

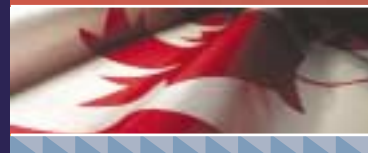


Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada



2002/2003 YEAR IN REVIEW **ALBERTA REGION**



Canada

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# Alberta First Nations Map

## Treaty 8

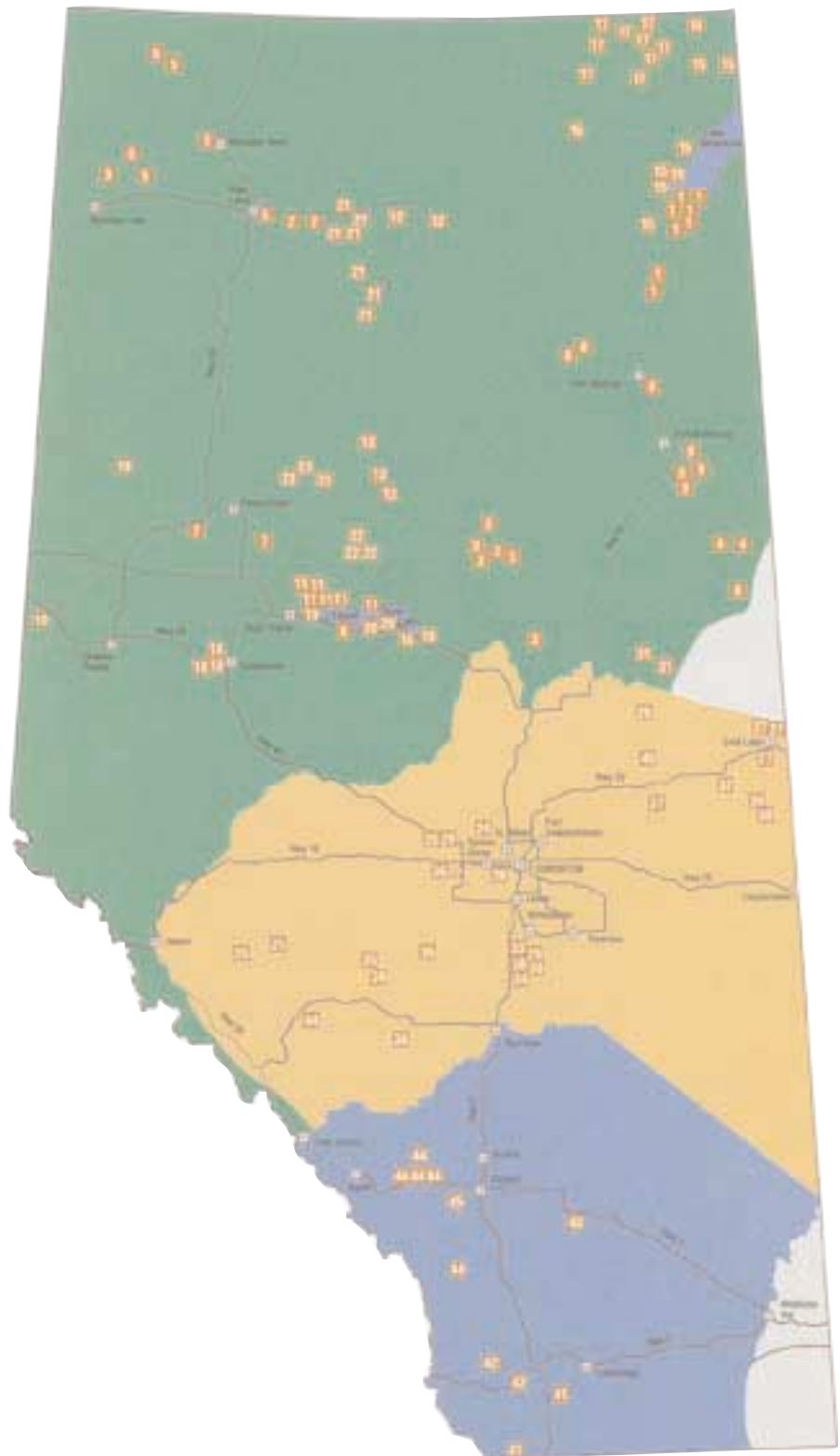
1. Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
2. Beaver First Nation
3. Bigstone Cree Nation
4. Chipewyan Prairie First Nation
5. Dene Tha' First Nation
6. Driftpile First Nation
7. Duncan's First Nation
8. Fort McKay First Nation
9. Ft. McMurray First Nation
10. Horse Lake First Nation
11. Kapawe'no First Nation
12. Little Red River Cree Nation
13. Loon River First Nation
14. Lubicon Lake Indian Nation (No Reserve)
15. Mikisew Cree First Nation
16. Sawridge Band
17. Smith's Landing First Nation
18. Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
19. Sucker Creek First Nation
20. Swan River First Nation
21. Tallcree First Nation
22. Whitefish Lake First Nation (Atikameg)
23. Woodland Cree First Nation

## Treaty 6

24. Alexander First Nation
25. Alexis Band
26. Beaver Lake Cree Nation
27. Cold Lake First Nations
28. Enoch Cree Nation
29. Ermineskin Tribe
30. Frog Lake First Nation
31. Heart Lake First Nation
32. Kehewin Cree Nation
33. Louis Bull Tribe
34. Montana Cree Nation
35. O'Chiese First Nation
36. Paul First Nation
37. Saddle Lake First Nation
38. Samson Cree Nation
39. Suncild First Nation
40. Whitefish Lake First Nation #128 (Goodfish)

## Treaty 7

41. Blood Tribe
42. Piikani Nation
43. Siksika Nation
44. Stoney Tribe
  - Bearspaw
  - Chiniki
  - Wesley
45. Tsuu T'ina Nation



## Message from the Minister

Welcome to the Alberta Region of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's 2002/2003 Year in Review.

It is always a pleasure for me to visit First Nations in the Alberta Region. In fact, it was in the Alberta Region that I released the final report of the Minister's National Working Group on Education on February 12, 2003 at Amiskwaciy Academy in Edmonton.

I chose the Alberta Region because it, like a number of other regions, demonstrates good policies and best practices in education.

In addition, 2002/2003 was very busy in terms of INAC's legislative agenda. All of these pieces of legislation are intended to help First Nations attain a common goal: self-government. The intent of all of my legislative changes is to give First Nations the tools to achieve the goals of self-government and self-sufficiency.

Alberta First Nations have also shown tremendous foresight in the area of economic development, through partnerships with Alberta's resource industries and through innovative projects.

I continue to have great respect for Alberta's First Nations. They clearly demonstrate what can be achieved when all levels of government and the private sector work together for the good of First Nations people.



Robert D. Nault, P. C., M. P.  
Minister, Indian Affairs  
and Northern Development

## Message from the Regional Director General

Once again, 2002/2003 was another very successful year in the Alberta Region. Economic development remained a major priority this past year. The Minister announced three major projects while he visited the region.

For the third year, INAC Alberta sponsored two Business Awards of Distinction that were awarded at an evening gala organized by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.

Our claims unit was busy with the ratification of four claims this past year; the Alexander 1905 Surrender Claim, Siksika Acreage Discrepancy (Surface) Claim, Cold Lake Air Weapons Range Claim and the claim related to the effects of the Oldman River Dam on the Piikani Nation.

The Blood Tribe Self-Government Agreement negotiations reached another milestone. The agreement in principle received its final approval, paving the way for negotiating the final agreement.

During one of the Minister's frequent visits to the region, he made a national announcement on First Nation education in February. He released the final report of the National Working Group on Education and discussed how the government will work to ensure First Nation children have the same opportunities and quality of education that other Canadians enjoy.

A commemoration marking the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 7 was held at Blackfoot Crossing during the week of September 16 to 22, 2002. The Minister took part in the activities on the last day, when Chiefs did a re-enactment of the signing of Treaty 7.

The National Aboriginal Day celebration in Canada Place, hosted by the Government of Canada Partnership Committee, was once again a huge success.

Alberta Region was the host of the first annual First Nations and Inuit National Science Camp in Edmonton in May that brought together 55 First Nation and Inuit students from across Canada. Students were given the opportunity to interact with private industry representatives in the science field and tour some of Alberta's science facilities.

As you read through this report, you will learn about many more successes in the Alberta Region this year - for example, the progress that was made in moving forward INAC's legislative agenda and our commitments outlined in the Speech from the Throne. All of the successes attained in the Alberta Region in 2002/2003 are too numerous to mention here.

On behalf of the Alberta Region, I would like to thank all of you whose hard work contributed to making 2002/2003 noteworthy and whose day-to-day activities help support INAC's goals and the Alberta Region.



Barrie Robb  
Regional Director General

## Claims and Indian Government



Minister Nault and Chief Victoria Arcand sign Alexander settlement agreement

The Claims and Indian Government (CIG) directorate was especially busy this year, overseeing the ratification and implementation of four major land claim settlements - the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range and Alexander Surrender Claims as well as the Siksika Acreage Discrepancy (Surface) and Piikani Oldman River Dam claims, which you will read about in more detail later.

In addition to these major settlements, there are 15 other Alberta claims in negotiation. There are another 14 either under research review at the Specific Claims Branch or legal review at the Department of Justice.

CIG continued to take the regional lead on the proposed First Nations Governance legislation, heading up a regional governance team with representatives from the regional directorates. The team helped to organize more than 60 information sessions with various groups across the province.

The House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources also held public hearings in Red Deer, Fort McMurray and Slave Lake as part of its cross country tour to seek the views of First Nations members, leaders and organizations on the proposed legislation. Alberta had more witnesses scheduled to appear before the committee than any other region in Canada.

In addition, over the past year, CIG has undertaken considerable work related to land tenure and regulatory development for several major on-reserve commercial and industrial project activities proposed in the Alberta Region. CIG worked closely on these projects with representatives from the Blood Tribe, Tsuu T'ina and Fort McKay First Nations.



**Tell Parliament what you think about  
First Nations Governance**

The proposed First Nations Governance Act is now under review by Parliamentary Committee. The Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources will be holding public hearings across Canada.

This is your opportunity to tell the Committee what works and what doesn't.

There are three ways to tell the Committee what you think:


- make a written request to appear before the Committee by January 24, 2003,
- send your views in writing or on tape to the Committee by February 14, 2003, or
- register at local public hearings to make a brief statement.

**Contact the Committee Clerk at:**

Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs,  
Northern Development and Natural Resources  
House of Commons, Room 632, Wellington Building  
180 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Telephone: (613) 996-1173 Fax: (613) 996-1962  
E-mail: AANR@parl.gc.ca

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 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada    Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada



First Nations Governance information

## Operational Program and Policy (OP2)

### Economic Development

Economic development remained a hotbed of activity this past year with 19 projects approved. An investment of approximately \$9 million of INAC economic development funds in First Nation projects leveraged an additional \$27 million in Alberta's economy for a total investment of nearly \$40 million and resulted in the creation of more than 3,000 direct and indirect jobs.

In addition, Alberta First Nation governments injected more than \$1 billion into the Alberta economy through the purchase of numerous goods and services.

For the third year, INAC Alberta sponsored two Business Awards of Distinction, handed out at an evening gala organized by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. The three finalists for each award were highlighted in a two-page insert in the *Calgary Herald*, *Edmonton Journal* and *Le Franco*. The winner of the *INAC/AWPI Aboriginal Relations Best Practice Award of Distinction* was EnCana Corporation and the winner of the *Eagle Feather Business Award of Distinction* was Samson Management Ltd.

### Education Review

In February, Minister Nault released the report of the National Working Group on Education at the Amiskwaciy Academy in Edmonton. The Minister also announced he will support a pilot project with Treaty 6 First Nations, which will include steps toward establishing a First Nations education system.



Minister Nault (back left) and Secretary of State Stephen Owen (back right) at national education announcement, Amiskwaciy Academy, Edmonton



Business Awards of Distinction winners with RDG Barrie Robb

The pilot project with Treaty 6 responds to recommendations made by Treaty 6 First Nations arising from the joint INAC/Treaty First Nations Education Review.

Treaty 7 and Treaty 8 First Nations are in the process of finalizing their reports. For Treaty 8, preliminary recommendations include establishment of an Education Commission to support building a comprehensive education system.

In the Education Review, concerns were raised about some of the student performance indicators, including results from provincial achievement tests taken by students in grades 3, 6 and 9, and from grade 12 diploma tests. Under the provincial achievement tests, whereas 85 per cent of the students are expected to meet the acceptable standard of performance, only 30 to 40 per cent of the students in First Nation schools are meeting it. These results have been leading to low numbers of students graduating from grade 12. First Nations have been developing approaches to address the problems.

Improvements are starting to show, with a steady increase in number and percentage of grade 12 graduates. In 1997-1998, 115 students, representing 18 per cent of the grade 12 students, were reported as having graduated. In 2002-2003, 190 students, representing 24 per cent of the grade 12 students, graduated.

The region will be reviewing and analysing the results of the final report from each of the Treaty areas in order to develop action plans and responses to recommendations received from the First Nations.

### **Special Education Program (SEP)**

During 2002/2003, INAC established a national SEP to provide access to special education programs and services that are culturally sensitive and meet provincial standards. The region received and funded \$3.3 million under SEP, which was in addition to resources historically committed to high cost special education. Regional managing organizations were established in Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 to provide special education and support services to their First Nations. In the upcoming year, SEP resources to the region will be increased to \$6.9 million.

### **Social Development**

Social development staff were again busy adapting national initiatives to the Alberta region. Thirty-six projects totalling over \$1.8 million were funded under the Income Security Reform program. The objective of the program is to focus on shifting INAC's funding from providing passive income assistance to linking welfare to greater access to skills development, training and employment opportunities.

In the 2002 Speech from the Throne, the government announced additional measures to address the gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children. This includes putting in place early childhood development programs for First Nations, expanding Aboriginal Headstart, improving parental supports and providing Aboriginal communities with the tools to address fetal alcohol syndrome and its effects.

The National Child Benefit (NCB) continued to be a priority, with all Comprehensive Funding Arrangement First Nations in Alberta receiving a total of \$7.8 million. NCB funds support programs in areas such as daycare, early childhood services/development, child nutrition and cultural and traditional teachings, to name a few.

### **Tribal Council Review**

With the participation of the eight tribal councils in Alberta, discussions continued toward renewal of the tribal council program authority. It is expected that a draft document will be available for national review in July 2003.

### **Director Receives Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal**

Fred Jobin, Director, OP2, was presented with the Commemorative Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee by Alberta Lieutenant Governor Hon. Lois Hole and Hon. Anne McLellan, Minister of Health Canada, in December

2002. The medal was awarded for his years of service and dedication to the department, First Nations and the Canadian public.

### **First Nation Water Management Strategy (FNWMS)**

Implementation of the FNWMS was well underway this year, with the completion of risk assessments of all communal water and waste water systems on-reserve. To this end, the region targeted resources to mitigate the high and medium risk issues identified. As well, a regional water management team was established and national workshops were held to clarify the numerous issues covered in the strategy. A major emphasis was also placed on the Circuit Rider Training Program, which helps First Nations train certified operators on-site. The program was implemented by the First Nations Technical Services Advisory Group (Alberta) with the support of the region.

### **Capital**

The capital program provided \$33.6 million in project funding for infrastructure on reserves in 2002/2003. The projects included facilities for water and sewer, subdivisions, fire trucks and fire halls, community buildings and education facilities. Under the housing program, \$21.4 million was provided, which included emergency housing and disaster assistance. As well, an additional \$27.7 million was provided to First Nations for the operation and maintenance of existing facilities including infrastructure, education and housing.

The capital program is to undergo a major review as a result of the five-year Long Term Capital Plan (LTCP), approved by Treasury Board. New priorities and guidelines were established by Treasury Board to provide a national framework and enhanced accountability. As a result, the funding methodology, allocation process and capital project ranking criteria will be reviewed in the upcoming year to meet the priorities and guidelines. National workshops have been held to discuss LTCP.

### **First Nation Emergency Preparedness**

Emergency Management Alberta, formerly Alberta Disaster Services, continued its contract to provide for the training and emergency disaster support services among First Nations during the year. There was also an increased involvement in on-site assistance in a number of emergencies which included the evacuation of several northern First Nation communities due to fire and some southern First Nation communities due to flooding.

## Communications and Executive Services

Again this year, Communications and Executive Services (CES) focused much of its time and resources on promoting the economic development success stories of Alberta's First Nations.

A two-page insert profiling the finalists for two INAC-sponsored Alberta Business Awards of Distinction was placed in the *Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald* and *Le Franco*. As well, CES supported a luncheon honouring the finalists. In addition, seven news releases were issued promoting Government of Canada funding of economic development projects.

Another major accomplishment of CES this year was the introduction of a new Intranet site for INAC Alberta employees. The new site adheres to corporate graphic standards and prides itself on providing topical and useful information for staff.

CES also continued to produce a number of publications including the popular First Nations in Alberta directory, a regional annual report and postcards promoting the province's three Treaty areas, which were distributed in free postcard kiosks in restaurants, nightclubs and fitness facilities throughout Alberta.



Alberta Region annual report

In the area of public education, CES continued to be the major supporter and organizer of National Aboriginal Day celebrations at Canada Place in Edmonton and at the Harry Hays Building in Calgary. A CES communications officer, while seconded to the Alberta Federal Council, oversaw the construction and opening of an Aboriginal Cultural and Learning Centre on the main floor of Canada Place.



Aboriginal veterans celebrate National Aboriginal Day, Edmonton

CES also arranged public display booths at a number of major conferences and exhibitions, including the international media centre at the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis.

On the Executive Services side, over



Communications information booth at G-8 Summit media centre, Calgary

1,000 pieces of correspondence, signed by the Regional Director General (RDG), Associate Regional Director General (ARDG) and Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, were edited, written, processed and tracked. In addition, the unit also handled over 100 briefing notes and the logistics for the Minister's trips to the region, in tandem with the executive office.



Indian Treaties in Alberta postcard

On the Communications side, over 100 media calls were handled. Over 60 speeches and presentations were prepared for the RDG, ARDG and Minister. Question Period cards, communications issue sheets, media analyses and communications strategies were also prepared on a number of ongoing and emerging issues.

Another highlight for CES this year was the winning of the "Presentation Award" at the annual Leadership and Learning Fair. This was for its scintillating rendition of Aretha Franklin's classic Motown song "Respect." Respect, of course, is one of INAC's Leadership and Learning core values.

## Corporate Services



Ronaye Tylor scans document into CIDM

During 2002/2003, Corporate Services (CS) completed the regional implementation of Comprehensive Integrated Document Management (CIDM), the national automated document management system. At the same time, the region led a national initiative to install new software on all client computers and network systems.

Despite some growing pains, the result has been a far more stable and supportive platform in all areas, and a nationally recognized profile as a key contributor to national Information Technology standards and best practices. In addition to enhancing core business functions, these new tools will greatly improve the region's ability to manage and share information as they are incorporated into organizational units' operations.

CS was also involved in significant efforts in addressing the A-base analysis and authority renewal processes with HQ. The region's quality of work and action plan for the authority renewal processes set the standards for other regions across the country.

In addition, the data collection unit helped organize a national Data Manager's Workshop in Edmonton in September, bringing INAC data managers from across Canada. The three-day workshop included items such as authorities renewal (social and education), special education, web-enabled systems, nominal roll system, First Nations National Reporting Guide and sharing success stories.

## Human Resources

The Human Resources (HR) directorate continued to be very active in all aspects of human resources management within the Alberta Region this year. The directorate is responsible for a full range of human resource services to management and employees within the regional office, as well as providing compensation services to Indian Oil and Gas Canada.

HR also spent a great deal of time preparing for impending human resource modernization legislation, which is anxiously awaited. The new legislation is expected to provide managers with increased flexibility in managing their human resources as it is intended to modernize employment and labour relations practices in the public service. While the changes are expected to be phased in over the next few years, there will be a considerable immediate demand on the HR directorate and management during the development and implementation phases.

Some of this year's highlights in HR include the successful Leadership and Learning Fair. The event was well attended by staff, with this year's theme being INAC's core values. Staff were entertained with imaginative presentations by all directorates, which were each assigned a different value. Alberta Region also proudly hosted the national conference for the regional Leadership and Learning coordinators this year.

HR continued to work hard toward achieving the departmental goal of a 50 per cent Aboriginal workforce. The region, reaching a 40 per cent Aboriginal workforce this year, takes a balanced approach to recruitment. As positions become vacant, essentially one of every two appointments is targeted to Aboriginal candidates.

This year, the Alberta Region was also successful in the national Self Identification Campaign to support employment equity, achieving 90 per cent participation.



INAC's Core Values

## Message from Treaty 6 Grand Chiefs

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On behalf of the Chiefs of the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, as their spokespersons during this fiscal year, we are sincerely pleased to provide a statement for the INAC Alberta 2002/2003 Year in Review.

Firstly, we extend our congratulations to the staff of the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations and to the staff of the First Nations Relations, Treaty 6 Directorate for their continued working relationship and hard work. We are hopeful that this working relationship continues to grow and flourish.

While we are often challenged at the First Nations level, we also recognize that there are many successes. During this year, we embarked on many major inroads, particularly in the areas of education and economic development. We commend Minister Nault and his staff for selecting Treaty 6 territory to release the final report of the National Working Group on Education at the Amiskwaciy Academy in Edmonton.

In tandem with that report is our own Treaty 6 Education Review. It is our hope that the learned recommendations from Treaty 6 as well as the National Working Group on Education, which also included Treaty 6 representation, will make an indelible impact in lessening the differences between the education of First Nations children and non-First Nations children.

The participation of Minister Nault at ceremonies marking the settlement of two major land claims for the Alexander First Nation and the Cold Lake First Nations was much appreciated. We extend our congratulations to all those who participated in the negotiations process that saw these claims come to closure.

It is our hope that our successor continues a positive working relationship with the Government of Canada through INAC offices in Alberta. Clear lines of communication have been established with INAC Alberta. By working together, we hope the quality of life and the future will be a bright one for the First Nations of Treaty 6.

Grand Chief Danny Bradshaw

Grand Chief Lorne Morin



## Treaty 6 Highlights

### Education Review

One of the major highlights for Treaty 6 this year was its work in the area of education. In February 2003, Minister Nault released the final report of the National Working Group on Education at the Amiskwaciy Academy in Edmonton.

Parents, teachers and children joined Minister Nault, Secretary of State Stephen Owen, Alberta Minister of Learning Lyle Oberg, National Working Group Co-Chair Corrine Mount Pleasant-Jette, Amiskwaciy Principal and working group member Phyllis Cardinal and Treaty 6 First Nation leaders. Minister Nault committed to consulting with parents and educators to narrow the unacceptable gap in academic results between First Nations students and other Canadian students.

Minister Nault chose Treaty 6 territory for the announcement as the Treaty area also has its own education review underway, running parallel to the National Working Group recommendations.

Minister Nault believes First Nation communities know best how to meet the needs of their children. He pointed to the 17 Chiefs from Treaty 6 who have come together with their own proposals on improving education in their communities. He has committed to working with Treaty 6 on their proposals.

### Claims

Minister Nault made another official visit to Treaty 6 territory in July 2002. He participated in a signing ceremony at the Alexander First Nation for the settlement of a historic claim dating back to 1905. The settlement provided the Alexander First Nation with \$63 million in compensation for damages and losses suffered for the illegal surrender of land.

"The Alexander First Nation and Canada have reached a final settlement that not only honours Canada's lawful obligation, but will also provide the First Nation with enhanced opportunities for economic development now and in the future," said Minister Nault.

In July, the Minister also attended a signing ceremony in English Bay with Cold Lake First Nations. The settlement announcement was made by Minister Nault, Alberta



Minister Nault and Cold Lake First Nations Chief Joyce Metchewais at settlement agreement ceremony

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Pearl Calahasen, Minister of National Defence John McCallum and Cold Lake First Nations Chief Joyce Metchewais.

The settlement agreement resolved the outstanding grievance related to the 1952 creation of the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, which limited access by Cold Lake First Nations' members to their traditional territory.

### Economic Development

Treaty 6 First Nations were again at the forefront of economic development this year. Some of the major projects, partially funded by INAC, included the \$2.9 million Sundown Resources Project which saw the O'Chiese First Nation expand its oil and gas contracting company into the oil pipeline construction business. The project saw \$500,000 in federal funding used to help purchase 11 pieces of new oilfield equipment that will enable the company to include pipeline construction in its operation.

Another project receiving federal funding was the Seven Lakes Oilfield Services Limited Partnership, owned by the First Nations of Beaver Lake, Frog Lake, Heart Lake, Kehewin, Saddle Lake, Whitefish (Goodfish) Lake and Cold Lake First Nations.

The \$350,000 in federal funding assisted the partnership in expanding well services to Alberta's oil patch.

Also, over \$787,000 in federal funding assisted the Saddle Lake First Nation in taking a historic first step into the oil and gas drilling business through the acquisition of a 50 per cent interest in an oil and gas drilling rig.

### **Awards of Distinction**

Samson Management Limited, of the Samson Cree Nation, was the recipient of the *Eagle Feather Business Award of Distinction* at the annual Alberta Business Awards of Distinction gala held in Edmonton. This award, sponsored by INAC, recognizes an outstanding Aboriginal-owned business. Samson Management Limited General Manager Dorothy Simon was on hand to receive the award, presented by Alberta Region RDG Barrie Robb.

### **More Awards of Distinction**

Two senior Treaty 6 managers, Clement Laframboise and Andy Noel (now retired), were the proud recipients of Commemorative Medals for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. These medals recognized both men's many years of dedication and service to INAC, First Nations and the Canadian public. The medals were presented by Hon. Lois Hole, Alberta Lieutenant Governor and Hon. Anne McLellan, Minister of Health Canada.

### **Capital Projects**

The sod turning for the new Sunchild Administration Building took place this year and, less than a year later, the building was constructed and opened. In attendance at the sod turning were Treaty 6 First Nations Relations

Director Victor Houle, Chief Melvin Goodrunning and a large number of community members. The new building houses all of the First Nation's administration, including council chambers.

The grand opening of the Sunchild Health Centre took place the same day as the sod turning for the new administration building. This modern facility houses the community's nursing and extended care facilities. The centre received federal funding from the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada.



Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal recipients (l-r) Andy Noel (retired), Fred Jobin, Norm Brennand and Clement Laframboise

## Message from Treaty 7 Chief

On behalf of the Treaty 7 Chiefs, it is my pleasure to report on the continuing progress each First Nation has made in the 2002/2003 fiscal year.

This fiscal year was busy, interesting and challenging to say the least. Every First Nation in Treaty 7 agreed to have on-reserve information sessions on the proposed First Nations Governance legislation. In addition, off-reserve sessions were held throughout Treaty 7 territory.

Throughout all of our activities, accountability and transparency to our members continues to be important. Our people's expectations, not only to be informed by leadership, but to provide input into decisions affecting their communities, are growing rapidly. I believe the key to transparency and accountability is communication. Therefore, each First Nation must strive to communicate with its members in every possible way, as well as develop new, innovative means of communication. That is why on April 9, 2002, Blood Tribe Chief and Council held a news conference in Lethbridge, where they opened the books on the 2002/2003 operating budget to media and the public.

Treaty 7 was involved in two major conferences in 2002/2003 - the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis country, bordering on the Stoney Nation and the 2002 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education, held on the Stoney Nation.

The Blood Tribe made significant progress on its governance and child welfare agreement this year, reaching an agreement in principle with both Canada and Alberta.

Early in February 2002, Siksika membership ratified the Acreage Discrepancy (Surface) Settlement Agreement that goes back to the early 1900s. The Piikani Nation also ratified the claim related to the effects of the Oldman River Dam on the Nation. As well, in September 2002, the Siksika Nation hosted a week long commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 7.

Minister Nault made further commitments in 2002/2003 to assist First Nations through increased economic development programs on-reserve to improve living conditions for our membership. This was evident through several announcements on different projects within First Nations reserves. We thank Minister Nault for his commitment to improving the lives of First Nations people across Canada.

On behalf of the Treaty 7 First Nations, I thank Barrie Robb and Sandi Williams and their staff for their continued support and service to our people. I look forward to continue working with INAC on all of the issues affecting First Nations.

Chief Chris Shade



## Treaty 7 Highlights

### **Proposed First Nations Governance Legislation**

The Treaty 7 directorate once again found itself being the most proactive directorate in providing information on the proposed First Nations Governance legislation to all interested individuals/organizations of Treaty 7. As a result, the majority of all information sessions conducted in the Alberta Region during 2002/2003 took place in southern Alberta.

As with the pre-legislative phase, every First Nation in Treaty 7 agreed to have information sessions on-reserve. Off-reserve sessions took place on the campuses of various colleges and universities. They were well received, with a strong demand for information.

It was evident throughout the year that members of Treaty 7 wanted to be informed and provide input. This was best exemplified when the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources visited Alberta, where the most presentations of any region in Canada were scheduled.

### **Accountability and Transparency**

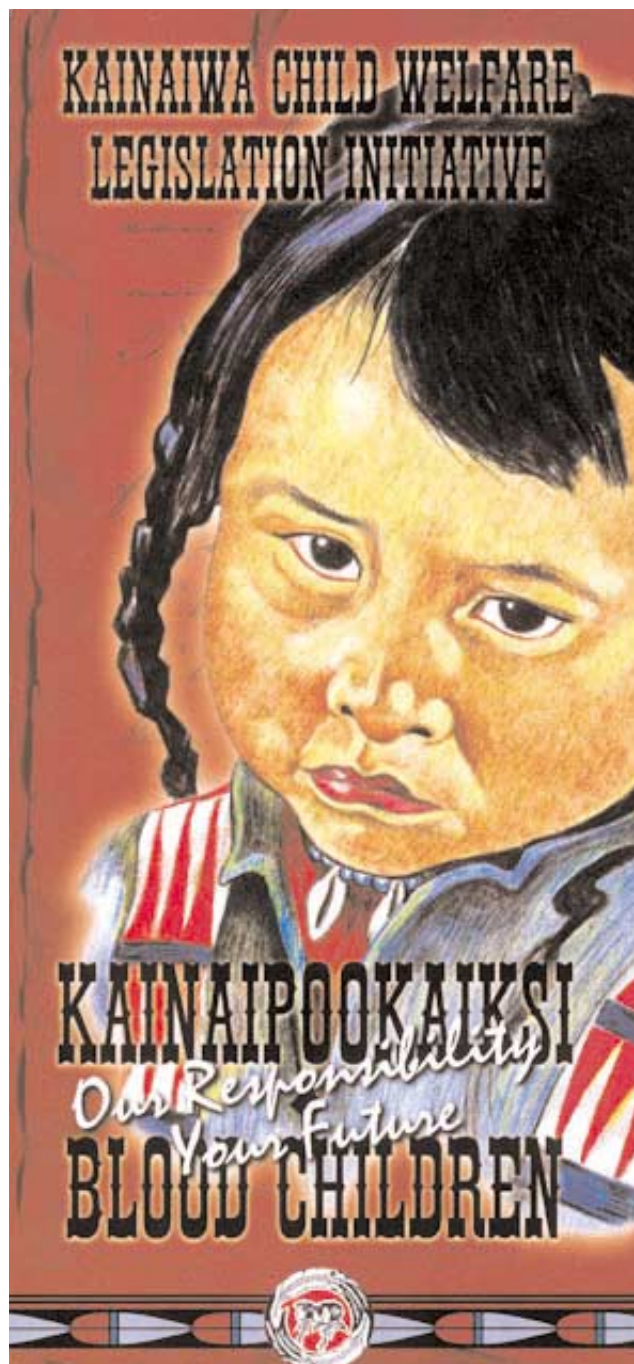
On April 9, 2002, Blood Tribe Chief and Council signalled the beginning of a new era in transparency and accountability when they held a news conference in Lethbridge to provide full disclosure of their 2002/2003 operating budget to media and the public.

Chief Chris Shade said opening the books not only provides more accountability to members of the Blood Tribe, but it serves as an example and challenge to other First Nations across the country to do the same.

### **Blood Tribe Governance and Child Welfare Agreement**

Progress on the Blood Tribe Governance and Child Welfare agreement in principle continued this year. Following Blood Tribe Chief and Council's approval of the agreement in March 2002, Canada's approval came in May and Alberta in March 2003. This agreement in principle enables a final agreement to be negotiated, describing how the Blood Tribe will exercise law-making authority over the child welfare sector.

In addition to formal agreement negotiations, the Blood Tribe has devoted staff to developing their child welfare program human resource capacity, policies, standards and intergovernmental protocols, all based on extensive consultations with Elders, youth, families, professionals and other interested parties. The task team is dedicated to having child welfare services provided under the jurisdiction of Blood Tribe law instead of provincial law.



Blood Tribe child welfare information



Commemoration riders arrive at Blackfoot Crossing during Treaty 7 125th anniversary celebration (Photo courtesy Siksika Nation)

### **Treaty 7 Commemoration**

From September 16-22, 2002, the commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 7 saw representatives from all Treaty 7 First Nations travel to Siksika Nation to participate in many of the week-long activities. Some of the events included the viewing of the original Treaty 7 document, ceremonial ride, powwow, youth forum, historic site tours, panel discussions and a cross-country race.

Lieutenant Governor Lois Hole and Minister Nault participated in the closing ceremonies and Premier Ralph Klein participated in a sod turning ceremony for the Blackfoot Crossing Interpretive Centre.

### **G-8 Summit**

On June 26 and 27, 2002, the world was introduced to Kananaskis country as leaders of the top eight industrialized countries in the world attended the G-8

Summit. The summit site bordered on the Stoney Nation and months of preparation involving INAC and the Nation resulted in a "summit plan."

The INAC/Stoney planning team ensured comprehensive emergency and contingency measures were developed to deal with health and safety concerns of Stoney members before and during the summit. United First Nation Corporation was hired to organize and provide training to 100 Stoney members, through the Security Officer Career College, and then hire them to protect over 1,500 square kilometres of reserve land during the summit. This helped the Summit Management Office deliver a safe summit.

The legacy of the G-8 Summit continues in the Stoney community through new telecommunication fibre optics lines that provide the Stoney Nation with opportunities to develop global tourism strategies, improved distance learning and further community development.

## **2002 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education**

From August 4-10, 2002, delegates from all over the world converged at the Stoney Nation to attend the 2002 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education.

Hosted by the First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium, approximately 2,500 participants, from 25 countries, took in the many activities. In addition to excellent North American representation, delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Iran as well as numerous South and Central American countries attended.

## **Claims**

On September 18, 2002, the Piikani Nation ratified a tripartite (Canada/Alberta/Piikani) Settlement and Trust Agreement totalling \$64.3 million, of which Canada's contribution was \$32.15 million.

The settlement resolved numerous outstanding land and water issues related to the construction of the Oldman River Dam. A unique feature of the settlement is the Piikani Nation and Canada settled nine specific claims via this agreement.

The ratification brought to conclusion many years of negotiations and the establishment of the trust agreement has created a strong, viable foundation for many future generations of the Piikani Nation.

On February 4 and 5, 2002, Siksika membership ratified the Acreage Discrepancy (Surface) Settlement Agreement in the amount of \$82 million in compensation and interest. Negotiations began in 1993.

The key component of the settlement was the establishment of the Siksika Trust Account. The trust will secure a prosperous future for many generations of the Siksika Nation.

## **Manager Receives Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal**

Norm Brennand, Field Manager, Southern Alberta Field Services, was presented with the Commemorative Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee by Hon. Lois Hole, Alberta Lieutenant Governor and Hon. Anne McLellan, Minister of Health Canada, on December 13, 2002. The medal was awarded for his many years of service and dedication to the department, First Nations and the Canadian public.

## **Economic Development**

Economic development projects received nearly \$500,000 in federal funding in 2002/2003, including the expansion of the Stoney Nation's Chiniki Village and the Piikani crafts project.

## **Piikani Water Filtration Plant**

The Piikani Nation's new water filtration plant was officially opened on May 15, 2002, after two years of construction. This new water plant will ensure the Nation has safe drinking water. INAC contributed \$1.3 million in federal funding to this project.

## Message from Treaty 8 Grand Chief

I am honoured to provide a few words on behalf of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta for the INAC Alberta 2002/2003 Year in Review.

This past year has been exciting, but challenging. I would like to first of all acknowledge and thank all the Treaty 8 Chiefs for their leadership during the past year. I would also like to thank the staff of Treaty 8 First Nations Relations, INAC, for their continued support of our organization.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta was actively involved in the bilateral process again this year. There has been a renewed sense of purpose, with 22 First Nations submitting Band Council Resolutions to INAC to show their support for the process.

I am extremely proud of the developments around the Treaty 8 Centennial Curriculum Development Project. The project, launched by Chiefs to commemorate the signing of Treaty No. 8, will provide our children with a culturally relevant social studies program.

Economic development is also alive and well in Treaty 8. I was pleased to have Minister Nault on hand to help announce three major projects: Dene Tha' oil and gas drilling rig purchase; Athabasca Tribal Council capacity building agreement and Fort McKay Industrial Park.

Our organization also hosted a number of events, thanks in part to sponsorship from INAC. Each of the events – the third annual Elder's gathering, the Youth Employment Strategies Gathering and the regional Social Development Workshop – united people from each of the three Treaty areas in Alberta.

Treaty 8 also took the lead in the area of early childhood development, having been chosen as one of only three areas in Canada to participate in a national pilot project to look at the integration of programs for children.

I look to the next fiscal year with much anticipation. Not only do I look forward to continuing to work with our partners at the INAC regional office, I look forward to the many opportunities that we have to ensure Treaty No. 8 is honoured and protected.

In the spirit of unity,  
Grand Chief Archie Cyprien



## Treaty 8 Highlights

### Bilateral Process

INAC continued to support the ongoing bilateral process among Treaty 8 First Nations this year. Following up on the Declaration of Intent of 1998, two agreements were negotiated. The first is a Treaty-related agreement for ongoing Treaty exploratory discussions and research and the second, an Inherent Right to Self-Government agreement, that provides a framework for the negotiation of lawmaking authorities. Both agreements were unanimously supported through Band Council Resolutions from all member First Nations.

Initial discussions have also started around developing “practical arrangements” in the sectors of health, governance, livelihood and related economic matters and education to look at the aspects of program delivery that can be provided on a Treaty 8 area-wide basis.

### First Nation Constitution Development

Three First Nations in Treaty 8, Kapawe'no, Mikisew Cree and Smith's Landing, were engaged in active internal processes to develop their own local First Nation constitutions this year.

### Early Childhood Development

The 2002 Speech from the Throne once again confirmed the government's commitment to addressing the gap in life chances between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children. One of the programs mentioned was putting in place early childhood development programs for First Nations. Treaty 8 was one of only three areas in Canada chosen by INAC, Health Canada and Human Resources Development Canada for a national pilot project to look at the integration of programs for children.

### Elder's Gathering

For the third year, Treaty 8 was the host for the Seventh Generation Elder's Gathering, bringing together approximately 200 Elders from Treaty 6, 7 and 8. The gathering, sponsored in part by INAC Alberta, was hosted by Bigstone Cree Nation at Wabasca, Alberta in August. Spread over three days, the agenda covered issues such as justice, gun legislation, health, capacity building, self governance, bilateral process and education.



Minister Nault (right) and Fort McKay Chief Jim Boucher at sod turning for Fort McKay Industrial Park

### Treaty 8 Centennial Curriculum Development Project

INAC Alberta partially funded a Treaty 8 Centennial Curriculum Development Project. The project, focused on social studies, was launched by Chiefs to commemorate the signing of Treaty 8. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta held Elders and educators' workshops to discuss the content of various units. In 2002/2003, the grades one and two units were submitted to a publisher and the grades three to six units were drafted.

### **Economic Development**

Minister Nault announced three major projects this year in Treaty 8 territory, while he visited the region. They were:

*Dene Tha' Oil and Gas Drilling Rig* – INAC provided \$1.96 million to purchase a 50 per cent interest in two oil and gas drilling rigs. It was a joint venture with EnCana Corporation and Lakota Drilling Ltd. Partnership that totalled \$14.9 million.

*Athabasca Tribal Council (ATC) Capacity Building Agreement* – INAC agreed to provide \$1.2 million over three years to support ATC's role as a partner in the estimated \$50 billion expansion of the Athabasca Oil Sands over the next 12 years.

*Fort McKay Industrial Park* – INAC invested \$1.5 million to assist the Fort McKay First Nation in expanding its long-term economic development opportunities. In partnership with the private sector, the First Nation is planning to establish an industrial and commercial centre in northeastern Alberta for companies servicing the oil sands industry. The project totals \$3.4 million.

### **Youth Employment Strategies Gathering**

A Youth Employment Strategies Gathering, sponsored by INAC, was held in Edmonton in March. Although it was facilitated by the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, participants came from each of the three Treaty areas. Participants were updated on new program and reporting guidelines of four INAC youth programs and other relevant youth initiatives.

### **Regional Social Development Workshop**

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta hosted and organized a regional social development workshop in March, which was attended by First Nation social development administrators in Alberta. Presentations were made by INAC, Health Canada and Salt River Indian Reserve in Arizona. Agenda items also included social policy renewal, the Romanow Report and Aboriginal human resource agreements. The workshop was funded by INAC Alberta.

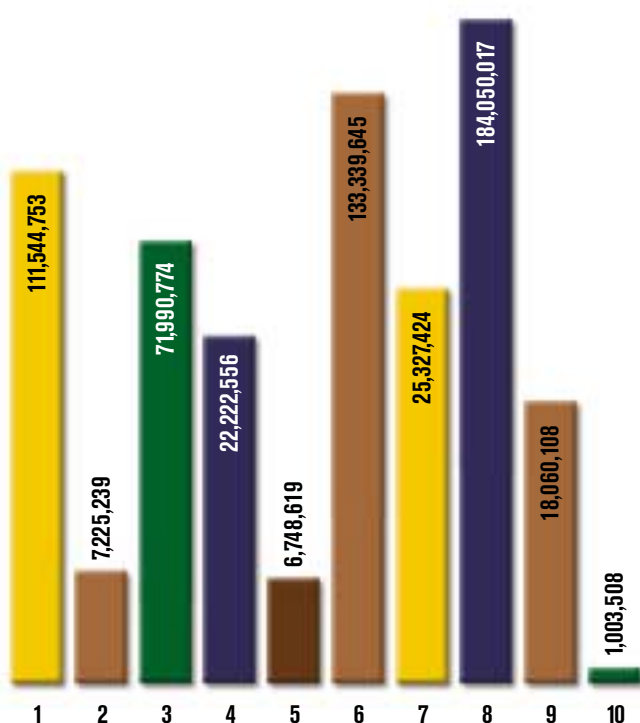


New Chateh School, Dene Tha' First Nation

### **Dene Tha' School Grand Opening**

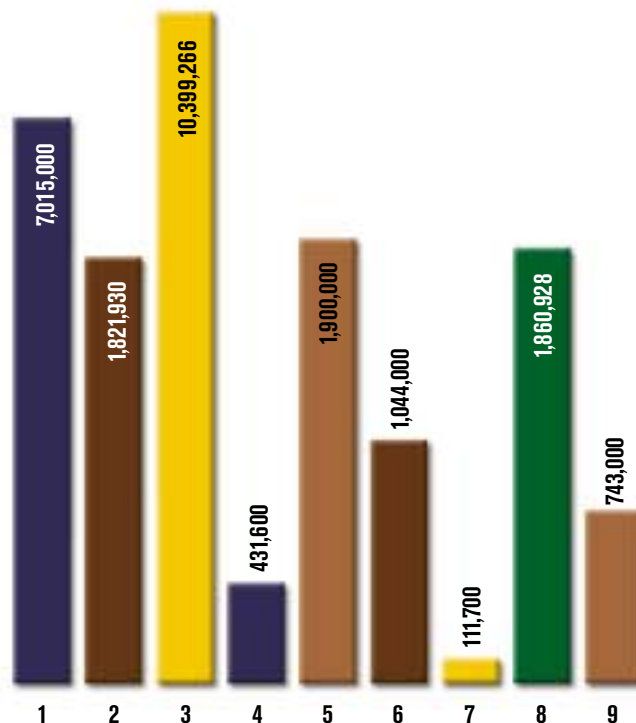
The Minister was on hand in September to celebrate the grand opening of a new school, Chateh Community School, at Dene Tha' First Nation. Aside from providing education to students from kindergarten to grade 12, it is designed to act as the centre for community activity. Hot lunch programs are available to the community from the new cafeteria. The new health centre will provide much-needed space for dental and medical examinations and these spaces, as well as the cultural centre, gymnasium, student gathering area and library, are readily accessible for public use and easily secured from the academic spaces. The school was co-funded by INAC and the First Nation.

## 2002/2003 Year in Review – Financial Reports



### Regional Expenditure Breakdown

1. Education.....	\$111,544,753
2. Economic Development .....	7,225,239
3. Capital & Facilities Maintenance .....	71,990,774
4. Indian Government Support .....	22,222,556
5. Lands & Trust Services.....	6,748,619
6. Social Development .....	133,339,645
7. Gathering Strength .....	25,327,424
8. Financial Transfer Agreements .....	184,050,017
9. Administration .....	18,060,108
10. Program Costs.....	1,003,508
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$581,512,643</b>



### Gathering Strength Alberta Region Expenditure Breakdown

1. Education Reform .....	\$7,015,000
2. Welfare Reform.....	1,821,930
3. Water & Sewer .....	10,399,266
4. Housing .....	431,600
5. Economic Development .....	1,900,000
6. Reorientation of Self Government .....	1,044,000
7. Aboriginal Representative Organizations .....	111,700
8. Professional Development.....	1,860,928
9. Resource Access Negotiations.....	743,000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$25,327,424</b>

# INAC Facts, Figures and Trends

## Indian Registration

### 2002

BAND	SEX	Total Population	Total on Reserve	Total on Crown Land	Off Reserve
TOTAL	M & F	89,812	56,328	2,718	30,766
	Male	44,225	28,599	1,358	14,268
	Female	45,587	27,729	1,360	16,498
Treaty 6	M & F	35,088	24,638	208	10,242
	Male	17,252	12,426	93	4,733
	Female	17,836	12,212	115	5,509
Treaty 7	M & F	23,664	17,879	6	5,779
	Male	11,635	9,008	3	2,624
	Female	12,029	8,871	3	3,155
Treaty 8	M & F	31,060	13,811	2,504	14,745
	Male	15,338	7,165	1,262	6,911
	Female	15,722	6,646	1,242	7,834

### 2001

BAND	SEX	Total Population	Total on Reserve	Total on Crown Land	Off Reserve
TOTAL	M & F	87,703	55,361	2,685	29,657
	Male	43,160	28,100	1,341	13,719
	Female	44,543	27,261	1,344	15,938
Treaty 6	M & F	34,172	23,995	210	9,967
	Male	16,788	12,079	94	4,615
	Female	17,384	11,916	116	5,352
Treaty 7	M & F	23,223	17,869	4	5,350
	Male	11,413	9,013	1	2,399
	Female	11,810	8,856	3	2,951
Treaty 8	M & F	30,308	13,497	2,417	14,340
	Male	14,959	7,008	1,246	6,705
	Female	15,349	6,489	1,225	7,635

### 2000

BAND	SEX	Total Population	Total on Reserve	Total on Crown Land	Off Reserve
TOTAL	M & F	85,373	53,641	2,904	28,828
	Male	41,982	27,177	1,477	13,328
	Female	43,391	26,464	1,427	15,500
Treaty 6	M & F	33,139	23,323	210	9,606
	Male	16,257	11,711	93	4,453
	Female	16,882	11,612	117	5,153
Treaty 7	M & F	22,666	17,770	4	4,892
	Male	11,131	8,966	1	2,164
	Female	11,535	8,804	3	2,728
Treaty 8	M & F	29,568	12,548	2,690	14,330
	Male	14,594	6,500	1,383	6,711
	Female	14,974	6,048	1,307	7,619



## Grade 12 – Enrollment & Graduates Summary

<b>Treaty 6</b>	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
<b>Enrollments:</b>	241	319	353	326
<b>Graduates:</b>	43	37	47	66
<b>(%):</b>	18%	12%	13%	20%
<b>Treaty 7</b>	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
<b>Enrollments:</b>	323	331	371	341
<b>Graduates:</b>	70	66	77	87
<b>(%):</b>	22%	20%	21%	26%
<b>Treaty 8</b>	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
<b>Enrollments:</b>	116	115	116	126
<b>Graduates:</b>	17	35	34	37
<b>(%):</b>	15%	30%	29%	29%

## Post Secondary – Enrollment & Graduates Summary

<b>Treaty 6</b>	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
<b>Enrollments:</b>	1,339	1,237	945	1,119	965
<b>Graduates:</b>	134	143	117	148	140
<b>Treaty 7</b>	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
<b>Enrollments:</b>	842	1129	795	872	754
<b>Graduates:</b>	68	71	48	64	58
<b>Treaty 8</b>	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
<b>Enrollments:</b>	662	811	771	847	679
<b>Graduates:</b>	73	67	62	110	69
<b>NWT</b>	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002
<b>Enrollments:</b>	75	78	66	75	43
<b>Graduates:</b>	18	12	8	16	13



### Number of Social Assistance Recipients On-Reserve (Monthly)

1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
26,002 (44.9%)	25,025 (41.8%)	23,733 (38.7%)	24,731 (39.5%)

### Children In Care On-Reserve, as of March 31 (Agencies)

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Foster Care	1,118	1,139	1,182	1,241
Group Homes	27	50	40	35
Institutions	158	192	272	277
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>1,381</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>1,553</b>
% of Children in Care:	5.80%	6.40%	5.59%	5.65%

These numbers represent the number of children in care on-reserve. The trend appears to be on the rise and could be due to many variables including an increase in the number of band members who are under 18, higher number of apprehensions to ensure safety, changes in provincial and on-reserve apprehension policies and heightened awareness and communication about issues that may require apprehension.

18 Child Welfare offices are fully operational.

Only five First Nations are not affiliated with a Child Welfare agency on-reserve.

### Work Opportunity Projects (WOP)

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
# of Projects:	263	317	412	338
Person Months of Employment Created:	6,884	6,863	5,883	8,233
\$ Transferred to WOP (in millions):	\$5,331.2	\$4,409.5	\$2,825.7	\$2,820.9

These funds represent the number of employment opportunities created by funds transferred from social assistance. This project has been very successful and we will continue to be committed to this very worthwhile alternative to social assistance.

### Housing Activity

	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Houses	12,117	12,433	12,380	12,771
Total Renovations	208	506	351	468
Total New Houses	282	279	265	317

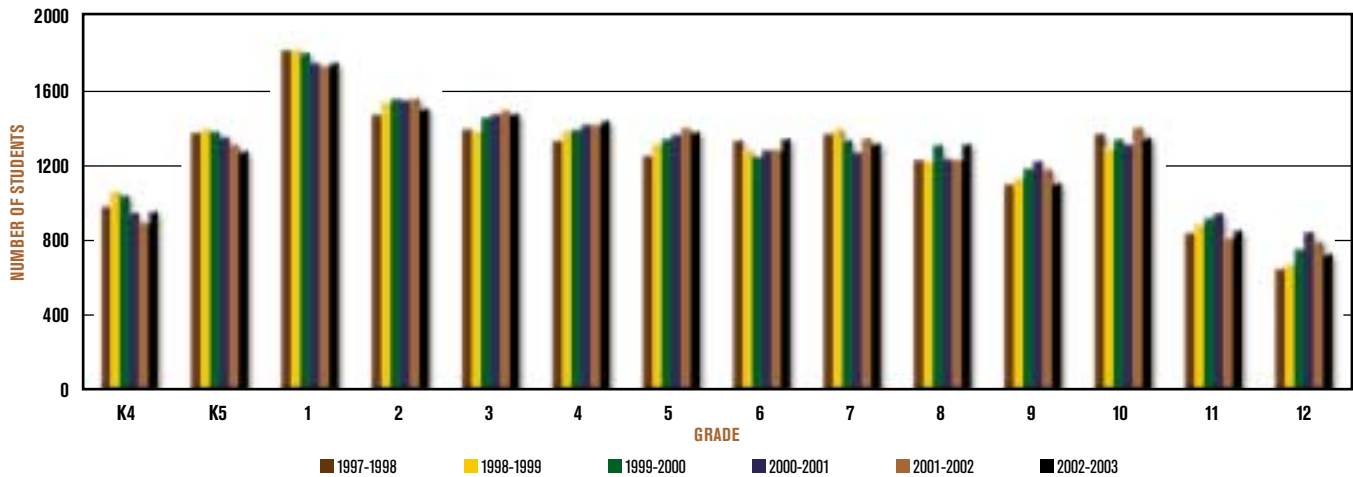
Note: In 2002, five First Nations did not submit an annual housing report. Reports from two First Nations were rejected.

Renovations and new houses do not reflect the total activities funded.

Note: The total number of houses is influenced by deletions and adjustments as well as renovations and new construction.

## Education Trends

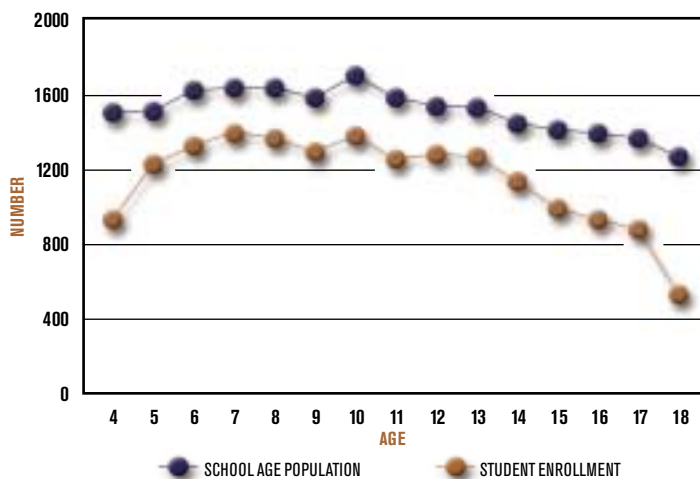
### Student Enrollment by Grade



This graph shows student enrollment by grade for the years 1997/98 to 2002/03 in the Alberta Region. The six-year summary displays not only the regional total by grade, it also shows a significant drop in student enrollment in later grades.

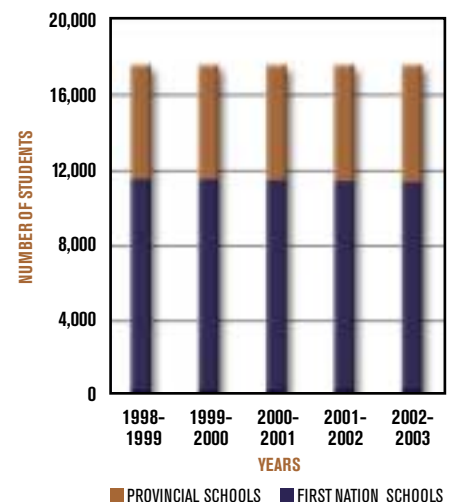
Note: The Grade 10 student enrollment includes many students who have been placed into recovery and alternate school programs which has had the effect of increasing Grade 10 student population.

### School Age Population vs. Enrollment



On this graph, the enrolled student population for 2002/03 is displayed by age and compared to the Indian registered population for the same age range and year. The graph demonstrates a gap between the registered on-reserve population and student enrollment.

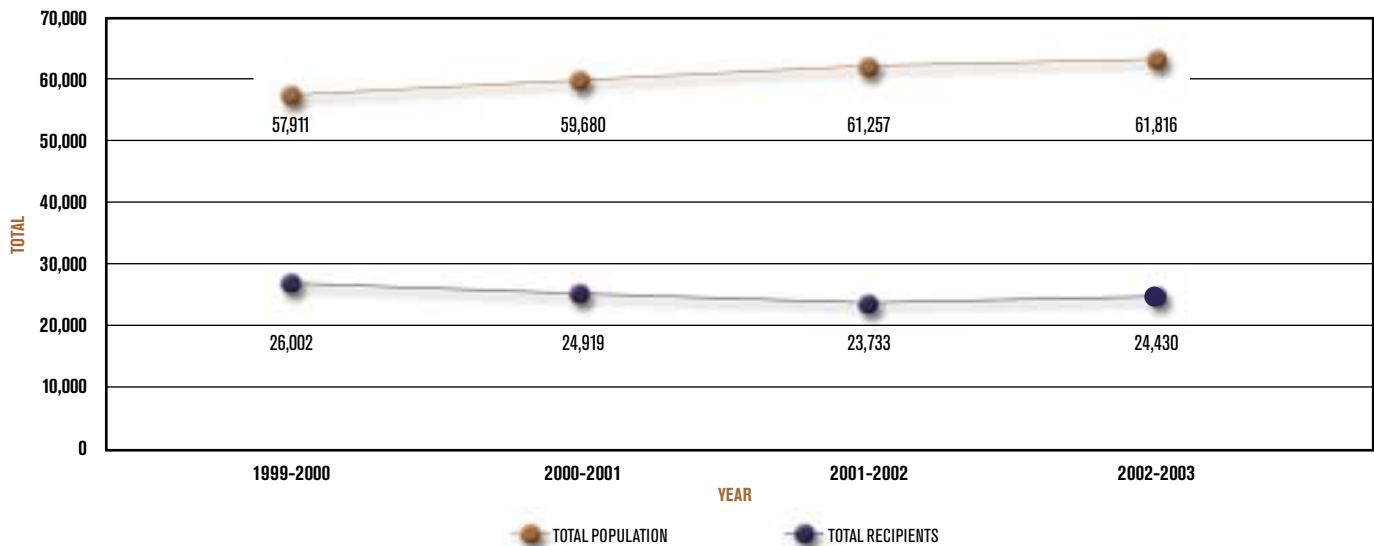
### Student Enrollment in First Nations and Provincial Schools



Over the five years, this graph shows a decline of 547 students attending band-operated schools and an increase of 571 students residing on-reserve who are attending provincial schools.

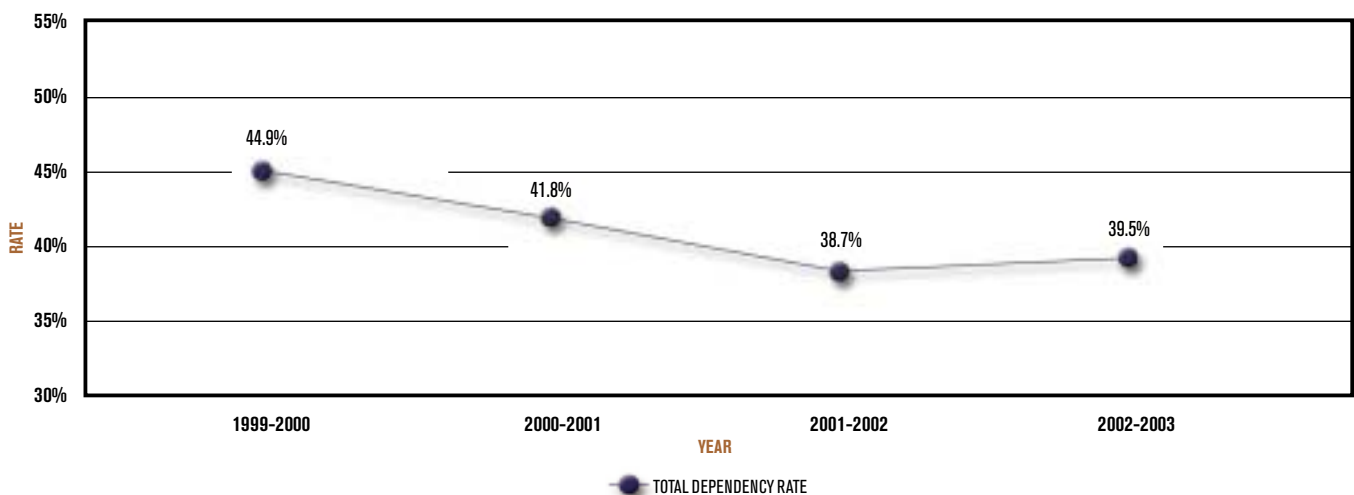
## Social Assistance Trends

On-Reserve Population and Social Assistance Trends



From 1999-2003, the total on-reserve population in the Alberta Region has increased. During the same time, the total number of social assistance recipients has decreased.

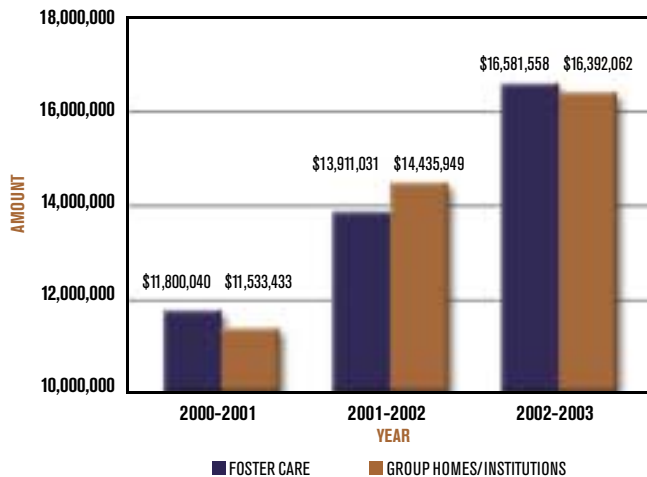
On-Reserve Total Social Assistance Dependency Rates 1999-2003



Social assistance total dependency rates represent all Comprehensive Funding Arrangement and Canada/First Nations Funding Agreement First Nation communities in the Alberta Region. Overall, the social assistance dependency rate has declined from a rate of 44.9 per cent in 1999-2000 to a dependency rate of 39.5 per cent in 2002-2003.

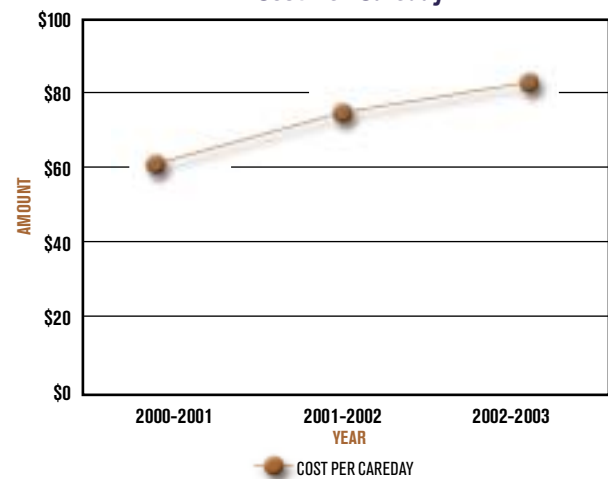
## Child Welfare Trends

**Alberta Region  
First Nations Child and Family Services  
(FNCFS) Three-Year Maintenance Expenditures**



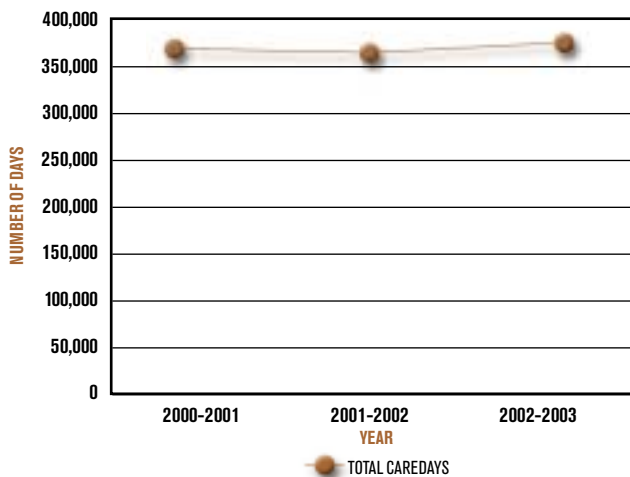
This graph depicts the steady growth of expenditures for foster and institutional care as invoiced to Alberta Region by Child and Family Service agencies. It does not include the five First Nations serviced by the province and the three Block Pilot Agreements (North Peace Tribal Council, Blood and Siksika).

**Alberta Region  
Cost Per Careday**



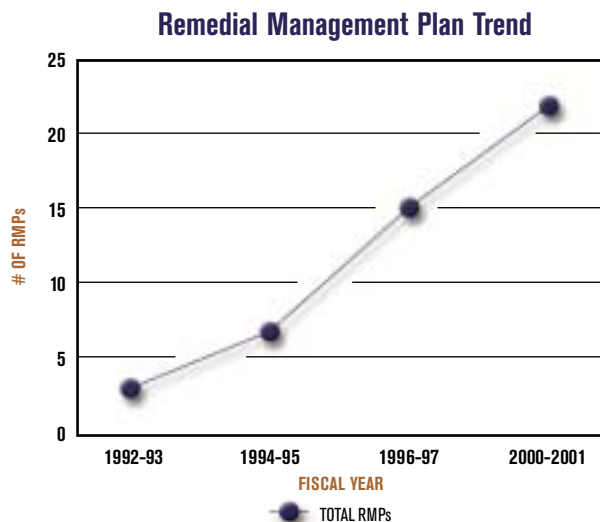
This graph shows the growth in average cost per careday over the three years. The rate shown combines expenditures for institutional and foster care expenditures and is generated from the monthly invoicing data submitted to Alberta Region by First Nations agencies.

**Alberta Region Child Welfare Total Caredays  
Institution and Foster Care**

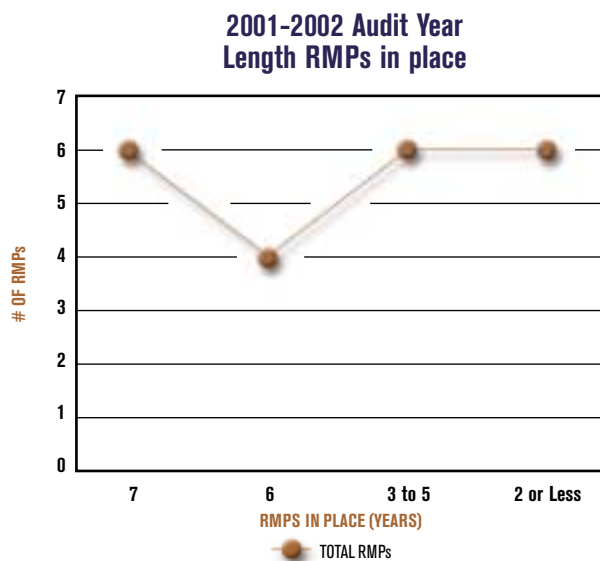


This graph shows that over the same three-year period, the overall child caredays, as reported by First Nations in child welfare invoicing, has remained relatively consistent.

## Remedial Management Plan (RMP) Trends

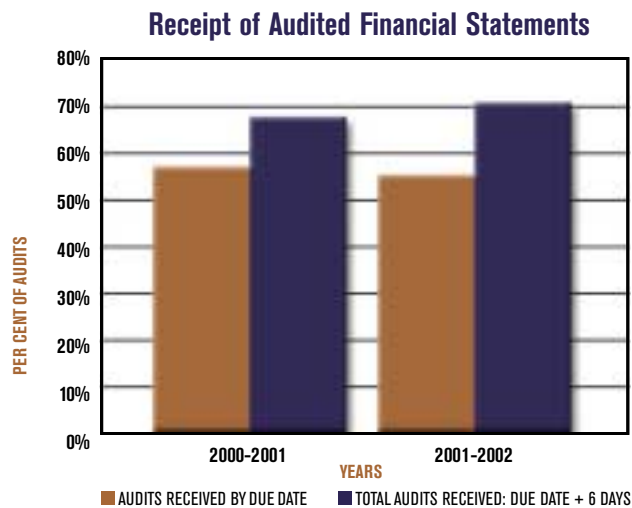


This graph shows that since 1992-1993, the number of First Nations under RMP has risen considerably from three to 22.



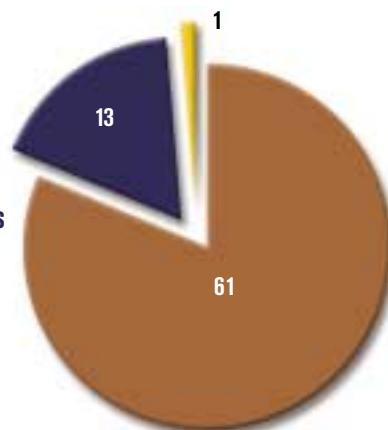
The majority of Alberta First Nations operating under RMPs have done so for more than three years.

## Audit Trends



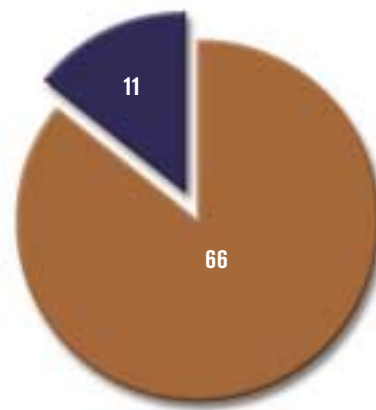
### 2000-2001 Auditor Opinions

UNQUALIFIED  
QUALIFIED  
DENIAL



### 2001-2002 Auditor Opinions

UNQUALIFIED  
QUALIFIED  
DENIAL



The above graph and pie charts show that both receipt of audited financial statements by the due date and the number of unqualified financial statements increased only slightly in 2001-2002 compared to 2000-2001.



## Salaries and Travel Expenses – INAC Senior Officials

TITLE	LEVEL	TRAVEL EXPENSES
<b>SALARY RANGE (EX-03) - 106,200 TO 125,000</b>		
Regional Director General	EX-03	\$81,901.43
<b>SALARY RANGE (EX-02) - 94,900 TO 111,700</b>		
Associate Regional Director General	EX-02	\$45,489.84
Director Operational Program and Policy	EX-02	\$24,148.96
<b>SALARY RANGE (EX-01) - 84,700 TO 99,700</b>		
Director First Nations Relations - Treaty 8	EX-01	\$12,094.28
Director First Nations Relations - Treaty 6	EX-01	\$20,898.99
Director Corporate Services	EX-01	\$31,015.30
Director Claims and Indian Government	EX-01	\$16,502.05
Director First Nations Relations - Treaty 7	EX-01	\$27,155.65

Travel expenses include airfare and other expenses incurred by employees (accommodation, meals, taxis, etc.) which are reimbursed in accordance with the provisions of the Treasury Board Travel Directive.



**For further information on INAC Alberta's programs and services, please contact us at:**



**Tel: 780-495-2773 Fax: 780-495-5005 Web site: [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)**