

BLOOD TRIBE COUNCIL REVIEW

TSINIKSSINI

Blood Tribe Communications

VOL. 1 ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER 2009

FREE

Audit / Budget Meeting for the Community

**KAINAI WOMEN'S
WELLNESS LODGE
OPEN DOORS FOR
FAMILIES IN NEED**

**THE H1N1 VIRUS
MAKING ITSELF FELT
FROM HOME TO
AROUND THE WORLD**

**SIKSIKA ATHLETE
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UPCOMING EVENTS

**DEPARTMENT
PROFILE:
SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**



**Published by Blood Tribe
Administration
COMMUNICATIONS Department
TSINIKSSINI**

The Blood Tribe Council Review entitled 'TSINIKSSINI' is dedicated to the sharing of information for the people of the Blood Tribe. The move to a magazine format will feature news, stories, articles and an array of items as our way of sharing what is occurring on the Blood reserve and beyond.

We hope you enjoy your magazine and invite any suggestions you may have in improving our coverage on any number of events and activities. The magazine will be printed on a monthly basis and will be distributed to various locations on the reserve.

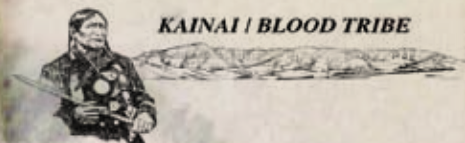
The magazine is free of charge.

The magazine is published by the Blood Tribe Communications department and is printed by Robin's Southern Printing. The collection of information, photographs and layout of the magazine is from the Blood Tribe Communications department.

We would like to acknowledge Darlene Plume, Senior Executive Officer, the Blood Tribe Chief & Council and the people of the Blood Tribe for your support.

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Message from Blood Tribe Council



First thing I want to say is thank you for believing in me and electing me into the office that I now hold. One of my goals is that we work toward enhancing the communities around the reserve. The youth are our future and the elders are our teachers who will lead us to a better life. Some of the things that we need to hold on to are the ways we were taught by our elders. Right now, it has been a year and there is some restructuring yet to be performed, so, with our help, we can make that change. It has been said there were changes, so let us continue to make those changes that need to be made.

I have been placed in different departments which include the Blood Tribe Department of Health, Kainai Children's Services, Social Development, Blood Tribe Housing and the other departments under the Public Service Pillar. In many of the departments, we have developed new jobs and training for our members. With housing, we have partnered with BTEST and have created opportunities for our members who are now in training until March 31, 2010. Also, with Kainai Children Services, we have also created 10 new jobs for our members at the Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge.

I am a man of strong family principles in which I embrace the teachings of the elders, while holding onto and respecting long-established ethics and goals. I have a vision for a strong and vibrant youth. My grandfather and grandmother, the late Jack and Maggie Curly Rider, instilled the teachings of values, initiative and pride. I have taken their wisdom to heart and am involved in the community. I believe in a strong nation and believe in the power of community. I am a leader with a vision who listens to, and works with, the people to enhance new programs for our members.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours truly,

Joshua Curly Rider
Blood Tribe Council

BLOOD TRIBE COMMUNITY MEETING SHARES BUDGET/AUDIT WITH PEOPLE

A number of people took part in the Blood Tribe community meeting to hear the Chief & Council and technicians discuss and share information on the tribal budget and audit. Mediator Clayton Blood lead the discussions as he welcomed the people to the meeting. After a prayer by elder Bruce Wolf Child, Chief Charles Weasel Head gave his opening remarks to begin the meeting. "I want to thank our elder Bruce Wolf

As a more promising approach in sharing budget and audit information, as well as meeting with the tribal members to hear their concerns and issues, prompted the Chief & Council and Blood Tribe Administration personnel to look ahead to continuing the dialogue with more meetings scheduled for each of the communities on the Blood reserve.

"The tribe is in real good financial shape,"

- Kirby Many Fingers

Child, and our other elders here today. We are going to present our 2008/2009 audit period for your review and information. After the audit, we will present the budget for 2009/2010," he said. "The purpose is to provide information for the community and to tell the community members that we want to continue with this same process to hold more community meetings. We want to work in the spirit of cooperation to understand and to help get through some of our issues together."

Darlene Plume, Senior Executive Officer, introduced members of Meyers Norris Penny auditing firm who shared the budget and audit information with the people.

Ronnie Shade, Senior Finance Officer, presented the tribal budget. Kirby Many Fingers, council member and Chairman of the Finance Committee, said the tribe's finances are doing well. "The tribe is in real good financial shape," he explained. "Over the past fifteen years, the tribe has always been on a real steady course and we're really financially responsible."

After the budget and audit presentation, the meeting room was separated into three areas in which the three pillars (Tribal Government, Public Service, Economic Development) were represented by the committee members, directors and technicians. This process gave tribal members the opportunity to meet with each pillar to ask questions or to ask for answers to some of their concerns. Also, the directors and entity managers went into the seating area to meet with people who wanted to ask questions on a more individual approach.



The Blood Tribe Administration directors and entity managers were on hand to listen to the concerns of the people.



Members of the Economic Pillar and many of the tribal technicians were available to the people.



Members of the tribe met with the Public Services Pillar to discuss their concerns.

COMMUNITY FUTURES TREATY SEVEN EXTENDS REACH INTO COMMUNITIES



Johnathon Red Gun, CFT7, is an advocate for person's with disabilities.



Business Development in First Nations Communities continues to be a top priority for leaders and government officials. The formation of the Community Futures Treaty 7, with an office located in Calgary, is an initiative to help business development through Federal and Provincial financial support. The objective is to help improve

the employment opportunities of First Nation peoples and enable them to fully participate in the Canadian economy. Community Futures Treaty 7 disburses allocations to each band in Treaty Seven to administer their own programs according to community needs. The structure of the Community Futures Treaty 7 consists of a Board of Directors which is designated by each of the Treaty 7 Chiefs and Councils totaling 7 members. They represent the shareholders which are the members of each Band. The Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA), is the principle financial contributor with Provincial Government support of certain programs. The 5-year agreement for the period of April 1, 2004, ending March 31, 2009, was recently extended from April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2010. The total contribution by AHRDA was \$9,189,337 over the six-year period.

Hank Shade, who is the manager of the Community Futures Treaty 7 department, oversees all the activities of the office. Some of the corporate partners include: Treaty 7 Chiefs, Treaty 7 communities, Alberta Employment & Immigration, Metis Nation of Alberta, Private Industry & Associates, Educational Institutions, Service Canada, INAC (on-reserve and urban). Some of the urban centres with First Nations members includes: Calgary, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

The mandate of human resource development has a wide range of activities, primarily to assist entrepreneurs and includes programs to assist persons with disabilities and disadvantaged First Nations' members to become contributors to the labor force.



Hank Shade, manager, Treaty 7 Community Futures, promotes Business Development and improving employment opportunities for First Nation members.



CFT7 hosts annual youth entrepreneurial camp at Nakoda Lodge

Story by Rick Tailfeathers

BULL SHIELDS ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR RESERVE PET POPULATION



Muriel Bull Shields

Prior to the arrival of the horse, one of our prized possessions was the dog. During the 'dog days,' the dog alerted the camp to strangers, helped to carry belongings or played with the young. Today, many former pets are left to fend for themselves without the care and compassion they deserve. For one lady on the Blood reserve, however, sharing her empathy for the canine population has become a decade-long struggle. Muriel Bull Shields, affectionately called 'Many Dog Owner' by her father, the late Charlie Bull Shields, answered a newspaper advertisement which sought a person who was interested in the possibility of sheltering unwanted pets. Needless to say, she accepted the offer. "I answered the ad in the paper that wanted someone to begin caring for these dogs," she explained of her gradual move into offering safety for animals. "It was at my dad's place where I began, because I used to go to the building and see all these dogs there. They were sick, hungry, so I started bringing puppies and injured dogs home. That's what inspired me to rescue animals, and that's why my dad called me by that name."

Her chosen career as a personal care attendant went by the wayside after her sponsorship failed to materialize, but, it was her love and respect of animals which drew her closer into providing a safe place where sick or hungry animals could be rescued and to have a location for them to recover. "In 2004, I moved into my house and that's when I began doing it steady," she recalled of her efforts to open a shelter. "Since then, we've had eight free clinics to spay and neuter the cats and dogs. More and more people are coming to the clinics to care for their pets."

In an effort to reduce the number of stray animals in the communities on the reserve, Bull Shields has opened doors with the vet-

erinarians in the surrounding towns to offer free clinics to help reduce the pet population and said the response has been overwhelming. "As late as last year, there were still many dogs running around in the townsite (Stand Off), but today, the number of unwanted dogs is down," she said in describing the results of the free clinics. "In the past, people had to walk around with sticks to protect themselves from mean dogs, but now, many people are taking advantage of the free clinics to care for their pets. The free clinics are becoming very popular and now, people can walk around without fear of stray dogs."

Her goal of having a shelter for animals in her backyard ended when complaints arose of noise from the dogs barking, but Bull Shields hopes to eventually have a site des-

"I have respect for dogs. They have protected me, and us, in the past. It's time we take care of our own animals." (Muriel Bull Shields)

ignated for her to open a shelter. "I would like to have a shelter, and better yet, to have our own veterinarian from our reserve," she said. "So, that we can have our own building to perform our own surgeries. This will create employment for our people, for our young people. They have a lot of energy. I would like to see the young people more involved."

She said much of her own resources goes into caring for unwanted and stray dogs, but remains optimistic that her efforts will lead to a full-time occupation. "I have respect for dogs. They have protected me, and us, in the past. It's time we take care of our own animals. Sometimes my phone rings non-stop: 'Do you have any dog food, or there's a sick or injured dog. Can you take care of it?' they ask. I just feel like I have to keep going because I have so much compassion for these animals."

Bull Shields acknowledges the Chief & Council, Darlene Plume, SEO, the communities surrounding the reserve, and the many individuals and organizations who are continuing to offer support to her efforts.



Bull Shields is working toward establishing a safe haven for stray animals.

Story by Tom Russell

BLOOD TRIBE TO BE INCLUDED IN CITY'S FUTURE



Chief Charles Weasel Head and Mayor Bob Tarleck in a meeting at the Blood Tribe Council Chambers in Standoff

On an invitation from Lethbridge Mayor Bob Tarleck on October 22, 2009, Chief Charles Weasel Head and members of the Blood Tribe's administration met with a delegation from the City of Lethbridge to discuss their mutual future. Since a great number of the Tribe's members presently reside in the City, their contribution to the economy of Lethbridge is significant. And many of them enjoy the benefits and opportunities that are offered.

The Blood Chief and Council have a keen interest in the future development of the urban centre, socially and economically. Chief Weasel Head stated: "Economically, the Bloods have a huge impact in the southern Alberta Community. We would like to create opportunities for our members for education, employment and much more." Mayor Tarleck and City Council have an equal interest in the future in regards to urban Bloods who reside in the City.

As stated by Mayor Tarleck: "We've come to ask for your help and wisdom in planning for the future," and added, "and to become better neighbors." The Chief and Mayor have worked together a number of times before and share common concerns. This

invitation to help plan Lethbridge's future could launch a mutually beneficial relationship.

Alderman Ken Tratch, who was also in attendance, is heading the 'Plan Your City Project.'

"We're really hoping to exchange information so that we can work with you in our planning," he said. The project was launched June 15, 2009, when it was adopted by the City Council. Chief Weasel Head and Mayor Tarleck agreed to continue the joint planning initiative with a Memorandum of Understanding, a formal agreement that would begin the process. The recent purchase of land, situated only 6 kilometres from the City, could have an even greater impact on the future of Lethbridge. It is hoped that these talks will continue and create positive outcomes.



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Story by Rick Tailfeathers

REMEMBRANCE DAY A TIME TO HONOUR OUR WARRIORS



Family members and relatives of our war veterans prepare to begin the Remembrance Day ceremony with a grand entry.

Each year, our war veterans are remembered on a day designated to pay tribute to their tremendous sacrifices so that we could enjoy the many freedoms we, on many occasions, take for granted. On November 11 of each year, Remembrance Day is celebrated in respect of those who left the comfort of their homes and surroundings to play their part in protecting their people. For many, the price of serving in one of the many world conflicts was costly. Thousands

of brave young men and women never returned home. Today, many of our people, our warriors, are still enlisting to serve as guardians of the people, and as guardians of nations. Their courage to face adversity, just as those in the past who rose beyond their fears, continues. Each of these warriors chose to fight not only for their family and friends, but for all of mankind—each and every one of us from all ages and from all backgrounds. Chief Charles Weasel Head, leader of the Blood Tribe, who acknowledged the people in attendance, mentioned how nice it would be to have a gymnasium full of people at the Remembrance Day ceremony to pay our respects to the war veterans and their families. Dorothy First Rider, researcher, Tribal Government, and daughter of the late Mike Oka Sr., who served as a gunner in World War II, echoed the sentiments of the Chief. “Thank you for coming out to support us during this Remembrance Day,” she told the people who dedicated their time to the memory of our soldiers. “It’s up to us as a community to ensure that we keep the memories of our veterans alive, and I’m certainly happy to hear our Chief indicate that he wants to encourage us to keep the memory of our veterans strong and continue to acknowledge the efforts and the sacrifices

that are currently being made by our present day veterans, and those who are currently being deployed as well.”

First Rider said that a lasting monument would serve as a reminder to our people of the true meaning of sacrifice by our war veterans. “What I would like to see is that we dedicate a wall to the veterans where we have the pictures of them there,” she said. “Every year, when I come here, I’m always a little concerned that we are not going to get a good turnout, and that people are going to forget the meaning of this special day.”

After the grand entry and Flag song from Rocky Lake, five-year-old Mikka First Rider and Blood Society leader Roger Prairie Chicken shared a Blackfoot prayer and elder Mrs. Lena Russell recited ‘In Flanders Field’ in both English and Blackfoot. Moccasin Flats singers sang the War song and bugler George Kush trumpeted the Last Post in memory of the fallen. Kirby Many Fingers, representing council and Tribal Government, concluded the ceremony with words of encouragement and Caralee Blood recited a poem. Each of the families of the soldiers then laid wreaths as mementos of our brave warriors.



Rennie Tallow lays a wreath in honor of his late father, John Tallow - A World War II Veteran.

Story by Tom Russell

KAINAI WOMEN'S WELLNESS LODGE OPEN DOORS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED



Morris Many Fingers and Richard Fox, BTEB, present Gerri Many Fingers with a painting by Blood artist Allan Wells at the KWWL grand opening.

The Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge recently celebrated its grand opening of a facility which will be utilized as a temporary place for women and their children in need of emergency shelter. The wellness lodge was formerly used as a health centre and was retrofitted to accommodate the shelter requirements for its users.

Blood elders Bruce Wolf Child and Joe Spotted Bull gave their blessings with a prayer and sang a flag song prior to the opening ceremonies. Chief Charles Weasel Head acknowledged the elders, guests, INAC representatives, Cardston Mayor

Rick Schow and other dignitaries in attendance and said the Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge (KWWL) is a facility which could offer shelter, and yet provide hope for better circumstances for those women and their children who have no other alternatives.

"Unfortunately, sometimes life is not fair," said the Chief. "It's during those trying times that has brought us all together, to support each other, to provide a facility that will provide comfort, protection, safety and to harbor and perhaps offer a transition to some options to those individuals who come to stay at the shelter."

Council member Marcel Weasel Head, who has been involved in the establishment of the KWWL for a number of years, recognized the need to prepare women and their families, who will use the facility on a temporary basis, to meet new challenges as

they prepare to move on with their lives. "We (Children's Services) looked at not only providing a service, but we looked at a spinoff. We have to give the women some tools so that they could go back to their community to continue to be

productive members of our community." Former Children's Services board of director member Nina Buckskin was acknowledged for her work in helping to establish the KWWL and gave credit to Susan Bare Shin Bone, director, Children's Services, for her work in realizing the KWWL. "I have to commend Children's Services as this department has been moving in leaps-and-bounds to help our community people," she said. "I am very proud of Susan Bare Shin Bone and her staff for all their tremendous work and all their efforts."

Cardston Mayor Rick Schow, Carol Shmanki, INAC, Chris Wellighan, Alberta Children's Services, Susan Bare Shin Bone, Richard Fox, superintendent BTEB, and Joshua Curly Rider, Blood Tribe Council, each recognized the efforts of the many people involved in the establishment of the KWWL and the teamwork involved in bringing the initiative from the planning stages to the grand opening. Blood elder Rosie Day Rider performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge.



Elder, Rosie Day Rider assisted in the ribbon cutting

ELDERS RECOGNIZED AS EMINENT SCHOLARS



Blood elders Sophie Tailfeathers, Bruce Wolf Child, Andy Blackwater and Narcisse Blood are among the people who are sharing their knowledge with the students.

Years of experience and a lifetime of knowledge by Blackfoot elders are benefiting a younger generation of students attending Red Crow Community College. An initiative to bring elders into the curriculum as teachers is recognizing and utilizing the vast knowledge, experience and wisdom to teach language, history, traditional governance and much more to the present generation of students.

“One of the residential school impacts includes the loss of language. The responsibility for that also lies with the organizations that forced us to speak English,” - *Frank Weasel Head*

As part of the Kainai Studies program at Red Crow Community College, students have the unique opportunity to learn from the eminent scholars of our community--the elders. The program looks at a wide range of topics such as history, the inter-gener-

ational trauma of the residential schools, parenting, governance from a traditional perspective, and the social impact of the loss of the Blackfoot language. Elders were called in from all of the Blackfoot Confederacy nations to participate in this ongoing learning opportunity.

Frank Weasel Head, one of the elder resource people stated: “One of the residential school impacts includes the loss of language. The responsibility for that also lies with the organizations that forced us to speak English,” and he continues. “Now it’s our responsibility to make our language survive.” Language is the essence of many things in present day Blackfoot society. Many ceremonies could not continue without the language, and the collective knowledge of the people is significantly threatened. In many cases, the elders, who are a great source of knowledge, are cut off from sharing this knowledge with younger generations.

The Kainai Studies initiative hopes to bring elders into the learning institution as part of their program by offering this extraordinary component to students.



Red Crow College campus on the Blood reserve.



Story by Rick Tailfeathers

THE H1N1 VIRUS MAKING ITSELF FELT FROM HOME TO AROUND THE WORLD

An outbreak of the pandemic H1N1 influenza (pH1N1) virus has hit home for many people of the Blood reserve. With a slow but steady attack, the virus, commonly known as the swine flu, has made its way around the globe and has reached pandemic proportions. A number of organizations have been busy preparing for the outbreak which has already disrupted the normal daily routines of some people in business, schools and homes.

On the reserve, the Blood Tribe Department of Health (BTDH) is currently sharing pre-

community should it occur.”

Williams-Freeman said they will continue to have influenza clinics for both the pH1N1 and seasonal vaccines every Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Standoff Health Unit. Children ages 6 months to 5 years and under will need a second dose as well as children under 9 years with high risk medical conditions. All community members who have not yet received their pH1N1 immunization are welcome to come.

According to Alberta Health and Wellness

not have a chance to spread and infect all of our employees,” she said. “Information was sent out to all the departments within the BTA to give each employee ‘Tips’ to preventing the spread. Needless to say, some of our departments experienced more absenteeism than others because of flu-like symptoms and, as a result, some of our services to the community may have been delayed, but certainly not shut down.” Influenza spreads rapidly in schools each winter. Higher-than-normal student and staff absenteeism are expected during a pandemic and schools may also be affected due to transportation disruptions. School and child care authorities are working in collaboration with public health officials to determine the level of interventions required to respond to an outbreak in a school or child care setting. While school closure is not generally recommended, class dismissals may be considered if the rate of student and staff absenteeism is high. This should be done in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health in the region.

High rates of absenteeism will likely place pressure on a number of essential services. Essential services include activities which directly affect the safety and security of

Albertans in, for example, food distribution, utilities and first responders.

Blood Tribe Community Health Services would like to thank all the staff of the Blood Tribe Department of Health who volunteered during the pH1N1 mass immunizations. A special thanks as well to the Blood Tribe Recreation department for the use of their building and the support given by their staff.

For more information on how to protect you and your family from the spread of the H1N1 virus, visit FightFlu.ca or contact your local health centre.



Members of the Blood Tribe disaster services attending the information session.

ventative measures with the public and has initiated vaccination clinics in various locations in an effort to combat further spread of the virus. Barb Williams-Freeman, Levern community health nurse, said the H1N1 virus is minimizing in its reach, but they are still concerned should the virus gain strength again. “The incidence of influenza illness is slowing down within the province and within the Blood reserve,” she said. “We immunized 3,290 people the first week. Now, 4,594 doses of pH1N1 have been given, of which 477 doses went to children 6 months to under 5 years and 65 doses to pregnant women. The immunizations represent about half of the population, which is a very good coverage, but we would like a higher coverage rate in order to minimize the effects of a third wave of flu in our com-

website, there have been a total of 1,042 hospitalized cases of pandemic H1N1 influenza infected individuals to date. Most of which were in Calgary and area. Southern Alberta had 147 confirmed hospitalized H1N1 infected persons. The average age of those hospitalized for the H1N1 strain of influenza is 34 years.

The H1N1 outbreak affected not only home life of many people but school and business operations as well. Within the Blood Tribe Administration, Katie Rabbit, director, Human Resources, said the H1N1 virus and flu-like symptoms were felt in the workplace, but prior planning helped ease the disruption of services as a measure of safety. “As with most entities on the reserve, the Blood Tribe Administration took some extra precautions to ensure the H1N1 virus did

DEPARTMENT PROFILE: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



The Blood Tribe Human Resource building houses the offices of the Social Development Department.

One of the biggest departments within the Blood Tribe Administration is Social Development which endeavors to meet the needs of our people. In an ideal situation, each member of society is responsible to manage their own affairs and maintaining themselves according to their personal resources. However, there are times when the need arises to seek alternative measures in meeting the needs essential for daily sustenance.

Under the guidance of acting Director Elizabeth Day Chief, the goal of the Social Development department is to take a more holistic approach in helping Tribal members residing on the reserve who are in need of assistance. In some cases, financial aid is often not enough and other factors leading to assistance need to be addressed. The holistic approach assumed by Social Development ensures that an individual's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being is being addressed through counseling, home visits, education and cultural awareness. A Work Opportunity Program has also been established to motivate those who may not have specific job skills but who may want to enter the workforce to acquire some experience. The department also has a renovations program in which a maintenance person is employed to perform minor repairs to client homes not covered by the Housing department.



The waiting room of the Social Development office.

Each of the caseworkers has a regular schedule of clients they meet with. The caseworkers are trained to identify any areas of concern after the client cases are assessed. If counseling or referrals are required, the clients are then referred to the appropriate agencies. Each of the caseworkers has workshops in sharing information with the clients. For example, health and financial management of resources are two topics which offer an insight for the clients to understand in assisting them in their daily routines. As well, the caseworkers perform home visits when the need arises.

As a department meeting the needs of its clients, the Social Development includes a number of other programs under the National Child Benefit Savings program. For instance, the Social Development department and the Kainai Board of Education both work together to offer a hot lunch program for the children attending the local schools on the reserve. As a result, the attendance has improved at each of the schools. The Social Development has been involved in offering supports for children with physical and developmental disabilities. The Therapeutic Riding program has helped each participant overcome certain fears and has given the children a sense of purpose and enjoyment through their contact with the tame horses. The children with disabilities are also involved in a number of cultural activities as part of the therapeutic riding teachings. The Social Development department is also involved in the Kainai Headstart program, the Blood Tribe Literacy Curriculum, the Youth Powwow Club, First Steps for Healthy Babies, Life and Career Management, Kainai Youth Council and the Kainai Cadets Corporation.

If you have any questions on any of the programs offered, please contact the Social Development department at 403.737.3974.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MANDATE

The Blood Tribe Social Development developed a united vision that primarily deals with the goal of helping the Blood Tribe members become self sufficient as people. Based on the traditional values of Kainaisini, the Blood Tribe Social Development will empower and educate their clientele to identify and utilize their full potential which will lead to self sufficiency.

Story by Tom Russell

SIKSIKA ATHLETE OLYMPIC FLAME ATTENDANT



Meagan Big Snake

Her university studies are a priority and so she gave up on her dreams of representing her country on the Olympic hockey team, but Meagan Big Snake won't be left out totally from the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games chose Meagan to be a flame attendant as the Olympic Torch makes its way across Canada.

"This is filling her Olympic dream to be part of it, and that's what so exciting for her," Meagan's mother Maria says.

Meagan's grandmother Eileen Black submitted an application nominating her to be a torch bearer. The application required a 500 word essay explaining why the nominee would make a good torch bearer.

The letter must have been quite impressive. Instead of becoming one of 12,000 torchbearers, Meagan will be part of a small team in the longest relay race to take place in any country. A bearer carries the torch for 300 miles before passing it on, while flame attendants guard the flame and ensure it doesn't extinguish throughout its 45,000-kilometer journey.

Meagan will fly to London, Ontario, the day after Christmas, to join the torch relay as a guide and protector as it makes its way across the country to Vancouver, B.C., for the opening ceremonies on February 12, 2010.

The 46-day journey will force her to miss two weeks of her Public Justice program at the Oswego State University, New York, where she's on the Dean's List, and she will

also miss half her hockey season as a newly elected co-captain.

Meagan started figure skating when she was in kindergarten, and by the time she was 12, she was figure skating competitively.

Maria reminisces about how she enjoyed watching her daughter figure skate and begins to chuckle about how Meagan's father "corrupted" her daughter into hockey.

"I always say she crossed over to the dark side to hockey," Big Snake says. "But, hockey has been part their family for so long. It's such a legacy to be part of hockey."

According to her mother, Meagan has worked hard to get to where she's at, even though the commitment forced her to sacrifice a social life. But, because she's so dedicated to hockey, she had the opportunity to travel to various places around the world playing with elite teams.

Six-hundred First Nations, Inuit and Métis men and women were selected to play significant roles such as torch sbealers and honorary elder fire keepers in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay Aboriginal program.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee is emphasizing First Nation, Inuit and Métis representation in celebrating the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

"The involvement of First Nation representatives shows [that] the importance of the flame to the Aboriginals is so strong, and is similar to the Olympic spirit and the actual flame which signifies hope, peace and friendship," Meagan said.



The 2010 Olympic Torch

by Candace Back Fat, Siksika Media

BLOOD BOXER MAKES SECOND DEBUT TO BEGIN HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER

After an illustrious amateur career, the Blood Tribe's own Ken Frank, whose ring name is 'One Tough Indian,' recently began his professional boxing career fighting in his second ever professional boxing match. His first professional bout was on August 27, 2009, at a pro-am event in Taber. Frank made an impressive debut stopping Burnaby British Columbia's Jaime Walton in the second round. As a result of this fight, Frank caught the eye of promoters with his performance and was soon offered another chance to fight in Edmonton. Frank follows in the footsteps of some great Blood boxers with the likes of the late Eddie 'Toy Bulldog' First Rider, the late Rufus Goodstriker, the late s. n Gus Calf Robe, Gilbert Black Water, Norbert Fox and Dennis Chief Moon. At his second professional boxing match in Edmonton, AB., on October 16, 2009, Frank learned long before the bout that his opponent would be Edmonton product Steve Mackay.

"I didn't know anything about him other than that he was a big guy and could take a punch really well," said Frank.

As the two fighters were introduced, the crowd buzzed in anticipation. Both men were of equal size and both looked ready to get down to business, and from the opening bell, they did not disappoint. There was no feeling out process in the first round as both men traded punches in the center of the ring, much to the delight of the crowd. In the second round, both fighters seemed to settle in to a rhythm and began to try to out-box one another. In the third round, Frank rocked Mackay with a solid right to the temple, but Mackay answered right back. The crowd roared its approval and spurred the fighters on. Back and forth they battled in the fourth and final round with neither man able to gain a distinct advantage over the other. As the final bell sounded, both men, exhausted from their battle, nodded at each other in a show of good sportsmanship and respect, and touched gloves.

In the end, the judges saw the fight the way much of the crowd saw it and the fight was declared a draw.

"I was happy with the decision," said Frank. "He was a really tough guy, but I think he knows now why they call me 'One Tuff Indian.'"



The official raises the arms of Kenny Frank and Steve McKay after fight declared a draw.

Ken Frank

Professional heavyweight boxer from Kainai



Story by Tom Russell

Council Notes

Regular Council Meeting October 21, 2009. Council Chambers

1. Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada. Kathleen Crowe, presentation on survey being conducted on First Nations (Blood Tribe) Chief and Council approval and support needed. Data gathered will benefit Kainai in determining services (labor, education and income) titled: "Survey of People Living in First Nations Communities – Pilot 2009".

2. Bank of Nova Scotia & Blood Tribe Lands. Council presented issues from community regarding credit applications and administrative problems. Council has requested the Bank revisit their policies and to work with Lands in resolving some of these issues.

3. Blood Tribe Housing, Director brought recommendations to move forward with: Canada Economic Action Plan, proposed renovations to 42 units (INAC and CMHC funded). Applications process was revised and selections were completed but not finalized.

An attached training package to train and hire members to do renovations has been developed through BTEST (launched). Recommendation made to purchase 4 units from Triple M to meet deadline for current new house construction program.

4. Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Report given by Resolution Health Support Program workers by various agencies (Kainai Wellness Centre /Treaty 7 Management Corp.). Workers outlined their role and mandate, survivor support and cultural support programs. Overview of Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Regular Council Meeting November 2, 2009 Council Chambers.

1. BT Lands Dept. update on AltaLink activities.

2. One Earth Farms presentation to Council. One Earth reviewed the proposed farming initiative with Blood Tribe. Emphasized the proposal does not include privately occupied lands, 23,000 acres of Blood Tribe lands presently under band farms. Livestock and options. Council will decide with more development of proposal, details will be disclosed at later date.



Regular Council Meeting November 16, 2009 Council Chambers.

1. One Earth Farms presentation to Council. Memorandum of Understanding presented regarding One Earth project with the Blood Tribe. MOU not signed but OEF to continue working with steering committee and Board, to return to Chief and Council with update and joint recommendation.

2. Indian & Northern Affairs Canada delegation from Regional Office. Norm Brennand, Bob McGuire, Dennis Hall Update on changes being made on funding agreements with Federal Government (FTA). A new funding framework has been unrolled by the Federal government which has resulted in one year extension for the current FTA agreement commencing 2010 – 2011 fiscal year. Also, revised policies. Council responded with other concerns and requested further information.

3. Chris Beckman (consultant), introduction of consultative services, offered to do organizational review and advisory to Council. He has many years of experience. Council will further consider and reply.

4. Planning of Community Meeting scheduled for Nov. 20/09. Finalized plans and agenda.

Regular Council Meeting November 17, 2009 Council Chambers.

1. Walsh Wilkins Creighton. Report and legal opinion on Blood Tribe Department of Health initiative. Corporate status and ability to fulfill mandate of delivery of health services (due diligence). Council to have further discussions with BTDH.

2. Natural Power Consultants Ltd. Presentation of company profile and offer to assist Blood Tribe in developing Wind

Energy Project. Blood Tribe Economic Development has done work on feasibility and has collected data for 4 years. Results are very positive. Council to further consider proposal. Ec. Dev and Company (NPC Ltd.) will return to Chief and Council with report and update..

3. BTDH (CEO and Finance Officer) update on proposal to develop electronic records system that is in widespread use everywhere and is part of larger Health initiative proposal. Seeking support from Chief and Council. More discussion is sought before decision is made.

4. BT Economic Dev. and BT Lands. Discussion on the concerns regarding construction of AltaLink transmission line and further environmental concerns. Review of process to resolve issues with environment. Council motion to move forward with compliance of agreement and access permits to be granted. Passed.

5. Trans Canada Power (windpower). Economic Development presented proposal and was reviewed by Council (includes proposal to build 50 wind turbines). Royalties would be paid to Tribe. The proposal is being considered. If it moves forward, a Band referendum will be required. Further discussion required..

6. BT Tribal Government. Update on legal matters concerning the status of border crossing and development of new Indian Status card. U.S. Customs will continue to accept Indian status cards for land travel until new cards are finalized..

7. BT Police Commission vacancy and posting deadline. Present commission to continue until candidate is selected. To be included on the agenda for next Chief and Council meeting.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2009



Distribution to Blood Tribe Members

DATE: December 15, 2009
TIME: 9:00 am - 7:00 pm
PLACE: Gladstone Hall

DATE: December 16, 2009
TIME: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
PLACE: Old Saipoyii Gym

* Distribution Amount - \$100

* Registered Band Members as of October 30, 2009 will be eligible for distribution

* The Per Capita Distribution will be identified as a "Gift" to Band Members and not to be deducted from income sources

* Effective November 30, 2009, requests for mailing will be accepted by calling:
Distribution Clerk:
(403) 737-8218 & (403) 737-8142
(Mailing info MUST include:
Name, Treaty Number, Birthdate,
Address - including postal code
and phone number)

BLOOD TRIBE
Blood Tribe
Administration
December 4, 2009
Lethbridge Lodge
5:30 pm
Christmas Party
Dinner & Dance
Don BURMISTER

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Focus for December is Impaired Driving

Christmas is just around the corner, everyone will soon be caught up in all the excitement: making plans, shopping, cooking, Christmas trees, lights and decorations. The musical sounds of children laughing. Dreams of Santa and presents. Christmas parties and standing under mistletoes.

Christmas should be a time of joy and celebration. Don't take the laughter out of your loved ones. **THINK AND DRIVE**

When you drink and drive, alcohol can affect your judgment, reaction time and perception.

Drivers who choose to drink and drive, face not only killing themselves or someone else, but also face severe legal and other consequences.

In 2008, in injury collisions, 1193 or 5.3 percent of the involved drivers had either been drinking or were judged to have been impaired.

DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

Tammy White Quills-Knife,
Regional Traffic Safety Coordinator – Treaty 7
(403) 863-2417

Do you have a story idea or want to promote your activity or event?
If you do, please contact Blood Tribe Communications at 403-737-8130.
The Blood Tribe Magazine 'Tsinikssini' is an effective way of reaching your audiences.