

The FORGOTTEN PEOPLES

The National Voice of Off-reserve Indian and Metis Peoples Throughout Canada

New Aboriginal reality Off-reserve numbers huge and growing

While for years the focus of the federal government and the news media has been on issues and problems facing “First Nations” people living on Indian Act reserves, there’s a growing realization of an Aboriginal reality in Canada that up until now has been paid little notice.

The popular but mistaken notion has been that most Aboriginal people in the country live on Indian Act reserves. Compounding the situation is the fact that by far the lion’s share of federal resources — the infamous \$7.5 billion widely reported to be spent on Aboriginal peoples — has been devoted to such reserves, also known as “First Nations.”

This is not the case, according to Dwight Dorey, national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the national advocacy organization for more than 800,000 off-reserve Aboriginal people living in cities, towns, villages and on the land throughout Canada.

One of his key goals as a national Aboriginal leader is to refute myths about Aboriginal people.

Refuting myths

“In the first place, of the 1.1 million total Aboriginal people, as reported in the 1996 census, more than 800,000 status (‘First Nations’), Treaty and non-status Indians, as well as Metis do not live on Indian reserves and are not provided for through the Indian Act,” he stresses. “In other words, about three quarters of all Aboriginal people live away from reserves and receive very little of the \$7.5 billion!”

He adds, “The Constitution of Canada recognizes the Aboriginal peoples of Canada as ‘Indian, Inuit and Metis’ but goes no further in defining what categories of either are to have their rights recognized and affirmed.”

“Furthermore,” he says, “nowhere in any legislation nor any constitutional document is the term ‘First Nations’ used, yet

somehow it has become an accepted expression for a person of Indian ancestry.”

The national chief cites examples of a true Aboriginal nation as the Mi’kmaq Nation, or the Cree Nation, or the Mohawk Nation or Ojibway Nation, to name a few. He says calling an

(Continued on page 2)



Celebrities pay tribute at CAP’s 30th

Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault joined Alanis Morissette, CAP National Chief, Dwight Dorey, Chantal Kreviazuk, and the Hon. Laurier LaPierre for “Moccasin Walk 2.” (See centrespread)

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CAP Contributes to Governance

After more than 30 years of standing on the sidelines, off-reserve Aboriginal people are finally getting to play in the game.

Their national representative organization, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP), was invited into the First Nations Governance Initiative consultative process last summer by Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault.

Now, for the first time in three decades, off-reserve Aboriginal people are getting a say in matters that could profoundly affect their lives, namely revisions to the much-maligned Indian Act. What is more, CAP also is involved in the Joint Ministerial Advisory Committee (JMAC), which is meeting currently to advise the minister on governance amendments to the Act.

“CAP is participating in this process because we know that any changes to the Indian Act will affect a significant part of our constituency — off-reserve registered Indians,” said CAP’s national chief, Dwight Dorey. “While piece-meal changes to the Act may create as many problems as they solve, we feel we have much to contribute to the governance initiative and hope

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*The
Forgotten
People*

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and Métis Peoples
Throughout Canada*

Published by



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CAP leads National Aboriginal Day

CAP has taken the lead role in coordinating the 2002 celebrations for National Aboriginal Day (NAD), to be held in Ottawa on June 21st. The day will celebrate the culture, talent and achievements of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples.

CAP's Jamie Gallant is the chair of the NAD committee which includes representatives from six Ottawa-based National Aboriginal organizations: The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, The Metis National Council, Inuit Tapirit Kanatami, The National Association of Friendship Centres, The Native Women's

Association of Canada and Pauktuutit (Inuit Women's Association).

The department of Canadian Heritage and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada are partners in this project, lending program and technical support during the production's organization.

CAP promises to make this year's NAD festivities the best yet. Activities throughout the day will be held at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, culminating in a gala show featuring some of the hottest young Aboriginal talent from across the country. All daytime events will be free to the general public, while tickets will be sold to the gala performance.

For more information on National Aboriginal Day contact Jamie Gallant at (613) 747 6022.

Off-reserve numbers huge and growing

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Indian Act reserve a First Nation only adds to the confusion about Aboriginal peoples among most Canadians.

Chief Dorey, also points out that problems and opportunities facing Aboriginal people do not stop at the boundaries of Indian Act reserve communities, nor do their solutions.

He is the leading proponent in the country that government policies and programs for Aboriginal people should be "status

and residency blind," in other words they should apply to all Aboriginal people regardless of where they live or of which Aboriginal nation they are a member.

Chief Dorey believes that the sheer number of Aboriginal people living away from reserves is causing governments, albeit slowly, to reassess their priorities as to where the problems are and where resources should be directed.

And being hamstrung by the current Indian Act is no excuse, he says, pointing to changes being attempted by Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault, particularly on some governance issues.

A long way to go

"There's still a very long way to go," says the national chief, "but at least it's a start."

Mr. Dorey refers to the 1996 report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples that recommended an Aboriginal affairs department be established that would accommodate the interests of off-reserve Aboriginal people.

"It would represent a step toward a more equitable, effective and efficient distribution of resources for Aboriginal people.

"That is a strong priority for us, and I intend to go forward with this agenda as aggressively as I can," says the chief.

Further evidence of renewed attention to the off-reserve Aboriginal reality in Canada, he says, is the recent formation by the Prime Minister of a 'Ministerial Reference Group,' comprising 11 senior level Cabinet ministers. The role of the group is to work with the leaders of all five national Aboriginal organizations to advance the well-being of on and off-reserve Aboriginal people throughout the country.

Practical themes

"We held our introductory meeting prior to Christmas to get us all kick-started and are in the throes of planning our next one," says the chief. "It's an agenda aimed at developing specific practical themes on which we can make substantive progress within reasonable time frames."

Chief Dorey says he believes the momentum is building for more attention being paid to the needs of Aboriginal people living away from reserves and who do not come under the terms of reference of the Indian Act.

"After all," he says, "the Aboriginal reality in Canada is that more than 73 per cent of us do not live on "First Nations" Indian Act reserves, so it only follows that is where both the problems and the opportunities lie if Canada is to make any real progress toward resolving one of our most continuing and pervasive problems."

Aboriginal Ancestry Population 1996 Census*

Source: Statistics Canada 1996 Census	Total Aboriginal Percent	Number on Reserve**	Percent Off-Reserve
CANADA	1,101,955	231,615	79%
Newfoundland	24,595	655	97%
Prince Ed. Island	2,400	200	92%
Nova Scotia	26,795	6,800	75%
New Brunswick	17,095	5,175	68%
Quebec	142,385	28,320	80%
Ontario	246,065	31,865	87%
Manitoba	138,885	48,055	65%
Saskatchewan	117,350	37,835	68%
Alberta	155,650	29,675	81%
British Columbia	184,445	42,440	77%
Yukon	6,440	355	95%
Northwest Territ.	39,885	240	99%

*Statistics Canada defines the Aboriginal population as follows: "There are different ways to define the Aboriginal population of Canada. the data show here are for persons who reported ethnic/origin/ancestry (North American Indian, Metis or Inuit.) the 1996 Census also provides information on persons who self-identified with an Aboriginal group. Depending on the application, data on either identity or ethnic/origin/ancestry maybe appropriate for defining the Aboriginal population.



Separate agreement for regional employment programming

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples was excluded from the original Regional Bilateral Agreements (RBAs) that replaced the Pathways to Success, a federal Aboriginal employment-generating program sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada.

But when CAP convinced Hon. Jane Stewart and her HRDC officials that off-reserve Aboriginal people would not have the same access to labour market programming because of this omission, the minister invited the Congress to enter into a separate labour market agreement with her department.

Local decision making

One of the features of the CAP plan, as with RBA holders, was that capacity building and responsibility for local decision making on employment programming was to be devolved to the constituent communities — in CAP's case its provincial and territorial constituent member associations. In this respect CAP has outperformed every other RBA holder in

the country. In less than three years — and with a budget only a fraction of that provided to the other RBA holders, the Congress has devolved the design and management of its labour market agreement to its member organizations, with a level of accountability that has earned approval from the human resources department at every step.

"This is a proud accomplishment for the Congress and its member organizations," said Ian Taylor.

"We realized very early in the game that without the kind of financial support that the other Aboriginal organizations received, we were going to have to be very creative to make any impact." That is why CAP has started implementing the approach on a small

ad hoc basis using whatever funds could be pulled together, Taylor explained.

Remarkably successful

"Since then," he added, "we've been able to introduce at least the fundamentals to most of our affiliate members, as well as to several employers across the country. It has been remarkably successful!"

He cited two examples: CAP's affiliate, the New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples' Council has

gained the cooperation of the Teamsters Union to allocate more than a dozen new training positions for off-reserve Aboriginal people;

CAP's affiliate, the Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association has developed an agreement creating employment and revenues by providing screening and referral services for the province's social services program.

Through its activities CAP has established a 'best practices'

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Aboriginal Peoples Act needed

The Indian Act is inherently flawed and needs to be replaced. It is a product of a paternalistic 19th century world view that has not withstood and cannot withstand challenges under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms or constitutional provisions protecting Aboriginal and treaty rights. The recent Corbière case is one example and more such cases are certain to emerge in the future.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and its member organizations are applying pressure on the Indian Act through litigation.

Contributing to governance process

(Continued from Page 1)

our involvement will lead toward opening new doors for urgently-needed reform," he added.

Minister Nault's governance process comprises three phases: the pre-legislative consultative phase, the post-consultation drafting a parliamentary committee phase, and the regulatory phase.

In the first phase, which lasted from April to November 2001, CAP's constituent member organizations conducted consultations to hear the views of off-reserve Aboriginal people on Indian Act governance issues at regional and community levels throughout the country.

While many views were expressed throughout the consultative process, one issue predominated, that off-reserve Aboriginal people want the restrictive and archaic Indian Act replaced by a more comprehensive and inclusive Aboriginal Peoples' Act. They see such an act recognizing and

servicing the interests of Aboriginal Nations — Mi'kmaq, Cree, Ojibway, Haida, Mohawk, to name only a few — regardless of their 'status' or whether or not they live in 'First Nations' communities, a.k.a. Indian Act reserves.

Aboriginal reality

They also see such legislation as a reflection of the Aboriginal reality in Canada today, that more than 73 per cent of all Aboriginal people do not live on Indian Act reserves, nor do they receive any benefits from the provisions of the Indian Act.

CAP's final report on the pre-legislative consultative phase has been submitted to the Minister.

A Joint Ministerial Advisory Committee — comprising CAP's coordinator and representatives from three other national Aboriginal organizations, along with senior officials from the Indian Affairs and Justice departments — is meeting several days a week reviewing inputs from the consultative process.

Preparing Report

A report to the Minister on options and recommendations for the proposed governance amendments is now being prepared.

The Minister will review the committee's report and give instructions to legislation drafters in the hope that a Bill might be presented to Parliament in the Spring of 2002. Because the committee has yet to complete its review it is too early to anticipate how much of its advice will be taken by the Minister. When the Bill is tabled, CAP will examine its contents and offer comments on behalf of its constituents.

Throughout the process CAP has been committed to ensuring that all Aboriginal people, regardless of their status or where they live, benefit from changes to the Indian Act. The national Aboriginal organization also has pledged to stay involved in the process concerning any changes to the Act, and to continue to push for a more representative and equitable Aboriginal Peoples' Act.

The guiding principles for an Aboriginal Peoples Act should be: that all Aboriginal peoples have the inherent right to self-government, self-determination and their treaty rights, independent from the Indian Act, and; that all Aboriginal peoples retain their Aboriginal rights regardless of residency or status.

That is the underpinning view of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and its constituents throughout the country, as expressed during the consultative phase of the First Nations Governance Initiative.

CAP will demonstrate through its participation in the governance initiative that replacement of the Indian Act by an Aboriginal Peoples Act is the only path to take. When such legislation is in place Canada will show the world that it is leading the way into the 21st century with its Aboriginal policy, living up to its agreements and obeying its own laws.



Report from the Federation of Newfoundland Indians

Challenges Terms of Union Indian treatment

I will outline most of the projects the Federation of Newfoundland Indians (FNI) is involved with to date and describe the benefits for the grass roots people as a result of FNI's undertakings and with the assistance of our national organization, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

The FNI has made substantial progress in our court case against the Crown, assistance to our legal representative has been provided by CAP's legal consultant Mr. Joe Magnet. The court case is about the failure of the Crown to extend the Indian Act to the Mi'Kmaq people of Newfoundland during the Terms of Union with Canada in 1949.

Indian Act Failure

The failure of the Indian Act contradicted the explicit undertakings of the Crown made at meetings between delegates of the National Convention of Newfoundland and representatives of the Government of Canada from June 25 through to September 25 1947, as set out in a document entitled "A preliminary Statement regarding the position of Newfoundland's Indians and Eskimos in the event of Union.

This statement records that, upon Newfoundland entering into Confederation, the Crown would assume sole responsibility for the Indians and Eskimos of Newfoundland and Labrador. Under the existing legislation and programs they would be entitled to such benefits as free education, medical services, hospitalization and land reserves for settlements.

Test case funding

The Government of Canada provides the FNI with funding for the court case through Litigation Test Case Funding.

Despite the court case against the Crown, the FNI has an excellent working relationship with Minister Nault.

Even though the court case against the Crown is progressing very well, Minister Nault holds consideration for a possible negotiated agreement.

The FNI recognizes such a relationship with the minister as a



result of the efforts of our national chief Mr. Dwight Dorey.

Employment Agreement

The FNI begin implementing the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) in 1989 and since then has made substantial contributions towards changing the lives of many of our members via training and employment opportunities.

The main objective of the AHRDA program is to provide Aboriginal people with the best possible opportunity for full time employment.

The results of the past year indicate that there were a total of 19 EI clients employed, 64 EI clients completing interventions, 22 CRF clients employed and 109 CRF clients completing interventions, 27 Youth clients employed or returned to school 39 youth completing interventions and 1 disabled client employed.

The FNI has provided their board of directors with training to increase their capacity and in turn increases the capacity of the communities.

Fisheries strategy

The FNI receives a grant from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy Program (AFS) to carry out much needed work in the field of conservation and protection of the salmon and trout resources. Each season the FNI employs 15 trained guardians and monitors to carry out this type of work.

In the spring of 2001 the FNI finally negotiated an agreement under the Allocation Transfer Program, a component of the AFS program in which DFO regionally purchases back core licenses from non-aboriginal fisherpersons and provides the FNI members with the fishing enterprise.

The downfall to this program is that DFO does not have sufficient funds coming into the

region to meet the three-year business plan and strategy of the FNI.

The FNI has obtained two small core enterprises and have assigned two Mi'Kmaq people to use such licenses. The FNI hopes to strengthen this project to a point where revenues from such enterprises can be re-invested to increase the number of Mi'Kmaq members in the commercial fishery.

Land use study

The FNI is in the final stages of completing a traditional land use study and historical research in preparation for a land claims submission on behalf of the Mi'Kmaq people living outside the Miawpukek reserve.

Diabetes program

The FNI received approval from Health Canada in the fall of 2001 to take part in an awareness campaign on diabetes. Today the coordinator of this program is preparing to go into the communities and deliver important information directly to the people on diabetes.

The FNI has obtained some funding to carry out additional work on a genealogy project, which was started in 1982 and not completed due to a shortage of funds. To date many of the FNI members have been able to establish missing links to their Mi'Kmaq family ancestry.

The FNI has a web site which can be reached at www.fni.nf.ca this site is just beginning to be utilized by the band councils within the FNI.

The FNI was invited by the Department of Indian & Northern Affairs to participate in the first phase of the First Nations Governance initiative. We held very successful governance workshops and have submitted a report to CAP.

The FNI plans to play a role in the second phase of the governance initiative.

Brendan Sheppard - President Federation of Newfoundland Indians



CAP Mentor Program Takes Off

The MocWalk Mentor Program is a pilot project that CAP is currently developing to further its commitment and continue its focus on Aboriginal Youth in Canada.

The aim of the program is to partner successful Canadian Aboriginal artist with Aboriginal Youth who show promise in the same media (visual arts, theatre, music, etc.)



George Leach

"I feel honored being a part of the mentor program. It gives me a chance to share and give back to the youth, our future leaders. If I can have a positive impact or inspire them to follow their dreams, this to me is the most success anyone could ask for."

Interested in getting with the program?

Aboriginal youth with an interest in developing a talent, or Aboriginal mentors who want to share their experience should contact program coordinator Jocelyn Rheume for further information at:

Moccasin Walk
(613) 747 0309

or visit the
Mentor Program page on the CAP Web site.

The goals of the program are to provide successful role models for younger generations to emulate and to be positive and influential experience for kids who might not otherwise have opportunities to develop their talent.

The Youth selected to participate as apprentices in the program will be given background materials such as biographies and CDs to familiarize themselves with their mentor. They will be given tickets to attend concerts and performances and will meet with their artist/mentor backstage when they appear in their region. This way, one mentor may meet with several apprentices from across the country. The partners will be encouraged to develop an on-going relationship in which the apprentice will feel comfortable enough to contact the mentor for advice.

The project is being launched on a very small basis initially, with a couple of well-known Aboriginal artists and several 'apprentices'. Once the program gets its legs, it will expand to include dozens of artists as well as successful business people, professional athletes, entrepreneurs and other professionals.

The first two artists to participate in the program are **Pamela Matthews** and **George Leach**. For the past two decades Ms Matthews has been working as a professional actress, writer, director, film editor and artistic director. Based in the "Toronto area, Ms. Matthew's work has taken her all over the world. George Leach is an award-winning blues rocker who is currently touring Canada to promote his latest album "Just Where I'm At". He is a multi-talented singer/songwriter and guitarist.



Jocelyn Rheume

CAP's Mentor Program coordinator, Jocelyn Rheume is well suited to the task.

A former secondary school English teacher with a degree in Theatre Arts and a Masters degree in curriculum development, the Aklavik-born Métis co-produced and directed Moccasin Walk 2.

For more than eight years she has been manager and media director for well known performers such as Alanis Morissette, Chrissy Hynde, Chantal Kreviazak, the Goo Goo Dolls, and the Indigo Girls.

Ms. Rheume was also media coordinator for the highly successful Lilith Fair.



National Chief addresses Canadian Council on Aboriginal Business

Chief Dorey tells CCAB that 50,000 more off-reserve Aboriginal peoples will seek fairness in job market

As someone who served on the CCAB Board of Directors for many years, I am not only familiar with your work, I'm a big supporter of your efforts to encourage Aboriginal entrepreneurship. So let me thank the Council for all of your efforts to build bridges between the Aboriginal and business communities.

Through initiatives like the Progressive Aboriginal Relations Program and the Foundation for the Advancement of Aboriginal Youth, you are opening doors and opening minds. Let me also say how delighted I am that this year's dinner is focused on urban Aboriginal people - the more than 800,000 people represented by the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

We constitute not only the largest group in Canada - representing about 73 per cent of all Aboriginals in Canada - but we're also the fastest-growing people of the Aboriginal population. This is more than a political statement - it is a graphic demonstration of the Aboriginal reality in Canada. It is also more than just an interesting demographic statistic - it is a flashing red light that urges us to act - and act now.

Nor is it just me calling for action; it was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples; it is a call echoed by the C.D. Howe Institute and the Royal Bank's paper, "The Cost of Doing Nothing." More, it is a call understood by the Prime Minister, who has established a Ministerial Reference Group to take action on Aboriginal concerns.

Our challenge, first and foremost, is to be recognized. Because our people live off reserve, we are too often out of mind. Because we fall outside the purview of the Indian Act, we are too often left off the national agenda. Our view is that Aboriginal rights should apply to all Aboriginal people, regardless of where we reside.

In other words, the rights we enjoy should not depend on the place we live. They should not depend on some arbitrary status bestowed on us by others. It's simply a question of fairness and

the time has come to set things right.

On a very basic level, we cannot address the economic challenges of Aboriginal peoples by targeting 90 percent of the resources to 25 percent of our population. That is the message I bring tonight. And that is the message the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples will continue to take to the leaders of this land and the people of this country.

Now I want to be clear: our fight to take our rightful place in Canadian society is not some abstract debate. It's not theoretical. It is based on very practical concerns and very legitimate aspirations. The bottom line is that we want to participate fully in the economic life of this country. We want to contribute our fair share and receive our fair portion. We want to get off of skid row and into the front row of opportunity and promise. But the fact is there are real barriers to our progress.

In some ways, Aboriginal peoples off reserve are in the worst of all possible positions - we carry the unhealthy legacy of Aboriginal

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CAP Chief brings 24 years to the table

Dwight Allister Dorey is national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP). He was elected to the position at the organization's annual general assembly on April 29, 2000 for a three-year term of office.

The Congress — formerly Native Council of Canada — is the national advocacy organization for more than 800,000 off-reserve Aboriginal peoples living in urban, rural and remote areas throughout Canada. CAP celebrated its 30th anniversary as a national Aboriginal organization in October 2001 with the highly successful gala production "Moccasin Walk 2."

Chief Dorey, a Mi'kmaq from Truro, Nova Scotia, has more than 24 years in Aboriginal politics at the provincial, national and international levels.

Prior to his election as national chief, he was senior policy advisor to the Congress. He served as elected chief and president of the Native Council of Nova Scotia from 1989 to 1997. In the 1980s he was also vice president of the Native Council of Nova Scotia, and vice president of the Native Council of Canada.

His extensive political experience has been strengthened by his senior management career as

president and general manager of the Mikmakik Development Corporation in Nova Scotia, and as operations manager for the Associated Management Group in Toronto.

Chief Dorey holds a Master's Degree in Canadian Studies from Carleton University in Ottawa.

He has served on several boards of directors nationally and regionally, and has travelled widely internationally as a participant and delegate at several United Nations and Organization of American States meetings and conferences.



Federal Court finds

Indian Affairs officials “misguided”

Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) officials were branded by Judge J. Lemeux of the Federal Court of Canada as “misguided” in their haste to strip the benefits of individuals who were appealing the decision of the Registrar to remove them from the Indian Act list.

In a judgement published December 20, 2001, Judge Lemieux said:

“It seems to me the applicants (INAC) have a misguided approach to the legislative scheme by immediately advising governmental authorities of the deletion of a person’s name which leads, as I understand it, to an automatic cutoff of benefits.”

In a two-part decision the Court ruled that the Registrar did not err in law when she removed WWII Veteran Sam Sinclair from the registration list, but that she did infringe on Mr. Sinclair’s rights to receive benefits until his appeal had been decided.

Counsel Mark LeClair argued the INAC process violated Mr.



Sam Sinclair

Sinclair’s rights under Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mr. LeClair asserted the INAC action would result in immediate and irreparable harm to Mr. Sinclair’s health, income, food supply (hunting rights) and capacity to educate his children.

Mr. Sinclair had originally been registered under Bill C-31 in 1990, then unilaterally and without prior notice, was removed from the list in 1998.

With the assistance of the Congress of Aboriginal People’s predecessor organization, the Native Council of Canada, Mr. Sinclair won an injunction preventing the removal of his name until after the decision of this court case.

INAC is appealing the second part of the decision and Mr. Sinclair is appealing the first part of the decision and seeking qualification to the second part of the decision. His name remains on the list at least until the appeal is heard.

Indian Affairs role in many guises

Since its beginnings in 1755, the agency responsible for Indian Affairs in Canada has been assigned to the department that had the most interest in controlling Indians and Indian resources

1755 - established as military authority

1860 - transfer to Commissioner of Crown lands

1867 - Transfer to Secretary of State (John A. Macdonald)

1873 - Transfer to Department of the Interior (Indian Lands Branch)

1936 - Transfer to Department of Mines and Resources

1949 - Transfer to Department of Citizenship and Immigration.

1965 - Transfer to Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

1966 - Established as Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

Now Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

More off-reserve Aboriginal peoples will seek fairness

(Continued from previous page)

policies and dysfunctional backgrounds, without the support and encouragement of an Aboriginal community around them. We are sometimes seen as outsiders, both by our own people and by non-Aboriginal people: facing racism on one hand and rejection on the other.

In a very real sense, we are the “forgotten people,” but as I’ve said our numbers are growing and our needs are real. That is why I welcome this opportunity to share some ideas with you - ideas aimed not at assigning blame but at creating solutions.

Take, for example, our National Aboriginal Workplace Strategy. In the coming decade, almost 50,000 additional Aboriginal people will be looking to join the workplace. This mini-baby boom represents a tremendous challenge - and an enormous opportunity.

If they are able to find acceptance and economic opportunity, a fundamentally different relationship can be developed between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in this country.

Cycles of dependency can be broken and a whole new mindset can take hold. But if they run up against a brick wall of exclusion and prejudice, we will have lost another generation and a golden opportunity to set a new course and establish a new relationship. That is why access to jobs is so important and why your work at the CCAB is so vital.

The National Aboriginal Workplace Strategy aims to build on your efforts and to take them to the next level. This strategy is premised on working with governments, the private sector, organized labour, Aboriginal communities and academic institutions. And its purpose is straightforward: to prepare

Aboriginal people for the workplace and prepare the workplace for Aboriginal people.

It is “status and residency-blind,” meaning it is open to all Aboriginal people regardless of what they’re called or where they live. It is a strategy with a proven track record that was pioneered in Saskatchewan, and it is designed to ensure a workplace in which Aboriginal people have the chance to compete in all occupations and all levels- entry, middle and senior management.

We have already signed two major agreements to move this initiative forward throughout the country - one with the Canadian Labour Congress and the other with the Public Service Alliance of Canada. And we welcome your participation and suggestions. Plans are in place to run prototypes of the program in Quebec, British Columbia, Manitoba and New Brunswick.

We have lots more information about this Strategy and how you can get involved.

Is this strategy the whole answer? Of course not. But it is an important step along the right road. It has proven its worth and holds great potential. And it points us to a better future for Aboriginal people.

The Congress I represent sees a future where educated, employed Aboriginal people take leadership roles in business, the professions and the arts. Where the progress honoured earlier tonight becomes the foundation for real progress and real change. Where Aboriginal people stand on their own achievements and succeed on their own merit. That is the future we see and, with your help, that is the future we will achieve.



Moccasin Walk2

It took little more than an hour to celebrate 30 years of accomplishment by the people who have made the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples a pre-eminent national Aboriginal organization.

But it took more than six months of creating, planning, fund raising, producing, writing, directing and sweating the details to make sure Moccasin Walk 2 rocked at the Ottawa Congress Centre on October 20th, 2001.

Before a crowd of more than 300 dignitaries, including federal and Aboriginal politicians, corporate Canada, Aboriginal and mainstream news media and some very



showcases CAP's 30th

special guests, Moccasin Walk 2 told the CAP story in a fast-paced, sometimes serious/sometimes funny, but always entertaining way.

On a 40-foot stage, flanked by two giant video screens, a host of technicians, eight actors, George Leach, one of Canada's Aboriginal rising musical stars, a well-known young Aboriginal comedian, the side-splitting Don Kelly, and the esteemed Laurier LaPierre as Master of Ceremonies, made Moccasin Walk 2 a night to remember and an event to cherish.



Off-reserve registered Indians below national levels

Contrary to the expectations of many government native policy makers, off-reserve registered Indians are not closing the socio-economic gap with other Canadians.

In a recent CAP commissioned study of socio-economic achievement levels compared between 1991 and 1996 census data Professor V. F. Valentine discovered off-reserve registered Indians are not faring as well as some think.

“The persistence of this gap,” Professor Valentine said, “casts doubt on the commonly held view that when registered Indians leave the reserve to live in urban centers their living conditions automatically improve and approach the norm for the country as a whole.”

He suggested this view may be little more than a comforting myth

fostered by uninformed segments of the public and policy makers.

This data is part of an ongoing study comparing the on-reserve and off-reserve segments of the registered Indian population using the same variables from the 1991 and 1996 national Census.

An in-depth study by CAP of registered Indian conditions in three urban centres is being planned using direct studies rather than census data.

“Clearly,” Professor Valentine said, census data can only provide crude indications of actual living conditions and that data needs to be supplemented by direct community level studies.

Note: The tables below are selected as examples from a larger set of tables contained in the original report.

Table 3 - Education OFF Reserve Registered Indian 15 yrs+ Compared to Non Aboriginal Population 1991 and 1996

Level Achieved	Year	Total Population (Non Aboriginal)	Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve	Difference Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve
2ndary School Diploma	1991	15%	9%	1.5 times fewer
	1996	14%	5%	3 times fewer
University Degree	1991	12%	3%	4 times fewer
	1996	13%	2%	6 times fewer

Table 4 - Unemployment & Labor Force Participation Rates OFF Reserve Registered Indian 15 yrs old+ Compared to Non Aboriginal Population 1991 and 1996

Rate	Year	Total Population (Non Aboriginal)	Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve	Difference Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve
Unemp-loy. rate	1991	10%	26%	2.5 times higher
	1996	10%	26%	2.5 times higher
Part. rate	1991	68%	57%	1.2 times lower
	1996	66%	57%	1.2 times lower

Source for all tables: Statistics Canada, 1991 and 1996 Custom Tabulations

Table 5 - Average Annual Income OFF Reserve Registered Indian Population 15 yrs+ Compared to Non Aboriginal Population 1991 and 1996

Year	Total Population (Non Aboriginal)	Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve	Difference Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve
1991	\$24,212	\$14,832	38% less
1996	\$25,435	\$16,038	37% less

Table 6 - Incidence of Low Income Off Reserve Registered Indian 15yrs + Compared to Non Aboriginal Population 1991 and 1996

Year	Total Population (Non Aboriginal)	Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve	Difference Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve
1991	15%	43%	3 times higher
1996	19%	43%	2.5 times higher

Table 8 - Percent of Total Off Reserve Registered Indian Children under 15 yrs Residing in Two Selected Census Family Types Compared to Non Aboriginal Population 1991 and 1996

Family Type	Total Population (Non Aboriginal)	Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve	Difference Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve	
Parental Couple	Year 1991	79%	73%	Over + fewer
	Year 1996	36%	34%	Over + fewer
Female lone parent	Year 1991	11%	31%	almost 3 times
	Year 1996	13%	39%	3 times as many

Table 9 - Type of Housing Tenure Registered Indian Residing OFF Reserve Compared to the Non Aboriginal Population 1991 and 1996

Type	Year	Total Population (Non Aborigina)	Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve	Difference Regist'd Indian OFF Reserve
Owned	1991	71%	34%	1/2 as many
	1996	71%	38%	less 1/2 as many
Rent	1991	29%	65%	over2X as many
	1996	28%	61%	over 2X as many
Band Housing	1991	Less than 1 %	1%	no change
	1996	Less than 1 %	1%	no change



Do you have these symptoms?

Type 1 Diabetes symptoms

Type 1 diabetes occurs most often in children or young adults when the body is or becomes incapable of producing insulin. As a result, glucose is not passed to organs via the blood stream. Instead of fuelling the body's organs, glucose in Type 1 patients is passed through urine and various organs become highly susceptible to serious disease. Without injections of insulin sufferers of Type 1 diabetes cannot survive.

Symptoms include increased and frequent thirst and urination, constant hunger, weight loss, blurred vision and extreme fatigue. Without treatment a patient will collapse into a diabetic coma which can be life-threatening.

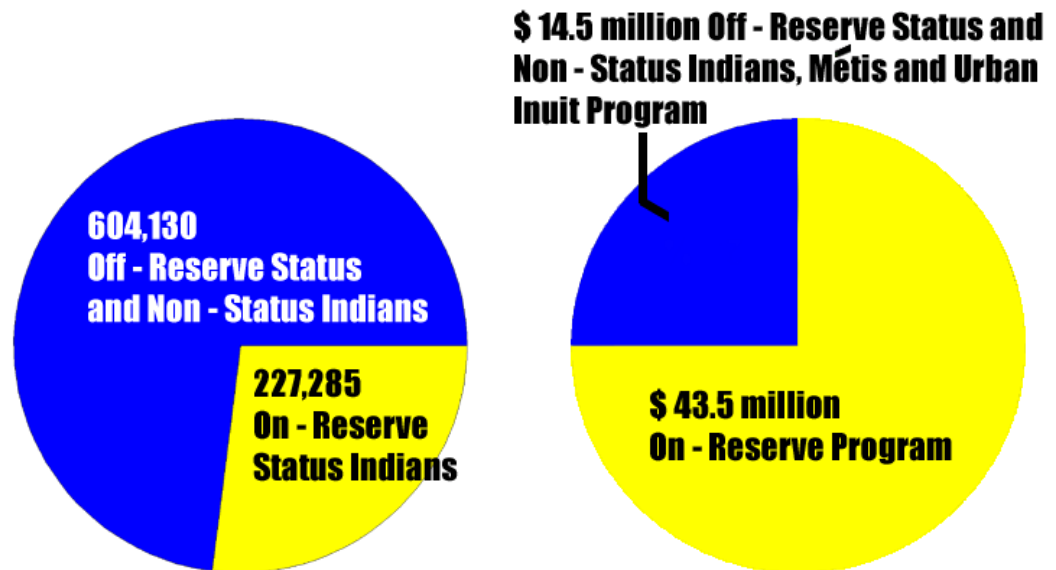
Type 2 Diabetes symptoms

Type 2 diabetes occurs most often in people over 50 and over-weight but is becoming more frequent in children and others who are obese. The body produces insufficient insulin or the insulin that is produced is not adequately used by the body.

Symptoms of Type 2 diabetes include: fatigue or nausea, frequent urination, unusual thirst, blurred vision, frequent infections, and unusually slow healing of wounds and sores. An individual may experience some of these symptoms and not others. Some people with Type 2 diabetes experience no symptoms at all in the early stages. One-third of people with type 2 diabetes are not diagnosed.

Diabetes strikes three times more Natives

Comparison of Aboriginal Population Size to the ADI Allocation



There is something very wrong with this picture!

Diabetes is recognized as a major health concern among Aboriginal people with prevalence rates at least three times the Canadian average and increasing rapidly. It is a major health threat to our people because it can damage many parts of the body, including eyes, feet, kidneys and the heart.

It can also lead to blindness, leg amputations and kidney failure. Diabetes was virtually unknown among Aboriginal people fifty years ago but today it has been declared an epidemic.

Developing strategy

In 1999, the Government of Canada allocated \$115 million over five years for the development of a Canadian Diabetes Strategy in partnership with the provinces and territories, national Aboriginal organizations and national health organizations.

The Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (ADI) has been allocated \$58 million over five years to assist in dealing with the epidemic of Type 2 diabetes.

The Métis, Off-reserve Aboriginal and Urban Inuit Prevention and Promotion component of the ADI is intended to serve Aboriginal people not served by the First

Nations On-Reserve and Inuit in Inuit Communities program.

A comparison of the allocation of ADI funding to population size demonstrates the fundamental weakness of the strategy. The bulk of the \$43.5 million in ADI funding is targeted to the First Nations and Inuit program.

Off-reserve short changed

The majority of the Aboriginal population -- who live off-reserve -- have been left with \$14.5 million over five years.

The following member affiliates are currently undertaking Type 2 diabetes primary prevention and health promotion activities:

Labrador Metis Nation: Learning for Life: Awareness and Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes
 Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association: Diabetes Prevention and Promotion Program

Indian Council of First Nations of Manitoba: Community evaluation and resource identification, needs and requests

Native Council of Prince Edward Island: Workshops and an Information Forum on Healthy Lifestyles

Federation of Newfoundland Indians: Prevention and Promotion Program:

Native Council of Nova Scotia: Mobile Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

In January 2002, the ADI sub-committee agreed that funding would continue for the MOAUIPP proposals currently underway.

These projects need sufficient time to build some capacity and produce results. The final year of the program (2003/2004) will be open to one final call for proposals.



New National Youth Representative

Robert Russell, vice-president of the CAP Youth Council has accepted the national youth representative position with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples after Jamie Gallant resigned to take on a full time job as the AHRDA youth intern at CAP.

Robert is a Métis and a member of the Labrador Metis Nation. While in Labrador he served in many capacities representing Aboriginal youth. He has worked with organizations that have dealt with issues such as youth employment and training, community development, violence, Aboriginal journalism, culture, justice and racism.

He is trained in program development, business, group facilitation, community leadership and community economic development. Currently he is studying radio broadcasting in Montreal,

where he is active with Aboriginal youth in the city.

Robert's first priority will be to hold a meeting of the Youth Council to determine an action plan for concerns they have identified.

Ms. Gallant served as CAP's National Youth Representative for three years and focused much of her work on bringing the PTO youth representatives together.

We wish Jamie luck in her new position and welcome Robert as the new national youth representative.

National Youth Conference

Twenty-two CAP provincial and territorial youth representatives attended a youth conference on the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy October 26th – 28th, 2001 in Edmonton, Alberta.

The conference, the first of its kind, included youth representatives from the five national representative organizations the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Metis National Council, the Assembly of First Nations, the Native Women's Association of Canada, and the National Association of Friendship Centres. The conference provided a forum for youth to voice their priorities and concerns and to discuss 'next steps' for the implementation of the strategy.

youth entrepreneurship and social issues such as suicide, teen pregnancy, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Engaging youth in the process and next steps for the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy were also high priorities for conference participants.

Next steps

Recommendations for next steps included a National Youth Advisory Council to influence emerging policy and a youth conference to continue the work on implementing the goals of the strategy.

Three Priorities

The report on the youth conference will soon be released. As part of the conference CAP/PTO youth representatives caucused and determined three priority areas for action.

Culture (including language and spirituality): Education: Equity of Access to programs and services.

Common priority issues included education, language and culture,

The Federal-Provincial-Territorial-Aboriginal (FPTA) steering committee will be presenting an action plan on the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy (NAYS) and discussing options for enhancing youth participation in the NAYS process. CAP has begun seeking input from PTOs and youth representatives on the action plan and options for engaging youth.

CAP Youth Participant List

Native Council of Nova Scotia

Jocelyn Johnson
Megan Langille

Federation of Newfoundland Indians

Beverly Myers
Randy Drover
Council
Holly Wortman
Stephanie Bolger

Labrador Metis Nation

Pete Best
Danny Campbell

Native Council of Prince Edward Island

Mark Polchies
Paula Thomas

Native Alliance of Quebec

Rhobie Dionne
Meagan Dionne

Ontario Metis and Aboriginal Association

Geewadin Elliot
Renée Lalonde

Indian Council of the First Nations of Manitoba Inc

Jeanine Spence
Derek Boulette

Native Council of Canada (Alberta)

Raymond Niel Shirt
Jessie Cardinal
Curtis Cardinal

United Native Nations

David Decoine
Losa Luaifoa

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Jamie Gallant

Regional Employment Programming

(Continued from page 3)

Through its activities CAP has established a 'best practices' approach to leveraging HRDC funds to create opportunities for sustainable employment across the country. "As well, by continuing to expand the scope and reach of the program," Taylor said, "we'll be able to address some of the major weaknesses of the existing Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement program.

While the focus and intention of the RBA process was to allow a greater

degree of freedom and creativity in designing labour market interventions, over the past several years that freedom has been eroded by HRDC criteria imposed on the AHRDAs, according to Taylor.

Bring Freedom Back

"The fact is that case workers in Aboriginal communities are little more than clerks for a program designed and managed in Ottawa by HRDC," he said. "We have to find a way to bring that freedom back into the agreements, while still respecting Canada's need for accountability."



CAP Web site welcomes over 2 million hits since 1998

The Web site of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples -- CAPonline -- attracted its two millionth hit over the Christmas holidays.

Since its inception in 1998, CAPonline has steadily increased the numbers of people who are surfing its pages with a current rate of up to 125,000 per month.

The most popular pages on the site are bunched fairly close together and include; programs and issues; the Native links index; CAP's corporate profile, special features, Bill-C-31, PTOs and CAP contact information.

"The most unexpected statistic on the site is that 61% of our visitors are international," says Martin Dunn, Information Provider for the site. He explained that using the term "Aboriginal" in the name of the organization probably attracts a number of people who are searching for Australian indigenous peoples.

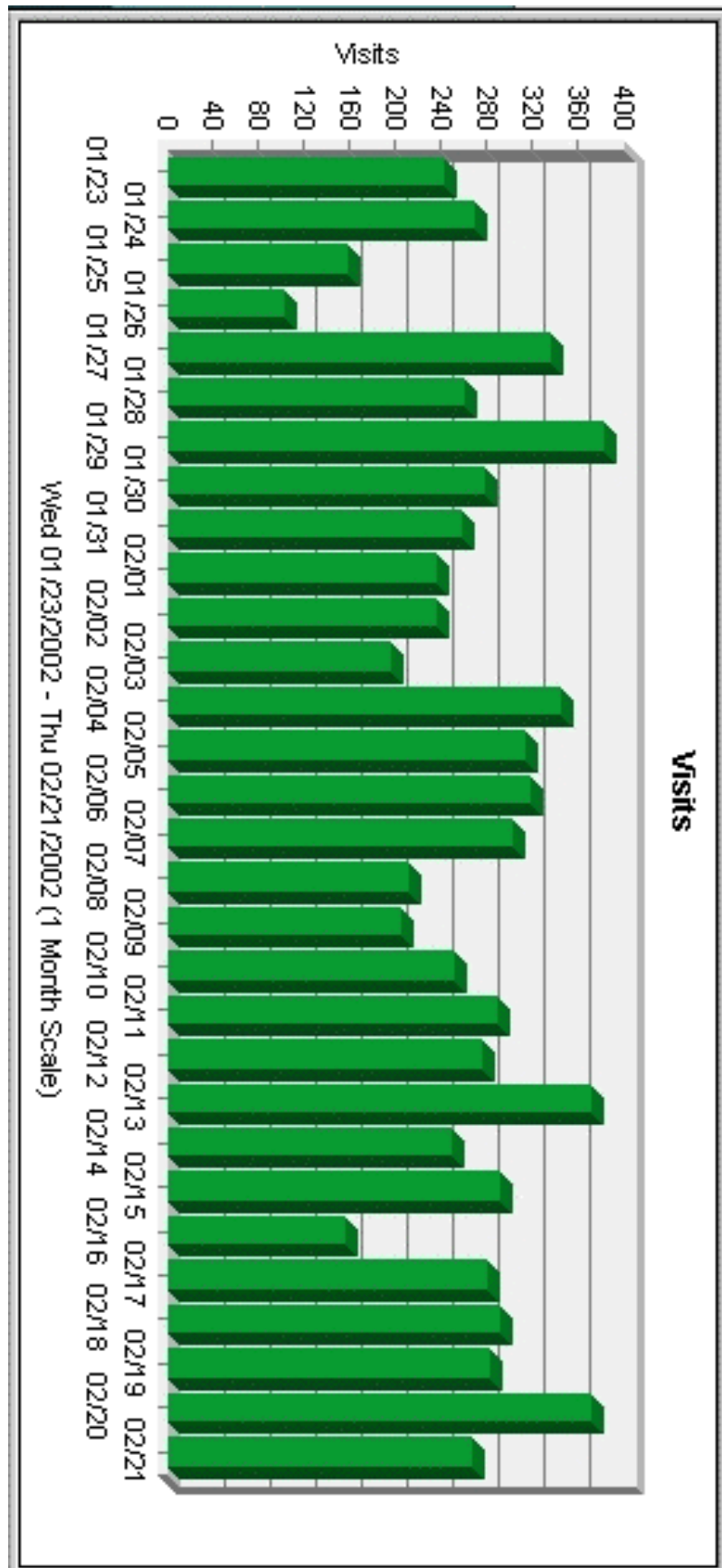
Almost 25% of visitors have the designation ".ca" attached to their addresses which means Canadian government departments and institutions have a lively interest in the site.

The chart to the left, the result of an independent site traffic analyzer indicates the traffic is heaviest in the mid-afternoon and

mid-week. Weekend and holiday traffic drops off significantly which suggests that many of the hits are work-related.

The site generates several pieces of email a day. Many are queries about how to register under the Indian Act, but increasingly government departments, other organizations and projects -- both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal -- are using the site as a way of networking with CAP and its affiliates.

To surf the site enter the url: <http://www.abo-peoples.org> or drop the name Congress of Aboriginal Peoples into a good search engine like google.com.



A gold mine of information

CAP Archive Going Digital

One of Canada's most unique emerging archives is on its way to joining the digital revolution.

"The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the only place in Canada where 30 years of material dealing with off-reserve Aboriginal peoples is housed in a single collection," said CAP archivist Martin Dunn. "Some of it may exist in other archives and bits of it exist in other organizations and government departments, but this is the only place you can find it all together."

Designed for the Internet

With almost 3,000 documents booked, catalogued and shelved, the best of the archive of Native Council of Canada/Congress of Aboriginal Peoples information is being prepared for transfer to digital format and presentation on a Web site. For the past 18 months, staff have been unpacking and organizing literally hundreds of bankers' boxes and file cabinets of information that were laying dormant in basements and storage rooms.

"We have organized the tons of material into basic categories," Dunn said, "and we are about halfway through cataloguing it in a custom database we have designed and developed."

Access by all Canadians

Several months ago CAP national chief Dwight Dorey instructed the archive staff to begin looking for funds to transfer priority elements of the archive materials into digital formats. A three-year project designed to attract financing has been developed. It will result in a database of information on off-reserve Aboriginal peoples that Canadians will be able to download onto their own computers.

"The goal is not just to organize a bunch of mouldy documents," Dunn said. "The real challenge is to create a useful information tool that can use to serve their own purposes. Information is useless when people can't get to it when they need it."

Dunn added, "We've got a lot of useful information we can put into people's hands."

The database will also include video and audio tapes from a variety of NCC/CAP activities over the last three decades.



The Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association

The year 2001 was an extremely busy year for the Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association. Phenomenal growth in membership fuelled activity in several initiatives.

"We are getting membership applications at the rate of 30 to 50 a day for the last two years," OMAA General Manager, Patricia Jaeger, reports. "It just never lets up!"

"Since then traffic on the site has been fantastic," says Larry Bellerose, Director of OMAA-METS, "In the few short months since we went live more and more OMAA and CMC members

OMAA-METS allows members to subscribe to the events and job listing features and once enrolled, for free, they will receive an automatic e-mail once the event or job is posted by the administrator. They receive these notices automatically before anyone else. The sections on job banks, bursaries, scholarships,

ment Services agreement whereby OMAA assists clients on a fee-for-service basis.

OMAA and Ontario Works-Sault Ste. Marie have created a partnered Community Employment Resource Centre. OMAA's Employment and Training Services staff and Ontario Works' Employment Division staff are housed jointly in this centre.

Hunting Consultations

The Ontario Court of Appeal acceded to the request of Her Majesty the Queen (The Province of Ontario) to a stay of their judgment in the case between Her Majesty the Queen and Steve Powley & Charles Powley for a one-year period.

The purpose of the stay was "to allow the appellant to consult with stakeholders and develop a new moose hunting regime that is consistent with the *Constitution Act*, 1982, s. 35." The presence of OMAA at the negotiating table was deemed crucial to the resolution of the outstanding issues.

With funding from the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat, OMAA conducted a series of community consultations across Ontario, from Kenora to Ottawa. Fifty-two communities were visited, but at least 260 communities were involved with this initiative through their attendance at the sessions or through participation in the hunting survey.

More than 1,370 people attended the community meetings, with the consultation team traveling more than 13,000 kilometres to hear the people's views.

The OMAA negotiating team continues to meet with the Ministry of Natural Resources in an effort to negotiate a new moose hunting regime.

Employment and Training

In 2001 OMAA-METS unveiled its new world-class Web site.

have been accessing the site," he said.

Through funding from Human Resources Development Canada & The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, OMAA updated its Metis Employment Training Services Web site, which uses the latest technology for Web design including ColdFusion and Flash. Developed by Current Contacts, a Toronto-based Web Development company, with content provided by OMAA's staff, we believe the end result to be the best Aboriginal employment and training site in the Province of Ontario, if not all of Canada. You can visit the site at <http://www.oma.org/mets>.

A unique feature of OMAA's site is a listing of jobs and events across the province. An added feature is that local employers can post their jobs without having to go to job banks or newspapers and the message will reach across the province.

school loans and training grants, resumes and cover letters are also receiving a fair level of attention. The resume section allows clients to construct their own individual resumes online and then print them.

This initiative is yet another example of OMAA-METS commitment to be at the forefront of employment and training issues, offering expanded programs and services for all Metis and off-reserve Aboriginal participants.

Community partnerships

A key element to OMAA's success is the ongoing development of community partnerships, beginning in Sault Ste. Marie. OMAA's formal partnership with Ontario Works in Sault Ste. Marie has grown extensively. The aim is to increase employment services to "common clients" - a term used to identify clients of Ontario Works (social assistance recipients) who are also Aboriginal. This involves an Employ-

Representatives from more than 20 community agencies and provincial government ministries were on hand as OMAA officially opened their new co-located Resource Centre in Thunder Bay. The Resource Centre offers a wide range of client services including educational resources, life skills training, employment postings and is equipped with confidential client workstations and state-of-the-art personal computers.

OMAA co-sponsored and participated in several tapings of a local Sault Ste. Marie television program called "Job Works." This program offers information on what, when, where and how to achieve job-readiness, training/upgrading, hot job leads, and job related financial assistance. The main objectives are to assist the unemployed to secure and sustain employment, reduce barriers to employment, enhance quality of life and reach a wider audience with current information on employment related issues. OMAA is featured as a co-sponsor on this show and has made several appearances on the program.

OMAA has six Employment Counsellors delivering employment and training services to our members in all five Tribal areas.

Health Programs

OMAA's Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program, run in nine Ontario communities, has become a model for other Aboriginal programs.



Reports Phenomenal Membership Growth

It offers information and education on parenting awareness, child development, healthy sexuality, fetal alcohol syndrome, smoking cessation, and healthy nutrition. It is directed to teenagers or young men and women and their immediate and extended families, in an effort to promote healthy pregnancies and appropriate child rearing techniques that focus on children as a "Sacred Gift."

OMAA also delivers a Community Health Outreach program in six communities that focus on various health issues including diabetes and proper nutrition. OMAA's Responsible Gambling and HIV/AIDS Awareness programs have been extremely active across the province, hosting seminars, workshops and providing valuable information on these issues.

Governance Issues

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs proposed changes to the Indian Act to address issues of governance for Indian Act bands.

One of OMAA's mandates is to represent the interests of off-

reserve Indians and accordingly they joined with CAP and DIAND to deliver a series of consultations in 18 communities. They also designed and implemented a public awareness campaign that included radio, television and newspaper, and a website that informed visitors of the governance issues.

Initial results of the meetings indicated a desire to improve governance, administration and accountability by chiefs and band councils to band members. There were also concerns expressed about the equality of treatment and access to services for members living off-reserve.

OMAA Tribal Assembly

With a theme of "Building on Tradition, Determining our Future" the 2001 Assembly held in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario featured a moving tribute to the Aboriginal men and women who fought in the War of 1812, by the planting of a sacred mountain ash tree at the Ermatinger Old Stone House, built in 1814.

Delegates were treated to addresses from several dignitaries including Jim Flaherty, On-

tario Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance; David Young, Attorney General and Minister Responsible for Indian Affairs; Jason Knockwood, Vice-Chief of CAP and Brent St. Denis, MP for Algoma-Manitoulin.

Environmental Concern

OMAA President Michael McGuire led the fight in July to ban the use of the herbicide *Vision* in the Municipality of Greenstone, in Northern Ontario. Mr. McGuire was active in circulating a petition to stop the planned use of this deadly chemical to many Metis and First Nation communities all within the municipal boundaries of Greenstone.

The Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal wrote two articles on the issue, both supportive of our president's position on this matter.

Regrettably, city council did not take a stand and the spraying proceeded. The province stands behind the use of the herbicide, despite the concerns raised by many environmental groups, including Greenpeace.

Mike McGuire had provided both the town and the ministry with extensive background material. Given the danger of this substance he has pledged to continue his efforts to have it banned in the coming year. There are alternatives to the use of this spray that will not harm the environment and Mike wants these explored fully.

Rights Definition

OMAA has developed a reputation as a key player in the ongoing process of defining Aboriginal rights.

OMAA is firmly committed to developing its own agenda for achieving economic self-reliance through further entrenchment of the rights of Metis people and through implementation of the inherent right to self-government.

We maintain our right to self-determination with our own agenda for action on socio-economic development, self-government, justice, and our ongoing relationship with other partners in Ontario, and in a united Canada.

What the press is saying about the Congress ...

The National Post

December 18, 2001

Quoting what the writer, Robert Fife, Ottawa Bureau Chief of the National Post article called "government insiders" the article stated:-

"One official said Mr. Nault is impressed with Dwight Dorey, president of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples..."

'Dwight is the rising star in First Nations,' one official said."

The Aboriginal Times

November, 2001

Reporting on the CAP annual assembly, the Aboriginal Times printed the following:-

"Chief (Dwight) Dorey estimates that only 10 percent of annual federal funding directed towards Aboriginals reaches off-reserve people.

That is wrong. It doesn't make any sense, nor does it do any good for the majority of Aboriginal people in Canada."

Windspeaker

August, 2001

Following an interview with CAP Chief Dwight Dorey, Windspeaker reported the following quote: -

"The 55 or so Mi'kmaq bands in eastern Canada are not First Nations. There's only one First Nation and that is the Mi'kmaq Nation. Until the chiefs and people realize that, we're going to keep having these problems.

Dorey said he is advocating a return to traditional tribal govern-

ing entities, the governing bodies the original Indian Act set out to break up and destroy in the name of assimilation by imposing the band council system. ...

"We don't have any assurances," he said, "But the fact that we are in this process and we have this (consultation funding) agreement indicates to me the minister is willing to at least listen to us."

"The idea that the department is responsible only for status Indians on reserve will definitely have to go," he said



CONGRESS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

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