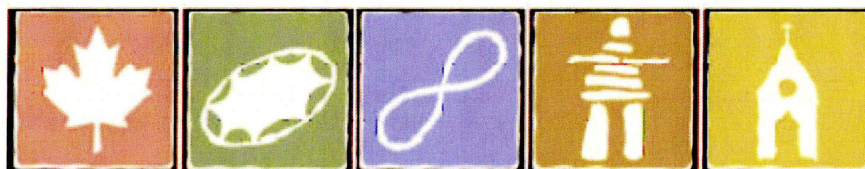


**Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada  
Media Clips**



**Résolution des questions des pensionnats indiens Canada  
Manchettes**

**Monday, January 23, 2006 ♦ lundi, 23 janvier 2006**

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**Source: APTN "DAYTIME NEWS"**

**By-line: Transcript**

**Date: 20 January 2006**

## **APTN DAYTIME NEWS**

>>Anchor: Our top story in Ottawa. A jump in popularity for Stephen Harper's Conservatives has the Assembly of First Nations worried about the Kelowna Accord and residential schools compensation. The deal signed just days before the Liberals fell from grace were worth billions of dollars. This week, AFN Chief Phil Fontaine asked Conservative Indian Affairs pointman Jim Prentice if the deals would stand if his party wins the election. Karen Pugliese was there

>>Karen: It was a late night meeting hastily organized at an airport in between flights. A tired Jim Prentice navigates a campaign trail complicated by his duties as Conservative Party Aboriginal Affairs Critic. This meeting comes at the 11th hour in a campaign and is meant to reassure the National Chief on what the Conservatives will do if they form the next government. A scenario looking more and more likely according to recent polls. After about an hour, the two men emerged from the meeting and the National Chief announced the hard-won residential school deal was safe.

>>Phil Fontaine: Mr. Prentice reassured us that the conservative party is committed to the compensation package and there is no contemplation of making slight adjustments.

>>Karen: But fate of the 5.1 billion dollars attached to the Kelowna Accord, dollars meant to go to Aboriginal health, housing and education, is less certain. Prentice will not promise the money just that any review of the deal will be done in consultation with the First Nations.

>>Prentice: We in the Conservative Party are respectful of the Assembly of First Nations and Mr. Fontaine is someone who I have enormous respect for personally who I have known for many years and today was a very important part of building a dialogue.

>>Karyn: Some say there is even more at stake for the AFN, that a Conservative government would rather fund off reserve programs and not to throw dollars towards a different lobby group, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples. The Congress has already endorsed the Conservative Party. The AFN admits that has them worried.

>>Fontaine: Close to 60% of our people are on reserve and less than 40 per cent in urban communities and so if that is the direction that will be taken it will fail.

>>Karen: The meeting was short and not all was resolved, but National Chief says he heard at least two things he liked, the residential school deal is safe and the Conservatives will not marginalize First Nation people.

Source: CCN Matthews

Date: 21 January 2006

By-line: N/A

## First Nations Leadership Unite Against Regressive Conservatives

BC First Nations Urban and On-Reserve Leadership Unite Against the Regressive Conservative Agenda

Attention: Assignment Editor, Business/Financial Editor, City Editor, News Editor, Government/Political Affairs Editor

VANCOUVER, BC, FEDERAL ELECTION--(CCNMatthews - Jan. 21, 2006) - First Nations Leadership in BC have reviewed the election platforms of the federal political parties. Specifically, the leadership has reviewed the stated commitments of the parties on First Nations issues. After their review, all shared deep concern of the stated goals of the Conservative Party of Canada.

Lillian George, President of the United Native Nations - the BC affiliate to the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples - stated "Contrary to the public endorsement of the Conservative Party by the national office of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the leadership of the United Native Nations urges all First Nations citizens in BC to vote strategically in their respective ridings."

President Grace Nielsen of the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC) added "The BCAAFC encourages aboriginal people to show their support to those candidates who will work with us at the community level to improve the lives of all aboriginal people across BC."

"On January 23, I strongly encourage First Nations voters to vote against the Harper Conservatives. It is my firm belief that a Conservative government will not effectively honour the funding commitments made at the First Ministers Meeting in Kelowna," said Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

"No matter who is elected on Monday and notwithstanding the platforms of the political parties, there is a fundamental reality - Aboriginal title and Aboriginal rights exist - and any party that forms the national government has a fiduciary and constitutional obligation to recognize this and work with our Nations in building working relationships towards reconciliation," said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit Political Executive.

"If a Conservative government is elected, we will hold the government accountable with respect of the commitments made in Kelowna and the agreement on Residential Schools as these are agreements with Canada and the Crown, not of one political party" concluded Shawn Atleo, BC Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations.



Source: Kamloops Today  
Date: 22 Jan 2006  
By DALE BASS

## **'Flaws' in settlements?**

A Vancouver-based law firm that represents more than 100 residential school survivors is calling on the federal government to change what it calls flaws in a settlement for the school system's victims. Niki Sharma, an articling student with Donovan and Company, said her firm has spent the past several weeks reviewing the residential schools settlement proposal and considers it to violate legal principles and re-victimizes the survivors. One of the schools was based in Kamloops.

Under the proposal, which has been endorsed by the Assembly of First Nations, all survivors would receive a common experience payment comprised of a base \$10,000 plus \$3,000 for each additional year they attended a school.

Physical and emotional abuses would be compensated based on a point system.

Anyone who accepts the settlement would release both the government and the churches that ran the schools from any further legal claims.

Victims who opt out of the agreement and proceed in court would be precluded from receiving the payments outlined in the plan.

In a press release from the firm, lawyer Karim Ramji said "it would be fundamentally wrong . . . to deny this common experience payment to former students who dare take the government to court. "That isn't honourable. That isn't the Canadian way."

The point system for determining compensation for abuse is dehumanizing, Sharma said, and at odds with basic principles of common law.

Letters outlining the firm's concerns have been sent to all federal parties.

Source: Canadian Press Newswire (Also appeared in Calgary Herald, The Record, The Hamilton Spectator)

Date: 22 January 2006

By-line: N/A

## Election Promises

Some promises made to date by the main parties during the course of the campaign for the Jan. 23 federal election:

New Democratic Party

- \_ Federal appointments on merit.
- \_ \$1 billion home-care plan.
- \_ 40,000 long-term care spaces over four years.
- \_ \$1.8 billion for day care in first year, \$250 million a year for next three years.
- \_ Worker charter of rights.
- \_ **Push settlement aboriginal land claims, residential schools abuse.**
- \_ Try youths as young as 16 charged with firearms offences as adults.
- \_ \$200 million improving witness protection programs.
- \_ \$200 million over four years for victims of violence and \$400 million for at-risk youth.



Source: The National Post  
Date: 23 January 2006  
By-line: N/A

## Party platforms

### ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

#### LIBERAL

Would honour the \$5.1-billion deal the Prime Minister negotiated with the premiers and aboriginal leaders in Kelowna, B.C., last November -- the details of which need to be finalized. **Has also pledged to commit more than \$2-billion toward a resolution of Indian residential schools abuse issue.**

#### CONSERVATIVE

Party has tried to clarify its position on the Kelowna deal, which is that it supports the objectives and targets. It contends it will work closely with the provinces and aboriginal leaders to develop a responsible fiscal plan to meet the objectives.

#### NDP

**On behalf of natives: Recognize federal responsibilities for residential schools abuse by implementing a lump-sum compensation and press for an apology by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons; support initiatives to provide adequate housing, water and infrastructure. Supports the Kelowna deal.**

#### BLOC QUEBECOIS

Work with aboriginals in Quebec to fulfill their wish of self-government. Address social problems in aboriginal communities, especially housing. Pledges to get 8,700 units built for aboriginals.

January 22, 2006

[THE OTTAWA CITIZEN](#)

PAGE: B6 (THE CITIZEN'S  
WEEKLY)

Source: The Ottawa Citizen

Date: 22 January 2006

By-line: N/A

## **A handy election-eve pullout on where the political parties stand on major issues**

CONSERVATIVES

EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

No cuts to social spending. Would provide students or their parents with tax credit of up to \$500 toward cost of textbooks. Would work with provinces to increase family income thresholds for student loan eligibility. Would exempt the first \$10,000 of scholarship or bursary income from taxation. Would invest \$500 million over five years in university-based research. Tories would maintain planned increases in employment insurance benefits and seniors benefits. Harper supports principles of the November native agreement, which included big-money pledges for housing, education and health care. **He said he will honour a \$2-billion compensation plan for abuse in residential schools.**



Source: The Sunday Herald  
Date: 22 January 2006  
By-line: Mary Ellen Macintyre

## Some native groups uneasy about Conservative platform

MILLBROOK - Like most aboriginal leaders across this country, Lawrence Paul will keep a close eye on election results Monday night.

"We know what the polls are saying, but we'll have to wait and see what the votes reveal," said the longtime chief of Millbrook First Nation and co-chairman of the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs.

"These days, native people are looking very carefully at what party has the best platform."

Chief Paul said Friday there is no doubt in the minds of many native people that the New Democrats have the best platform on aboriginal policy, but he suggests the time is not right for the NDP to form a federal government.

"So that leaves the Liberals and the Conservatives, and you have to choose between the lesser of two evils there," he said with a laugh. Native leaders are in familiar if not always friendly territory when it comes to a Liberal government but draw a deep breath at the prospect of a Conservative regime.

But last week, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, a group representing natives across the country who don't live on reserves, offered their support to Conservatives.

The Conservatives' official website features a news release quoting Dwight Dorey, the congress's national chief.

"The Conservative party is the only party with a plan to help aboriginal Canadians," said Mr. Dorey in the release. "Their plans provide real choice and provide real opportunities, and I am encouraged by their policies."

The congress statement flies in the face of assertions by leaders of most First Nations communities and organizations.

In a recent bulletin issued by the Assembly of First Nations, which represents all aboriginals in Canada, Chief Phil Fontaine revealed the assembly's position.

**"It is no secret that two of the key commitments we are seeking from every party is a clear statement that they will honour the agreement on Residential Schools Resolution, as well as the agreements achieved at the first ministers meeting in Kelowna," he wrote.**

**The Office of Indian Residential Schools Resolution, a federal department set up in 2001 to deal with residential school abuse, spent about \$17 million last year to resolve 593 claims. The meeting he referred to was a summit of federal, provincial and native leaders in Kelowna, B.C., last November, when Ottawa pledged about \$5.1 billion over the next five years to alleviate native poverty.**

"I am pleased to say that almost all parties have stated they will honour these historic agreements," Mr. Fontaine said. "I am concerned, however, that one party - the Conservative party - has said categorically that they will not honour the Kelowna agreements and that they only agree with the objectives in the broadest, most general sense."

Mr. Fontaine said he received what he describes as a "qualified and, frankly, disconcerting response" from the Conservatives in regards to the residential schools agreement.

Jaime Battiste, 25, a lawyer and youth co-chairman for the federation who lives in Eskasoni, said in a telephone interview last week that the Tories "haven't committed to Kelowna or to the residential schools agreement."

"It seems they have their own plans, which is really disturbing. The thing is, you don't develop an aboriginal policy without involving First Nations people. . . . It's a little scary to do so."

A key adviser to Conservative leader Stephen Harper is Tom Flanagan, a professor of political science at the University of Calgary and author of a controversial book called *First Nations? Second Thoughts*.

Mr. Battiste said Mr. Flanagan's influence is not helpful to the native cause.

"He wants to get rid of the reserve system . . . he wants natives to leave the reserves without considering our language, freedom from discrimination, our culture, our history," he said.

"In order to understand how to create a policy on aboriginal people, you have to deal with the First Nations people. It's simple."

As for Chief Paul, he wonders what lies ahead for native people if the Conservatives form the next government.

"With advisers like Flanagan, who has weird ideas, it could hurt Harper, that's for sure," he said. "Some of these people are under disguise as a Conservative but their policies are Reform."

Chief Paul said a Conservative government had "better not try any funny stuff."

Program cuts or attacks on native rights would result in "major civil disobedience across Canada if they try it," he said.

"The days of treating us as children in a parent-child relationship is over . . . and it's time for politicians to realize that. Whatever party forms the government better start listening to us when they develop policy."

There are many natives who say the years of Liberal rule have not eliminated the social problems many First Nations communities face, such as drug and alcohol abuse, high unemployment, housing shortages and a high suicide rate.

Many also say corruption, nepotism and a lack of accountability in native governments go hand in hand with the current system.



**Source: The Leader-Post**  
**Date: 23 January 2006**  
**By-line: Doug Cuthland**

## **Aboriginal votes could be decisive**

**This election is the first one in history when so much is on the line for First Nations and Metis people. Two major federal initiatives are in jeopardy, the \$5.2-billion Kelowna accord and the residential school compensation package. They have both been negotiated but not implemented. This time the aboriginal vote means a lot.**

Traditionally the aboriginal vote has been seen as a minority vote if indeed aboriginal people even bothered to vote. But over the years there has been an increased awareness in politics and some northern ridings in Canada require the aboriginal vote to win.

This election, each of the parties has prepared a detailed statement on aboriginal policy. We have reached the point where the politicians are starting to take the First Nations and Metis vote seriously.

Politicians regularly complain that "Indians don't vote", but on the other hand we seldom see candidates during campaigns and in the past the parties offered only platitudes with little or no substance. When the politicians had nothing to offer, our people stayed out of the process. The lament of the politicians became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Historically the aboriginal vote has been low to nonexistent and for good reason. First, the right to vote was only extended to First Nations people in 1960 John Diefenbaker was prime minister. Previously our people had no experience with federal or provincial politics. We didn't ask for the vote and it wasn't a burning issue in Indian country. It was an embarrassment for Canada and it had to be fixed.

Since we received the voting franchise First Nations people have been ambivalent about voting. In 1960 elders and political leaders advised against voting because of our special relationship with Canada through the Treaties.

At the time in Saskatchewan there were less than 30,000 Indian people in a sea of one million white people. Today things have changed and there about 120,000 Indian people among less than 900,000 people who represent far more races than the white population of the 1960s. Half our people live off the reserve and we are no longer isolated.

Also our treaties are now recognized and protected as a part of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

According to Statistics Canada, there are 26 seats nationally with 10 per cent or greater aboriginal vote. This is a very important percentage in a close race and many seats are decided by close votes. Five of these seats are in Saskatchewan.

The Desnethé-Misissippi-Churchill River riding in northern Saskatchewan has a 64 per cent aboriginal population. Other constituencies with a high aboriginal electorate include Prince Albert with 21 per cent, Regina-Qu'Appelle at 18 per cent, Battlefords-Lloydminster at 18 per cent and Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar with 16 per cent.

The provincial NDP is very aware of this. One of the last seats to report in the last provincial election was Saskatchewan Rivers. It looked like the Sask Party was going to take it until the votes from the reserves were counted. They put the NDP candidate over the top and the government stayed in power. Since then the provincial politicians have paid more attention to First Nations and Metis issues.

Aboriginal people have traditionally had a low turnout at the polls for a variety of reasons. But basically alienation is the root cause of the low turnout. Our people don't feel involved in provincial or federal politics. On the other hand when a band election is called the turnout is high because local government means a lot.

But First Nations and Metis issues have been left out of the political discussions or campaigns have contained broad motherhood statements with little substance. Aboriginal people are not unlike everyone else. We want to know what is in it for Me?

In the north where our people are the majority there is a high voter turnout. Our people can see that their votes count and they can decide the outcome. In the south our people are not the majority and the voter turnout is lower. Politicians have to work to bring out the aboriginal vote.

This election the stakes are high and we need to send a message to all the politicians that we care and we will vote when we are part of the process. This election we need to vote and send a message to all the parties that we have political power. If we turn out in numbers approaching 70 to 80 per cent, then we will demonstrate that we are a force to be reckoned with.

So get out there and vote.



Source: The Whitehorse Star  
Date: 20 January 2006  
By-line: Matthew Grant

## Incarcerated Yukoners have already made their choices

Inmates at the Whitehorse Corrections Centre (WCC) cast their ballots for the federal election last week.

According to Deb Wald, a spokesperson for the Yukon government's Department of Justice, a number of inmates exercised their right to vote on Friday, Jan. 13.

The voting, she said, took place at WCC in interview room number two.

Wald said she didn't have a figure available for the number of inmates who cast a ballot.

Forty-two-year-old Michael Gagnon was the only inmate to respond to the Star's invitation to comment on the election. While elections were not a popular topic of conversation inside the WCC, he said in an interview Thursday afternoon, he has already voted.

"I voted before I got in here. I had to vote Liberal," Gagnon said. He has been in the 39-year-old jail for three weeks, and said he is set to spend three years in a federal penitentiary for fraud and theft.

For Gagnon, the big issues in this election were first nations' land claims and residential school settlements.

"I have concerns over land claims and residential school settlements; those directly affect me and my family," he said.

The Conservatives, Gagnon said, are a worry, as they have indicated they won't honour an agreement reached in Kelowna, B.C. late last year at a meeting of first ministers and aboriginal leaders.

During the current campaign, Conservative finance critic Monte Solberg indicated the Conservative Party would not honour the agreement.

"The Kelowna first ministers' meeting agreement is something that they crafted at the last minute on the back of a napkin on the eve of an election.... We're not going to honour that. We will have our own plan that will help 'natives' a lot more than the Liberals," Solberg said.

During the Kelowna discussions, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced a \$5-billion funding package over the next five years to help close the gap between first nations and non-aboriginal Canadians in the areas of health care, housing, education and economic development opportunities.

It has been fewer than five years since all people serving time in Canadian jails were permitted to vote.

In 1993, Parliament removed the legal voting disqualification of all prisoners serving fewer than two years, but all those serving more than two years were still disqualified.

In 2002, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled five-to-four in favour of Rick Sauvé, a Satan's Choice motorcycle gang member who had been convicted of first-degree murder. He had challenged the law which disqualified inmates serving more than two years' jail time from voting.

As a result of the decision, the law was declared unconstitutional, was struck down and all inmates in Canada were extended the right to vote.



Source: The Edmonton Journal (Similar article appeared in the Edmonton Sun)

Date: 23 January 2006

By-line: Marc Horton

## Me Funny's humour is universal (Similar article appeared in the Edmonton Sun)

EDMONTON -- When award-winning playwright and author Drew Hayden Taylor was a 16-year-old living on the Ontario Ojibway reserve of Curve Lake, he asked his single mother what she would think if he became a writer.

"Don't," she told him. "It'll never get you anywhere."

So it is, then, that in the past two years, Taylor has sent his mother postcards from Mexico City, India, Australia (twice), Finland, London, Belgium, Fiji and Germany. She can expect another postcard from China in six weeks or so.

"Every time, I say the same thing: 'Look where writing has got me now.' "

Taylor's plays, essays and documentary films reflect the rich vein of comedy that runs through North American native life. He's a funny guy, a fact that's clear in the just-released book he edited with the breathlessly long title of *Me Funny: A far-reaching exploration of the humour, wittiness and repartee dominant among the First Nations people of North America, as witnessed, experienced and created directly by themselves, and with the inclusion of outside but reputable sources necessarily familiar with the indigenous sense of humour as seen from an objective perspective.*

Not all of the essays in *Me Funny* (Douglas and McIntyre, 591 pp., \$22.95) are joke-filled, but all attempt to define what many might think defies explanation: what makes First Nations people laugh, and why it's OK for white folks to laugh along but not so all right for them to actually tell these sorts of jokes.

Contributors to the book, among others, are acclaimed writer Thomas King, whose essay on performing native humour includes portions of a script from his CBC radio show *Dead Dog Cafe*; Stephen Leacock award-winner Ian Ferguson, whose upbringing in Fort Vermilion introduced him to the subtleties of native humour; University of Ottawa prof Allan Ryan with an essay on the controversial Bill Powless painting of an overweight Indian entitled *Indians' Summer*; and Thomson Highway, whose plays *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* are staples of Canadian theatre. The trilingual Highway has written an essay entitled *Why Cree is the Funniest Language in the World*.

Taylor's own essay is *Whacking the Indigenous Funny Bone: Political Correctness vs. Native Humour* in which he confronts the touchy issue of what's OK and what isn't.

"One of the dominant themes I see in our humour is teasing, which is very popular in the native community because it's a sign of acceptance. It's rude to tease outsiders," Taylor says.

"There's even an anthropological term -- permitted disrespect -- that covers this acceptance."

With enough knowledge and experience, it's possible for a non-native to earn this permitted disrespect, although it probably takes a lifetime.

"I have an aunt who is French Canadian but has lived on the reserve longer than I've been alive and has a thicker Indian accent than I do, and she's allowed to make all the Indian jokes she wants," the 43-year-old Taylor says.

Then, of course, there's the inescapable W.P. Kinsella, a white writer whose stories based in Hobbema and featuring Frank Fencepost were hugely successful.

"It always comes back to him, doesn't it?" Taylor says.

"I first read his stuff in 1984 and I loved them. I thought they were funny, and I devoured them mostly because no one else was writing short stories from the native community."

The stories, however, did not reflect the realities of life on the Curve Lake reserve. Kinsella's characters were mostly illiterate, the reserve itself bordered on anarchy and "it was certainly more rough and tumble than any native community I was familiar with," Taylor says.

While he has never deconstructed Kinsella's humour, Taylor realized that something was missing in Kinsella's work.

"I read his baseball stories (Kinsella wrote *Shoeless Joe*, the book on which the hit film *Field of Dreams* was based) and it was very clear to me how much he loved baseball. I don't get the same sense of love in the writing of his Hobbema stories."

Nevertheless, political incorrectness is one of the basic building blocks of native humour, Taylor insists.

"Native humour bites, it wounds and then it heals. An elder from the Blood reserve told me once that humour is the WD-40 of healing, and it's so true."

Taylor wrote and directed the National Film Board documentary *Redskins, Tricksters and Puppy Stew* about the healing nature of humour in the native community. For a year after its release in 2000 it was the most rented video in the NFB library.

"In that film and in the book we point out that our humour is the byproduct of 400 years of colonization, of suffering through the residential school system and the adoption scoop-up system, so there is bound to be a certain amount of pain in the humour. It's survival humour, after all."

All good humour, however, is universal, and Taylor points to the fact that his plays have been translated into a variety of languages.

*Bootlegger Blues*, a play about a devout Ojibway woman who comes into possession of 143 cases of beer and who sells them to raise money for a church organ, was recently performed in Venice in Italian.

"They sent me a tape. There were all these people who had never seen an Indian or a reserve delivering lines about going to a 'Pow-wow-a.'"

*Bootlegger Blues* is powered by the kind of self-deprecating humour that underpins much of what makes First Nations people laugh. To illustrate his point, he quotes native stand-up comic Don Burnstick: "If you know how to filet bologna, you might be a redskin. If you use your probation officer as a reference, you might be a redskin."

One of Taylor's favourite First Nations jokes is, "A native woman goes to the window and yells out, 'Honey, my kid and your kid are beating up on our kid!'"



Life, however, was not bad on Curve Lake for Taylor, and he returns every month to spend a few days with his mother.

"But it was pretty small, and it was boring, so I was glad to leave and go to community college in Toronto."

He followed that up with work as a production assistant on movie and television projects, and began writing scripts and providing story suggestions for shows such as *The Beachcombers* and *Street Legal* before launching his career as a playwright.

There were other reasons as well to leave home.

"My mother was the oldest of 14 and I had 50 or 60 cousins. When I was 18, I made the horrible observation that I was related to practically every girl on the reserve, which was as good a reason as any to get outta there."

*Me Funny* is written for people on both sides of the racial divide.

"Humour permeates our culture, which will be a revelation to many people, I think. People who expect the stoic Indian and the repressed Indian will be surprised.

"And people should remember that what makes us laugh, makes you laugh, and the things that make you laugh, make us laugh, too."

[mhorton@thejournal.canwest.com](mailto:mhorton@thejournal.canwest.com)

#### WHACKING THE INDIGENOUS FUNNY BONE

- There was a Ministry of Natural Resources officer who heard a rumour of a native man fishing illegally. The officer went to the pier and spotted an older native man getting ready to go out on the water. The MNR officer asked if he could go fishing with him. The man said, "Sure, get in."

The officer and the native man motored to the middle of the bay, where the native man opened up his tackle box and pulled out a stick of dynamite. The officer couldn't believe his eyes when the dynamite was lit and thrown into the water. As the dynamite exploded, fish started appearing on the surface of the water. The officer jumped up and yelled at the native man, "Do you know that I can confiscate everything you own and give you a huge fine and jail time for that?"

The native man reached into the tackle box, lit another stick of dynamite, gave it to the officer and said, "Are you going to fish or are you going to talk?"

- Two native women who had just met were having tea one day. One woman was amazed to find out the other woman had 10 children all named Lloyd.

"Why did you call all your children Lloyd?" the woman asked her new friend.

"It's a great time-saver. I can just yell 'Lloyd, time for bed' or 'Lloyd, dinnertime,' and they all will come. This way I don't have to repeat myself."

The other woman wasn't convinced. "But don't you find it a little confusing? What if you only wanted or needed one specific child? Say ... the second-youngest or the oldest? How do you get their attention?"

"Oh, that's easy," said the mother. "I just call them by their last name."



Source: The Province  
Date: 22 January 2006  
By-line: N/A

## Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge-Mission

**Manufacturing and the service sector are the major employers in this riding that runs along the north bank of the Fraser River**

CONSERVATIVE RANDY KAMP

"We've been getting lots of support and it's been a really encouraging time."

LIBERAL KEITH HENRY

"I'm just hoping people see through the rhetoric. The Liberals have chosen to take the high ground."

NDP MIKE BOCKING

"We're hearing on the phone and on the doorstep more and more that the voters who voted Liberal . . . are switching to the NDP."

GREEN ROBERT HORNSEY

"In a minority government one strong, clear voice can change the nation."

other candidates:

Frank Martin, Marxist-Leninist Party; Erin Knipstrom, Independent; Dan Banov, Marijuana Party

THE ISSUES

1. Crime Voters are concerned about rising crime, but most don't support a handgun ban. The riding is prime hunting and fishing territory.
2. justice Some voters would like to see stiffer sentences for criminals.
3. health care Service reductions at Mission Memorial and Ridge Meadows Hospital have some residents concerned about the health care system.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Of the 110,577 residents counted in the 2001 census, 8% belong to a visible minority and 3% are aboriginal
- Average family income: \$64,397
- Average house price: \$210,878

- Mother tongue: English 87%, Punjabi 2%, German 2%
- Religion: None 37%, Protestant 34%, Catholic 18%
- Education: Didn't finish high school 26%, trade certificate 16%, finished college or university 31%
- **St. Mary's Mission, established in 1862 and forerunner to today's city of Mission, included the first aboriginal residential school in B.C.**
- Golden Ears Provincial Park, one of the largest in the province, is named after the twin peaks of Mt. Blanshard



**Source: National Post**  
**Date: 21 January 2006**  
**By-line: Phil Fontaine**

## **Unhelpful 'noise' on native issues**

Re: From Kenya, Lessons For Canada's Natives, Jan. 18.

David Asper's opinions about First Nations leaders do great harm. Instead of alleging that our leaders willingly perpetuate disenfranchisement and intolerable conditions on reserves, Mr. Asper, a purported champion of human rights, should instead be building bridges and advocating for real change with us.

I know of no leader who is working to make their community a poor place to live. The terrible conditions on some reserves are largely the result of generations of systemic challenges and underfunding. Mr. Asper's assertion that there are 400,000 reserve households, each receiving approximately \$70,000 a year is incorrect. Analysis shows that First Nation citizens living on-reserve receive roughly one-third of the funding that an urban Canadian enjoys. And that funding has been capped at a 2% increase per year since 1996, which does not keep pace with inflation or our booming population. No one should be forced to choose between houses for families and safe schools for children, yet some of our leaders are forced to do just that.

The perception that First Nations leaders are corrupt or "have a vested interest in perpetuating the problem" is wildly inaccurate. If corruption is the allegation or inference, note that the majority of elected officials in First Nations communities have annual salaries under \$30,000, and both the Department of Indian Affairs and the House of Commons standing committee on aboriginal affairs report that over 96% of First Nation governments have no problems with accountability and are in full compliance.

But the real truth that Mr. Asper chooses to overlook is the larger issue of First Nations rights, Treaties and land title. The keys to escaping First Nations poverty on-reserve include increasing our land base, giving First Nations direct involvement in economic activities and opportunities in our traditional territories, and giving real meaning to the words of sharing and self-determination embraced in the treaties. These are complex issues and ideas and, while it is much easier to blame the victims, this does a disservice to all Canadians.

If Mr. Asper plans to "start making some noise" on native issues, he should ensure he is fully informed. Otherwise, it's just more static that does nothing to advance dialogue and progress.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations, Ottawa.

Source: The StarPhoenix  
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By-line: Silas Polkinghorne

## A spiritual sense of purpose

**Brett Tsinigine, the son of a residential school survivor, has seen hard times. He's seen poverty, racism, depression, and the loss of spirituality.**

But now Tsinigine's sights are set on education.

"Some days, I don't feel like doing homework, or paying attention in class, but what else is there, (other) than to just laze away?" said Tsinigine, a Grade 12 student at Joe Duquette High School. "I think I'd rather suffer through the tiredness. Just listen, it doesn't really take that much energy to listen or to write (with) a pen, or speak a few words."

Tsinigine is also striving to grow as a person and to connect with spirituality. He adapts his own spiritual beliefs from First Nations traditions as well as Buddhism and his personal values.

"In my day-to-day life, I always try to keep a positive frame of mind, that today I will try my best in what I do," said 19-year-old Tsinigine. He aims "to keep going, to always strive towards a personal ... sort of excellence."

He also strives for discipline, respect, and understanding in his life. "You just kind of work at it, and hope that you get somewhere."

Tsinigine's mother is from the Sweetgrass reserve near North Battleford, and she has struggled with the effects of residential school. Tsinigine says the family's move from Calgary to Vancouver around 2001, and his mother's time at a healing centre on Vancouver Island, helped the family to turn things around.

"That was the awakening to another phase -- kind of a rebirth of life," he said. "And it was in 2001 where we just started to strive to better ourselves and to heal from our injuries and to keep going and to build a life for ourselves, and hopefully build a life for our families."

After moving to Regina and then to Saskatoon, Tsinigine's mother is now at school studying communications with the goal of becoming a lawyer. His older brother is studying film and television in Vancouver, and Tsinigine plans to study social work at the U of S after high school.

"I never used to, but now that I find that education is so important, I try my best at it," he said. "It comes easy at times, and at times it doesn't. But most of the time it requires work."

As well as going to school and working a part-time job, Tsinigine is also an active volunteer. He has volunteered for a variety of community, cultural, and youth organizations, including the Vancouver Fringe Festival, Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina, and the Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Program.

"It makes me feel good, like this could be something that could be my purpose in life," he said. "And it fills the time, in a good way."

After completing Grade 12, Tsinigine wants to return to Vancouver, which he considers his hometown, for the summer. He may enter university in the fall, or take a year off to travel around the country and to busk with his acoustic guitar.