

FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

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

Call for urban Aboriginal focus growing

What's Inside...

Governance Recommendations	2
Palmer Interview	3
Atlantic Salmon Decline	3
Species Act Gets Assent	3
Court Backs Off-Reserve	4
New Youth Intervenor	4
CAP Archival Project	4
Employment a CAP Priority	5
Youth Justice Conference	6
Health Care Roundup	7
Dwight Dorey Conversation	8
Mentor Program for Youth	12
CAPonline Quadruples Visits	14
Affiliate CAP Organizations	16

The need for governments at all levels to pay more attention to Aboriginal people living in urban and rural settings is being bolstered by a new Canada West Foundation study.

The February 2003 report, entitled *Shared Responsibility: Final Report and Recommendations of the Urban Aboriginal Initiative*, notes that data for the Aboriginal identity population show that more than 50 per cent of Aboriginal people live in urban areas, and more than 20 per cent live in rural non-reserve areas, while less than 30 per cent live on Indian Act reserve communities.

The latter, along with Inuit people, are the primary beneficiaries under the \$6 billion annual budget for the federal Department of Indian Affairs that includes health, housing, education, economic development, cultural and social programming.

Aboriginal people living away from Indian Act reserves, including registered (Indian Act) Indians, non-registered Indians and Metis, form the vast majority but are the least served of all Aboriginal people in Canada. Recommendations resulting from the Canada West study conducted in six western cities over the past two years call on the federal government to redirect a portion of its Aboriginal program spending from Indian Act reserves to urban areas.

Study author Calvin Hanselmann further recommends that

jurisdictional bickering over responsibility for Aboriginal programming be replaced by "shared responsibility for urban Aboriginal policy." Hanselmann points to the need for more institutionalized intergovernmental coordination and cooperation, adding that Aboriginal people need to be engaged in the process.

He stresses that federal and provincial governments must formally accept that while neither has primary responsibility, both must share responsibility for urban Aboriginal policy. He adds that such acceptance could take many forms, including memoranda of agreement, ministerial statements, legislation, and even constitutional amendment.

(Continued on Page 5)

Budget offers some aid for off-reserve Aboriginal programs

Federal finance minister Manley's February budget took some steps to increase funding for off-reserve Aboriginal programming, but details on the nature and extent of the measures remain to be clarified.

Dwight Dorey, national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, said that the budget targeted more off-reserve Aboriginal initiatives than before and appeared to take some steps to follow up on Prime Minister Chretien's throne speech promise to close the gap in life chances between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. But, he said, further analysis of the budget and subsequent actions by the federal government will disclose how extensive and effective the measures will be.

Among the measures listed in the budget that could have potential for off-reserve Aboriginal people:

- \$20 million over two years to support Aboriginal entrepreneurship and business development;
- \$172 million over 11 years to support Aboriginal languages and cultures;
- \$25 million over two years for Aboriginal skills and employment partnerships to provide economic opportunities in northern gas pipelines and similar projects;
- \$12 million over two years to enhance Aboriginal communities ability to participate in fisheries decision-making and management processes;

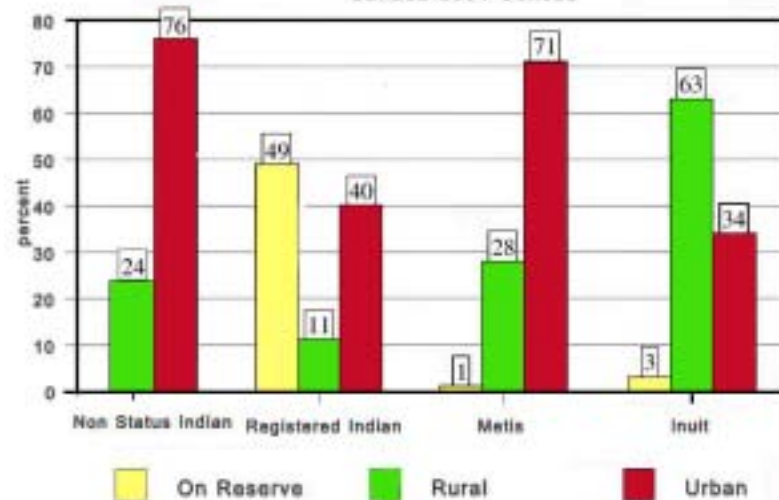
(Continued on page 2)

Census Shows Most Aboriginal People Do Not Live on Reserve

The size of the Aboriginal ancestry population in Canada as reported by Statistics Canada in the 2001 Census is 1,319,890, an increase of about 20% from 1996. It now represents 4.4% of the total Canadian population compared to 3.8% in 1996.

Only 21% of Aboriginal peoples live on reserves; the majority, 79%, reside in non reserve rural and urban areas. The chart below shows the percent of the non Status Indians, registered Indians, Metis and Inuit population segments living in each of those areas.

Percent Aboriginal Population Living On Reserve or Rural and Urban Areas
Canada 2001 Census





Budget offers some aid for off-reserve Aboriginal programs

(Continued from page 1)

• the \$12 million, one-time endowment for Aboriginal post-secondary scholarships “While these funds appear to offer some hope for off-reserve Aboriginal people, the implications of other budget measures are less clear,” said chief Dorey.

“For example, are we to have any access to the five-year, \$1.3 billion in health programs allocated to First Nations and Inuit? Is there room for our people to benefit from the \$72 million over two years to improve educational outcomes for Aboriginal people, and to ensure they are provided with employment

opportunities on major projects across Canada? And what about the \$135 million a year to be devoted to homelessness and housing? These are just a few questions I have for the government.”

Chief Dorey said one of the difficulties in determining who is to benefit is the usage of the terms *First Nations*, *Indian*, and

Aboriginal, applied to certain initiatives in the budget text.

“They can mean very different things depending how one interprets them,” he said. He noted that the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples has among its constituents those who refer to themselves as either *Aboriginal*, *First Nations* or *Indian*.

“But the budget document is just not clear about these meanings.

We will need to explore this with finance minister Manley and other federal ministers, because the implications for our people are enormous,” he added.

The chief said he has written to Mr. Manley on these matters. “The responses we get will tell us whether or not the government is really serious about addressing the needs of the largest segment of the Aboriginal population in Canada.”

Chief Dorey submits CAP Governance recommendations to Standing Committee

Editor’s Note: The following article features the highlights of the CAP presentation to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Natural Resources January 28, 2003. The complete text is available on CAPonline at: http://www.abo-peoples.org/CAPftp/SCAA_Phase%20II.pdf

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is a national organization made up of Provincial and Territorial Organizations. Membership is open to persons of Aboriginal ancestry who are Metis and Indians living away from reserves in cities, towns and rural areas across Canada.

A common view of Indian peoples is that they are all registered under the Indian Act, live on reserves and enjoy the benefits of the Indian Act. The reality is that of a total of 1,300,000 or so persons in Canada of Indian ancestry, only 29% live on reserves, and of those who are registered Indians, over half live away from reserves.

I am firmly in the view that in order to fulfill our mandate, we must develop a new political power-sharing, arrangement with governments, an arrangement which includes us as equals in the making of decisions which impact our lives, an arrangement which is not based on assimilation and control but on accommodation and consociation – an arrangement, in a nut-shell, which emphasizes mutual rather than unilateral dependence, sharing rather than taking and controlling.

Our participation in the Governance Initiative is very much influenced by these thoughts, and we see the inclusion of off-

reserve status Indians in the Band governance process as a small but necessary step toward achieving a new approach to Aboriginal affairs in Canada based on political power-sharing.

The Joint Ministerial Advisory Committee established in 2001 by Minister Nault completed its work in March 2002 and tabled its final report to the Minister.

On June 14, 2002, Bill C-61 was introduced in the House of Commons and differed to this Committee prior to Second Reading. Now we stand before you today to discuss our remaining issues with the proposed Bill, which has been reinstated as Bill C-7.

Taking what we heard in Phase I consultations and having participated in the Joint Ministerial Advisory Committee, let us now focus on the recommendations we offer this Committee.

1. There is a clear lack of a non-derogation clause in the proposed Bill.

Minister Nault instructed the JMAC members that this legislation was not to infringe upon Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The advice JMAC offered the Minister in this regard was to include a non-derogation clause.

We recommend that such a clause, specifically, non-derogation option #6, as recommended by JMAC be included in the Bill.

2. Differential treatment of bands in FNGA in terms of having access to custom as a means of selecting their leaders.

The FNGA allows only bands currently operating under customary selection to continue those practices. INAC policy allows s.74 election bands to employ customary methods of leadership selection.

We recommend that the window of opportunity for s.74 election bands remain, to convert to customary methods of selecting their leaders, with the approval of on and off-reserve members.

3. The “balancing” issue of on and off-reserve members has not been resolved in the proposed Act.

In *Corbiere*, the court stated that bands may balance the different interests of on and off-reserve members when it comes to voting. FNGA does not indicate how to balance these rights nor does it lay out any criteria.

(Continued on page 12)

**The
Forgotten
People**

*The National Voice
of Off-Reserve Indian
and Métis Peoples
Throughout Canada*

Published by

**National Chief
Dwight A. Dorey**

867 St. Laurent Blvd.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1K 3B1



Vice-Chief alerts PTOs to upcoming environment projects

CAP affiliates are being alerted to opportunities for participation in several upcoming federal environmental initiatives. Vice-chief Frank Palmater is tracking funding possibilities in the areas of climate change, forestry, and the disposal of nuclear waste.



Frank Palmater, Vice-Chief, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

"The federal government clearly recognizes our input is necessary in all of these initiatives," Mr. Palmater said, "but we are in a kind of cart before the horse situation."

He explained that federal officials have not yet committed them-

selves to funding the development of proposals from PTOs, but have indicated that a funded consultation process will be put in place in the near future.

"What we need at the head office right now is some indication from our organizations about what

kind of projects they need to develop for their specific areas. We need that information so we can indicate to the feds the type and range of participation we will require."

He said one of the most important issues within his environmental mandate, is global warming or climate change, including alternate uses of energy.

"We have already had two projects, one in Labrador and another in Manitoba on this issue and I have informed the Minister of Indian Affairs that there are other affiliates who have issues to bring forward.", he said, "What we need is some indication from those other PTOs what specific issues those discussions with the department would address."

He indicated there were also a number of opportunities for CAP affiliates to participate in forestry policy development. He said if Canada were going to justify its leadership role internationally in forestry policy, it would clearly have to be seen to give a high priority to Aboriginal concerns.

"In the latest draft of the national forestry strategy, Aboriginal concerns were not adequately mentioned," he said.

"We are pressing for resolution of prior Aboriginal claims to the land before other parties are dealt with. Once it is incorporated into federal strategy, provincial jurisdictions will tend to adopt that same strategy and turn it into policy."

Again he emphasized the need for PTO input as to what form that initiative would take. Nuclear waste management activities are also a priority of the federal government, according to the vice chief.

"Very shortly we will begin discussions with the federal government to develop a process whereby off-reserve Aboriginal people may be funded to participate in nuclear waste management programs."

He said CAP is also looking for advice from the PTOs as to how they would want to be involved in that process.

Atlantic salmon on decline

The number of Atlantic salmon returning to their native rivers has dropped by 90 per cent over the past 25 years.

Congress vice chief Frank Palmater has been in communication with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to seek support for collaborative approaches to save the Atlantic salmon.

There are a number of reasons for the decline in Atlantic salmon stocks: sensitivity to environmental change, dams and pollution pose a threat to salmon returning to spawning areas.

Fish farming may also play a role in the decline, since farm stock

sometimes breed with wild salmon, with the result that parasites and disease from fish farms spread throughout the ocean.

Almost half of the remaining Atlantic salmon live in Newfoundland and Labrador, where there are more than 175 salmon rivers. With the current decline in salmon stocks, the recreational fishery is also in decline.

CAP will continue to pursue ways to support our constituent member organizations in Newfoundland and Labrador so that a way of life, and livelihood will not be lost for Aboriginal people.

Species at Risk Act Gets Assent

After ten years of intense wrangling, Canada's first federal law protecting endangered species, the Species at Risk Act (SARA), received Royal Assent on December 12, 2002.

The law calls for the establishment of a National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) and an Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge subcommittee as part of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Both bodies are expected to advise environment minister David Anderson on issues and concerns of Aboriginal people relating to the legislation and its implementation.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, along with other Aboriginal organizations, fought

hard to strengthen the role of Aboriginal peoples in the conservation of wildlife, but much remains to be completed.

The Congress continues to participate in the Aboriginal Working Group to draft terms of reference for NACOSAR and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge subcommittee.

Congress chief Dwight Dorey has written minister Anderson seeking resources for participation in developing an implementation framework and an action plan for Aboriginal involvement in SARA. The Congress has lobbied to be involved in drafting the orders and regulations on the Act, including the regulation relating to compensation.



Court backs off-reserve access to programs and services

A November 2002, Federal Court ruling has given off-reserve Aboriginal people hope in their struggle for equitable treatment under the Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS).

Roger Misquidis, Dorothy Phipps-Walker and Peter Ogden, urban Aboriginal people from the Toronto and Hamilton areas, argued funding through the AHRDS is not fairly divided among the Aboriginal people who live in cities and those who live on reserves because it has failed to recognize urban native communities.

Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) provides \$330 million each year in support of the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy. The strategy is implemented through contribution agreements between Human Resources Development Canada and 79 separate AHRD agreements (AHRDA). Each of the 79 AHRDAs is responsible for designing, managing and funding labour market development initiatives for Aboriginal communities across the country. It is a highly decentralized program and although several of

the AHRDA holders have been able to develop partnerships with industry for training Aboriginal people at a local or regional level, there has never been an Aboriginal training initiative implemented at the national level.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) has just such a national training project, to be implemented in partnership with the Canadian Bus Association (CBA).

Intercity and charter bus services represent a \$ 236 million per year business in Canada from coast to coast. The industry employs more than 3,600 persons who are of an average age that is substantially above the national workplace norm. As such, the industry needs to recruit and train people to replace as many as 50 per cent of their drivers in the next five to 10 years.

Based on proven success in the province of Saskatchewan, the CAP has developed a National

Aboriginal Workplace Strategy that incorporates the lessons learned from past successes across Canada and has incorporated those lessons into a model for recruitment and training that will "make Aboriginal people ready for the workplace and the workplace ready for Aboriginal people."

The Misquidis decision has given organizations such as the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

and the Native Women's Association of Canada the opportunity to participate in the AHRDS process, contributing to a fairness for Aboriginal people, who had been previously excluded from the benefits and programs afforded by the AHRDS. Until 2002 they were controlled by the Metis National Council, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Assembly of First Nations.



Archival project documents 30 years of CAP achievements

The Congress of Aboriginal People's Archival Project is organizing more than 30 years of data on off-reserve Aboriginal peoples and their issues into a user-friendly database.

"This collection is probably unique in the world," CAP archivist Martin Dunn said. "Bits of it may be in other archives but there is nowhere else where it is captured in one place."

Launched by the Congress in 1998, the project tackled mountains of boxed materials, photographs, and videos that had been gathering dust since 1971, and which had barely survived several moves over the last decade.

"The story of the quest for recognition by off-reserve Aboriginal people was buried in those boxes," Dunn said, and now it is actually possible for people to access most of that data via our database."

The data documents the early campaign of Métis and Non-Status Indians to achieve social and economic equity in employment, housing, and education. The thousands of documents relating to land claims extracted from the National Archives between 1977 and 1980 are an important part of the collection, as are the transcripts of Constitutional Conferences on Aboriginal Matters between 1982 and 1992.

The struggle to reduce the discrimination against Indian women under the Indian Act, which led to the registration of more than 100,000 former "non-Status" Indians is documented in detail, as is the ongoing battle to achieve Aboriginal self-government.

Many if not most of the leadership in the early struggles are aging or already dead. Our archive will soon be the only source of information we will have on how they achieved their success," Dunn said."

Although not originally included in the project, one of the valuable contributions the project makes to CAP is the compilation and preparation of archive materials for specific initiatives. From background materials for briefings and proposals, to entire collections of binders for Supreme Court cases, the project has successfully responded to requests for information on demand.

Plans for the next year include completion of the cataloguing of program materials and a more in-depth cataloguing of binder contents.



Youth Intervenor comes on board

CAP is pleased to announce the hiring of Heather Pelky as youth intervenor for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

Heather comes from Spanish, Ontario where she worked as a project development coordinator for the Spanish Metis Association. Previously, she worked in Sault

Ste. Marie in housing, employment training programming and literacy.

She graduated from Sault College with a Liberal Studies diploma, and is currently working toward a degree in public administration at Ryerson University, Toronto.

The youth intervenor is responsible for promoting youth employment programs and assisting individuals, communities and AHRDA holders with the preparation of youth employment proposals. Heather will also be facilitating the work of the CAP national youth council and steering committee on youth issues and policy, as well as participating on the Federal-Provincial-Territorial and Aboriginal youth working group.

Heather is a strong advocate for education among Aboriginal people. She encourages youth to stay in school and be all they can be.



Heather Pelky



Employment a CAP priority

Spurring the creation of employment opportunities for off-reserve and non-status Aboriginal people is high on the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples' agenda.

That was the message delivered by Congress national chief Dwight Dorey to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy Renewal conference in Ottawa on March 14th.

In his presentation, chief Dorey said that the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy developed by the federal government has provided clear opportunities for many Aboriginal people to participate in the Canadian economy.

Renewed strategy

He pledged his organization's support for a renewed strategy when the current agreement expires in 2004, but said it needs to be more accommodating to more Aboriginal people. Currently, only three "national framework agreements" for Aboriginal employment creation through what are called Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements (AHRDAs) are in place, one each with the Assembly of First Nations, the Metis National Council and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

Chief Dorey called for a fourth framework agreement, with the

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, "one that focuses on the huge non-status Aboriginal population for which CAP has been the national advocate for more than 30 years."

Increased funding

"This would, of course, involve increased funding through the national strategy," he said, "but it would also serve to address the great inequity that currently exists and produce even more positive results that this program seeks to achieve."

He suggested that the Congress could help develop terms of reference and broker the negotiation of individual regional bilateral agreements to establish appropriate management structures and funding levels throughout the regions for the post-2004 period.

Add-on programs needed

Chief Dorey told the conference that some national programming is needed to augment Aboriginal employment efforts through the AHRDS at the regional and local levels, since no mechanisms currently exist to provide direct funding for national labour market interventions.

He said the Congress has developed such programs, one being its National Aboriginal Workplace Strategy, or NAWS.

Matching demand

And it's premised on the simplest possible notion of matching labour market demand to supply, by preparing the workplace for Aboriginal people and preparing the workplace to accommodate Aboriginal people.

"We have come to learn that employers need little encouragement to incorporate Aboriginal people into their employment and career planning," he said. "But they need appropriate tools and preparation to ready the workplace for Aboriginal people."

NAWS toolkit

He said the Congress has developed a NAWS toolkit for potential employers and Aboriginal employees to aid in the process. Chief Dorey said the Congress is already proving the merit of the strategy through some in initiatives being undertaken by some of his provincial associations, and through the launch of a national agreement with the Canadian Bus Association.

Chief Dorey also made reference to a memorandum of understanding between the Congress and a private sector company to demonstrate a new method of delivering labour market support services and getting Aboriginal people employed in selected communities and in conjunction with local Chambers of Commerce.

Radical idea

The idea behind the project is to introduce performance-based contracting to the federal government for the first time, demonstrating that those who design and deliver services are the best people to stand up to the plate and assume the risk associated with project management.

"It is a radical new idea that has huge implications for the way public funds are raised and spent," he said, "but we believe it is an idea whose time has come."

He said neither national initiative is designed to replace the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy, but rather to support the overall objective of creating employment for Aboriginal people.

CAP explores Jobwave partnership with B.C. Initiative

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is exploring a partnership with Jobwave of British Columbia to improve opportunities for urban employment training.

Jobwave is an employment program that promises employment and skills training solutions, as well as progressive, internet-based solutions to employment and hiring, and proprietary technology business solutions.

The program is a performance based model that focuses on small and medium sized businesses, which accounts for over 90% of Canada's jobs.

By bringing this Jobwave partnership to a national level, the CAP can bring employment and skills training to more urban Aboriginal people in Canada, having the resources and infrastructure already in place to

deliver services and programming at the regional level through affiliate provincial and territorial organizations.

It is hoped this partnership would help overcome the 'unique challenges faced by Aboriginal Canadians living in urban centers recognized by the federal government in its Canada Budget Plan of 2003. This recognition translated into 17 million dollars

over two years for cost shared pilot projects that explore better ways to serve the needs of Aboriginal people in urban centers. Along with this, 72 million dollars has been allocated to improve education outcomes for Aboriginal people to ensure they are provided with training and employment opportunities on major projects across Canada.



CAP National Youth Council probes Youth Justice Act

The CAP National Youth Council held a meeting November 4-5, 2002 in Ottawa to discuss the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, which came into force April 1, 2003. The meeting provided youth representatives information on the act and options for individual and community involvement in the renewal of youth justice.

Paula Kingston from the Department of Justice provided an overview of the new act and the importance of collaborative implementation of the legislation. Conrad Delarond, an RCMP investigator, gave moving first-hand accounts of young offenders facing the community and victims through Community Justice Forums.

Paula Marshall and Kari Gould from the Mi'kmaq Youth Options Program provided a presentation on MYOP and sentencing circles and discussed the lives of youth and how they reached the point of offending. Mary-Ann Arcand from

the Punky Lake Wilderness Camp gave an inspiring overview of the wilderness camp, how it was founded and the challenges that were faced in starting a youth justice project.

On the last day Mary-Ann and Paula teamed up and ran the youth group through a series of justice discussions, quizzes, surveys, personality tests and exercises on team-building and leadership. One youth said they expected "a lot of legal mumbo jumbo...it went above and beyond my expectations."



CAP National Youth Council with musician George Leach

*Back row - Randy Drover - Derek Boulette - George Leach - Jenna Burke
Front Row (on floor) - Robert Russell - Clifford Horseman - Marie-Angele Lamadeleine - Stephanie Bolger - Jamie Gallant*

Youth commented on the knowledge, skills and tools they now have to bring back to their communities to effect change in youth justice.

For meeting information and suggested actions on youth justice issues check the CAP web site at:

<http://www.abo-peoples.org/YouthPages/YJAreview/YJAintro.htm>

Aboriginal Issues Branch Gets New Director General

After eight months without a director general at the Aboriginal Issues Branch, the Correctional Service of Canada has hired Lisa Allgaier to fill the position.

Ms. Allgaier was the Director of Aboriginal Health at the BC Ministry of Health and has been a long-standing member of the John Howard Society, where she was president of the provincial association in BC for more than five years. Ms. Allgaier has a degree in social work and has worked primarily in health and healing. Ms. Allgaier is Swampy Cree from Manitoba.

Since Ms. Allgaier's appointment, regular meetings of the National Working Group on Aboriginal Corrections have resumed and work plans are being developed to support Aboriginal inmates return to society, influence policy development within the department and raise awareness on Aboriginal correctional issues.



Ms. Lisa Allgaier

Currently CSC is conducting an review of the Section 81 and Section 84 services. The

Congress, through this process, hopes to identify barriers to implementing S. 81 & S. 84

projects and facilitate development in those communities that wish to deliver correctional services.

One of the key objectives of the CAP Corrections Justice program is to promote opportunities for communities to become involved in corrections and to facilitate capacity development for the delivery of correctional services within Aboriginal communities.

In the upcoming year CAP will be working towards greater involvement with CSC program branches and enhanced liaison with the Commissioner, Executive Committee, Regional Headquarters, Aboriginal Community Development Officers and Institutions.

Anyone who would like further information or would like to provide input on corrections justice issues can contact Randy Martin – Corrections Justice Coordinator at the CAP office. Email; randy@abo-peoples.org



CAP addresses health care, Romanow Report

While off-reserve Aboriginal people have been mostly shut out of the federal and provincial governments' provision of health care services, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is taking steps to spur a more inclusive approach.

In January 2003, in Ottawa, Congress national chief Dwight Dorey appeared before a meeting of federal and provincial ministers of health, Hon. Anne McLellan, and Nova Scotia's Hon. Jane Purves, along with other national Aboriginal organizations, to push for the off-reserve case and to respond to the recommendations of the Romanow commission on health care.

Urban Natives excluded

Chief Dorey told the meeting that the largest number of Aboriginal people in Canada do not come under the provisions of the Indian Act, and are largely excluded from any benefits provided through Health Canada and provincial health jurisdictions.

"And yet, our people suffer from the same problems faced by our Aboriginal brothers and sisters living on Indian Act reserves," he said, listing diabetes, HIV/AIDS and malnutrition among them.

"These insidious evils are every bit as prevalent – often more so in urban, rural and remote areas – as they are within the boundaries of Indian Act reserves."

Jurisdictional squabbling

The national chief said that governments have to accept that these facts need to be recognized and accommodated if we are ever to seriously make a positive difference in ensuring that *all* Aboriginal people enjoy the same standards of good health and access to health care enjoyed by other Canadians. He said jurisdictional squabbling among governments must end and action must begin.

Chief Dorey noted that the Canadian Constitution recognizes and affirms the rights of Aboriginal peoples, and makes no reference to specific groups such as 'First Nations' people or Metis people living in specific parts of

the country. Neither is there any constitutional mention of political organizations, like the Assembly of first Nations, the Metis National Council, nor Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami.

But it's First Nations, Metis and Inuit, and their political organizations who have health care money and delivery mechanisms.

He said it's time to put artificial distinctions behind and identify the positive things that can be done to improve the well-being of Aboriginal Canadians through the health care system, "no matter what our status, where we live, or which political organization we associate with."

Romanow report

Chief Dorey congratulated former Saskatchewan premier Roy Romanow's health care commission on its commitment to find reasonable solutions to unreasonable problems.

He said that while the Congress may not fully agree with all the report's findings and recommendations, there are many things to be positive about as they relate to Aboriginal people.

He suggested some areas in which he sees a role for his organization, including the shaping of a health covenant for Canadians, the Health Council of Canada, and the Rural and Remote Access Fund.

CAP stands ready

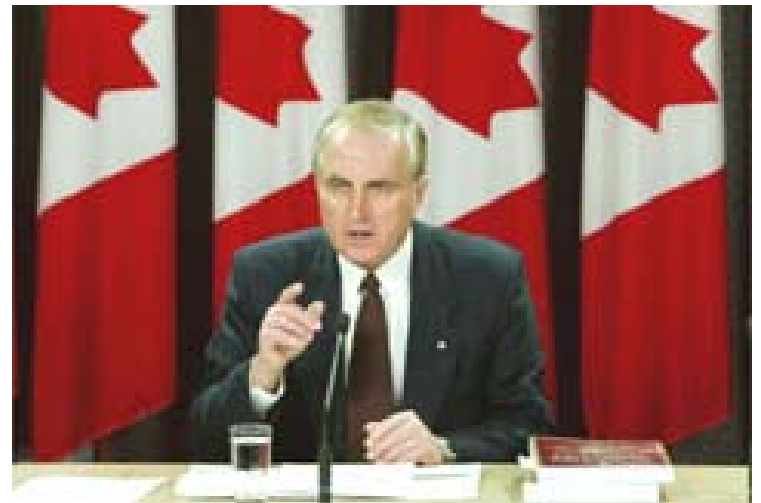
"I want to stress in the strongest possible terms that the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples stands ready right now to begin the necessary work to enter into Aboriginal health partnerships, with federal and provincial governments and with our Aboriginal colleagues," the national chief said.

He added that such partnerships – with core funding directed to

pooled, consolidated budgets – offer reasonable and rational mechanisms to improve the health of all Aboriginal people. He said this would present a clear opportunity to make progress on one of the country's most pervasive and perplexing problems.

"We owe it to the more than 1.3 million Aboriginal people living in

Canada today, and to the millions more who will follow in our footsteps," chief Dorey said. Nova Scotia health minister Jane Purves, in a letter to chief Dorey following the meeting, said she is very interested in hearing his views about what approaches should be taken to address health issues for Aboriginal people that are status and residency blind.



The Healing Has Begun

The response of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to resolutions of CAP's health related resolutions of the last Annual Assembly will be presented to the next CAP Board meeting.

CAP vice chief, Frank Palmater expects the Foundation's response before the end of May.

At the annual general assembly held in November 2002, five resolutions were passed in relation to future work on the subject. The assembly endorsed CAP's continuing advocacy for support and to undertake negotiations with the federal government to develop and implement a long-term healing strategy.

The assembly also called upon CAP to seek funding to establish a system of integrated healing centres for residential school survivors and their descendants.

In 2002 the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples undertook its first program funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

The project used a tradition-based, holistic approach to empower participants by providing awareness and support as they become engaged in addressing the legacy of the residential school system and its impact on Aboriginal people.

The healing foundation acknowledged that participation levels by Metis and unregistered Indians in its funded projects had not been adequate. It was the reason CAP sought to develop a positive relationship with the foundation and assist healing initiatives through community involvement.

CAP is committed to addressing the healing needs of Aboriginal people affected by the legacy of physical and sexual abuse in Residential Schools, including intergenerational impacts.



In conversation with nation

He was re-elected national chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples for a second three-year term of office in November 2002.

He has been at the forefront of Aboriginal public life for more than 25 years, and leads the national advocacy political organization that has worked to serve the interests of off-reserve Aboriginal people for more than 31 years.

In a candid interview with the Forgotten People, Dwight Dorey talks about his life, his views, and his hopes and aspirations for Aboriginal people in Canada.

fp - To begin with, can you tell us a little bit about your background?

Dwight - I was born and raised in a small community near New Germany, Nova Scotia which, prior to the Second World War, was in fact an Indian reserve, or a grant of land to the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia. However, the government sold it off prior to the war and the eventual registration of Indians took place in the Maritimes in 1956.

My mother was Mi'kmaq and my father was non-Aboriginal. Mom was entitled to be registered but arbitrarily was left off the registration list. So we were brought up realizing in some regards that we were Indian children, but in those days when I was a kid, especially in a community that was predominantly white - our family was the only Indians on this reserve land after it was sold off to what was referred to as squatters at that time - my father being depicted as a squatter. It wasn't popular to be Indian. In fact a lot of discrimination was attached to the label, so we suffered quite a bit.



fp - presumably that was the case at school as well?

Dwight - Yes, and it was a significant factor that led me to drop out of high school. I can't say it was the only factor but it was a significant one. It wasn't really blatant but I always felt it was there.

fp - how did you handle all that?

Dwight - Not very well, especially at a young age. My skin was a bit darker than most, and you feel some level of rejection because you're different. The people in the community around you start talking and you get labels, like "the Indian," and that sort of thing. It becomes a situation where, for the most part, one bears it and carries on, but it's always a hurtful thing. At home we were discouraged from talking about it because at the time our parents didn't really want it to be well known.

fp - so they were telling you not to be Indian, in effect?

Dwight - More or less. It was one of those things where at an early age we were never really informed of it. It's only when questions start arising. I do remember on occasion when my mother's relatives - a big carload of them started arriving from Shubenacadie on a Sunday afternoon, to spend the day. But they just never talked about it much.

fp - Your parents probably felt it as a result of the mixed marriage they were in, which wasn't as common in those days as it is today.

Dwight - Ironically, one of the situations that developed was that when the (reserve) land was sold off to the squatters - my father being one - the end result was that our land was taken from my mother as a Mi'kmaq, and the government made my father pay for it! And to this day, we've never been able to put a claim in to the department of Indian Affairs because of the policy, which restricts claims to bands or reserves that are already acknowledged.

Anyway, it's been one of those things that as I got older, the curiosity became more dominant. In fact, in the early 70s when the non status and

Metis organization in Nova Scotia was getting set up with the help of the Native Council of Canada (now CAP), my Mom got invited to a meeting to participate in forming this new organization. She and a number of my older sisters got involved. At that time, I also learned of the Ontario Metis and Non-Status Indian Association, and joined as a member of the Toronto local.

It was in the spring of 1977 and I was living in Toronto, working in the transportation industry in management. My Mom and my sister Darlene called on me to run for an executive position back home, because they were in dire need of people with managerial experience to get involved in what was then the Non Status Indian and Metis Organization of Nova Scotia (now Native Council of Nova Scotia).

fp - when did you leave Nova Scotia?

Dwight - I left when I was 17. I was just a couple of months into my grade eleven year when I had reached the end of my

rope. I was fortunate that I had several older brothers and sisters living in Toronto. I stayed with them for a short period until I got work and went out on my own. I ended up living in Toronto for twelve years.

fp - so it was through your mother and sisters that you started getting your political experience, and you ran for what position?

Dwight - I ran for vice president of the organization and got elected.

fp - and that was the lynch-pin for all that followed?

Dwight - Pretty much, but at the time I knew virtually nothing about my own background and culture, so it was a major learning curve for me in the first couple of years. And at that time our term of office was only for a year but I got reelected for five years, and that was when I began to realize how important education was to me in that position.

So then I went through the GED process and got my grade twelve and shortly after that in the early 80s.

(Continued at top of next page)



nal Chief Dwight A. Dorey

Then I ran for the national vice president's position at the Native Council of Canada and got elected for a two-year term. Then I was encouraged by Professor Vic Valentine at Carleton University to consider applying for the Master's Degree program. I eventually started taking classes and it took some time, but nine years later I got my degree in 1993. By this time I went back to Nova Scotia where I was elected Vice Chief, then Chief and President, and held that position for a number of years at the Native Council of Nova Scotia.

fp - you came back to Ottawa after that and worked at the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples as a senior policy advisor, but then you were elected national chief in the spring of 2000, and then last November got re-elected. What drove you to run for national office?

Dwight - I had aspirations for quite a number of years, realizing that to be national leader one needs a fair bit of experience, wisdom and understanding of the characteristics of leadership, having served on the national board and participated in many annual general assemblies. So I spoke with a number of people over the years, who encouraged me to consider the national level. And, my work as a senior policy advisor to CAP also helped position me for a leadership run.

fp - so you've had a few years under your belt at the national level and here we are in the new millennium and you have about a three year mandate. The most recent census showed that about 78 per cent of Aboriginal people don't live on reserves, don't come under the Indian Act and don't benefit too much from the reported \$7.4 billion spent on Aboriginal people. What are some of the things government should do to address this situation?

Dwight - The first thing is to pull their heads out of the sand and recognize the reality that the Aboriginal population is growing at a much faster rate than the non-Aboriginal population, and within that Aboriginal population, the fastest growing numbers are those who are moving away from reserves.

There's a real issue here that the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples predicted would happen. Now the next step is to start looking at their own policies and the current legislation and take stock of it in respect of the limits it has in providing services and entitlements that flow from Aboriginal and treaty rights. They have to start making changes to the legislation and their policies with respect to the Aboriginal population.

fp - but that's just it: they keep claiming constitutional barriers that prevent them from providing direct delivery to off-reserve Aboriginal people, saying it's the responsibility of the provinces and it's been a continuing battle between the two levels of government over who is responsible. That has been a significant barrier, has it not?

Dwight - Yes, but only because they allow it to be a barrier. I look at any issue that relates to Canadians in general - it could be health care, education, housing, whatever. The federal and provincial governments under our constitution determine what's provincial jurisdiction and what's federal jurisdiction. And when the need is there, they will come to terms with the issues and resolve them.

We can take transfer payments as an example. There have always been issues of transfer payments for these kinds of basic services and the provinces always want more and the federal government is reluctant to pay. But they come together and hash it out, because it's of enough importance to the provinces to force the issue.

Our situation is a little bit different. The way I look at it, under Section 91.24 - the part of the British North America Act that refers to the fiduciary responsibilities for Indians and lands reserved for Indians on the federal government's plate - but I see it more as a Crown responsibility, given the fact that we as Aboriginal peoples had special rights as occupiers and users of the land since time immemorial. Things like the British North America Act and treaties that followed. In the case of my (Mi'kmaq) people, pre-Confederation treaties acknowledged that we have a special place and a special right.

But the government proceeded to divvy up the core responsibilities of the country into federal and provincial jurisdictions and they never really took us into account. So I always take the position it's a Crown fiduciary responsibility, and what has to happen to avoid this tossing back and forth of this jurisdictional ball, is acceptance that they are both responsible. They, collectively, are the Crown, and it's my contention that they have to come together, take it seriously and resolve it. Short of that it's going to take a Supreme Court decision to declare who has the jurisdiction and the responsibility.

Unfortunately we have a situation where neither the provinces nor the feds appear to want to have the issue properly resolved, even by the Supreme Court. Otherwise, we'd get a reference by one or the other.

fp - why is that so?

Dwight - I don't know. Money I guess. Whatever the reason it leaves them both in the convenient position where they, for the most part, can blame each other and nothing happens.

fp - you will remember, through the Trudeau government and into the Mulroney government, the Constitutional conferences on Aboriginal matters, with the provinces and feds getting together, and not a whole lot of progress was made. And now, more recently, they've got the Federal, Provincial/Territorial, Aboriginal leaders' conferences, attempting to come to grips with some of these issues. Do you think it's going to have any more chance of success?

(Continued on next page)





In conversation with nation

(Continued from previous page)

Dwight - Well, I always try to take an optimistic view when new initiatives get started and the focus is on our people. Such is the case with the FPTA process.

We are making some progress; some of our issues are being dealt with. The unfortunate reality there is that they're just taking small bites, and I go back to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. RCAP made something like over 400 recommendations, and a lot of them are big ticket items that need to be looked at, such as a redesigning of the department of Indian Affairs in such a way that it would address some of the jurisdictional issues and fiduciary issues, and go somewhat further than the current legislation.

Those are the things that the federal government today, after 10 years, still seems reluctant to tackle, and I say that it's time to take on some of these harder issues. If not take the RCAP to the letter on their recommendations, to come up with something that's not too far off the mark or is relative to the issues that RCAP was trying to address.

fp -do you think the FPTA process is the way to go with that, or do we have to take it up a notch to the premiers and the prime minister level, like the FMC process did?

Dwight - It's a combination of both. We can't as Aboriginal leaders just limit ourselves to a one-play game; we have to have several different strategies in mind and be working at all levels. It's a constant work-in-progress.

At the bureaucratic level we have to continually educate them and try to get them to realize that these are issues that are in everybody's best interests that they start being resolved.

At the political level it goes right to the Prime Minister. Nevertheless, we have problems that are inherent in our system. While we may be the best country in the world, we still have problems in the way our system operates and the way we're governed. The fact that our current Prime Minister established a Ministerial reference group was positive in itself but unfortunately it didn't get too far. So we never really got to accomplish very much with them before they dissolved the group.

But what leads to that is predominantly the arbitrary divisions that have been forced upon us for years, which is the Indian Act legislation itself. The ongoing struggle for adequate resources to address our own issues from all sides is another one.

We often find ourselves scrambling after the same dollar and that's the unfortunate aspect of the way we're organized and the way we operate. It's hard to overcome.

Putting that aside, we have regional differences, disparities, priorities, as there are in general in Canada. We as Aboriginal people scattered across

the country, fall into that same category. Combine that with the fact that with some of our First Nations people the tribal differences were historically at odds, and in fact, enemies of each other. So even in spite of the fact that we're somewhat more of a homogeneous community of Aboriginal peoples throughout the country, these old divisions to some degree still remain.

There's a lot to be said with respect to our history and how it relates to the different current (Aboriginal political) organizations that have been created, and it is difficult for all of us to come together just as it is for all Canadians.

I remember during the constitutional (conferences) days when I was actively involved. We would get openly questioned by federal and provincial leaders, saying why can't you Aboriginal people come together? That was when there were four national Aboriginal organizations.

My response always was, when you, the Liberals, the Tories and the NDP, when you all can come together and agree, then you can expect us to. That's the sad reality we have to deal with.

fp - On a related note, a few months back, the Assembly of First Nations passed a resolution stating that they, and not the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, represent off-reserve registered Indians. What's your response to that?

Dwight - Well, I ask the question, what are they doing for them? One

(Continued at top of next page)



fp - do you think that any of the Aboriginal groups themselves have been responsible for any of the problems created - national Aboriginal organizations and others?

Dwight - One can argue that the most significant point on that question is that we very seldom come together and collectively strategize on some of these important issues to our people. That, without a doubt in my mind, is a shortcoming on our part.



nal Chief Dwight A. Dorey

(Continued from previous page)

can claim just about anything in this country. We're in a free society: I can claim just about anything I want - the AFN can. But what are they doing for the people; what service are they providing? That's the question I would ask. And, are those organizations really acceptable to the off-reserve people; is there real, effective participation? I don't see it, but I do with our organization.

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and its constituent member organizations around the country are off-reserve people who are involved, who are participating and large numbers of them are registered, are status Indians. I myself am a registered band member, but I've been living off-reserve for most of my life and that's the case with many of our people. And they tend to come to our organization because for more than 30 years we've been not only claiming to represent but we've been providing services to the people, although quite limited in respect to other service provided to on-reserve people our organizations have for 30 years been the service providers to off reserve people and it remains that way today.

I don't get bothered too much over claims that the AFN might be making. I know the reality.

fp - you used the words "service providers," rather than "representative." Is that really the way we are going with this whole Aboriginal thing? Does it really matter who represents whom, or is it more a case of who provides what to whom?

Dwight - As a leader, my view has always been that that is not critical. Who represents whom, or who is a member of what group or organization isn't the issue, although people often try to make it the issue. I say it's providing the service to people in need. It doesn't matter to me who does it, but somebody has to take it on. The difference between CAP and the AFN is that we take it on and they don't. I am no less inclined to provide a service that I can to a status Indian off reserve than I am to a non-status or Metis person.

fp - which is why you always claim your policies are status and residency-blind?

Dwight - That's correct.

fp - you have participated in Indian Affairs minister Robert Nault's governance consultations on Bill C-7 and have run into some criticism for doing so. Why did you do it, and what do you see in this proposed legislation that you like and don't like?

Dwight - First of all, it goes back to the point we were just talking about - providing services to people. You know, I don't look at this as clubs or organizations, with memberships and this kind of thing. We are supposedly organized in our respective positions to provide services to people.

The governance legislation is one that predominantly addresses issues of off-reserve peoples' right to participate in community (band) governance. But the ability to participate and exercise that right is critical.

A right, in my view, is useless, unless you have the ability and the capacity to exercise that right.

So that's what this law is about. It's ensuring that the mechanisms are put in place that will guarantee that off-reserve registered Indians will be able to exercise the right they have.

The other thing is, people in a democratic society have a right to be informed, so it's also an issue of accountability. They need to be informed about what their government is doing, how they're dealing with issues that impact upon them. It could be the disposition of reserve lands, or assets of the band, over and above just program delivery and that sort of thing.

fp - you don't see the concern some people have about accountability, that's it's just as way of "keeping Indians in line," so to speak?

Dwight - Well everyone has their own agenda. But I look at the whole issue more as accountability to the people that the money is provided to serve. There is, without any question in my mind, an issue where in the past many Indian bands have not been accountable to their own people as to expenditures, and I believe this legislation goes a long way to ensure that. That's something I am totally behind and very supportive of, even to the objection of many of the band chiefs.

fp - there are something like 660 band chiefs and councils. Do you think they are universally against the governance legislation?

Dwight - Oh heck, no. I think there are a significant number of chiefs and band councils across the country who are in favour of this legislation and the direction that it's going.

I certainly don't want to paint all the bands across the country with the same brush because there are many of them that are accountable. We've known for years that a lot of bands in the country, some even in my home province of Nova Scotia, have been operating under custom rule, and they have been allowing the full participation of off-reserve members.

Many of those off-reserve members are in fact serving on band councils and employed by the bands. But there's a lot more work that needs to be done on that, and a long way to go to ensure full accountability of the bands, particularly with respect to the expenditure of money in the communities.

(Continued on page 15)





CAP Governance recommendations

(Continued from Page 3)

We recommend that more direction be given to bands in allowing/disallowing the off-reserve members' right to vote. A system is needed where both on and off-reserve members will decide upon how to effectively balance these rights to limit future Charter challenges.

4. Wide powers of the Minister in intervening in band affairs with respect to potential financial difficulties of a band.

The Minister instructed the JMAC

that he wanted his role and that of the Governor-in-Council diminished.

S.10(3) *FNGA* gives the Minister great discretionary powers to intervene in band affairs if he considers it necessary when carrying out an assessment of a band's financial position.

Currently, INAC's policy requires:

- The preparation of a remedial management plan;
- An appointment of co-managers; and

- An appointment of third party managers.

Courts may conclude that the wide power of the Minister, without definable limits is inconsistent with s.35 of the Constitution.

CAP recommends that the discretionary powers of the Minister in the *FNGA* be clearly defined and that monies subject to interference not include treaty entitlements that are protected by s.35 of the *Constitution*.

5. *FNGA* confers broad search and seizure powers.

Under *FNGA*, a band enforcement officer can enter any place, any time, carry out any inspection, copy and remove any document. There is no requirement of a "probable suspicion." S.8 of the *Charter* states that searches must be reasonable and reasonable searches must be warranted.

In these circumstances, the officer's powers arise for the purpose of verifying compliance with a band law. There is no requirement that the band officer

(Continued at top of next page)

CAP Mentor Program - Where We're At

Last year the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples initiated its mentor program, with the goal of partnering successful Aboriginal artists with Aboriginal youth. Today the program is thriving and getting ready to expand to a national level within the year.

George Leach, the talented, award-winning blues rocker was the first mentor to participate in the program. On several occasions he met with kids, signed autographs, answered questions and distributed copies of his CD *Just Where I'm At*, compliments of CAP. Most recently, the Odawa Native Friendship Centre Youth Group attended George Leach's concert at the Canadian Museum of Civilization and were delighted to meet with him and pose for pictures backstage.

Through CAP's program, **Chantal Kreviazuk**, internationally famous Canadian singer songwriter, met backstage at her National Arts Centre performance with young Aboriginal television producer **Victor Linklater** from *First Music & Arts* to discuss her Aboriginal roots and the value of mentorship.

The program has grown to include successful Aboriginal role models from a variety of professions.



Mentor program co-ordinator, Joycelyn Rheaume (second from right) discusses possibilities with CAP youth.

Blake AuCoin is an Ottawa firefighter who gives guided tours of his station and talks about firefighting as a career.

Claude Latour is a visual artist who welcomes aspiring painters into his studio on Saturdays and teaches them about framing and marketing their work.

John Bernard is the CEO of high tech firm Donna Cona who will be speaking to youth groups about the information technology field.

Fred Cattroll is a well-established photographer who gives the kids hands-on experiences in photography.

Val St.Germain is a professional football player with the CFL who will be meeting kids on the field after each Ottawa Renegades game in the 2003 season.

The program is being pilot tested in Ottawa, national headquarters for the Congress. In the next year, the mentor program is aiming to expand to one-on-one encounters between mentors & youth throughout Canada.

Cyberspace Mentor

CAP has begun an **Internet mentor** component to reach out to youth from all across Canada immediately via cyberspace.

Anyone looking for advice or who has questions for our current mentors, can send them to capmentor@sprint.ca.

Questions will be sent out to the appropriate mentor and responded to on an individual basis — a great way for youth to connect with and benefit from the advice of mentors who are not in their hometown.

The Internet address may also be used by anyone with questions or comments about the mentor program in general, or for those interested in becoming a mentor. Look for our new "**Mentor of the Month**" features on CAP's Web site, with biographical information about the mentor and frequently asked questions with answers posted for all to read.

CAP's Web site will provide links to all of the mentors' web sites for youth to keep up to date with their activities.

Want to get with the program? We'd love to hear from you.

Contact us :

By phone : (613) 747 0309

email : capmentor@sprint.ca

website : www.abo-peoples.org



propose key amendments to Committee

(Continued from previous page)

have any suspicion that a band law is being violated, let alone a reasonable or probable suspicion. It is our view that the search and seizure powers are far too broad and could be subject to abuse.

CAP therefore recommends that further consultations take place with respect to amending the by-law making powers, including the search and seizure powers because of the potential Charter challenges it may entail.

6. There is a clear lack of an independent institution to perform various tasks previously held by the Minister and Governor-in-Council.

The notion of an independent institution carrying out various tasks facilitating governance practices has been one that Aboriginal people have been striving for but with no success. It is a notion that Aboriginal people see as a vehicle promoting good governance and limiting interference from INAC in their internal affairs.

JMAC recommended that the Minister establish an independent institution to carry out the activities the Minister held under the *Indian Act* to diminish his role as much as possible, given the current mandate.

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended that the federal government, in co-operation with national Aboriginal organizations, establish an Aboriginal institution.

If the intent of the Department and the Minister is to implement this legislation as an interim step leading towards self-government, then it is imperative that an independent institution be created to achieve these goals. Furthermore, an office of an ombudsperson is also needed to perform the duties of hearing complaints from band members against band councils. This is especially needed for the off-reserve members who have too often been treated differently and in discriminatory ways by their band councils. The ombudsperson would offer band mem-

bers an effective and inexpensive recourse against unfair decisions or discriminatory actions by band councils.

To this day, the only recourse against these types of actions is to appear before the courts and

It is certainly not our preferred approach to the many issues brought upon us by the *Indian Act*, but the reality is that this piece of legislation is the only option on the table at the moment and when given the opportunity to

that once an Aboriginal person leaves the "reserve community", this person basically loses most rights of being an Aboriginal person. A question we often ask ourselves is why are we continuously being exposed to outdated colonial ways of thinking and oppressed by federal legislation in the twenty-first century?

But this broader issue is not part of the Minister's mandate at this time and we, as an organization and as Peoples understand that. However, we believe that it is worth mention and important to note that issues such as membership/citizenship, nation recognition, potential models of self-government in urban settings and new band creation amongst others, should become the government's priorities in the coming years for reform in order to give tangible meaning to s.35 of the *Constitution*. After all, it is simply a question of fairness!

We have offered this Committee, recommendations for your review and consideration in the hope that you will make some positive changes to the proposed Bill.

We have outlined problems and shortcomings within certain sections of the proposed Bill in respect to future potential *Charter* challenges that can be avoided by the power this Committee has in effecting change.

As the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada once stated,

"Let's us face it, we are all here to stay". It is precisely those words that our organization believes in, that the only way to effect positive change in this country for all Aboriginal Peoples is to work in partnership with governmental departments and other Canadians.

In order for our People to benefit, we at the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples must participate and contribute, and we will continue doing so in the years to come to work towards our common purpose. Wela'lin.

Off-Reserve Poised to Contribute

The Governance initiative, Bill C-7, has just finished its second phase of information sessions across Canada. Partnering with the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, the Government of Canada has proposed amendments to the Indian Act that seeks to update election codes, leadership selection, band membership and financial accountability. The Bill, having been sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee after its first reading, is now awaiting the recommendations of the Standing Committee. While the Congress does not fully endorse the Governance Bill, C-7 in its entirety, it has seen a positive response from shared information centers held in urban areas across Canada. Many of the common issues raised in the information sessions were the lack of mobility rights from reserves to off reserve, membership control over future descendants and access to programs and services off – reserve. With court decisions such as the Corbiere decision and the Misquadis decision allowing for off-reserve aboriginal people access to reserve voting and ARHDA programs, They can participate and benefit in their community programs and services.

the clear downfall to this process for Aboriginal people is that it is time consuming, expensive and has shown to be ineffective because of the lack of knowledge from many courts to Aboriginal law and Aboriginal issues.

CAP recommends the creation of an independent institution with an office of an ombudsperson, as recommended by the JMAC, RCAP and other Aboriginal organizations in the past to perform the duties facilitating, implementing and effectively achieving good governance practices. These are the recommendations we offer this Committee for your review and consideration to effect positive changes.

How does the CAP view this Bill?

participate in such reform, we must address the needs of our constituents and fully participate.

Otherwise, we wouldn't be doing ourselves any justice for which we have been organized to do over the past 30 years. The political and social reality affecting Aboriginal people in this country is based by and large on the *Indian Act* and the reserve system. Programs and services are aimed at the reserve communities. Aboriginal rights do not stem from reserve communities, and this Bill affects on-reserve members of bands as well as those off-reserve.

Aboriginal people in this country are the only citizens who do not have mobility rights. This means



CAPonline quadruples visitors to site

CAPonline, the Web site of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, has quadrupled its numbers of visitors from 3,000 to 12,000 per month since March 2003.

"It's often hard to know exactly why people come to any given site, but in this case, I think, it because we are now offering downloadable pdf files on a range of Aboriginal issues." Martin Dunn, site manager said, "People want more than corporate hornblowing -- they want useful information."

With more than two million hits since its inception in 1997, the site provides information on off-reserve Aboriginal people that is not available anywhere else on the Web.

"The site has more than 400 pages now," says Dunn, "and we are working hard to make it easier to navigate."

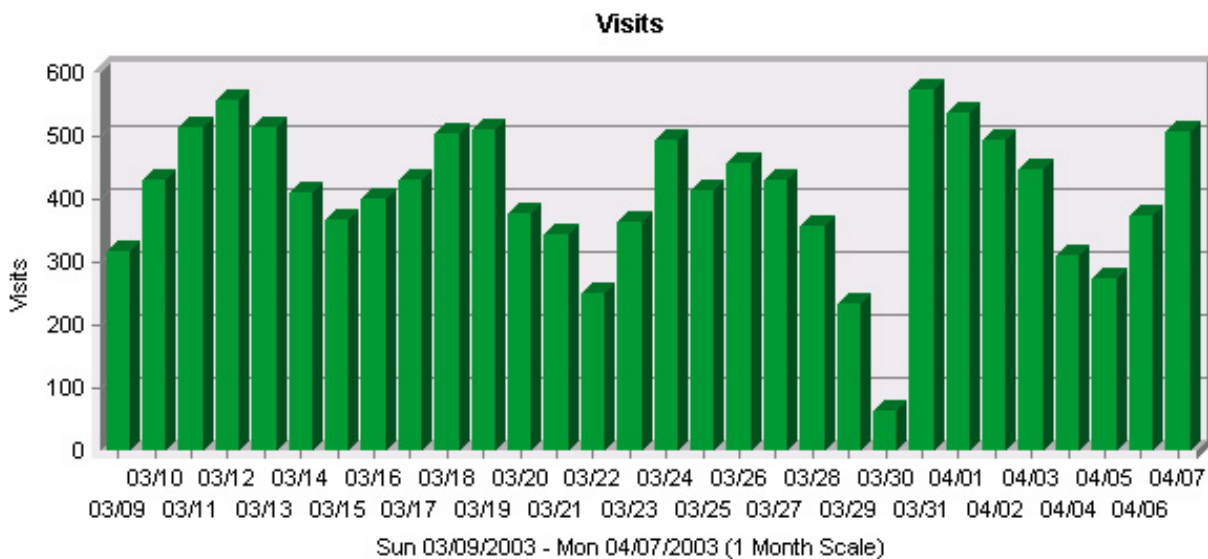
A site index was recently added that makes it possible to go directly to specific information instead of having to surf through layers of directories.



Many of the longer articles and documents on the site - including

this and past issues of The Forgotten People — are now available for download in Adobe PDF format.

Interest in off-reserve issues multiplying by the month



"We want CAP online to be more than just a digital billboard for the organization," Dunn said. "We are doing our best within the resources we have to provide our visitors with solid information from an off-reserve Aboriginal perspective."

The site also offers annotated links to more than 500 other Aboriginal Web sites. They are categorized by topic and updated as frequently as possible.

A Web site analysis program *WebTrends* - is used to independently track how visitors use the site. CAPonline attracts between 140,000 and 180,000 hits a month from more than 30,000 different visitors, who spend an average of 11 minutes on the site. Most visit on weekdays with the heaviest traffic in the mid morning and mid-afternoon, indicating that many are using the site in the context of their work.

Oddly enough more than 50 per cent of CAP's web site visitors are from other countries. Most are from the United States, but others include France, Australia, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Occasional visitors drop in from Japan, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Qatar.

General Statistics		The most visited CAPonline pages			
Hits Entire Site (Successful)	216,252	Pages	Views	% of Total	VisitsAvg.
Average	7,208	1 - Main Menu	2,607	10.28%	2,396
Home Page	2,250	http://www.abo-peoples.org/mainmenu.html			
Page Views		2 - Welcome	2,250	8.87%	1,809
Page Views (Impressions)	25,344	http://www.abo-peoples.org/			
Average Per Day	844	3 - Programs	834	3.29%	764
Document Views	25,280	http://www.abo-peoples.org/programs/			
Visits		4 - Native Links	793	3.12%	718
Visits	12,291	http://www.abo-peoples.org/NativeLinks/NativeLinks.html			
Average Per Day	409	5 - What's New	655	2.58%	612
Average Visit Length	00:10:01	http://www.abo-peoples.org/whatsnew.html			
Median Visit Length	00:02:17				
International Visits	15.45%				
Visits of Unknown Origin	51.50%				
Visits from United States	33.04%				
Visitors					
Unique Visitors	5,786				
Visitors Who Visited Once	4,438				
Visitors Who Visited More Than Once	1,348				



The most visited CAPonline pages

<u>Pages</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>VisitsAvg.</u>
6 - CAP Profile http://www.abo-peoples.org/background/	531	2.09%	478
7 - Indian Act / Bill C-31 http://www.abo-peoples.org/programs/C-31/c-31.html	438	1.72%	389
8 - Affiliates and PTOs http://www.abo-peoples.org/affiliates/	424	1.67%	375
9 - Contact Information http://www.abo-peoples.org/contact.html	359	1.41%	348
10 - Special Features http://www.abo-peoples.org/Features/special.html	344	1.35%	328
11- Urban Native Housing http://www.abo-peoples.org/programs/housing.html	336	1.32%	324
12 - Site Index http://www.abo-peoples.org/SiteIndex.htm	328	1.29%	315
13 - CAP faq http://www.abo-peoples.org/CAPfaq.html	343	1.35%	312

Summary of Activity for March 2003

Average Number of Visits per Day on Weekdays	458
Average Number of Hits per Day on Weekdays	8,383
Average Number of Visits per Weekend	530
Average Number of Hits per Weekend	8,039
Most Active Day of the Week	Monday
Least Active Day of the Week	Saturday
Most Active Date	March 18, 2003
Number of Hits on Most Active Date	10,146
Least Active Date	March 30, 2003
Number of Hits on Least Active Date	607
Most Active Hour of the Day	15:00-15:59
Least Active Hour of the Day	04:00-04:59

Editor's Note: *The statistics and charts on these pages relate to the users of CAPonline and are generated by Webtrends, an independent commercial internet utility.*

In conversation with Dwight Dorey - conclusion

(Continued from page 11)

fp - on another front, we've seen some pretty inflammatory statements coming from some Aboriginal leaders. You don't seem to be that kind of leader. What's your style of doing business as a national chief?

Dwight - I try to be non-confrontational in my approach to issues. My upbringing and background leads me to believe that the vast majority of people - I don't care what walk of life they come from or what their cultural background is — are fair, honest and open and that's the way I like to first approach other people I'm dealing with.

Having said that, I will call a spade a spade when it's required and I don't shy away from that, but that's not my initial approach to people - it's open, honest, fair and friendly.

fp - what are your three top priorities as national chief over the next three years?

Dwight - Employment is a priority because there are just too many

of our people who are at the low end of the social ladder in this country and it's often related to their lack of a job or their equality of income.

Health is another because of the epidemic proportions of diabetes, and, of course, along with that is housing. Overall, what I try to focus on is quality of life of our people. It is considerably lower than the quality of life of Canadians in general.

There have been efforts for years to try addressing that and I believe we have a long way to go there. That is also why I am so heavily engaged in developing and Aboriginal urban strategy.

So it's the day-to-day issues of our people where I think the focus has to be for all Aboriginal people.

fp - on a personal level you've got a pretty high profile and a high stress job. What do you do to counter the daily strains that you're faced with every day?

Dwight - I just run and hide sometimes. No, seriously, getting some quality time with my family and friends is important. I also try to exercise in one form or another as much as I can. It's something I've only started to realize in later years how important exercise is, not only to our physical well-being, but our mental well-being. So I do a bit of cycling, walking and so on. And then I do a little bit of painting, artwork and music to take the blues away, as they say.

fp - last question. We've talked about the kinds of things that need to be done and what needs to change for Aboriginal people. Looking ahead, what do you think the future holds for Aboriginal people in this country?

Dwight - That depends somewhat on a lot of things, obviously to a considerable degree on the leadership within the various organizations, on the government, who is in power, what their priorities are.

But you know, I would say optimistically, that it's not looking

too bad. When I look back to the way things were when I first got involved 25 years ago, I would conclude that we've come a fair way, and have made significant inroads and have had successes on many fronts.

At the same time, when I look at the current status today, with the recent census report, which still shows the quality of life for too many of our people is still way below many other Canadians - employment, diabetes, a lot of our people are street people, and all these other issues - these indicators tell me that we've still got a lot to do and a long way to go in many areas. So the future for us is a lot more work.

We need to keep our noses to the grindstone and remain focused on these kinds of issues, realizing that the system sometimes moves very slowly, that changes sometimes take years, but we have to be persistent and keep the struggle on.

"People will get a better picture of this if they read our book coming out this summer, "The Aboriginal Peoples Movement Off-reserve."



Keeping Hope Alive!

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national organization that has worked to serve the interests and protect the rights of off-reserve Aboriginal people throughout Canada for more than 31 years.

Under its banner, "Keeping Hope Alive," the Congress works with governments, the private sector and

others for the betterment of Aboriginal peoples' lives.

- The Congress is actively engaged in creating employment opportunities for Aboriginal people through its National Aboriginal Workplace Strategy.

- The Congress is engaging Aboriginal children and youth through the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy,

and through its mentoring program.

- The Congress is working to improve the health of Aboriginal Canadians, particularly through the Canadian Diabetes Strategy and a Type 2 diabetes prevention program.

- The Congress is encouraging greater participation by off-reserve Aboriginal

people in governance, and to protect their fundamental rights as band members.

- The Congress also works on behalf of Aboriginal people on issues of environmental protection, ecology and wildlife, international affairs, and constitutional and legal matters.

Affiliates of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

<p>Aboriginal Council of Saskatchewan President: Janice Henry Contact person: Janice Henry Phone: (306) 763-4570 103D 655 28th Street, West Cell: (306) 961-5583 Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Fax: (306) 764-5767 S6V 5R1 Email: janicehenry_1@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Federation of Newfoundland Indians President: Brendan Sheppard Contact Person: Annie Randall bsheppard@nf.sympatico.ca Phone: (709) 634-0996 Vice Presidents: Calvin Francis Ted Muise Fax: (709) 634-0997 PO Box 956 Email: annie@fni.nf.ca Corner Brook, Newfoundland Web site: www.fni.nf.ca A2H 6J3</p>	<p>Native Council of Nova Scotia Chief & President: Grace Conrard Contact person: Theresa Hare PO Box 1320 Phone: (902)- 895 -1523 324 Abenaki Road Truro, Nova Scotia Fax: (902) -895- 0024 B2N 5N2 Email: core@ncns.ns.ca Web site: www.ncns.ednet.ns.ca</p>
<p>Labrador Metis Nation President: Todd Russell Contact person: Shirley Pye PO Box 460 Station C Phone: (709) 896- 0592 Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Fax: (709) 896 0594 Labrador A0P 1C0 Email: trussell@labmetis.org Web site: www.labmetis.org</p>	<p>Alliance Autochtone du Québec Inc. Grand Chief/President: Fern Chalifoux Contact person: Luc Lacroix 21 rue Brodeur Street Hull, Quebec Phone: (819) 770-7763 J8Y 2P6 Fax: (819) 770-6070 Email: allianceautochtone@videotron.ca Web site: www.allianceautochtone.com</p>	<p>United Native Nations Society President: George Holem Contact Person: Losa Luifoa Vice-President: Lillian George Phone: (604) 688-1821- ext 121 110-425 Carrall Street Vancouver, British Columbia 1-800-555-9756 V6B 6E3 Fax: (604) 688-1823 Email: unn@unns.bc.ca Web site: www.unns.bc.ca</p>
<p>Native Council of Prince Edward Island President and Chief: Jason Knockwood Contact person: Jamie Gallant Vice President: Nora Richard Phone: (902) 892-5314 6FJ McAuley Court Charlottetown, Fax: (902) 368-7464 Prince Edward Island Email: admin@ncpei.com C1A 9M7 Web site: www.ncpei.com</p>	<p>New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council Chief: Betty Ann Lavallée Contact person: Betty Ann Lavallée 320 St. Mary's Street Fredericton, Phone: (506) 458-8422/23 New Brunswick, E3A 2S4 Fax: (506) 451-6130 Email: blavallee@nbapc.org Web site: www.nbapc.org</p>	<p>National Youth Representative Jamie Gallant Phone: (902) 892-5314 Fax: (902) 368-7464 6FJ McAuley Court Charlottetown, Email: Jamie@ncpei.com Prince Edward Island Web site: www.ncpei.com C1A 9M7</p>
<p>Ontario Metis Aboriginal Association President: Mike McGuire Contact person: Leslie Gisborn Vice-President: Henry Wetelainen Phone: (705) 946-5900 452 Albert Street East 2nd Floor - 1-800-423-3361 Sault Ste Marie, Ontario Fax: (705) 946-1161 P6A 2J8 Email: leslie@omaa.org</p> <p>Satellite Office OMAA D.C. Thunder Bay 700 Victoria Ave. Unit E Contact person: Mary Ann Seabrook Victoriaville, Mall Phone: (807) 623-1930 Thunder Bay, Ontario - 1-800-935-1460 P7C 5P7 Fax: (807) 623-1931 Web site: www.omaa.org</p>	<p>Native Council of Canada (Alberta) President: Doris Ronnenberg Contact person: Richard Long Provincial Office Lower Floor Phone: (780) 481-2241 14922-102 Avenue NW Edmonton, Alberta Email: ncca@telusplanet.net T5N 3V9</p> <p>Mailing Address Message Center 10426-124th Street Phone: (780) 917-1203 Edmonton, Alberta Fax: (780) 488- 2741 T5N 1R6</p>	<p>Indian Council of First Nations of Manitoba Grand Chief: Andrew Kirkness Contact Person: Janet Head Vice-chief: Glen Mclvor PO Box 10299 Phone: (204) 623-7227 Opaskwayak, Manitoba Fax: (204) 623-4041 R0B 2J0 Email: jhead@mts.net</p>