

FREE

BLOOD TRIBE CHIEF AND COUNCIL REVIEW

TSINIKSSINI

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 9

DECEMBER 2011

**Kainai
Government
Agreement
Referendum**

*Seasons
Greetings*
From the
Blood Tribe
Administration

ALSO...

**Economic Development Report
Tribe's Response to Bill S-2
Kainaiwa Resources Update
Lethbridge Shelter Support Program**

**UPCOMING EVENTS
CHIEF'S MESSAGE**



**Published by Blood Tribe
Administration
COMMUNICATIONS Department**

The Blood Tribe Council Review entitled 'TSINIKSSINI' is dedicated to the sharing of information for the people of the Blood Tribe. The magazine format features 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.

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In this Issue...

Chief Weasel Head's Message	page 3
Economic Development Report	page 4
Kainai Government Agreement Referendum	page 5
Kainaiwa Resources Update	page 6
Kainaiwa Resources Update	page 7
Standing Committee on Bill S-2	page 8
Standing Committee on Bill S-2	page 9
Blood Tribe's Response to Bill S-2	page 10
Blood Tribe's Response to Bill S-2	page 11
Blood Tribe Administration Christmas Dinner	page 12
Blood Tribe Handicap Society Christmas Dinner	page 12
The History of Frybread	page 13
Lands Department Toy Drive	page 13
Blood Tribe Emergency Services Commended	page 14
Lethbridge Shelter & Resource Center	page 15
Notices & Up-coming Events	page 16

COVER: Winter scene in Standoff
Photo by: Myron Fox

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

CHIEF CHARLES WEASEL HEAD



Oki:

As people of the Blackfoot Nations, we have proven our resilience and spirit with the utmost of pride and compassion as we continue to move forward together. As the Chief of our great nation, I assume my role with humility and respect. Meeting the needs of our people is a tremendous responsibility which motivates a stronger commitment to go beyond every day issues, and to look at long-term strategies that will benefit us all as a people. We, the Blood Tribe, are held in high regard by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada in terms of financial accountability.

This past year, we have been working to increase business opportunities in areas of renewable energy, manufacturing and tourism. The Turnip Hill Wind Energy Project will take advantage of the strong winds and turn it into a viable resource.

Our Blood Tribe Housing Building Systems initiative is contributing to providing houses for our people and we are currently looking at promoting our presence in the tourism industry with an exciting joint-venture focusing on a cultural/business centre at the Calgary Stampede Park.

And, with the construction of the Kainai Multi-purpose facility on the horizon, our youth will have even greater opportunities to excel in individual and team sports as they represent the tribe in their endeavours. Our youth are our future and we hope the establishment of a top-notch recreational facility will contribute to more healthy lifestyles for everyone.

As the Treaty Seven Grand Chief, we are protecting our treaties with the utmost diligence in defending our inherent rights as the First Nations of this country. We are also making stronger our unity amongst the proud Blackfoot Confederacy members and we continue to strengthen our relationships with the communities surrounding the Blood reserve. This past July, we welcomed 'Ninai'pohsinni', Chief Speaker, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, as an honorary member of the Kainai Chieftainship. Chief Speaker joins other dignitaries including HRH Prince Charles and Pope John Paul II into this prestigious group.

It is my sincere pleasure to represent the people of the Blood Tribe. I accept the roles and responsibilities of Chief of this great nation in pursuit of the best interests of the Blood Tribe and the people. I thank all the management and employees of the Blood Tribe Administration and entities for your dedication to our people.

On behalf of your members of council, I would like to wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blood Chief Charles Weasel Head

BLOOD TRIBE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2011



The AltaLink transmission lines are situated at the north end of the reserve.



Moccasin Flats Plaza at Moses Lake near Cardston Alberta.

The Blood Tribe Economic Development Department staff and committee have been involved in various ongoing initiatives and projects, some of which are detailed below.

AltaLink 240 kV Transmission Line: This was officially energized in October 2010. The line enables the Tribe to buy 51% of the on reserve portion of the line, which will generate significant future revenue. We are currently determining the appropriate corporate entity that will enter into this partnership on behalf of the Tribe. The construction of the line has also created the opportunity for a wind farm being built on the reserve, which would not have existed if the line was not built on Tribal lands.

Wind Project: The Tribe has extended our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TransCanada for one year. The MOU is to develop a feasibility study and commercial agreement for a 150 MW wind farm which would be located in the BTAP area, near the 240 kV line. The cost and expertise required to develop this is beyond our current resources, so the need for a partner is a necessity in order to advance this project to reality.

Land Designation: (Moccasin Flats Plaza, Kainai Industries, North End on Hwy 509). The Blood Tribe will be seeking permission from the community members to set aside lands for existing and future development in the form of a Land Designation. If approved by a referendum vote this would allow the lands to be leased for residential, commercial, institutional, educational, recreational and/or industrial purposes. Land designation allows for the possibility of different types of businesses by having lands ready to lease (zoned) for economic opportunities as they arise thereby increasing our economic development potential. Designated Lands do NOT lose reserve sta-

tus, tax exempt status remains and Tribal bylaws apply. Once the term ends the lands revert back to the Tribe.

Hardware Store: This is ongoing and we have completed phase one of the feasibility study and are looking at phase two and eventually developing a business plan.

Arts & Crafts Store: We are currently reviewing our existing business plan and seeking funding to aid in getting this venture started. This is a component of our Tourism strategy, which was initiated in 2007.

Services and Programs We Provide: Grant program (regular, elder and emergency grants) with deadlines in June, October and February of each year. Entrepreneurial training which can be workshop based or for on-demand topics as well as one to one consulting on specific business areas (i.e. marketing, accounting, etc.) and referral to external financing and related resources is also offered. A business lab with internet access for business research, correspondence and business plan development is

also available. Retail Business Space is available for rent to Tribal members at the Moccasin Flats Plaza.

If you want any more information on our programs, services, or projects, we invite you to come to our office, or contact us by phone or view our website at: www.bt-ecdev.org.

Report submitted by:

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Photo of a wind generated structure.

BLOOD TRIBE MEMBERSHIP VOTE AGAINST THE KAINAI GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT

--News Release--

Stand Off, Alberta -- The Kainai Government Agreement has been rejected by the membership of the Blood Tribe in a ratification vote conducted on Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

The Kainai Government Agreement is about the Blood Tribe exercising jurisdiction and law-making authority over certain matters including Child, Youth and Family Services and Governance.

The Kainai Government Agreement was negotiated by representatives of the Blood Tribe, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada on behalf of Canada, and Intergovernmental, International and Aboriginal Relations and Human Services on behalf of Alberta.

The Chief and Council are disappointed with the results of the ratification vote said Chief Charles Weasel Head.

"I want to express appreciation on behalf of Council to the members of the Blood Tribe Negotiating Team and the member of both Canada's and Alberta's negotiating teams for their commitment and efforts in negotiating the Kainai Government Agreement. I also want to thank staff of the Kainai Government Agreement for all their work in reaching out to inform the membership." Although disappointed with the results of the vote, as a result of the Kainai Government Agreement, a firm foundation has been laid for the Tribe in the area of Child, Youth and Family Services, said Chief Weasel Head. "The Blood Tribe offers the widest range of services to children, youth and families amongst all First Nations in Canada. The Blood Tribe will continue to strive to be a leader and to ensure Child, Youth and Family Services are available to all of its members.

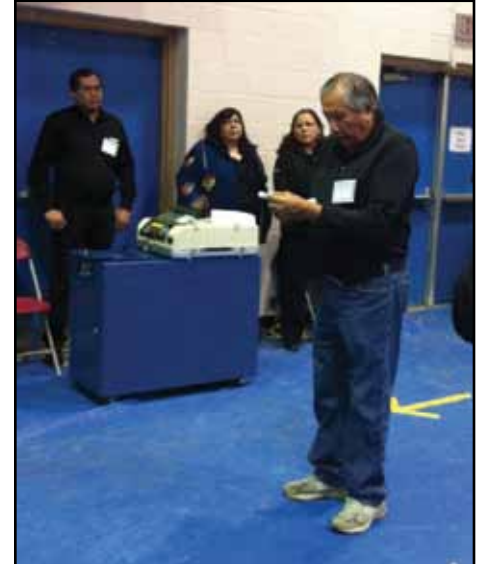
"The work on the Governance aspect of Kainai Governance Agreement is invaluable and continues to have relevance, in that the processes and procedures of governance have been clearly articulated and will continue to assist in the development of good governance for the Blood Tribe," said Chief Weasel Head.

According to Leroy Little Bear, the ratification officer for the vote, the total number of ballots cast was 2,266. The official results were: 819-Yes votes, 1399-No votes and 48-spoiled ballots

Chief Weasel Head said that officials of the Blood Tribe will assess and analyze the results of the vote and discuss these with representatives of both Canada and Alberta to determine the next steps.

Negotiations on the Kainai Government Agreement began in 1996 and concluded in July of this year.

For Further Information, contact:
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(403) 894-1959 Cell



Dr. Leroy Little Bear, Chief Electoral Officer, reads the official results after the polls closed at 8pm on December 14th



Members were eligible to receive per capita payment.



Blood Tribe members lining up to receive their capital distribution payment.

KAINAIWA RESOURCES INC.

President's Report *Ron Thunder Chief*

This report is intended to continue Kainaiwa Resources Inc.'s (KRI) ongoing commitment to provide information on our activities to the members of the Blood Tribe. The Board of Directors and management of KRI are pleased with the tremendous strides that have been accomplished in our attempt to fulfill KRI's mandate.

This year has been a very exciting year for KRI and the Tribe as it relates to our activities, with many developments that are intended to enhance the quality of life for our Tribal members. Firstly, I would like to expand on the commitment that this Board has made and followed through with and that is to keep the information flowing to the membership. This has been accomplished on many levels starting with our website, www.kainaiwaresourcesinc.org. This site is constantly being updated with new employment opportunities for Tribal members, updates on current drilling activities and procedures, and detailed information on our current projects. It also allows members the opportunity to provide feedback on our operations and content of the website. Secondly, KRI has made our organization available at numerous open houses and workshops where information was provided on our activities and members could have one-on-one discussions and ask questions. Lastly, KRI has created an information publication called "Straight Talk About Our Oil and Gas Activity", which was delivered to most of the departments on the reserve and has been an insert in our community newspaper as well.

Update on Drilling Activities

Murphy Oil Company has drilled two wells located on the Blood reserve. The first well was located southeast of Standoff and has been completed. Murphy is currently evaluating the information received to determine if the well will be economical to put into production. The second well that Murphy drilled located just off highway 2 on the southern end of the reserve and has been drilled. It is currently undergoing the completion portion of the program, thus results were not available at the time of this report.

Bowood Energy Inc. has drilled one well



Drilling rigs on the Blood reserve at one of three main sites.

located on the Band Ranch. This well has been completed and we are very encouraged by the initial results. We are currently awaiting production equipment to be installed and at that time we would be in a better position to determine production rates.

All environmental safe guards and precautions have been strictly adhered to during drilling activities. We have utilized several layers of environmental protection to ensure the protection of the land and our members. These different layers include KRI personnel, Blood Tribe Health Department, Indian Oil and Gas Canada, Energy Resource and Conservation Board, Traditional Land Use Studies, Archeological Studies, Environment Canada and an accredited independent Environmental firm. What's next for oil and gas development?

Both companies, Murphy and Bowood, are going to examine all the information gathered from these three wells before they determine what their next step will be. Thus, we don't expect any new wells to be drilled until the spring time of next year. As far as number of wells to be drilled next year, this all depends on success, but at this point, we

can confidently say that at least three wells will be drilled.

Bowood will be conducting a 3D seismic program on the northeastern part of the reserve. They will begin this activity in January of 2012. All affected land occupants have been individually notified and Bowood had a booth set up at the Economic Development Pillar Open House on September 20, 2011 to inform members of the Tribe that are not directly affected. There will be numerous employment activities created from the program.

Kainai Energy

Kainai Energy is the Tribe's oil and gas company that is co-partnered with Native American Resource Partners ("NARP"). Kainai Energy was created in March 2011 by KRI and NARP for the purpose of further expanding upon our oil and gas resource development successes at KRI.

In 2011, the Tribe has already participated in the drilling and completion of all three wells drilled on the reserve this year by Murphy and Bowood. It is important to note that the participation by Kainai Energy in these wells has not affected payment of royalties, bonus payments and rentals pay-

able to the Tribe in any way. Kainai Energy is required to pay its share of the royalties to the Tribe for each well it participates in. As a result, the Tribe not only benefits in current oil and gas development indirectly through Kainai Energy, it also benefits directly through Kainai Energy making these payments.

We are currently in the process of expanding Kainai Energy's involvement off-reserve through potential acquisitions of oil and gas leases beyond our borders. We anticipate being able to access off-reserve exploration and development opportunities with industry companies that would have been very difficult without Kainai Energy. With our participation in the three wells, assisting with the financing of Bowood's 3D seismic, as well as the additional acquisition of off-reserve leases, Kainai Energy anticipates expending approximately \$10 million by the end of this December. Kainai Energy has also made two separate dividend payments directly to the Tribe totaling \$2 million. The first payment of \$1 million was provided in April 2011 and the second payment of \$1 million will be provided on December 5, 2011. It's very important to note, that all of this financing was provided by NARP to Kainai Energy and not one of those dollars came from the Tribe.

Our long term goal is to increase Kainai Energy's enterprise value and to generate continuing cash flows for the purpose of providing a greater economic well-being to our membership. Ultimately, the Tribe can consider various monetization opportunities of Kainai Energy by the Tribe, such as a third party sale, an initial public offering or even a buy-out of NARP's interest in Kainai Energy. Kainai Energy is poised to establish itself as a viable and economically diverse energy company that will meet the goals of expanding the Tribe's economic base. As you can see, the Tribe and Kainai Energy have recognized significant oil and gas development opportunities in 2011 and we are excited about the future growth of Kainai Energy for the benefit of the Tribe in 2012.

Drilling Rig Joint Venture

Our drilling rig is currently working in Southeast Sask., and has to date provided \$1.7 million of revenue directly to the Tribe. Our partners, Savanna Energy Services, have continually been providing training sessions that have resulted in our Tribal members gaining the necessary training and experience to take advantage of the shortage of workers in the oil and

gas industry. For more information, please refer to our website for employment and training opportunities.

Bowood Shares

The Tribe still owns 5.6 million shares in Bowood. Although the financial markets have been on a downward cycle due to circumstances in the world market, we are contemplating liquidating our shares and will provide a substantial return on the Tribe's investment. However we are prevented from selling these shares until Bowood provides the investment community with a press release. After their next press release, we will see how this affects their market price and may decide to liquidate at that time.

Casing Supply Company

KRI has started a casing supply company that will buy casing used when drilling wells and sell it to the companies that are drilling on the reserve. This company is very new but has provided the casing requirements for Bowood's recent well on the reserve. Once this company establishes itself, we will be looking for Tribal members to operate it.

Revenue generate from oil and gas activity on Reserve

Fiscal Year	Total
08-09	\$11,116,817.82
09-10	\$7,489,000.21
10-11	\$58,910,770.95
11-12*	\$4,532,983.37
Total	\$82,049,572.35

One main aspect of KRI mandate is to generate revenue through oil and gas activities. The figures below are the revenues generated just from bonuses, leases, and rentals, but do not include revenue from our joint ventures. Also this revenue goes back to

the start of this Board term:

*Only April `11 to Oct. `11 available at time of report.

Employment

One of the major benefits that the Board of KRI pushed hard for was of course employment and contractual opportunities for our members. These first three wells drilled by these companies resulted in a total of 80 new employment and contracts awarded to our Tribal members and Tribal businesses. These jobs range from security guards to higher end jobs on the drilling rig. Also Tribal gravel trucks and heavy equipment contractors were securing a number of contracts during all phases of operations. If wells go into production, there will be different employment opportunities that would be more long term.

The seismic program to be conducted, in January of 2012, will provide another 40 employment and contractual opportunities to our members as well. These numbers are expected to continue to increase with a greater number of the Tribal workers moving off reserve with the companies in other areas of the Province.

Conclusion:

We are proud of the fact that other reserves have been looking to us and our accomplishments for a model of success. Also, we are cognizant of some environmental concerns being voiced by some of our members and we would like to ensure the entire Tribe that we are doing everything possible to minimize those risks, including going well beyond the minimum regulatory requirements while providing substantial revenues and employment opportunities to our Tribal members.



Photo of drilling site at south end of the reserve near Cardston.

THE BLOOD TRIBE WAS INVITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN RESPONSE TO BILL S-2 --FAMILY HOMES ON RESERVES AND MATRIMONIAL INTERESTS OR RIGHTS ACT ON NOVEMBER 28, 2011, IN OTTAWA—

THE COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF SENATOR PATRICK BRAZEAU, THE DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, SENATOR JOHN WALLACE, SENATOR PIERRE CLAUDE NOLIN, SENATOR NANCY RUTH AND SENATOR SALMA ATAULLAHJAN.



Charles Weasel Head, Chief, Blood Tribe/Kainai: Thank you very much for the invitation to submit our response from the Blood Tribe/Kainai. I am Chief Charles Weasel Head. I am the chief for the Blood Tribe. I have here with me Ms. Dorothy First Rider, our researcher for the tribe. She also co authored the book entitled Spirit and Intent of Treaty 7.

The Blood Tribe currently operates under a system of customary land allocations, or occupation with no land use bylaws, regulations or comprehensive written policies in force. The rights of individual members to occupy lands have become a very complex matter, and this has contributed to ongoing concerns and land disputes, which matrimonial property issues are only a part of. Housing issues are intricately tied to land use concerns and then, by extension, to on reserve matrimonial real property issues.

Dorothy First Rider, Senior Researcher, Blood Tribe/Kainai: The purpose of the prior consultations and various studies that led up to Bill C 47, Bill C 8, Bill S 4 and now Bill S 2 were to assist in the protection of First Nations women's rights through addressing the issue of on reserve matrimonial real property.

However, it would appear that the views of those persons consulted have largely been

ignored when it did not suit the federal government's purposes to take them seriously.

The legislative summary of Bill S 2 notes that, like reaction to its predecessors, reaction to Bill S 2 has been negative. Individuals and organizations who have commented on the new bill have emphasized that, for the most part, the key issues that have been raised with respect to previous incarnations of the bill have not been addressed.

The proposed legislation has the potential to breach the Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Blood Tribe and Blood Tribe members. This goes against the fundamental relationship between the Blood Tribe and Canada. Until this occurs, the imposition of Bill S 2 is meaningless and only exacerbates an already difficult and volatile situation.

For matrimonial real property rights to be meaningful, the Government of Canada must ensure there is adequate, safe and accessible housing on the Blood reserve.

Thank you.

Senator Brazeau: I have just one question, for Chief Weasel Head and Ms. First Rider. You mentioned in your presentation that it is your belief that, if passed and correct me if I am wrong Bill S 2 would go against Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Can you expand on what you mean by that? I cannot see how that will happen. As a matter of fact, I think it is the opposite, because, if passed, Bill S 2 is the enabler for First Nations communities to take the bull by the horns to exercise their jurisdiction on developing a code that would suit the needs in terms of matrimonial real property.

Ms. First Rider: To go back into history, the reserves were created as the result of the Blood Tribe entering into treaty with the British Crown. As a result of the treaty, lands were set aside for the exclusive use of Blood Tribe members. The home is attached to the land. We cannot separate those two. We have an occupancy policy on the reserve and it is those occupants who have the exclusive use of that particular area where that home is situated. They are not all located in one central area. We have approximately 544 square miles of land that constitute the Blood reserve right now. The homes are scattered mostly all over and we have approximately three main communities within the reserve itself. When you are talking about a home, you cannot fragment that home from the land. If there is a marriage breakdown and you have, for example, a non tribal member who has been allocated that land by virtue of the new legislation, what you need also to deal with is the land, so then you are fragmenting that particular area of land that is attached to the home, whether it is one or two acres or five acres. What we will run into is basically a checkerboard system where the land is also alienated from the home. It is a much more complex matter, I think, than the federal government has anticipated.

With jurisdiction with enabling legislation and with legislation that is being introduced such as Bill S 2, what is happening is the federal government is relieving itself of its fiduciary obligations. We need to deal with addressing adequate homes, equitable homes for the reserve members, before we

begin to allocate those kinds of homes to non tribal members that will further aggravate the situation that we are currently in. Senator Brazeau: I respectfully disagree with that position, but if you are taking the position that this indeed will go against Aboriginal and treaty rights, then what will the Blood Tribe do if and when this bill gets passed? Will you consider suing the government for passing this legislation that would affect your members?

Ms. First Rider: We are hoping that the federal government will respect the current laws that we have been exercising on the reserve. The Blood Tribe, as Chief Weasel Head has indicated in his presentation, has now developed our peacekeeping system on the reserves using our customary laws and our traditions. Those are based on the policy and on customary practice of kimapipitsinni. That is a holistic approach to an issue that deals with sympathy, kindness and caring.

As we all know, historically a law is not a law; it is usually based on customary practices until it gets to the point where people forget the roots of that particular practice and then it has to be codified. That is what the federal government is attempting to do, to codify a practice that we have been exercising for a long time on the Blood Tribe reserve on how to deal with our own internal issues.

Mr. Weasel Head: If I can supplement that, we are hoping it does not go that far with regard to having to go into litigation and those types of things. We have to understand here that we have our own traditions and our own cultures. How we understand family and our living quarters is a lot different from the mainstream. We aspire to extended families.

For many years, we have always had shortages in our homes and we have relied on extended family to provide shelter for everyone, if the immediate family do not have access to it. We continue to use that tradition and custom that Ms. First Rider mentioned with regard to helping each other out, mainly because of the resources and the lack of shelter and homes being provided in our community. Yes, definitely we still have, in my view and my people's view, overall jurisdiction with regard to homes and lands allocated for our members of the Blood Tribe.

Our presentation is based on an understanding that definitely we are in a position to hopefully be a part of this legislation, if it is ultimately going to be established, that we are part and parcel from a community



Dorothy First Rider, Senior Researcher, Tribal Government & External Affairs.

perspective, from a cultural and traditional perspective, that we have input into this legislation. If we do not do that and it goes against every fabric of what we believe in our tradition and culture, it will make things worse for us

Senator Brazeau: That sparks some additional questions. It is great to hear that you have your own customs and traditions with respect to lands that fall on your territory, but are you doing anything currently, as we speak, with respect to the division of property in marriage breakdown?

Ms. First Rider: Yes, we do. Currently, as I indicated earlier, we have a policy in place that will allow a woman, whether she is a member or a non member, to reside in the family home until the children are of age. There are more complex issues to deal with right now. Going back to your earlier question, for example, if a non member is allocated use of the matrimonial home and then she enters into a relationship with a non member, then that will further aggravate the issue, because then you will have two non members residing on Federal Reserve land. How will we deal with those? We try to operate on the basis of kimapipitsinni and always look at the care of the children first and who has guardianship of the children. These are laws and policies that the tribe has been utilizing for the past 30 years, I believe, because prior to that point it was not much of a problem.

Senator Brazeau: Would you be able to submit a copy of that policy to the clerk? I certainly would be interested in seeing it and seeing what you have developed in terms of that policy. Unless I am mistaken, any First Nations can develop their own policy, but where the problem lies is in terms of implementation, because under the Indian Act, the minister cannot recognize such policies. That is one of the major thrusts for the development of this legislation, so that the minister can now recognize those codes of First Nations communities that already have codes or will be in the process of developing them. If you could provide that policy, I would appreciate it.

Ms. First Rider: The chief mentioned it in his earlier comments. It is the land dispute resolution policy that was developed in 2007 and I am sure his office will be able to provide a copy.

Senator Lovelace Nicholas: My question was already answered.

The Chair: Thank you very much for being here today. It has been a long day. We appreciate you making yourselves available on short notice.

NOTE:

The manuscript was edited to fit the format of the magazine. For a full copy of the meeting in Ottawa, please contact Tribal Government at 403.737.8129.

RESPONSE TO BILL S-2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF BLOOD TRIBE SUBMISSION NOVEMBER 21, 2011

Profile of the Blood Tribe



Prior to European settlement the Bloods along with their confederates, the Piikani (both North and South) and the Blackfoot had exclusive possession and enjoyment of their traditional territory for thousands of years. This territory is the vast area bounded on the east by the Sand Hills, on the south by the Yellowstone River in Montana, on the west by the continental divide of the Rocky Mountains and on the north by the North Saskatchewan River.

The Blood Tribe has always existed as a nation. From time immemorial, we have controlled our lands and our religious, political, economic and cultural destinies. Our Aboriginal and Treaty rights are not ours to negotiate or limit. They are for future generations and must be kept intact for them.

By Treaty 7, we agreed to share our lands with the British Crown except for specifically reserved areas which are kept for our exclusive use. The treaty created a unique, sui generis, relationship between our people and the Crown, modifying only one aspect of our rights - the right to exclusive use of the land.

The Blood Tribe currently operates under a system of customary land allocations, or occupation, with no land use bylaw, regulations or comprehensive written policies in

force. The rights of individual members to occupy lands has become a very complex matter and this has contributed to ongoing concerns and land disputes, of which matrimonial property issues are only a part. Housing issues are intricately tied to land use concerns and then by extension to on-reserve matrimonial real property issues.

The Blood Tribe instituted a Land Dispute Resolution Policy in 2007 to address the growing number of disputes over the allocation of use and occupancy of land on the Blood reserve. A Land Dispute Resolution Panel and an Appeal Tribunal have been instituted and have been working towards resolving the backlog of land disputes on the Blood reserve.

The Blood Tribe has also instituted a Peacemaking Program to provide opportunities for individual community members to resolve conflicts with the law, wrongdoings and disputes arising from various aspects of community life using peacemaking processes that are grounded in Kainai values, and traditions. Kainai Peacemaking seeks to restore harmony in the family and community and provide opportunities for resolving matters through conflict mediation and conflict resolution and thereby achieve reconciliation

Bill S-2 - Family Homes On Reserves and Matrimonial Interests Or Rights Act

The substance of Bill S-2 has been brought before this government numerous times: first, as Bill C-47 in 2008, then as Bill C-8 in 2009. It was reintroduced into the Senate as Bill S-4 then died on the Order Paper when Parliament was dissolved on March 26, 2011. It is now being introduced again as Bill S-2.

It is acknowledged that there are some changes from Bill S-4 to Bill S-2. Perhaps the most significant is the removal of the verification process, including the role of the verification officer proposed in Bill S-4. A second significant change was made with respect to lowering the ratification threshold. Bill S-2 has lowered the ratification threshold to a single majority with a set participation in the vote of at least 25 per cent of eligible voters.

A third significant change was an inclusion of a transition period. This transition period, it is argued, has been incorporated to allow First Nations that are well advanced in developing their own laws with time to enact them before the provisional federal rules take effect.

Although Bill S-2 has some improvements and has changed in some significant ways, there are substantive problems which include the fact that it would infringe upon the Blood Tribe's Treaty rights to exclusive possession of its reserve lands in addition to the breach of the right to self-govern.

D. THE BLOOD TRIBE'S SUBMISSIONS RESPECTING BILL S-2

1. Meaningless Consultation

The purpose of the prior consultations and various studies that led up to Bill C-47, Bill C-8, Bill S-4 and now Bill S-2, were to assist in the protection of First Nations women's rights through addressing the issue of on-reserve matrimonial real property. However, it would appear that the views of those persons "consulted" have largely been ignored when it did not suit the federal government's purposes to take them seriously.



The legislative summary of Bill S-2 notes that “like reaction to its predecessors, reaction to Bill S-2 has been negative. Individuals and organizations who have commented on the new bill have emphasized that for the most part, the key issues that have been raised with respect to previous incarnations of the bill have not been addressed.”

If the legislation proceeds in its current form it is a breach of the federal government’s duty to accommodate and the whole consultation process has been a virtual sham.

2. Failure to address systemic issues

It again must be stressed that the issue of matrimonial property rights cannot be viewed in a vacuum and the current attempts to resolve the issue by taking into consideration other areas of law, including wills and intestacy rules, dower rights, best interests of children and family violence have only complicated the matter further. The approval of Bill S-2 will only increase the current issues facing the Blood Tribe Council and Administration on a daily basis.

The federal government is attempting to address what it deems to be a human rights concern without dealing with the more significant human rights violation of adequate housing for First Nations people in Canada. The passing of Bill S-2, or a form of this proposed legislation, will simply exacerbate this concern. Merely setting out rules as to which party would have access to the family home on reserve does not address the systemic problem of the level of safe homes for Blood Tribe members on the Blood reserve, or at all.

3. Breach of Fiduciary Duty

The Blood Tribe maintains that Canada has a general fiduciary obligation that consists of protection and non-interference. The duty of protection entails protection for Blood Tribe people, their lands and resources, while the duty of non-interference allows for the development and implementation of governing structures that does not include the imposition of legislation that



directly affects the Blood Tribe without full consultation, accommodation and consent of the Blood Tribe.

4. Breach of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

The proposed legislation fails to recognize in any real and meaningful way the aboriginal and treaty rights of Blood Tribe members, nor does it appear that any consideration has been given for the development of processes that will allow for the protection of these rights.

It is only members who are entitled to the use and benefit of Blood reserve lands and Bill S-2 potentially creates long term rights or interests in Blood reserve lands for non-members which breaches the Treaty Rights of the Blood Tribe and Blood Tribe members. The Blood reserve has been set apart for the use and benefit of the Blood Tribe and its members.

5. Lack of Resources

The enactment of the proposed S-2 would create further significant deficits in Blood Tribe resources.

The poor and inadequate housing on reserves is one of the biggest contributors to the concerns that arise from on-reserve matrimonial real property disputes. Canada has been continually informed of these shortfalls and its responsibilities with respect to the serious situations that have

been created and has failed to address this crisis in any meaningful way. Simply addressing one of the symptoms of the lack of adequate housing through initiatives dealing with on-reserve matrimonial real property matters will not address the systemic problem and in fact may compound it.

E. SUMMARY

The Blood Tribe submits that in the face of the opposition to Bill S-2 by the very people who will be most affected by it, the federal government is being negligent in continuing to table the various renditions of this legislation.

The proposed legislation has the potential of breaching the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of the Blood Tribe and Blood Tribe members and the goes against the fundamental relationship between the Blood Tribe and Canada.

For matrimonial real property rights to be meaningful, the government of Canada must ensure that there is adequate, safe and accessible housing on the Blood reserve. Until this occurs, the imposition of Bill S-2 is meaningless and only exacerbates an already difficult and volatile situation.

BLOOD TRIBE ADMINISTRATION DINNER ENJOYED BY EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES



The chicken dancers kept the people entertained with their smooth dancing styles.



Recreation & Parks: Department of the Year.

The management and employees of the Blood Tribe Administration spent a fun-filled evening with family, relatives and friends at the annual tribal dinner at the Lethbridge Lodge on Friday, December 9, 2011. The nights emcee was Travis Plaited Hair who kept the evening's festivities rolling with his unique blend of humor and wit. The weather cooperated this year as many people enjoyed a hot Christmas turkey dinner and plenty of entertainment. The highlight of the dinner was the annual Blood Tribe Administration department and employee awards. This year, the Blood Tribe Recreation & Parks department received the honor as the Blood Tribe's top depart-

ment. The Recreation employees who attended the dinner and who were present to receive the award were very pleased at receiving this recognition.

Among the employees who were recognized for their contributions in the area of attendance included:

Steve Frank, Communications
Jimmy Chief Moon, Recreation
Marsha Crow Eagle, Management
Cara Wells, Finance
Susan Ben, Tribal Government
Jennifer Weasel Head, Membership
Dale Rabbit, Economic Development
Cyril Eagle Child, Housing
Ty Wells, Housing
Jacqueline Scout, Lands

Gina Many Bears, BTEST
Shirley Plaited Hair, Shot Both Sides
Charlie Blood, FCSS
Mary Wolf Child, Social Development
Dennis Iron Shirt, Public Works
BTA RETIREES
Martin Curly Rider, Public Works
Andrew Twigg, Economic Development
Ervin First Rider, Public Works
Marsha Provost, Social Development
Genevieve Low Horn, FCSS

The comedy act of Harrison Wolf Child and Ivan Singer kept the people laughing and several chicken dance competitions had each table select a dancer to compete. The hand drum singers lead by Troy Delaney and his crew kept the beat for the hilarious competitors. Shane Across The Mountain won the \$500 special draw and many people won door prizes throughout the evening.

Darlene Plume, Senior Executive Officer, congratulates all the employees and the Blood Tribe Administration departments for their efforts in serving the best interests of the Blood Tribe and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BLOOD TRIBE'S HANDICAP SOCIETY HOST DINNER IN KEEPING WITH UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SEASON



Many persons with disabilities feasted on a hot meal and good fun.

A large number of persons with disabilities and their families attended a Christmas dinner at the Lethbridge Lodge on December 7, 2011, in support of the Blood Tribe Disabled Society. Ivan Singer, emcee and member of the society, welcomed the approximately two-hundred people who enjoyed a good meal and local entertainment. "I want to thank everyone who is here

today in support of our efforts," he said. "Also, welcome to the Siksika Disability Services for sharing this evening with us." The Blood Tribe Handicap Society is currently working toward a more comprehensive group in seeking ways to assisting people with disabilities. Singer is part of a working group comprised of Liz Scout, Shorty Soop and Melvin Wells who are



Harrison Wolf Child and Ivan Singer comedy routine.

trying to organize a Blackfoot Confederacy Disability Society with the expertise of Kathleen McHugh and the Siksika Disability staff.

The entertainment for the evening was William Singer, IV, who shared his musical talent and Harrison Wolf Child and Ivan Singer performing their hypnotist act.



Jason Eagle Speaker is a nationally published education author who is quickly emerging as one of the finest graphic novelists anywhere. His work presents themes and storylines which depict the realities of life in a variety of situations. EagleSpeaker's work is quickly gaining a foothold in the mainstream audiences for its portrayal of real issues involving everyday people. You can contact Jason at his website: www.eaglespeaker.com

LAND MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT PART OF A TOY DRIVE IN MAKING CHRISTMAS MEMORABLE FOR OUR CHILDREN



The Blood Tribe Land Management are part of a much larger group of departments, entities and companies who are contributing toward making Christmas a more enjoyable experience for those less fortunate. Each of the department, entities and companies has donated resources and time into purchasing and wrapping gifts for our children.

We hope this Christmas season is a happy time for the children. The Blood Tribe Chief & Council, committees, departments, entities and companies wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

THE BLOOD TRIBE EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMENDED FOR COORDINATED EFFORTS

The recent prairie fire at the north end of the Blood reserve is a reminder of how susceptible we all can be to sudden disaster situations. With a land base of approximately 549.7 square miles, access to the remote areas on the reserve depends on many factors including the weather, the time of day or night, equipment and qualified disaster service trained individuals.

The Blood Tribe is fortunate and pleased to have the Blood Tribe Emergency Services which is comprised of individuals from many departments, entities and organizations who are continually improving their ability to respond to disaster situations. The past floods and severe winter conditions we experienced are only a few of the examples where the Emergency Services reacted as a coordinated group in meeting these natural tragedies.

The Blood Tribe Chief & Council acknowledge and commend the Blood Tribe Emergency Services for their dedication and concern for our people. Your immediate response in reacting to disaster situations in securing the safety of our people, and in providing solutions to meet the needs of those affected by these occurrences, is gratifying.

During the recent fire, a number of our people were evacuated and safely housed. Two families who lost their homes have been temporarily sheltered. Many Blood Tribe departments, entities and organizations, both on-and-off the reserve, are continuing their efforts of providing emergency relief to the families; this includes fund-raising events, during this difficult time.

The Blood Tribe also acknowledges the many fire departments and volunteers surrounding the Blood reserve for your assistance. The fire departments from Coalhurst, Picture Butte, Nobleford and Fort Macleod, including the SRD Wildland firefighters, provided their professional services. Also, the Blood Tribe Public Works, Blood Tribe Housing, Victims Services, Red Cross, Blood Tribe Wellness, Blood Tribe Police, Blood Tribe Agricultural Project, Bonivista and Fortis were involved in the disaster relief efforts.

AAHSOAPI CHRISTMAS CONCERT BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO SHARE SONGS



plenty of gifts for all the students. Lastar Radio (89.9 FM) will air most of the songs by the students over the Christmas holidays. The students and staff at Aahsoapi want to wish everyone out there a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Aahsoapi Elementary School held its annual Christmas concert on December 13, 2011., in the Levern community. Everyone was in the Christmas spirit and a good time was had by all who attended. It was terrific to see a high turnout by all the parents and caregivers.

The concert began with an opening address by the principal, Loretta Many Bears, on behalf of the Parent Advisory Committee. The Aahsoapi singers sang a Flag song and Ashton White Man did his rendition of the national anthem. All the grades from 1 to 5 performed their Christmas songs and the grade 2A did a play in Blackfoot called 'Santa's Visit'.

Santa finished off the afternoon with



The children of the schools always provide plenty of good tidings to everyone.

LETHBRIDGE SHELTER AND RESOURCE CENTRE THRIVING AND ALIVE IN PROVIDING SUPPORTS



The Lethbridge Shelter & Resource Centre staff include: Vlessy Villanueva-Sanchez, Teresa 'Sunshine' Weasel Moccasin, Collette Ryostock, Dianna Vincent, Roland Cotton, Peter Heavy Runner and Susan Ferguson.

The urban community of Lethbridge came together on December 7, 2011, for an open house at the Lethbridge Shelter and Resource Centre, located at 1709-2nd Avenue South. The event began at 10 a.m. where Chief Executive Officer Lydia First Rider addressed the crowd with a warm welcome, and introduced Lethbridge Mayor Rajko Dodic who provided insight into the supports provided. Roland Cotton, President of the Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Society, then graced the stage to talk about the importance of being able to support those less fortunate.

"I want to thank the citizens of Lethbridge for being honest in their opinions about this shelter. We are motivated by the opportunity to work in order to exceed expectations. To the staff, I applaud you, I encourage you, I am grateful for you." From there, elder Corolla Calf Robe provided a special prayer for all in attendance, and for those in need of support from the shelter.

Both the Shelter and Resource Centre are separate entities under the umbrella tree of the Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Society. Other programs provided are the Open Door Café where an art teacher from the Bowman Arts Centre volunteers time to provide lessons for clientele. The City of Lethbridge and Alberta Human Services

provide financial supports and fund the facility; while McMan Youth and Family Community Services, Lethbridge H.I.V. Connection, Foothills Detox Centre, Outreach Nursing Services, Outreach Housing and Mental Health Services also provides supports to clientele.

Vlessy Villanueva-Sanchez, Resource Centre coordinator, was in attendance to provide guided tours to visitors: "The open house is part of a strategic plan, where we need to let people know what it is really like at the shelter. A lot of people just assume, and so we wanted to provide a reality check for the community." She went on to explain the mission of the Resource Centre: "To provide a safe and secure environment while promoting a healthy life style," she said. "We have had a lot of success, and challenges, which in the end provides great rewards in knowing that we have helped people become independent."

For those unaware of the facility and the incubator it provides for a number of different programs, and the outstanding dedicated workings of individuals involved to put an end to homelessness, this was the perfect chance to engage in an awareness of the Shelter and the services provided. Not only is the shelter there for individuals who require emergency shelter, so is

the Resource Centre that provides further assistance to individuals reintegrating into the community.

Peter Heavy Runner has been a dedicated staff member of the LSRC, and has started out as a Security Support Staff. With training, Heavy Runner was able to work his way up the ladder of success to becoming a Resource Centre Case Worker.

"New services plans have been developed to assist people in their struggles and part of that is being able to follow up with clients," he said. "There have been a lot of changes, as there have been new challenges that have come up. So right now we are working on moving forward."

As the event rolled to an end, guests were provided with refreshments and were thanked for their attendance. But the fun doesn't stop there as the Sik-oo-Kotoki Friendship Society has a few more events to host. The Children's Christmas party that is set to take place at the Medicine Tree Centre December 19, 2011, at 5 p.m., and the Elder's Christmas Event, where St. Nick is set to be the keynote speaker on December 21, 2011, at 12:30 p.m.

For more information and to register for the events, call The Medicine Tree Centre at 403.328.2414

By Katty Jo Rabbit, Contributing Writer

