

Transfer of The First Nations Policing Program to the Ministry of The Solicitor General of Canada

Responsibility for the on-reserve First Nations Policing Program has been transferred from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) to the Ministry of the Solicitor General of Canada (MSG). The announcement made by the federal Solicitor General and MP for Simcoe North, Doug Lewis, and Tom Siddon, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Solicitor General Canada now has sole responsibility for the implementation of the First Nations Policing Policy approved by Cabinet last year. The transfer will give First Nations communities direct access to the policing expertise and resources of the Ministry. This includes expertise in areas such as family violence, substance abuse and aboriginal justice.

The policy, announced last June, will enhance the safety and security of First Nations communities. The key elements of the policy are:

- More money to improve on-reserve policing services - an extra \$116.8 million over five years, starting in 1991-92. This is over and above the money already provided for on-reserve policing services.

- First Nations communities will have on-reserve policing services that are responsive to cultural and community needs.

- First Nations communities will play a key role in choosing the type of police service they want.

Under the policy, the federal and provincial governments, First

nations communities and Tribal Councils will work together to develop on-reserve policing services through tripartite agreements ratified by all parties.

The transfer will not affect existing funding for on-reserve policing arrangements. These arrangements will remain in force until replaced by agreements negotiated under the terms of the new policy.

Officials from Solicitor General Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs are working closely with the provinces and First Nations communities to ensure a smooth transition period.

A guide explaining how the new policy works will be distributed to all First Nations communities by the end of April.

"The policy gives First Nations peoples a strong voice in shaping all aspects of policing services in their communities," said Mr. Lewis. "And given hard work and cooperation all around, we hope that 80 percent of Canada's on-reserve population will have First Nations police service by 1996."

"The First Nations Policing Policy," said Mr. Siddon, "demonstrates the federal government's commitment to give First Nations greater control over the administration of justice in their communities. The transfer will not only expand and strengthen the partnership between the federal government and First Nations, but will also serve the broader shared objective of greater Aboriginal self-reliance."

More Info. (613) 991-2924

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Announces the Launch of its Public Consultations

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples announced that its public consultations was launched in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 21, 1992. The seven member Commission hosted a series of activities and special hearings, which concluded on Friday, April 24.

The city of Winnipeg, considered to be the gateway to the West, was chosen as the launch site because of its historical association with the evolution of the Metis Nation. It is also the geographic center of Canada and Turtle Island, the name by which many Aboriginal peoples traditionally refer to North America.

The consultation process, which will consist of four rounds, is set to begin at the end of April 1992, and will extend into the second half of 1993. "Following the launch in Winnipeg, three teams of Commissioners will crisscross the country in the first round to listen to what Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have to say on a wide range of issues regarding Aboriginal people," said Mr. Georges Erasmus, Commission Co-Chair.

"We will visit the southern urban centers where Royal Commissions normally hold hearings, and where growing Aboriginal communities exist. We also intend to hold hearings in over 100 rural and northern communities, which are too often left out of the national dialogue," said Commission Co-Chair, Mr. Rene Dussault.

"We are also designing special ways to help bring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people together to debate the issues and learn more about each other. For example, A Round-Table on Prairie Urban Issues, which is intended to bring

together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal decision makers and urban planners, will be held in Edmonton on June 22/23, 1992", said Mr. Erasmus.

"The public hearings and special consultations are the backbone of the Commission's overall consultation process. As well, our research program will be the single most massive research project ever conducted on Aboriginal issues. We will combine the results of the public hearings and the research to produce recommendations which are broadly acceptable to all Canadians", Mr. Dussault said.

The solution oriented Commission wants to hear from as wide a cross-section as possible of Canadians on a broad range of Aboriginal issues. "For example, one of our tasks over the life cycle of the Commission could be described as helping to define, in more precise terms, the concept of Aboriginal Self-Government, which is currently being debated across the country," added Mr. Dussault.

The public can participate in many ways throughout the process, by telling us what is on their minds at the hearings, by writing to us, and by calling our toll free numbers:

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples
P.O. Box 1993, Station "B"
Ottawa, Ont. K1P 1B2
1-800-363-8235
(English, French & Chipewyan)
1-800-387-2148
(Plains Cree, Inuktitut & Ojibway)
Fax: (613) 943-0304
For additional information, call Dan Gaspe, Director of Communications, at (613) 943-8415.

Memories of the St. Regis Village School

Recalled by Beatrice Jacobs



From left to right Beatrice Jacobs, Catherine Issac. In background the old St. Regis Village School. photos submitted

At the time that Beatrice Jacobs attended the St. Regis Village School there were two schools. She attended the school next door to her mother's house and recalls that she was often late to class! It was a one-room school in which the students in the lower four grades were taught. The other four grades were taught in the school that was located at the site of the present village school. It wasn't until the end of World War I that all the grades were housed in one building. In the one building there were only two rooms with four grades to each room.

There was an open house held while the new addition was being completed so that everyone could come and see the school. Mrs. Jacobs recalls a story about that occasion told her by Louise Bush. It seems that Louise and her parents had gone to the Open house. There was still completion work being done in the building since she can recall men painting the inside during the Open House. At one point, someone came running in to the room to tell everyone that World War I had ended! People started yelling and screaming, the church bells were ringing and the workmen were throwing paint in celebration of the news. This frightened Louise and she told her mother later that she didn't want to go to school because all the people over there were crazy!

Beatrice attended the Village school a short time before she left to attend the Mohawk School. However, she can recall the antics of one young boy, Alexander Back, who she recalls as a trouble-maker. He would escape, climbing up onto the roof of the school. The teacher would call out to the other boys to try and get him down. Everyone would get out of class to watch Alex ignore the efforts of the teacher to coax him off the roof. This daredevil would go on to become "Flying Cloud" Back, a championship light weight boxer.

Mrs. Jacobs credits the teachers and the discipline of the Village School with helping her to excel in her studies at the Mohawk School. She remembers being at least two grades ahead when she started to attend the Mohawk School. She could read and write English, but had no comprehension of what she was composing. Later when she became fluent in both Mohawk and English, she became a translator for her mother and would read to her in Mohawk the stories from magazines.

She feels that the Mohawk language is very important to the history and culture of our people and wishes that more people could speak the Mohawk language.



Top (left to right) Mary Cook, Catherine Isaac; Bottom (left to right) Ester Cook, Margaret King

Open Invitation

Sunday, May 3, 1992
10:00 a.m. - ?? p.m.

Can You Come to:
Cornwall Island
To Help Us:
Pass out flyers to Canadians shopping in U.S.
Model the latest Stop James Bay signs.

Talk to as many Quebecers as possible.
Bring Loaves & Fishes to put on a table or pass around beside a road.

If you can bring SIGNS they should be:
Easy to read from a passing car.
Directed at Canadians, especially Quebecers (en francais, si c'est possible!)

About James Bay's impact on Quebec economy, solidarity of NY'ers with Quebecers, energy efficiency, waste, etc.
They should not be about Sovereignty, Quebec's Human Rights Record, or Political Agendas! We want friendly dialogue, not hostile dialectic.
RSVP: Call these numbers:
Potsdam: 315-265-3385, 2404
Malone: 518-483-8108
Hogansburg: 518-358-3141
Ottawa: 613-722-8297

Heritage Week at AMS

Plan to attend the activities for Heritage Week at the Akwesasne Mohawk School from April 27-30.

All community members are invited to attend.

Call the Akwesasne Mohawk School at 932-3366 for dates and times of events.



Spring '92 Continuing Education Cornwall

The complete list of course offerings is available NOW at the Registration Centre

COLLEGE AND JOB TRAINING PREPARATION COURSES

MS050 Becoming a Master Student
Mon. & Wed., 7 - 10 pm, May 4 - June 24, \$85.

GS 015 Career Planning
Tues. & Thurs., 7 - 10 pm, May 5 - June 23, \$85.

MA 005 Basic Mathematics
Mon. & Thurs., 7 - 10 pm, May 4 - June 25, \$85.

COMMUNICATIONS

EN 005 College Prep Communications
Tues. & Thurs., 7 - 10 pm, May 5 - June 23, \$85.

EN 010 Applied Communications I
Mon. & Wed., 7 - 10 pm, May 4 - June 24, \$85.

EN 020 Applied Communications II
Tues. & Thurs., 7 - 10 pm, May 5 - June 23, \$85.

EN 030 Applied Communications III
Mon. & Wed., 7 - 10 pm, May 4 - June 24, \$85.

Registration

Registration is on now!
Special Office Hours
start April 27 to May 1, 10 am - 7 pm (Mon to Thurs.)
9 am - 4 pm (Fridays)

Call 937-1502

Available From Our Bookstore

SPIRIT OF THE WHITE BISON

- * by Beatrice Cullenon
- * 64 pages
- * illustrations
- * \$5.95 /\$6.55 CDN.

A young bison growing up on the plains of the late 1800's face peril at the hands of American soldiers, who are destroying the great buffalo herds as a way to control native tribes. He is befriended by an Indian warrior and a white hunter who try to save him and his herd from annihilation. A story that will appeal to preteen to adult readers.

A COLORING BOOK OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS

* \$3.00

WOKINI

Your personal journey to happiness and self-understanding

- * by Billy Mills
- * 119 pages
- * illustrations
- * \$7.95 /\$8.80 CDN.

Raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Billy learned what it would take to be a champion. Persistence, strength, hard-work, practise--and most of all inner peace and confidence. Billy shares with you the secrets of self-understanding and happiness. Along the way, you'll learn a little bit about traditional Indian beliefs and legends, you'll learn about yourself and how to improve your life, and most of all, you'll learn how to be happy.

TALES OF THE IROQUOIS

Volumes 1 and 2--Combined into one book

- * by Tehanetorens
- * illustrations
- * \$7.95

Volume I is illustrated with ancient pictographs which is translated in English. Contains an excellent explanation of the use of Indian pictographs to record history. It also includes Tehanetorens'

CONSERVATION--As the Indian Saw It. Volume II has very important pieces of history: The Migration of the Iroquois; The Founding of the Iroquois Confederacy; and The Code of Handsome Lake. This book is packed with thought-provoking, insightful lessons for children as well as adults.