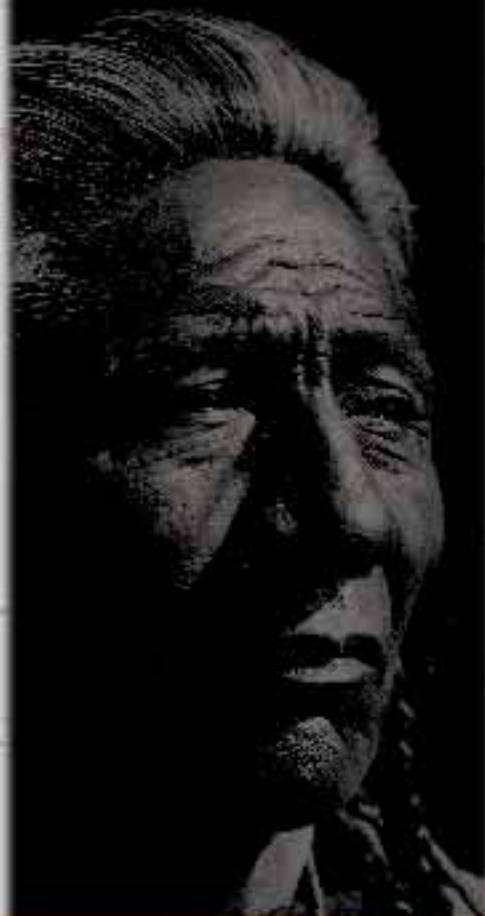


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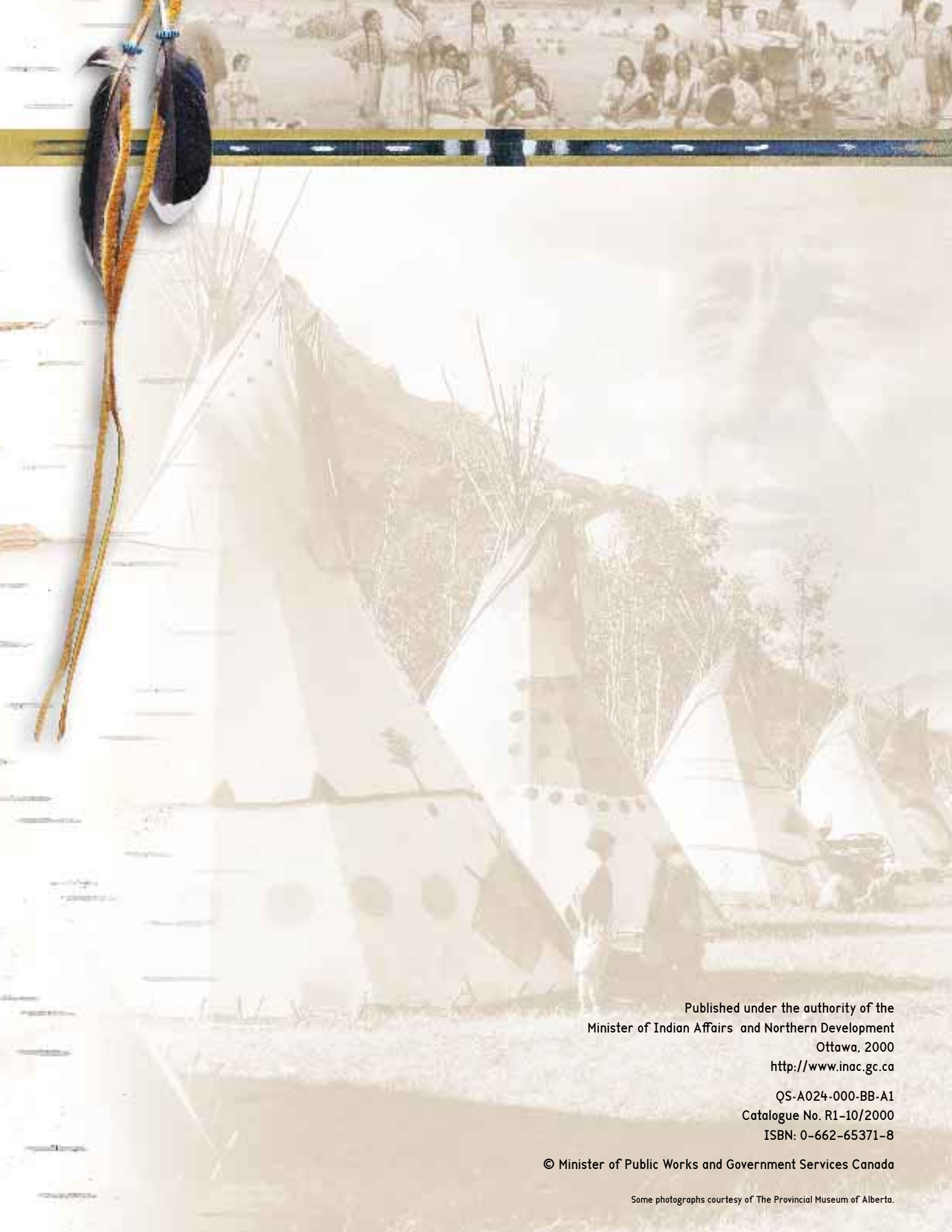
1999-2000
Year in Review



Indian and Northern
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et du Nord Canada

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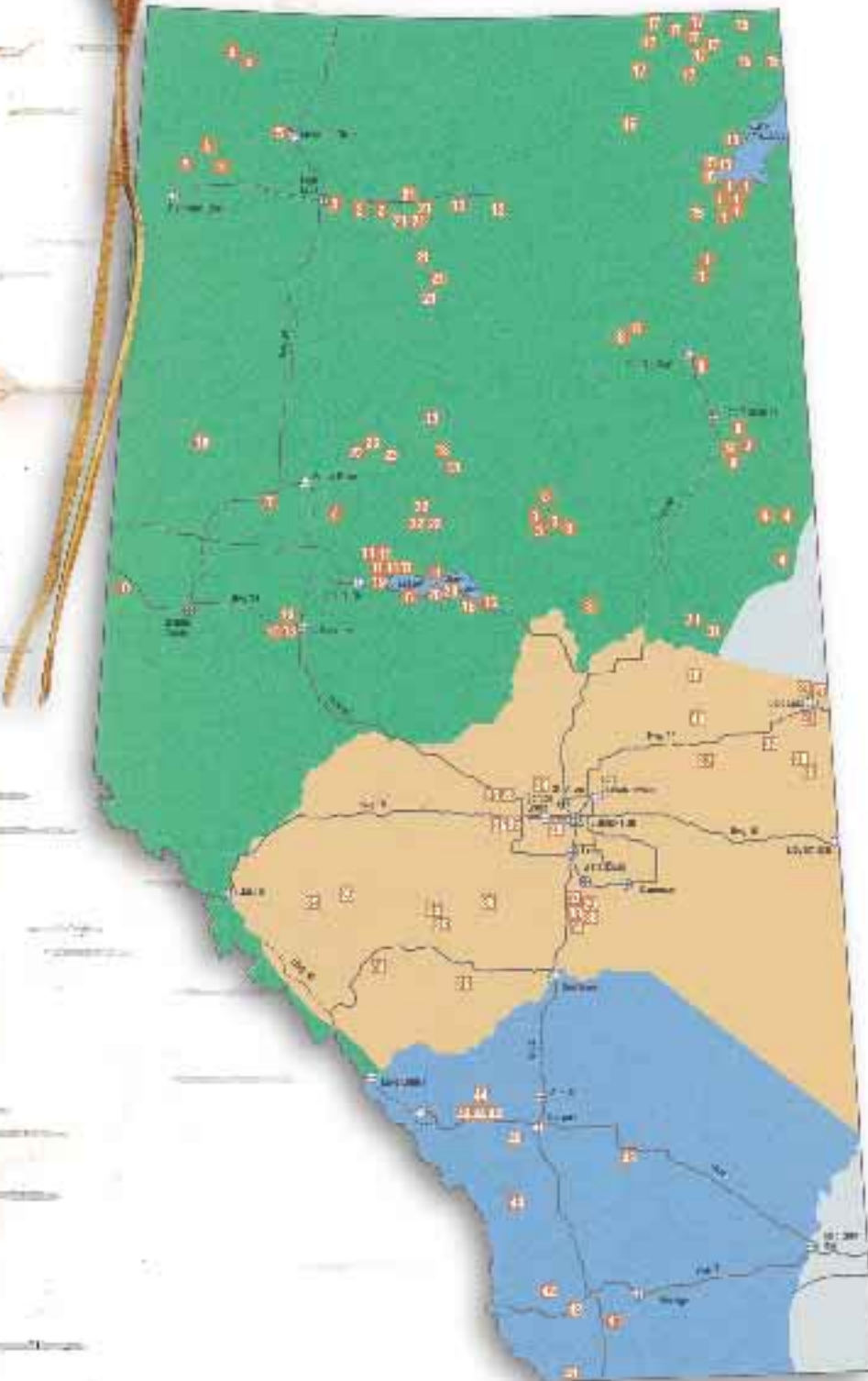
Some photographs courtesy of The Provincial Museum of Alberta.

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ALBERTA BAND LOCATION MAP & CONTACT LEGEND



Treaty 8

1. Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	780-697-3730
2. Beaver First Nation	780-927-3544
3. Bigstone Cree Nation	780-891-3836
4. Chipewyan Prairie First Nation	780-559-2259
5. Dene Tha' First Nation	780-321-3775
6. Driftpile First Nation	780-355-3868
7. Duncan's First Nation	780-597-3777
8. Fort McKay First Nation	780-828-4220
9. Ft. McMurray #468 First Nation	780-334-2293
10. Horse Lake First Nation	780-356-2248
11. Kapawe'no First Nation	780-751-3800
12. Little Red River Cree Nation	780-759-3912
13. Loon River Cree Nation	780-649-3883
14. Lubicon Lake Band (No Reserve)	780-629-3945
15. Mikisew Cree First Nation	780-697-3740
16. Sawridge First Nation	780-849-4311
17. Smith's Landing First Nation	867-872-4950
18. Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	780-524-3307
19. Sucker Creek Band	780-523-4426
20. Swan River First Nation	780-775-3536
21. Tallcree First Nation	780-927-3727
22. Whitefish Lake First Nation (Atikameg)	780-767-3914
23. Woodland Cree First Nation	780-629-3803

Treaty 6

24. Alexander First Nation	780-939-5887
25. Alexis Band	780-967-2225
26. Beaver Lake First Nation	780-623-4549
27. Cold Lake First Nations	780-594-7183
28. Enoch Cree Nation #440	780-470-4505
29. Ermineskin Tribe	780-420-0008
30. Frog Lake First Nation	780-943-3737
31. Heart Lake First Nation	780-623-2130
32. Kehewin Cree Nation	780-826-3333
33. Louis Bull Tribe	780-585-3978
34. Montana Band	780-585-3744
35. O'Chiese First Nation	403-989-3943
36. Paul First Nation	780-892-2691
37. Saddle Lake First Nation	780-726-3829
38. Samson Cree Nation	780-421-4926
39. Sunchild First Nation	403-989-3740
40. Whitefish Lake First Nation #128 (Goodfish)	780-636-7000

Treaty 7

41. Blood Tribe	403-737-3753
42. Peigan Nation	403-965-3940
43. Siksika Nation	403-264-7250
44. Stoney Tribe	403-881-3770
• Bearspaw	
• Chiniki	
• Wesley	
45. Tsuu T'ina Nation	403-281-4455

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL



As Regional Director General for the Alberta Region, it is my pleasure to present the second annual **Alberta Region Year in Review**. The year 1999/2000 was a very successful beginning to the new millennium in the Alberta Region. The Region continued its goal of pursuing positive change in the relationship between Indian Affairs and the First Nations of Alberta. It continues to be a challenging task, but as you read through this report, you will note that significant progress was made in a number of areas.

In 1998, the Government of Canada initiated *Gathering Strength - Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*, a bridge between the challenges of the past, the realities of the present and the opportunities of the future. These are opportunities that I believe are limited only by the extent of our imagination.

After just two years, *Gathering Strength* is producing positive, tangible results in all four objectives it addresses — Renewing the Partnerships, Strengthening Aboriginal Governance, Developing a New Fiscal Relationship and Supporting Strong Communities, People and Economies. As you read through this report, you will come to learn of the many partnership initiatives that have been undertaken in the Alberta Region during 1999/2000 to support these objectives.

I believe, however, this is only the beginning. Our collective efforts have set in place a solid foundation for the future.

On behalf of the Alberta Region, I would like to thank all of you whose hard work contributed to making 1999/2000 noteworthy and whose day-to-day activities help support the goals and objectives of the region.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barrie Robb'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Barrie Robb
Regional Director General
Alberta Region



ALBERTA REGION – THE BIG PICTURE

On January 7, 1998, with the launch of *Gathering Strength - Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*, the Government of Canada made a commitment to work in partnership with Aboriginal people, the provinces and territories, the private sector and other parties to improve the lives of Aboriginal and northern people in Canada.

In the Alberta Region, many projects are continuing to fulfill the commitments outlined in *Gathering Strength*. The following is a report of the accomplishments, highlights, successes and challenges faced by the Alberta Region during the 1999/2000 fiscal year. This report has been prepared with the cooperation, input and assistance of the First Nations of Treaty 6, 7 and 8.

Reorganization

As you are aware, in 1998/1999 the Alberta Region was reorganized. The concept was born of a need to better serve Alberta's First Nations, in partnership, and to build a more dynamic organization that is able to work and evolve in a fast-paced, constantly changing environment.

The Alberta Region was divided into three Treaty Area Directorates and, in addition, a new directorate also evolved - Strategic Planning, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations (SPPIR). The Treaty Area Directorates and SPPIR replaced the former Funding Services, Lands and Trust Services and Intergovernmental Affairs/Policy (IGAP) units. Corporate Services, Human Resources and Communications and Executive Services remained intact, with some of these areas taking on additional responsibilities.

Treaty Area Directorates

The creation of the Treaty Area Directorates is building stronger working relationships with First Nations. This single-window approach has helped strengthen the ties between Regional DIAND and the Treaty areas, Tribal Councils and the individual First Nations.


Treaty 8 in northern Alberta was signed at Lesser Slave Lake in 1899 and includes 23 First Nations. Treaty 7 was signed at the Blackfoot Crossing of the Bow River and Fort MacLeod in 1877, covers southern Alberta and includes five Alberta First Nations and Treaty 6, signed at Fort Carlton and Fort Pitt in 1876, includes 16 Alberta First Nations. This translates to a total of 44 First Nations, 124 reserves and approximately 700,537 hectares of reserve land in the Alberta Region.

In addition to the cultural diversity that is part of the differing Treaty areas, there are also several different languages spoken by First Nations individuals in Alberta.

The most commonly spoken First Nations languages are Blackfoot, Cree, Chipewyan, Dene, Sarcee and Stoney (Nakoda Sioux). The population of First Nations in Alberta is approximately 90,000, which represents approximately three per cent of the total population of Alberta and about 13 per cent of the total First Nations population of Canada.

Strategic Planning, Policy & Intergovernmental Relations (SPPIR)

SPPIR was created to assist with key First Nations issues. The creation of SPPIR has helped significantly in providing advice, consultation, facilitation, coordination, leadership and analysis for strategic planning and operational policy with First Nation Relations Directorates. In addition, SPPIR is the region's primary link to headquarters on Lands and Trust Services matters and policy issues.



Gathering
Strength

Canada's Aboriginal
Action Plan

Canada



National Aboriginal Day celebrations at Canada Place in Edmonton.



The broadcast of the inauguration ceremonies of the creation of Nunavut shows former Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Jane Stewart addressing a gathering via satellite feed in Canada Place.

Corporate Services

As a result of reorganization, Corporate Services undertook some new challenges, enhancing Regional DIAND's ability to partner in improving the lives of First Nations people in the Alberta Region.

The Corporate Services Directorate provides the region with internal management services. The directorate provides financial administration and corporate planning services, a system of accountability and internal control to meet Treasury Board and departmental standards.

The directorate also maintains a challenge function on behalf of the Regional Director General (RDG) and Regional Executive Committee (REC) to ensure compliance with departmental procedures. Divisions included in the directorate are Internal Services, Administration and Reception, Band Audits and Allegations, Financial Allocations and Transfer Payments, Accounting Operations, Information Technology, Records Services and Land Registry, Data Collection and Information Management.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Directorate continued to be very active during the fiscal year 1999/2000, with a number of significant initiatives, some as a result of reorganization and others as continuing operational functions and projects. Most significantly, activity

continues toward finalizing the regional reorganization and the confirmation of regional employees within the new organization. Concurrent with this, a significant amount of work and effort was devoted toward the transition to the Universal Classification System. The fiscal year also included the involvement of the Compensation and Benefits Unit in a massive effort toward implementing pay equity.

Communications & Executive Services

In the 1999/2000 fiscal year, Alberta Region Communications and Executive Services maintained its strategic focus of building relationships with First Nations and developing public education initiatives.

Minister Jane Stewart attended the centennial of the signing of Treaty 8 in June 1999. Communications and Executive Services staff committed significant resources to this event, providing material for the commemorative program, as well as marketing support and funding. They were also on-site for the event to assist the Minister and her staff. A similar commitment was made for Minister Robert Nault's first official visit to Alberta on January 24 - 26, 2000.

Also in June 1999, the Honorable Elijah Harper was the featured speaker at National Aboriginal Day (NAD)



Ceremonial cakes commemorating the creation of Nunavut.





Edmonton Mayor Bill Smith, back row centre, welcomes participants to Canadian National Pow-Wow in Edmonton.

activities in Edmonton. The 1999 NAD committee was chaired by an Alberta Region communications officer from DIAND.

To commemorate the creation of Nunavut, Communications and Executive Services partnered with the Alberta Federal Council to broadcast the inauguration ceremonies from Nunavut. A large projector at Canada Place transmitted the live satellite feed to an audience of government employees and the general public. As well, there were on-site booths, where Aboriginal artists displayed their products and Regional DIAND distributed information kits about Canada's newest territory.

Regional Communications and Executive Services staff published *Grassroots*, a bi-annual newsletter about First Nation economic development activities in Alberta. Most of the articles were written by Aboriginal writers. *Grassroots* has an extensive mailing list, which includes several non-Aboriginal organizations.

Alberta Region created a 2000 calendar that highlights significant dates in Aboriginal history and distributed it to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations.

As part of its public education efforts, Alberta Region hosted a series of cultural awareness workshops for federal employees. The workshops gave these employees an insight into First Nations of Alberta.

Another project involved hiring an Aboriginal consultant to visit schools throughout the province, educating young students about Aboriginal culture and history.

The region, in partnership with Alberta First Nations, produced the 1998/99 **Alberta Region Year in Review**. In addition to providing information about the department (specifically, the Alberta Region), the document highlights achievements of the three Treaty areas.



Canadian National Pow-Wow activities take place at Edmonton City Hall in the summer of 1999.

Communications and Executive Services hosted a writing workshop to help regional DIAND employees deal with the increasing demand for dockets and briefing materials. The two-day workshop focused on basic writing techniques and grammar. Participants were guided through the departmental formats for briefing notes and dockets and given the opportunity to practise their skills in a classroom setting. The initial workshop was a success and subsequent workshops are planned for the new year.

Communications and Executive Services staff continued to provide articles and editorial support to *Council Fire*, the newsletter of the Alberta Chiefs' Accountability Committee. It also supported the committee through media monitoring and the identification of media issues for Op-Ed pieces.

In 1999/2000, there was continued media scrutiny regarding the accountability of First Nations. Communications and Executive Services worked with the First Nations of Alberta to improve their ability to effectively deal with the media by serving as faculty members on media relations training programs, such as the one held at the Banff Centre for Management. Communications and Executive Services also increased its efforts to involve First Nations in responding to media requests and issuing media releases, to help develop their expertise in communications practices.

As well, a significant agreement was signed between the Athabasca Tribal Council and 14 natural resource companies in the Athabasca oil sands area in June 1999. Communications and Executive Services participated in the official signing of the document and provided communications support.



Economic development gathers steam in the Alberta Region. Irrigation Pivot under construction at Siksika Nation.



Irrigation equipment in use at Siksika Nation.

Economic Development

Alberta First Nations continued to capitalize on unique opportunities in medium and large scale development projects in 1999-2000.

- Major projects in oil sands development, oil and gas exploration and an expanding forestry sector, with capital costs of \$20 billion, are propelling Alberta's economy and providing opportunities for First Nations. Additionally, irrigation projects on-reserve and commercial developments adjacent to major cities are coming on stream.
- Syncrude, Suncor and Husky at Fort McMurray are expanding with development in construction and operational expansions worth billions of dollars.

The five First Nations of the Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) at Fort McMurray are benefiting from contracting and sub-contracting, while the ATC itself participates in the support role of education, training, infrastructure and community needs through its many working committees with industry.

- Oil, gas and diamond exploration in the Treaty 8 area has continued unabated for the last three years and is pushing First Nations to participate in clearing, construction, operations, servicing and goods supply ventures.
- Alberta Pacific and Daishowa in the Lesser Slave Lake area continue to enlist First Nation participation in the logging, milling, employment and service sectors.

- The Blood Tribe, Siksika Nation and the Peigan Nation in Treaty 7 are directly involved in major irrigation developments.
- The recently completed Blood Tribe project was a joint Canada/Alberta effort, capitalized at \$40 million. The Tribe's Mataki Farm project will be upgrading and expanding. Mataki Farms will expand into seed potatoes rotated with timothy hay. The seed potatoes are a high value crop and the timothy hay will be processed through the tribe's hay densifying plant. Upgrading will modernize the antiquated Mataki irrigation system, provide a reliable water source and add an additional 1,500 useable acres. Capitalization is estimated at \$6.0 million.
- The Siksika Irrigation Project capitalization is estimated at \$13 million. Siksika has started negotiating with Alberta and Canada to capitalize the remaining 15,000 acres of its 20,000 acre irrigation project.





TREATY 6 – MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND CHIEF



On behalf of the Confederacy of Treaty 6, it is my privilege and honor to congratulate Barrie Robb, George Arcand Jr. and Victor Houle, as the Treaty 6 area Director, on their efforts in building on the working relationships with Treaty 6, 7, and 8.

Through the continued work and cooperation we have demonstrated that solutions can be reached through joint efforts and consideration of each other's views, opinions and inputs towards improving our communities.

In this new relationship with the Alberta regional office and the creation of open forums to engage in dialogue, we have the ear of the federal government that has proven to be to the benefit of our First Nation communities.

Though we have had a year that has been challenging through new initiatives, accountability measures and the media, we can still look back on this year and note the positive changes. In this next year, we can look ahead and learn from the mistakes of the past and continue on developing workable solutions that are jointly acceptable for all parties involved.

In closing, I would like to mention that it has been an honor serving as the Grand Chief of Treaty 6. I am confident that the new Grand Chief, Eric Gadwa, will continue building upon the future of the Confederacy and I congratulate him on his position.

Grand Chief Wilson Bearhead

TREATY 6 - HIGHLIGHTS



Minister Nault accepts a gift from an Elder during a visit to the Paul First Nation (west of Edmonton) on his first visit to Alberta as Minister in January 2000.

Minister's Visit

Minister Nault visited Treaty 6 for the first time on January 25, 2000, where he took part in a day-long meeting with Treaty 6 Chiefs at Paul First Nation. Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief Phil Fontaine was also in attendance.

The meeting began with a traditional Elders' ceremony and blessing. Gifts were exchanged and the pipe stem that was used during the 1876 signing of Treaty 6 was again used to commemorate this historic occasion.

The meeting addressed a number of issues, including housing, economic development, the Treaty 6 bilateral process and topics concerning veterans.

Minister Nault made commitments on behalf of the federal government to address the veterans' concerns and used the occasion to express his desire to enter into the second phase of bilateral discussions with the Chiefs of Treaty 6.

Treaty 6 Bilateral Process

The Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations and DIAND continue to discuss the true spirit and meaning of Treaty 6. Treaty 6 First Nations view a number of programs (housing, education, etc.) as subsidiary administrative arrangements that need to be consistent with the Crown's Treaty relationship with First Nations.

Treaty 6 are negotiating for a renewed understanding of the Treaty relationship, followed by improved administrative approaches to program delivery and services.

The Minister expressed his commitment to the Treaty relationship and promised the department would undertake a planned approach to phase two discussions. He also emphasized the positive aspects of negotiated resolutions.

A short-term work plan, including discussion to the end of the 2000/2001 fiscal year, was developed and addressed a framework, renewed mandates and public education. Discussion may also include the merits of a Treaty 6 protectorate office to address Treaty issues.

Considering that there has been a significant change in personnel on both sides since the first phase of talks, it was agreed that the opening of phase two be limited to an orientation of the new team members and also included a review of the rules and procedures of the process.

The work plan includes provisions for discussion with the province through the federal representatives. Treaty 6 First Nations have been active participants in the process and have demonstrated a strong commitment to renewing the Treaty discussions.

Capital Projects

There were many capital projects that took place in Treaty 6 territory during the 1999/2000 fiscal year. DIAND is a proud partner in these projects that contribute to First Nations community development. These projects cover a wide range of services and include:

- The Cold Lake Water Treatment Plant expansion. This project will allow the Cold Lake First Nation to access the water treatment facility located at the town site (\$745.0 K).
- The Samson sewage lagoon was completed and will lead to an improvement in community health and quality of life (total project \$2,000.0 K).
- The completion of the Ermineskin fire hall will add to that community's ability to provide safe and timely response to fire emergencies (\$350.0 K).
- Multiple road improvement projects in Treaty 6 territory (\$1,557.8 K).



Funding Agreements

Alexander First Nation experienced considerable autonomy and flexibility by managing a five-year Financial Transfer Agreement. This Global Funding Agreement, signed in 1995/1996, was the first of its kind and has set the stage for the potential success of many other First Nations in negotiating similar agreements.

Alexander successfully renewed this unique, five-year funding agreement in March 1999. The renewal process involved extensive discussion around a revised text, the inclusion of accountability provisions, the desire for consistency of wording and management practices that would apply to the First Nation and all participating departments such as the Solicitor General, Medical Services Branch of Health Canada and DIAND.

Staffing

The Treaty 6 Directorate is committed to partnering with First Nations to help them in reaching their goals. The addition of key First Nations personnel to the Treaty 6 Directorate during the 1999/2000 fiscal year will help to enhance the ongoing partnership between First Nations and DIAND.

- Treaty 6 Director Victor Houle hails from the Saddle Lake First Nation and brings with him a wealth of experience in dealing with First Nations' issues.
- Roxanne Warrior is from the Peigan Nation and works as a Treaty 6 Field Services Officer.
- Candace Savard, Treaty 6 Indian Moneys Officer, is a member of the Enoch First Nation.

Education

With nearly three times the resources available nationwide for education projects as opposed to last year (as second year *Gathering Strength* funding was dedicated to educational reform), 1999/2000 brought many positive changes in First Nations education. With more time to consult and plan, First Nations' education organizations and the Alberta Region experienced a significant shift in how funds were used.



Chief Florence Buffalo, left, and DIAND Associate Regional Director General George Arcand Jr., right, assist Elder John Samson in the official opening of Samson High School.

Treaty 6 First Nations worked hard on education reform, including everything from independent, single school projects to long-term strategic programs designed to serve First Nation schools and students enrolled in off-reserve facilities.

DIAND is pleased to be a partner with Treaty 6 First Nations in developing strong education policy as well as constructing new facilities in their communities.

In 1999/2000 two new schools were opened in Treaty 6 First Nations. The Samson Band held the grand opening of the Samson Middle School on October 21, 1999 and the Louis Bull Tribe officially opened the Kisipatnahk Community School on January 18, 2000.

Regional Director General Barrie Robb was present at the opening of the Samson Middle School and paid a strong tribute to Treaty 6 Director Victor Houle who was instrumental in ensuring the project remained on track and was completed in a cost-effective manner. Because of Victor's contribution, the construction of this school has become a model for similar future projects.

Associate Regional Director General George Arcand Jr. officially opened the Kisipatnahk Community School and presented a plaque commemorating the innovative design of the school and the community's dedication to learning.



Housing

The 1999/2000 fiscal year brought new solutions to old problems in the Alberta Region. Additional funds provided under *Gathering Strength* allowed for improvements in housing conditions for many First Nations throughout Alberta.

The development of First Nation community-based housing programs, multi-year plans and other innovative approaches provided First Nations with increased flexibility in meeting the housing needs of their communities.

An Innovative Housing Fund was established, encouraging First Nations to pursue alternative housing designs, new building technology and/or techniques, energy sources, water supply and/or distribution, sewage collection and/or disposal and innovative financing options.

The following were provided with Innovative Housing funding in 1999/2000:

Montana Band

Montana received funding to assist in building a total of four units (two duplexes, each with two units) with a shared hot water heating system. This funding was allocated in the latter stages of the 1999/2000 fiscal year and construction on this project is currently underway.

Blue Quills

Blue Quills College applied for funding to renovate an existing building to provide additional student accommodation (residences). The funding was administered through Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc. (a Treaty 6 Tribal Council).

Free labor for the project was provided by the students in the trades program at Blue Quills.

Paul First Nation

Paul First Nation applied for and received funding to help build four one-bedroom homes using garage packages. This innovative project helps to address the community's need for housing for single individuals and/or elderly members. This project saw the creation of a single serviced unit for under \$25,000.

Capacity Building

In keeping with the department's commitment to capacity building, a Band Managers' Workshop was held December 15, 1999 at the Yellowhead Tribal Council education centre in Edmonton for Treaty 6 band managers and administrators.

During this workshop, participants were given an overview of the recent structural changes undertaken by the Alberta Region of DIAND as well as an Economic Development Program overview and a Remedial Management Plan presentation.

A questionnaire was also circulated to gather feedback from the band managers regarding the upcoming changes and any concerns they had. Information gathered from this questionnaire was used in arranging a follow-up workshop.

TREATY 7 – MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The 1999/2000 fiscal year has brought many positive changes to the Treaty 7 area.

There has been a great deal of activity in the area of accountability for the First Nations of Treaty 7. We look forward to the continuing improvement of First Nations financial accountability systems with the 1999/2000 demonstration project that Blood Tribe and other Alberta First Nations have been involved with.

Through our involvement with the Aboriginal Program Council and the Banff School of Management, we are continuing with the development of this project. We congratulate Barrie Robb and his staff for their recognition of our vision in this area and their ongoing support.

DIAND Minister Robert Nault is wholeheartedly committed to First Nations economic development. This message was evident in his trip to Treaty 7 territory this summer. Treaty 7 Chiefs were able to present ideas on individual projects and get valuable feedback from Minister Nault. We thank the Minister for his recognition of the importance of economic development to our many First Nations communities.

We are also pleased to note the Blood Tribe–Canada Framework Agreement that was signed on April 5, 2000. This agreement will allow Blood Tribe to enact its own Child Welfare Act once the agreement has been finalized.

I would like to congratulate the negotiating team members from DIAND and Blood Tribe for the 1999/2000 Deputy Minister's Award that they will be receiving for successfully negotiating this landmark accomplishment.

As well, on behalf of Treaty 7 First Nations, I would like to welcome Treaty 7 Director Sandi Williams. We are committed to strengthening our relationship with DIAND and continuing to bridge the gaps that may exist. We look forward to working closely with Sandi to accomplish these goals.

I would also like to once again commend Alberta's RDG Barrie Robb for helping to advance the agenda of Treaty 7 First Nations. We are looking forward to continuing to work together in the spirit of mutual trust.

Chief Chris Shade

TREATY 7 - HIGHLIGHTS

“All In One” Card ... Leading the Way

The Treaty 7 Tribal Council continued to be on the leading edge, providing its First Nations with innovative information technology. This was best exemplified in 1999-2000 with the development of Canada's very first consolidated I. D. card for First Nations.

This project involves the production of a prototype consolidated identification card for the use of First Nation members in Alberta. The goal of the “All In One” Card is to combine the information that is currently provided by the Status Card, Alberta Treasury Tax Exemption Card, local Band Membership Card and Alberta Health Card.

A single card, on durable plastic stock, was designed and includes the cardholder's photograph, signature and digital encoded data. The card was designed and produced exclusively by Treaty 7. This highly respected pilot project, the only one of its kind in Canada, is now being considered for implementation throughout the entire country.

Stoney Tribe ... Significant Progress

In September 1997, the Stoney Tribe was placed under third party management, which generated extensive local and national media coverage. During 1999/2000, significant progress was achieved in the areas of fiscal restraint and accountability. This paved the way for the departure of the third party manager in June 2000 and the responsibility for band management was returned to the membership.

Two of the most significant accomplishments of the Stoney Tribe in 1999/2000 were the development and implementation of Human Resources and Financial Management policies.

Deputy Minister's Awards Treaty 7:

1. Blood Tribe-Canada Framework Agreement

A Blood Tribe-Canada framework agreement was signed April 5, 2000, outlining the process, scope and mandate for continuing negotiations toward establishing Blood Tribe jurisdiction (law making authority) over child welfare.



Norm Brennand, Manager of Southern Alberta Field Relations for Treaty 7, is installed as a honorary Chief of the Peigan First Nation, the first such honor bestowed by the Peigan Nation since Indian Affairs Minister Tom Siddon in 1992.

All child welfare agreements to date in Alberta are program administration agreements that outline how child welfare services will be delivered (province/First Nation) under provincial jurisdiction and law. This process will establish how Blood Tribe jurisdiction will work. The goal is that the Blood Tribe will be able to enact its own Child Welfare Act once a final agreement has been ratified by all parties.

Negotiating team members from both Canada (region and headquarters) and Blood Tribe (Kirby Many Fingers, Eugene Creighton, Rodney First Rider and Martin Heavy Head) were awarded the 1999/2000 Deputy Minister's Award for this achievement.

The Province of Alberta has joined the negotiations hoping to achieve a tripartite agreement-in-principle. The province has appointed a chief negotiator and negotiating team.

Agreement-in-principle negotiations are progressing at a rapid pace and a draft agreement is anticipated by fall 2000. Negotiations continue in a spirit of cooperation and mutual interest.

The federal team consists of representatives from both the region and headquarters. DIAND continues to provide negotiation support funding. As well, additional *Gathering Strength* resources have been made available to the Blood Tribe to support public communications and pre-implementation work.



2. Eden Valley

In June 1999, Deputy Minister of DIAND, Scott Serson, travelled to scenic Nakiska in Kananaskis Country to present Deputy Minister Awards to a team of Eden Valley Elders, Councillors and staff for their significant contribution to educational reform.

A very determined Eden Valley, home to approximately 540 band members of the Stoney Tribe, took responsibility for educational reform into their own hands. In just three short years, they transformed an environment that often saw only 10 - 15 students attend school to the present, where their local education program is thriving and serves as the heart and soul of Eden Valley.

On June 28, 1999, 21 individuals received the Deputy Minister's Award from Mr. Serson. The day was truly a symbolic event for the community as it suggested to all Stoney Tribe members that effective change can truly be achieved through a great deal of determination and hard work.

Minister's Visit

Minister Nault made his first official visit to Treaty 7 on January 26, 2000, where he met with Treaty 7 Chiefs in Lethbridge. He also participated in the signing of an oil exploration agreement with the Peigan First Nation and Velvet Exploration of Calgary.

In the afternoon, the Minister had a helicopter tour over the Oldman River Dam and Peigan First Nation. The Minister was praised for his directness with Alberta's First Nations. Although many contentious issues were raised, the Minister handled them with his characteristic political aplomb.

East Siksika Regional Water System

The East Siksika Regional Water System had its water treatment capability upgraded in 1999/2000 to permit full treatment of water. This involved the construction of a new, high-tech water treatment plant. This system currently serves approximately 500 people, including students and staff of the Crowfoot School, and will eventually be expanded to serve 1000 people.

Siksika Trust Fund

During 1999/2000, the Siksika First Nation established a Heritage Trust Fund to preserve, for future generations, some of their oil and gas royalty revenues.

Blood Tribe Financial Accountability Demonstration Project

The Blood Tribe was a key player in a financial accountability demonstration project initiated by Ottawa in 1999. The project involved a series of meetings that started in October 1999 and finished in February 2000. The prime objective was to prepare a template which detailed a financial administration system for all First Nations.

For any First Nations requiring it, the template will be used as a guideline. The project involved examining Blood Tribe's Financial Administration Act and Regulations, suggesting modifications where necessary and incorporating the details into the template.

Siksika Nation Acreage Discrepancy Minerals Claim

On March 7 and 8, 2000, a majority of the members of the Siksika First Nation ratified the Acreage Discrepancy Minerals Claim. This claim is one of two claims being negotiated with the Siksika First Nation. The settlement for the minerals claim includes a cash payout of \$10 million in compensation and \$252,000 for negotiation costs. Negotiations for the second claim, the Acreage Discrepancy Claim, which pertains to land surface and other issues, was scheduled to reconvene in May 2000.

The Siksika First Nation may use the money received from the settlement agreement to purchase land with mineral title on a willing buyer/willing seller basis within the mineral claim area for a period of 15 years, commencing from the date of the settlement of the Acreage Discrepancy Claim dealing with surface and other issues. The terms are to be agreed to during the negotiation of the settlement agreement.

Significant Progress Made in Peigan Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) Discussions

Significant progress was made during 1999/2000 with the Peigan Nation, Alberta and Canada towards a negotiated settlement of numerous outstanding issues related to the Oldman River Dam.

In May 1999, the Peigan Council placed all litigation proceedings in abeyance to demonstrate good faith to Alberta that the negotiation process was the preferred option of the Peigan Nation. In response to this, Premier Ralph Klein announced the appointment of a chief negotiator, John McCarthy.

On January 26, 2000, Minister Nault, when meeting with the Peigan Nation in Lethbridge, announced the appointment of Tim Christian as a special federal representative. Mr. Christian's mandate is to lead a team of federal officials in all phases of the negotiations.

On March 14, 2000, Alberta presented its first offer to the Peigan Nation and initiated a process that has all three parties confident that a settlement can be finalized in the near future.



Grand opening of the Eden Valley School, which later proved to be a major catalyst in the presentation of Deputy Minister Awards to a team of Eden Valley Elders, Councillors and staff for their significant contribution to educational reform.

TREATY 8 – MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND CHIEFS



Grand Chief Eddie Tallman



Grand Chief Jim Boucher

On behalf of the Chiefs of the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, I am pleased with the continued efforts of the Alberta Region of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in supporting the ongoing and new initiatives of Treaty 8 (Alberta) undertaken during this past year.

Our partnership has been demonstrated in a number of projects. For example, the preparations for the events of the Treaty 8 Centennial Commemoration were met with great success and high praise from all those involved.

This year also brought us to a common goal of improving the opportunities for Economic Development for the First Nations of Treaty 8 (Alberta). This has been demonstrated through discussions at the Senior Officials Committee Table of the Treaty 8 (Alberta) Bilateral Process, as well as through numerous economic ventures being pursued by our member First Nations.

This has also been another year that brought changes for both governments. In September 1999, Chief Eddie Tallman resigned as Grand Chief of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta due to health reasons and community commitments. Just prior to this, the Honorable Jane Stewart received an appointment to another ministerial posting.

In November 1999, Chief Jim Boucher became the Grand Chief of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. Shortly after that (January 2000) the Chiefs of Treaty 8 (Alberta) had the opportunity to meet with the newly appointed Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada, the Honorable Robert Nault.

Judging by these past two years, the upcoming year promises to be even more productive and successful, as we continue to work together on a nation to nation basis, always remembering the “true spirit and intent” of our original agreement... Treaty No.8.

Grand Chief Eddie Tallman &

Grand Chief Jim Boucher

TREATY 8 - HIGHLIGHTS



Alberta DIAND Regional Director General Barrie Robb signs the Treaty Land Entitlement documents at Loon River as Alberta Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Dave Hancock, (hands folded in second row) looks on.

Claim Settlements

During the fiscal year, two land claim settlement agreements were signed in Treaty 8:

- **Smith's Landing First Nation**, approximately 800 kilometres northeast of Edmonton.

Under the agreement, ratified by band members on January 28, 2000, Alberta transferred approximately 7,689 hectares of unoccupied Crown land and \$3.2 million to the federal government and Ottawa provided a one-time payment of \$28 million and another 1,000 hectares of land within Wood Buffalo National Park. Smith's Landing, with over 270 members, will be comprised of 10 reserves, with its principle community in Fitzgerald, Alberta.

- **Loon River Cree Nation**, approximately 400 kilometres north of Edmonton.

Under the agreement, ratified by band members on March 9, 1999, Alberta transferred 180 square kilometres of reserve land. In addition, \$51.65 million in funding was provided by the provincial and federal governments. This funding included money for infrastructure and economic development projects. Loon River is comprised of three reserves and over 370 members, with its principle community in Loon Lake, Alberta.

Treaty 8 Bilateral Process

The bilateral process continued this year. The process is to address, at minimum, three areas - a mutual understanding of the Treaty, the Treaty relationship between the government of Canada and the First Nations and governance based on the implementation of the Treaty.

On June 21, 1999, the Minister and Grand Chief signed a "Joint Letter of Instruction" to the respective negotiators that addressed a number of specific requirements relating to the process.

On January 24, 2000, the Chiefs of Treaty 8 (Alberta) met with Minister Nault, who indicated that Dennis Wallace, Associate Deputy Minister of DIAND, will lead DIAND's team. On March 8, 2000, Grand Chief Jim Boucher met with federal government officials and other representatives of the Joint Senior Officials Committee in Edmonton.

A revised budget was approved for the fiscal year. It was also agreed that both parties will continue to work together on a multi-year work plan and budget. DIAND also committed to assist with arranging to have the "Harvard Project" meet with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta (tentatively in the fall of 2000) with respect to governance and economic development.

It was agreed that interviews with "critical age" (85 years of age +) Elders must commence quickly in order that the Elders' oral testimony be recorded as part of the process. Regional DIAND, in cooperation with the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, will also be conducting community consultations/workshops as part of the initiative.



Former Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Jane Stewart (Centre) meets with Chiefs during the Treaty 8 Centennial Commemoration festivities.

Treaty 8 Centennial Commemoration

June 21, 1999 marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 8. The Treaty 8 Centennial Committee coordinated five days of activities and events demonstrating the pride of the people of Treaty 8.

For the official ceremony on June 21, there was a large gathering of dignitaries, including the Chiefs of Treaty 8, Premier of Alberta, Minister and Deputy Minister of DIAND and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations.

The Grand Entry on June 21, 2000 brought people to their feet when the Chiefs rode in on horses and the First Nations walked in carrying their flags. The re-enactment of the signing of the Treaty enabled those in attendance to visualize what may have occurred a century ago.

Minister's Visit

Minister Nault made his first official visit to Alberta on January 24, 2000.

He had a day-long visit with Treaty 8 Chiefs, where each Chief raised issues with the Minister, such as the Treaty 8 bilateral process, economic development, claims and housing needs. He also met with the Chiefs Steering Committee on Financial Accountability.

The day ended with the Minister taking a helicopter tour of Syncrude and a fly-over of Fort McKay and Fort McMurray First Nations and his signing of the ATC/DIAND industry agreement.

Education

A very important initiative addressed this fiscal year was *Gathering Strength* education reform. The Treaty 8 Tribal Councils Education Directors' Committee provided input in helping determine the allocation methodology for education reform funding both at the regional and tribal levels. Proposals were submitted directly to Regional DIAND and funding was allocated directly to the tribal entities.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta was also actively involved in a number of other local, regional and national initiatives. The Treaty 8 Tribal Councils Education Directors' Committee, comprised of representatives from the six tribal entities within Treaty 8, along with the Treaty 8 Education Portfolio Chief and Education Coordinator, worked collectively on a number of issues affecting the First Nations/Tribal Councils of Treaty 8.

Initiatives included the Education Portfolio, AFN Aboriginal Language Initiative (Alberta), AFN National Post-Secondary Review Phase II, Alberta Learning Native Education Policy Review, Treaty 8 Centennial Curriculum Development Project and Treaty 8 Centennial Scholarship Fund.



Smith's Landing First Nation Negotiator Francois Paulette (Centre) addresses a crowd gathered to celebrate Smith's Landing becoming a new First Nation in Alberta. Chief Jerry Paulette (left) and Indian Affairs and Northern Development Minister Robert Nault (right) listen intently.



Accountability Initiatives

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta continued to be involved in this unique initiative that began in 1998/99 through the Chiefs Steering Committee on Financial Accountability. This fiscal year was productive with respect to the Accountability Initiative within Treaty 8.

Highlights of these initiatives include:

1. Ad Hoc Working Committee

On October 18, 1999, the Executive Board approved the formation of an ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from each of the tribal entities and directed this committee to complete work under the Accountability Initiative up to March 31.

2. Financial Management Systems Pilot Projects

The Kapawe'no First Nation and the Woodland Cree First Nation were two of the four pilot projects in the Alberta Region for the 1999/2000 fiscal year. Both First Nations worked with a consultant in developing financial management systems/codes for their communities. These First Nations have been satisfied with the development and are working towards implementation.

3. Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Code

On December 15, 1999, Treaty 8 (Alberta) met with the First Nations Resource Council (FNRC) to discuss the new "Work Plan Adjustment on Financial Accountability" that was approved by the Chiefs' Steering Committee. Based on this new work plan, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, with the assistance of a consultant, undertook the development of a template for a First Nation "Access to Information and Privacy Code: Phase 2".

The objective of this project is to develop a generic template for an ATIP Code for First Nations across Canada.

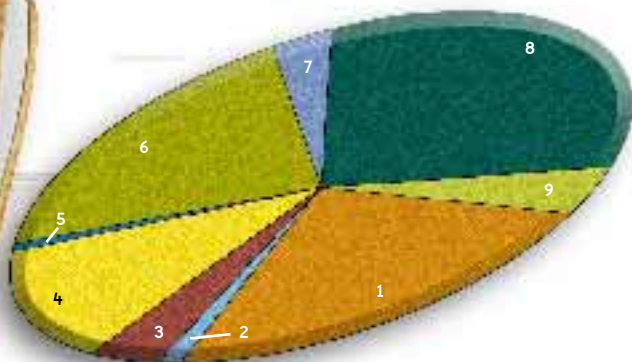
A workshop on ATIP was held in Edmonton on February 16 and 17, 2000. During the workshop, the project was reviewed and work on Phase 1 was completed. There were also discussions on Phase 2 of the project, including the development of a critical path that would ensure the completion of Phase 2 by mid-2000.

99/00 YEAR IN REVIEW – FINANCIAL REPORTS

Indian And Northern Affairs Canada 1999/2000

Regional Expenditure Breakdown

1. Education	\$ 104,983,989
2. Economic Development	3,968,356
3. Capital & Facilities Maintenance	72,181,714
4. Indian Government Support	23,263,165
5. Lands & Trust Services	7,048,277
6. Social Development	118,029,880
Total Regional Expenditures	\$ 329,475,381
7. Gathering Strength	22,205,701
8. Financial Transfer Agreements	160,796,844
9. Administration	16,129,429
Total	\$ 528,607,355



Gathering Strength Alberta Region

Expenditure Breakdown

1. Education Reform	\$ 3,662,800
2. Welfare Reform	1,662,684
3. Water & Sewer	5,019,589
4. Housing	5,862,411
5. Economic Development	3,102,600
6. Lands & Trust Services Sector Plan	245,000
7. Public Education	46,747
8. Aboriginal Representative Organizations	98,569
9. Governance Capacity & Accountability	472,401
10. Professional Development	1,609,900
11. Resource Access Negotiations	423,000
Total	\$ 22,205,701

