

# BLOOD TRIBE ADMINISTRATION REVIEW

# TSINIKSSINI

FREE

VOL. 2 ISSUE 6 JUNE-07

## Blood Tribe Ag Sector Launched

### Amalgamation of Agriculture Initiatives.

To achieve a more streamlined management of agricultural activities, the Economic Development Committee has amalgamated all the ag ventures under one umbrella, Ag-Sector which will include; Kainai Agri-business Corp., BTAP, Blood Band Ranch, Kainai Farming Initiative, and Blood Tribe Forage Plant. These entities were independent of each other until now, but in this past fiscal year, it was decided that it would be more cost effective if there was an amalgamation. A new CEO has been hired, Shaun Stang formerly from Myers Norris Penny, with an extensive background in agri-business. As a result of the Cornel Trading Corp. bankruptcy, and the disruption caused to the Blood Tribe Forage Plant, the Tribe has gained the services of Wilbur-Ellis, a multi-



*Seeding barley, putting Blood Tribe farming equipment to use.*

national corporation with marketing world-wide. They have begun to market BTAP products again and forage production is going for the coming year. Much of their marketing occurs in the U.S. but they also have markets in the Pacific Rim Countries. As part of the Ag Sector, the Blood Tribe Agri-Business Corporation has also been included in the amalgama-

tion. Production of agricultural products such as beef at the Blood Tribe Ranch has been increased with the improved beef market. The Blood Tribe Farming initiative, which was launched last spring, was also part of the amalgamation. In their first year of operation, which was very successful, they cultivated 5,000 acres.

*cont.*



*Farm manager Colin Frank prepares for busy day at Blood Tribe Farm.*

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The first harvest brought near bumper crops and with grain prices up, things are looking good at the Tribal Farm near the south east edge of the Reserve. It could be the beginning of a new era in land use on the Blood Reserve with the goal of fully capitalizing on the 200,000 acres of cultivated farmland that is largely benefiting the non-Native farmers who lease nearly 195,000 acres, a lion's share of the land. This year they have expanded operations and have cultivated 10,000 acres, with 14 pivots from BTAP.

In addition to these new developments, the Ag-sector requested start-up funds from the Tribe @ \$1.5 million. This was granted through other tribal revenues, from oil and gas revenues, after much debate in Council. In the end Council felt that this investment is necessary in order for the Tribe to regain use of the cultivated lands and strengthen our own economic base. Since agriculture is a renewable resource, it will sustain itself long after the oil and gas have run out.



*Premiere Ed Stelmach to be guest at Sundance*



*Chief Charles Weasel Head doing interview with reporter Carolyn Dunn. The story will run on CBC National in early July.*

## **CBC visits Reserve to do Story for**

### **The National. Focus on Ag Sector.**

The television crew from the CBC National were recent visitors to the Blood Reserve, to do coverage for their top rated news program, the National. Activity at BTAP and the Ag Sector was what sparked their interest, and the focus of their documentary which will be aired early in July. The crew visited BTAP, the Blood Band Ranch as well as the Blood Tribe Farming Initiative. Although they had hopes of doing a more extensive story to include other areas of interest such as the Red Crow College and the Ninastako student housing and the recent developments with Children's Services and the Kainai Government Agreement, they decided there was too much to cover in one story, and they plan to be back later in the year to try and cover other topics.

## **Alberta Premiere to Visit Blood Sundance.**

In a bold move, the Blood Tribe Chief and Council have invited Premiere Ed Stelmach to come to the Reserve and receive a Blackfoot name in a ceremony at the Blood Sundance July 27. This coincides with the Horn Society ceremonies which would commence the following day, and tribal leaders hope that Ed Stelmach would stay and take in those activities as well.

"We hope the Premiere will stay until the following day when he can experience the real Blood tradition of the Sundance," Chief Charles Weasel Head said, and added "We want him to see and experience what Blood culture is all about, and maybe he will become more sensitive to our needs." The Premiere has accepted the invitation and the plans for his visit are under way. This was a strategic move by Council to try and

gain support for the many requests that are being made to his government, and smooth the political waters between the Province and the Blood Tribe. The naming ceremony, unlike former Premiere Ralph Klein's induction into the Kainai Chieftainship in 1996, has nothing to do with that prestigious group. But rather it is a common practice that was exercised in the past to gain political support. The Premiere will also receive a headdress bestowed on him by Elder Pete Standing Alone.

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## **BLOOD TRIBE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Blood Tribe will be awarding 10 Scholarships known as the: George Frank Russell and Isabella Ann Russell Scholarships

“for the purpose of assisting students who belong to the Blood Indian Band and who are domiciled and resident in the Province of Alberta in obtaining University Education or post-graduate University Education”

### **To be Eligible and individual must:**

**- Be a registered member of the Blood Tribe**

**- A resident in the Province of Alberta**

**- Be enrolled in a full course load in an Undergraduate University program**

10 - \$1000.00 scholarships will be awarded in Total – one from the following, but not limited to:

- o Management
- o Education
- o Arts & Science – humanities, social science, science, communications etc.
- o Fine Arts
- o Law, Medicine, Dentistry
- o Kinesiology
- o Engineering
- o Nursing
- o Social Work
- o Native Studies
- o Agriculture & Forestry

### **Applications to include:**

**Letter of interest**

**Present Registration Confirmation**

**Post secondary transcripts (Jan – Apr 07)**

**Two (2) Reference letters**

Send Information to:

*Red Crow Community College*

*Attention: Henry Big Throat*

*Box 1258*

*Cardston, AB T0K 0K0*

Application Deadline Date:

Friday June 29th, 2007

The Blood Tribe Administration have been selected to administer the Scholarship Funds on behalf of the George Frank Russell and Isabella Ann Russell Family. The Estate has specifically determined eligibility criteria for these awards.

## **Harper Proposes Legislation to Speed Up Land Claims.**

OTTAWA (CP) The prime minister proposed on June 12, new legislation to speed land claims as native groups plan a major day of demonstrations June 29. Stephen Harper says the bill to be co-written with the Assembly of First Nations would “revolutionize the land-claims process and help clear a backlog of more than 800 cases. Canada will be a better, stronger, more united country when all its citizens enjoy full equality of opportunity,” declared Harper.” And today’s announcement, I believe, represents a quantum leap toward that goal for Canada’s First Peoples.” The legislation is to be introduced in the Commons this fall, If passed it would commit \$250 million a year for 10 years for specific land claims research and compensation, and would create a new tribunal staffed with impartial judges who would make final decisions on claims when negotiations fail.. The Indian Specific Claims Commission would be refocused to concentrate on dispute resolution. Instead of letting disputes over land and compensation drag on forever fuelling anger, frustration and uncertainty, they will be solved once and for all by impartial judges” Harper said. Critics have long called for a truly independent land-claims process with more money and staff to settle cases. The current land claims process is a discredited system that takes an average of 13 years and native frustration has flared recently, prompting blockades and sometimes ugly conflict. Any bill to clear the way for real change would have to pass a fractious and unstable Parliament. Ottawa has until now acted as defendant, judge and jury in disputes that have over-stretched bureaucratic and native resources. Tuesday’s announcement mirrors closely recom-

mendations made earlier this year by a Senate standing committee. It called for an arms’ length body to assess claims and award compensation, increased cash dedicated to settling claims, and a more streamlined process. Native leaders will be watching to what extent the bill may cap settlement amounts or impose deadlines for filing claims. The Blood Tribe has a reported number of 15 – 20 unsettled land claims that have been sitting on the shelf gathering dust for nearly 4 decades.

Demonstrations, including rail blockades, are planned June 29 by leaders who have taken a wait-and-see attitude toward federal promises of action. The federal government has itself estimated that it owes First Nations billions of dollars for breached or unfulfilled treaties. Basic funding for settlements is set at about \$159 million this fiscal year. The exhaustive Senate committee report urged the Conservatives to commit at least \$250 million annually. The alternative, it warned, is the eruption of more nasty clashes like the one that pitted native against non-native in Caledonia, Ont., last year over a housing development. Frustration is once again building in the southwestern Ontario community as complex talks drag on. Farther east, a rail blockade in April by a splinter group of Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte paralyzed passenger and freight traffic between Toronto and Montreal. The protest near Deseronto, Ont., brought railway commuters and shipments to a halt for just over a day until it was peacefully ended. Demonstrators blamed the snail’s pace of compensation talks and the use of a quarry on disputed land. They have promised more economic disruption. Federal officials say that just 120 of the more than 800 unsolved claims across much of Canada have made it to the active negotiation stage.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS JUNE 2007

## Writing On Stone Interpretive Center Grand Opening - June 20

11:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Bus leaves at 8:00 sharp from SBS  
Bld - call 737-8135 for seat.

## Aboriginal Day Festivities at Red Crow Park - June 21st

-music  
-barbeque  
-fun

## Standoff Recreational Programs

June 18 - Open Gym  
June 19 - T-Ball  
June 20 - Softball  
June 21 - National Aboriginal Day  
June 25-27 - Training  
June 28 - Open Gym  
call : 737-3868 for more info

## Lands Golf Tournament - July 7

Cardston Lee Creek Golf Course  
11:00 am - register  
12:00 pm Tee Times  
\$75 per person  
call : 737-8224 or 737-8161 for  
more info

## Kainai Indian Days Celebra- tions

July 20-22, 2007



“Honoring Aa-pai-tsi-tapi”  
-Drum and Dance competitions  
-Hand Games  
-Rodeo  
-Kainai Chieftainship

for more information on Canteen  
registration and family/community  
specials call: Theda 737-3774

## CHIEF & COUNCIL UPDATE 2007

### Council meeting of May 22/07 @Council Chambers.

#### 1. Police Commission report to Council.

Members of the Blood Tribe Police Commission met with Chief and Council to discuss some of the concerns of community members in regard to policing on the Reserve. Council representative on the Commission, Lambert Fox indicated there was a police monitor whose role is to hear complaints from the public and to direct them to the appropriate people. Allegations of harassment by police can be heard by the larger police union and decisions rendered. Council must remain independent of the Police Commission and cannot interfere with this process.

#### 2. Red Arrow Excavation Ltd. /gravel operations.

An update was provided by Public Works Director, Joe Healy reported on the reclamation of the site. The report indicated it was in order and the reclamation would be completed in the time agreed to.

#### 3. Task Force update.

Blood Tribe Health Dept. CEO, Chris Shade reported on the recent developments of the Task Force on Community Violence. The Kainai Wellness Centre will be taking on the initiative, as originally planned under the Health Dept. (the original BCR of April/04 delegated it). Oliver Shouting has been designated by Council to chair the Task Force.

#### 4. Waterton Hi-way.

Concern brought forward by Councillor , Oliver Shouting on behalf of the residents of West Moses Lake. Apparently the fence that was promised by the Dept. of Hiways has not been built and there are motorists who have run into their yards. Darlene Plume reported that the funding was in place, but needed a workforce from the Reserve. St. Mary's Construction is back in operation and will pick up on the work that needs to be done.

### Special Council Meeting of June 04/07

First Nations Oil and Gas Money and Management Act (FNOGMMA) was debated at length and revisions made, the draft has been given approval in principal by Council but final approval will be sought in a Dec./07 referendum. An extensive information campaign by Kainai Resources Inc. is in the works and more details will be given as they become available.

### Meeting of June 5/07 @ Council Chambers.

#### 1. AltaLink.

A proposal to partner with AltaLink, a major carrier of Electric Energy, presented to Chief and Council. The proposal has been before Council before and further discussions are pending. In brief, AltaLink will pay 1.5 million for access and use of land to construct a transmission line across the North end of the Reserve, there will also be an annual fee that is being negotiated. A consultation will need to take place before any deal is serious.

#### 2. Integrated Service Delivery,

. An update was given by Anita Singer with details of the latest developments. More information will be given in future publications.

#### 3. Early Intervention Report. By Penny Dan and Curtis Pilling.

Early Intervention is a program to prepare children from 4-5 yrs, basically giving these children some skills to enter into the education system. It has now been handed to Penny Dan from BTEB under a new regime similiar to Boys and Girls' Club. It will now fit under Social Services or Children's Services.

#### 4. BTEB- Nominal Roll.

Curtis Pilling representing the Education Board brought information regarding the changes to student sponsorship, they can no longer sponsor extra costs and extra-curricular activities for students attending off-reserve schools. This is due to the rising costs of tuition agreements.