headquarters are located in Baumont, Texas with seven other

factories located in the Mid-Western United States. Their expansion into Canada is a significant milestone in economic development for the Blood Tribe and bringing to fruition some of their efforts to create industry on the Reserve. The Gala opening of the factory is slated for sometime in September.



BTA Employees help clean up Standoff

Employees of the Blood Tribe Administration help out the community of Stand Off in cleaning the townsite of garbage and other waste & discarded products. The BTA is doing their part in contributing to a healthier community for our members.



SCOUT WITNESSES FIRSTHAND PRIME MINISTER'S APOLOGY



It was a long journey from her home on the Blood reserve to Ottawa to hear the apology from Prime Minister Harper, but it was nothing compared to the long journey she and many other residential school survivors have had to endure as part of the government's assimilation process. Elizabeth "Liz" Scout was selected to be a part of a group of First Nations' people who had an opportunity to witness history from the gallery overlooking the Floor of the House of Commons to hear Prime Minister Harper deliver the apology to residential school survivors on behalf of Canada.

"I received an invitation from the Assembly of First Nations Women's Council to go to Ottawa to listen to the apology from the Prime Minister (Harper)," she said. "I think why they asked me to go was because

I had been previously involved in human relations issues, especially where it concerns our women." Upon her arrival, Scout said she had the opportunity to meet many people from across Canada who were there for the same reason – to hear the apology. After a few moments of uncertainty, Scout managed to find her place in the gallery and listened intently to the Prime Minister's delivery. "I don't know if it was just a coincidence, but where I sat, I sat with a lot of the survivors who attended the residential school in the late '40's and early '50's," she recollected. "So, when Harper began his apology, it was overwhelming." Scout said that when the Prime Minister said he was truly sorry for the little boys and girls who were traumatized, she turned and looked at the people sitting beside her. "As I turned around to look at the people I was sitting with, many of them had tears rolling down from their eyes. It was so touching, so overwhelming," she said. As she was watching the tears flow from the eyes of those survivors from the forties and fifties, the realization of Harper's words, and of his sorrow for the children

traumatized, Scout's thoughts drifted back into time. "I just felt a deep, deep grief," she said upon hearing those words from the Prime Minister. "It was like I went back in time. I thought, this man (Harper) is apologizing to those children, and I was one of those children," she said in a voice hushed with emotion. "I thought of some of the traumatic experiences I had and it was like old wounds ripped wide open. It was something that happened a long time ago and I really felt for our children and all of our people here."

Scout said she watched Harper intently as he delivered his speech. "I actually heard it, and I watched the Prime Minister. I watched his gestures, I watched his facial expression and his tone to figure out, 'Is this man sincere?'" she said in recalling that moment of history. "I came out feeling empowered. That's the feeling I had, like I'm going to take back control. That's how my feelings were. Now the world knows of the trauma that was inflicted upon the survivors by the Canadian government, and it will be interesting to see if the damages will ever be rectified."

LEVERN COMMUNITY HOST ITS 2ND ANNUAL POWWOW

The community of Levern proudly hosted its second annual powwow which featured a number of dancers and drum groups from both Canada and the United States. The weather cooperated and the Sun shone warmly for the dancers and singers who performed for the many people in attendance.

The Levern powwow which is growing in numbers was a traditional powwow and later added prize money for the dancers to compete for. Oliver Shouting and Robert Schuyler were the announcers for the two-day celebrations and kept the crowd entertained with the own brand of humour and information.

Each day featured giveaways and acknowledgment of the people in attendance. The organizing committee was kept busy making sure the event ran smoothly and were pleased with the success of the powwow. Following are photos of the two-day powwow.



ABORIGINAL DAY 2008

RED CROW PARK



BLOOD TRIBE POLICE SERVICE REPORT



There have been a lot of changes to the Blood Tribe Police Service in the past two-and-a-half years since I was named Chief of Police of the Service and there will be more change to come. An organization always has to be making progressive change in order to move forward. Policing is an ever changing profession and change is necessary in order to keep up with new technology and legal amendments. I am very honored to be the Chief of Police and get personal satisfaction in seeing the Police Service continue to evolve into a professional organization. We are in full compliance with the Provincial Policing Standards which are legislated by the Alberta Solicitor General concerning Police Services. Our final audit will be held in September and we are confident that we will exceed all of the 116 Policing Standards. This process has made our service better and we are continuing to improve as we comply with each Standard. As a result of direction from the Police Commission we have negotiated the secondment of a senior police officer from Lethbridge Regional Police Service. Insp. Bill Anderson has joined the Blood Tribe Police Services (BTPS) as the Support Services Officer responsible for Support Staff

including Dispatch, Guards/Matrons, Victim Services and Community Policing and has done a lot of work on the Provincial Standards. The BTPS is very grateful to Chief McKenzie and the Lethbridge Regional Police Service for allowing Bill to work with us. We still have some work to do, but I am satisfied we are moving forward. We can never lose sight that we are working for the community and have to keep this in mind when responding to requests for service. This is a very demanding profession and we have a high volume of calls for service. There are times when we have to prioritize our calls and respond to the most urgent calls on first priority, getting to the non life threatening calls as time permits.

We have 31 officers not including the two officers who are working at the RCMP Training Academy in Regina, Saskatchewan as Instructors. Most of the officers are assigned to Patrol Services and are under the supervision of our four Shift Sergeants. These Sergeants are supervised by Inspector Collin Russell who is our Operations Officer. We also have a Criminal Investigation Unit consisting of Sgt. Joseph Manyfingers and Sr. Cst. Dean Syniak, and a Community Policing Unit composed of Sgt. Allen Eli Wolf Tail and Sr. Constable Ivan Healy. The Community Policing Unit is responsible for supervision of the Foot Patrol. In addition, we have nine Support Staff, five Dispatchers

and five Guards/Matrons.

The Police Service reports to the Police Commission who then provide us with direction at every meeting. The Commission is also provided with regular updates on policing issues including staffing, training, cases of interest, budget, as well as positive messages and public complaints. It is refreshing to receive direction and guidance for the Police Service locally as opposed to from the outside.

We have also made a change in direction in the Victim Services Unit (VSU). A new Coordinator will be taking over the VSU on June 23rd and we look forward to having her expertise on staff. A further update will be provided respecting the VSU in the next edition.

As Chief of Police, I belong to several organizations respecting policing. I sit on the Board of Directors for the Centre for the Advancement of Community Justice (CACJ) at the Lethbridge Community College. The CACJ provides professional development to the BTPS officers. I am also a member of the Policing Advisory Committee for the Criminal Justice Program at LCC. I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police and sit on the Executive with the Chiefs of Police from Calgary, Edmonton, Camrose, Medicine Hat and the RCMP for Alberta. I represent the interests of all Alberta First Nations Police Services at the AACP. This past week I was elected to the Executive of the National First Nation Chiefs of Police Association and will represent all First Nation Police Services in Canada at the National level in meetings with the leadership of AFN as well as the Minister of Security and Public Safety and other government officials.



TREATY SEVEN'S SOBRIETY CAMP PASS EAGLE STAFF TO TSUU T'INA

A number of people from each of the Treaty Seven First Nations are involved in Sobriety Camps which are designed to acknowledge those individuals who choose a lifestyle free of drugs and alcohol. The Sobriety Camps which have its roots from Tribes of the United States began in 2003 when the Blackfeet Nation met delegates from Treaty Seven at the Carway border crossing. Both Nations then touched Eagle Staffs which then gave birth to the Treaty Seven Sobriety Camp movement. Eric Crowshoe, an elder from the Piikani Nation and an alcohol and drug counselor with the Peigan Prevention Counselling Services, has been very instrumental in encouraging people of all ages to live healthy lifestyles free of addictions. "I was invited by the Blackfeet in 2000 to attend a sobriety camp. They offered me to

adopt the sobriety camp and to bring it into Canada," he said. "In 2003, we had our Treaty Seven runners meet the Blackfeet at the border, we touched eagle staffs, and our runners took it the rest of the way." Crowshoe said the runners are an important part of our culture as they were the people who spread news and events from one tribe to another. He said a 'coffee-pot' is passed from one tribe to another as a symbol to signify their role as the hosts of the sobriety camp. The sobriety camps are four-day-events in which a number of activities are shared with the participants. This year, the eagle staff and hoop, including the symbolic coffee-pot will be carried by runners from each of the Treaty Seven tribes to the Tsuu T'ina Nation. Ron One Spot, who is employed with the Tsuu T'ina Dr.

Thomas Murray Health Centre, and who is also working with the National Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP), is looking forward to hosting this year's sobriety camp. "This idea came from the Southern Peigan and Northern Cheyenne and six years ago it crossed the border into Canada," he explained. "It is a pretty awesome event. We are carrying on that tradition of Indian runners to carry the messages from one tribe to another. I am very grateful for this event, and I know that people can turn their lives around. It is very courageous thing to live a different lifestyle. It is really a beautiful life and I just hope we can get that message out to our people."

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS JUNE 2008

Blood Tribe Economic Development Small Business Youth Camp

August 1-15, 2008

The small Business Youth Camp is a two week program which is open to 16 students interested in starting and operating a small business. The purpose of the camp is to encourage and assist youth of the Blood Tribe to become self-sustaining individuals by utilizing their talents and skills to explore their own business ventures. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their ideas and set up a booth to sell their product/service in the "Youth Business Showcase" which will take place the final day of the camp.

FOR MORE INFO CALL:
403-737-8124

7th Annual All Native Hockey School

August 2008 : Blending the Hockey of Today with the teachings of the past"

Featuring Memorial Cup Champions Wacey Rabbit and Judd Blackwater
First Session: August 8-9 (ages 4-10)
Second Session: Aug 11 (ages 9-17)
For more info call:

737-3765 or 737-2666

Published by Blood Tribe
Administration Public Relations Dept.
Darlene Plume:
Senior Executive Officer
Rick Tailfeathers: PR Director
Tom Russell: Communications Writer
Myron Fox: Production Technician
Roxanne Scout:
Public Relations Assistant

Published by the authority of
Blood Tribe Chief & Council
Box 60 Standoff, AB T0L 1Y0
403-737-3753
www.bloodtribe.org

CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE JUNE 2008



Council Notes

June 2/08 Regular Council Meeting @ Council Chambers.

1. Ninastako Centre presentation by Gloria Wells. Kainai Indian Days 39th Annual, July 18,19,20. Ninastako will host this year, some concerns: garbage pickup, security, need more speedy financial reports for audit purposes. Blood Tribe Police will work w/ task force on security. Council will host Sunday morning pancake breakfast.

2. Finance Committee. Melanie Wells, WWC / Randall Spohn presented second reading of BT Finance Code w/revisions. Third reading scheduled for next Council meeting.

3. Food Bank AGM. Marcel Weasel Head chaired meeting, regular process of AGM minutes, annual report, audit report, selection of auditors, new business.

4. Kainai Wellness Centre. Presentation by Kainai Youth Empowerment Committee. Youth Challenge Week, Activities Aug. 11 -15/08.

June 3/08 Regular Council meeting @ Council Chambers.

1. Bus Co-op matters. Clayton Blood (liason) presented. Bus Co-

op request for subsidy to cover bus owner's expenses due to rising fuel costs. INAC has been approached. 142,000.00 request was supported.

2. FCSS Presentation. Shane Wells and Leona Wolf Child, report on disabilities and funding request to begin an initiative to improve services for disabled Tribal members. Council to work w/ to secure funding.

3. BT Health presentation. CEO Chris Shade and Bernie Kennedy. Update on the latest developments w/ communications technology and conversion to new phone system. Council co-sponsors.

June 11/08 Regular Council meeting @ Council Chambers.

1. Finance Committee update/ to Council, Ronnie Shade presentation and request for updated mileage/accommodation rates due to increased fuel costs. Motion made and approved. Criteria for donations.

2. Catholic Parish Council. Doreen Rabbit, Wayne and Diane Plume. Concerns over land occupation by Catholic Church @ St.Mary's/St. Joseph's farm/Stand-off. Parish Council would like to do expansion @St.Mary's and questions on ownership of Rectory. Matter deferred until report comes from Lands Dept.