

# Regional News

## Native Justice Option Considered

BRANTFORD, Ont. — In an unusual legal move, the trials of the five Eagle's Nest occupation defendants were remanded Wednesday for six months while the Crown considers a proposal to resolve the matter within Six Nations.

The defendants and Mohawks and many of their elders have said the province has no jurisdiction over them.

Richard Hill, his wife Hazel Hill, Patrick Porter, Gail Powless and Andrew Staats each face charges of theft over \$5,000 in connection with the 45-day occupation of the 188 Mohawk St. building. The regional office for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, located in Eagle's Nest, was seized August 30 and peacefully vacated October 13.

But there were reports that equipment had been damaged, items were missing, walls were vandalized and personal files examined.

Powless and Staats face one count each of mischief to property. Larry Green another Six Nations resident, is charged with several offences unrelated to Eagle's Nest. His case was also remanded Wednesday.

Several Mohawk elders have steadfastly said their people should not attend what is often called "white man's court".

"I can only speak for the Mohawk people, but (they) have never surrendered their sovereignty to any agent or agency," said Michael Doxtater, who was asked by his elders to "uphold" the defendants' legal rights by attending the court proceedings.

Mohawks "are governed by a framework of laws that were in existence prior to the arrival of Europeans," he added.

A mutual resolution to this

issue "could become a model for traditional justice or as a diversion program," he suggested.

A legal alternative was sought to assert native legal jurisdiction and to avoid confrontation if the Eagle's Nest defendants refused to attend court, Doxtater explained. "This was a mutually agreed upon decision as a solution to a recurring justice issue."

Serious consideration of such proposal is a first in Brantford, said provincial prosecutor Chris Szoke, who handled Wednesday's remand on behalf of Crown Attorney Keith Swanson.

The defendant's cases are adjourned for six months while details are studied, Szoke said. "It's only a request that it be looked at. It's not to say it'll even happen."

An internal native justice system "would be something really unique" to have in this area, but the Ministry of the Attorney General must be consulted and funding considered, Szoke added.

The charges faced by the defendants are too secure to qualify for existing alternative justice or diversion programs, he added.

Doxtater said his people had their own traditional justice system before 1924 when the Canadian government imposed its political and legal systems on Six Nations.

He and two other agents for the defendants met with Swanson in mid-March to discuss jurisdiction in the Eagle's Nest matter, he said. It was suggested the issue be handled by a committee formed by members of the Six Nations elected band council, and representatives of the accused. The political liaison group was created in October as part of ending the Eagle's Nest occupation.

## Aboriginal Dance Project

Summer 1996

July 28 to September 2, 1996

Apply by May 15, 1996

### Professional Development in Aboriginal Dance

The project will explore contemporary Aboriginal dance performance rooted in principles of traditional dance, from a diversity of nations, and will include stories and teachings surrounding these dances. The participants working with traditional and contemporary performance specialist, will undertake the task of researching, learning and developing Indigenous performance traditions, and developing training for the performer based on principles of traditional dance. The research will lead to the creation and development of a performance of new works incorporating cultural principles. Traditional Aboriginal dance will provide a beginning for the journey, to present the images and stories of contemporary cultural, social and political realities of 1990's Aboriginal life.

This training program is designed for the emerging young professional dancer working at the intermediate or advanced level who has at least five year's in traditional or contemporary dance training. It is a highly concentrated and intensive program aimed at developing a greater sense of theatrical awareness in the dancer and an understanding of all aspects of performance — from studio to stage. The training program culminates with a workshop production for four performances. Run by a professional production crew, the workshop offers an opportunity for the participants to perform in a professional theatre setting. Rehearsals for the workshop take place in the evenings and during the last week of the program.

### Resource and Faculty

Program Directors: Lee Crowchild and Alejandro Ronceria

Program Coordinator: Sharon King  
Aboriginal Arts Program Director: Marrie Mumford

Guest Artists/Instructors: T.B.A.

### General Information

Application Deadline: May 15, 1996

Program Fee: \$1,634

Accommodations: \$722 (2 per room)

Flex meal plan: \$532

Limited financial assistance is available. (See Application for Financial Assistance on reverse of application form. This form must be completed in full in order to be considered for an award. Application for financial assistance does not influence acceptance to the program). Participants must pro-

vide their own travel and spending money.

### Flex Meal Plan

This meal plan provides residents with at least 10 full meals per week and allows them to select these meals according to their individual preferences. Residents may apply their credit to individual food items in the cafeteria or snack bar. Residents may purchase additional meals on a cash basis.

### Financial Assistance and Fees

All fees and financial aid awards are subject to change without prior notification. GST will be applied where required. As well, applicants are also encouraged to apply to the Canadian Native Arts Foundation (deadline March 31, 1996) and to their Band Councils and community political and cultural organizations for funding. The Banff Centre reserves the right to modify the terms and conditions of this program. Operation of the program is subject to receipt of funding.

### Application Requirements

All applicants must submit:

\* non-refundable application processing fee of \$25 Cdn and completed application form

\* Application for Financial Assistance, if applying for Banff Centre Financial Assistance.

\* One letter of recommendation to be forwarded directly to The Aboriginal Arts Program at the Banff Centre, or submitted in a sealed envelope along with the application form. Also, provide contact information of your recommender on reverse side of application plus contact information of one other recommender.

\* Resume of training and performance experience.

\* 750 word essay on why you wish to attend the Aboriginal Dance Project.

\* One dance photo - traditional or contemporary.

\* If possible, please submit a video (VHS 1/2 NTC format) to support the application.

### For brochures and application forms contact:

Sharon King, Aboriginal Arts Program, The Banff Centre for the Arts, Box 1020, Station 24, Banff, Alberta, Canada T0L 0C0

Telephone: (403) 762-6392, Fax: (403) 762-6238

E-mail: Sharon\_King@banffcentre.ab.ca

World Wide Web Homepage: <http://www.banffcentre.ab.ca/>

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