



# DREAMSPEAKER

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*Captured here are the urban Nisga'a Ts'amiks Dancers performing the "Frog Challenge Song." This song was composed for the purpose of teaching the public the societal structure of the Nisga'a Nation. One member from each of the four crests, the Eagle, Wolf, Raven and the Killerwhale are called upon to come out and challenge one another. In the end the rest of the members of each crest join in the dance and everyone comes out a winner. With each of the four crests there is a sub-crest. The sub-crest for the Raven is the Frog, hence comes the title the "The Frog Challenge Song."*

*by Edna Tait, Nisga'a Nation*

Nineteen ninety-nine marks the Museum of Anthropology's 50th Anniversary and on Thursday July 1, Canada Day, the museum held its first ever Family Day as one of the events to honour the occasion.

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Given the overcast weather, it was a pleasant surprise when attendance exceeded 1,776. Entertainment included well-known children's favourite Rick Scott, the urban Nisga'a Ts'amiks Dancers, the Punjabi Artists Association of Richmond, the Tsimshian Dancers and the Spiral Kiss Stilt walkers.

The cultural diversity of the performers and their willingness to provide continuous entertainment were major contributors to the success of the day.

For more information on current events and ongoing activities at the museum, contact Jennifer Webb, Communications Manager, at 822-5950, or [jenwebb@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:jenwebb@interchange.ubc.ca).



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## G. Cook's Eco-oriented "No-Trace" Tours



*by Edna Tait, Nisga'a Nation*

### *The Cape Cook at sea.*

Employed in the commercial fishing industry for 39 seasons as a seiner, Gilbert Cook has enjoyed a lifetime of travelling the waters of the B.C. coast from one end to the other, gaining an intimate knowledge of the inside passage and the mainland inlets of northern Vancouver Island. Primarily a salmon fisherman aboard the Cape Cook, Gilbert has also seined roe herring. Despite the dramatic downturn in the fishing industry on the west coast, it is only fitting that Gilbert wishes to maintain his lifestyle out on the waters as a seafarer. Making a difficult transition from being a commercial fisherman, he has launched into a new career of eco-tourism.

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"There were hardly any white people around when I was growing up," recalls Mary. "They came slowly, one by one. When I was just a little girl, a man shows up at Natanlii. We all stare at him like he's a ghost," she laughs. "He was tired and hungry and had nowhere to go. So my Daddy took him in and looked after him for awhile."

Realizing that commercial fishing was no longer going to be a part of their lives, Gilbert and his wife Vicki decided that they wanted to do something that was not going to have a negative impact on their natural environment. "We have been in the resource extracting industry our whole lives, so we decided, instead of taking away from the natural resources, we wanted to do something that would in no way use up any of our local resources." At the same time Gilbert says, "The one thing I wanted was to maintain my life on the water, I didn't want to give that up." With that in mind, he and Vicki together developed a philosophy of what they were going to do. And, before they had even learned about Aboriginal eco-tourism, says Gilbert, "We found out that 'no-trace' eco-oriented tours was exactly what our philosophy ended up being. We take pride in leaving things as we find them, taking nothing but photographs and memories. The tide will wash away our footprints."

Like his father before him, Gilbert spent his childhood summers on the Cape Cook, a 65-foot wooden hulled vessel which was built in 1926 in North Vancouver and has served the Cook family for three generations. Gilbert became engineer and crewman in 1957 and has been Captain since 1972. The Cape Cook operated as a commercial fishing vessel until 1996 when her licence was retired. The vessel was completely refitted during 1997-98 to provide comfortable, spacious galley accommodation. Taking the opportunity offered by Aboriginal Business Canada to refit the boat entirely, Gilbert began his journey into the tourism industry.

"We would like to attract people here, fairly small numbers of people so it wouldn't impact the community too much, offering tours that will go anywhere for up to five or six days," says Gilbert. G. Cook's Tours will take the visitor/traveller on a tour over the same sparkling waters once paddled upon by Gilbert's 'Namgis ancestors. Visitors will be taken on a journey of discovery and exploration which will focus on the Native culture, the history of the islands, inlets and rivers of the Kwakwaka'wakw, the Kwakwala speaking people.

Taking in all the land and marine resources, tours begin aboard the Cape Cook exploring Alert Bay, beginning with a visit to the U'mista Cultural Centre which houses the finest collection of historical artifacts depicting the potlatch ceremony of the Kwakwaka'wakw. The tour continues with a visit to an old village site and a journey



through to Johnstone Strait and adjoining passages watching for killer whales. On day five, tours begin from Echo Bay to Kingcome Inlet, which has at its head a large river and estuary that provide habitat for a great diversity of wildlife. If there is a commercial salmon fishery during the tour, there may be time to see the fleet in action. Tours wind up with a stop on the beach to enjoy a salmon barbecue.

Making the transition from being a commercial fisherman to being an eco-tourism operator has been an overwhelming experience for Gilbert Cook, to say the least. "There are some things you just sort of hang on to; it was kind of a shock to have to start something new," says Gilbert. Maintaining the lifestyle of a seafarer, if not a fisherman, is bound to flourish among the many people who depend upon the sea. For Gilbert and Vicki, the new millennium promises profitable growth in the tourism industry and a promising future for the Cape Cook, a sea vessel that, like its owner, just isn't ready yet to be decommissioned.

For more information on G. Cook's Tours, contact Gilbert & Vicki Cook at PO Box 22, Alert Bay, B.C., V0N 1A0; telephone toll-free 1-877-974-5002, locally (250) 974-5055; fax to (250) 974-5008 and/or email [waletail@island.net](mailto:waletail@island.net).



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## B.C. Sports Hall of Fame Inducts North Shore Indians 1936 Lacrosse Team

*by Beverley O'Neil, Ktunaxa Nation*

The walls of the BC Sports Hall of Fame at BC Place Stadium in Vancouver are no different than any of the walls we have at home. The walls are made of wood, and plaster, held together by nails and covered in paint. But it is what is on these walls that gives them meaning. The meaning that inspires others to find the fire within. More than 30,000 visitors a year are inspired as witnesses of achievements and successes in sports as they stroll the corridors. Visitors discover the people who made sports their passion, and those who fostered these athletes as builders and media. For Aboriginal people in B.C., this year they will discover walls are not barriers to their success, but they will symbolize the achievements and commitment of Aboriginal people. In April, the first Aboriginal athletes were inducted. This honour went to the 1936 North Shore Indians Lacrosse Team. Sixty-three years after they filled the rafters of Vancouver's Denman Arena, the team has officially taken its place alongside B.C.'s great athletes, such as Terry Fox, Karen Magnussen, and Cyclone Taylor.

Many sports have been dominated by family values and teachings, and by the families themselves. Hockey had the Sutters, soccer had the Lenarduzzis, and lacrosse had the Baker Boys. There were six Bakers playing at once - Henry ôHawkeyeö, Ray, Dominic, Frank, Bill, and Simon. They weren't all brothers, but they were related. The Bakers played alongside Joe Johnston, Stan Joseph, Moses



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Joseph, Louie Lewis, Harry Newman, Fred Johnston, Fred August, Earl Newman, Ted Band, Cliff Paull, Tommy Cole, and Victor Guerin. Coached by Andy Paull, some of the players were recruited from as far away as Six Nations in Ontario - Cec Vanevery, Gayland Thomas, Stew Bomberry, Oscar Bomberry, Hubey Smith, and L. Smith.

For the last surviving member of the 1930s team, 88-year-old Simon Baker, this honor is one he's waited a lifetime for. The honor will accompany his many memories of days as a North Shore Indian Lacrosse Team member with his siblings and relatives from the Squamish Nation. Simon first began playing at age 21.

In those days, the North Shore Indians humbled their opponents, dancing circles around them. The Indians' stick handling and passing was superb. "A real spectacle, and exciting to watch!", recalls Andrea Jacobs, a member of the Squamish Nation. She was a young girl in the days when the team would draw crowds of more than 10,000 to the arena. "If you didn't get to the game early, you didn't get a seat. That is," Andrea smiles, "unless you had a special 'VIP' pass." Sports brought the community together in a time when there wasn't much -- it was the time of the depression. It was even more depressing for Aboriginals. The games were a place where they could find happiness and be successful.

Sometimes successes are far and few between in First Nations. "As in all communities, Aboriginals also need to find successes within," remarks Roy Francis, a member of the Sliammon First Nation of Powell River. Roy remembers a picture he kept for the longest time of his local community hero, Larry Louie. The picture showed Larry (he was about 12 years old at the time) lighting the torch for the B.C. Summer Games. "Larry," Roy shares with a warm smile and pride in his voice, "was a soccer God. I remember how he embraced life, how he embraced opportunity. He loved the challenge and change. He had desire." Roy shares how Larry influenced him. "Larry was a regular person just like everyone else. But, because of the way he approached soccer, he inspired." Roy was about six years old at the time that Larry held the torch at the games. Today, Roy is a self-employed consultant. He has been for the last eight years. Roy still plays soccer, but now he plays it with Larry.

People find inspiration from all over. For Simon Baker, it was the advice from his grandmother that set the stage to the way he played the game and approached life. "Be a fine tuned machine, physically, and mentally," she'd say. "Have a clear game with a clear mind. Play as a team." And he did. And they did.

When the team first won the B.C. Championships in 1932, all but four players were Native. During the honeymoon of this win, the team traveled to San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Toronto to compete in exhibition games, tournaments, and playoffs. The depression took its toll though, dismantling the team until 1936 when they again won the B.C. Championships. This win led them to Maple Leaf Gardens for the Mann Cup. Here Conn Smythe, the owner of the Toronto Maple Leafs, watched with amazement as the boys dazzled spectators with their cunning combination passing. Being Indian was an advantage in this game. Passes called in the Coast Salish language often sent their opponents in a flurried frenzy.

Each year the B.C. Sports Hall of Fame honors individual athletes and teams, sport builders and media who have contributed to the enhancement of sports through the inspiration of youth and adults. Nominated by their peers annually in November, the Hall welcomes submissions for all sports. Don Taylor, the General Manager and former professional football player for the B.C. Lions, comments, "We encourage all people to become involved. There are many people who deserve to be in the Hall of Fame, and they're not just the athletes. They include the builders and media personalities as well."

On April 27, 1999, the 1936 North Shore Indians Lacrosse Team was inducted in the Pioneer category for "the great contributions of past athletes whose achievements occurred prior to 1940."

For Chief Simon Baker, his memories of the great days as a North Shore Indian Lacrosse player in the 1930s will forever live on. For young Aboriginals, they too will know the pride, dedication and commitment these players had for the game... and the young people will too be inspired, as was Roy Francis. This is only the beginning of many more successes, of many inspirations, of many achievements.



## *North Shore Indians Lacrosse Team, Western Canada Champions, 1936.*



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## Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School

Elvis Anderson  
Henry Ball  
William Brown  
Peter Charlie  
Andrew Dawson  
Lucy Hemphill  
Missy Henderson  
James Humchitt  
Joey Hunt  
Peggy Nolie  
William Obetkoff

Teacher Riz Hemray  
Chaperone Charlotte Anderson  
Van Driver Herb Lancaster

Stephanie Walkus  
Melanie Smith  
Rob Swain  
Annie Walkus  
Clayton Walkus  
Francine Walkus  
Jackson Walkus  
Lisa Walkus  
Louie Walkus  
Wayne Walkus

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## Gitsegukla Elementary School

Jody Russell  
Carol Switzer  
Natasia Hyzims  
Flora Russell  
June Russell  
Naomi Aksidan  
Lisa Wesley  
Victor Abel

**Chaperones**  
Martha Hyzims  
Sally Jones  
Caroline Howard  
Melvin Turner  
Edward Russell

Graham Abel  
Carmen Turner  
Brian Switzer  
Ted Russell Jr.  
Jonathan Russell  
Samuel Turner  
William Turner  
Gerald Williams

## Gitanyow Independent School

Maureen Shirey  
Chasity Turley  
Natasha Derrick  
Kameron Shirey  
Tyler Clayton  
Braidy Russell

**Chaperones**  
Mr. James Hirschfeld  
Ms. Sharon Maitland  
Mr. Steve Climie

Johnson Derrick  
Ritchie Lincoln  
Vincent Good  
Wayne Johnson  
Marcel Russell  
Travis Turley

## Kispiox Elementary



Shylah Reviakin  
Nishan Blackwater  
Ben Gawa Johnson  
Gerald Muldoe  
Whitey Muldoe  
Lloyd Johnson  
Elliott Wilson

**Chaperones**

Annette Wilson  
Sandi Reviakin  
Leslie Ann Moraes  
Trevor Angus  
Harry Johnson  
Edna Boyd  
Scott Boyd

Blair Angus  
Dakoda Wilson  
Dustin Heit  
Garrett Stevens  
Kyle Wilson  
Charles Moraes  
Brittany Sampson  
Nikita Stevens

## Haahuupayak

Anthony Ambrose  
Patricia L. Antoine  
Priscilla Antoine  
Zacchaeus Billy  
Christopher Canname  
Cory Curley  
Cynthia D. Dick  
Margaret J. Dick

**Teacher**

Darrin Olson  
**Chaperones**  
Bessie Sam  
Frances Antoine  
Mark Sutherland  
Val Labell  
Joy Hamilton  
Barbara Williams  
Ken Touchie

Leisa J. Fred  
Jason Gurney  
Juliann A. Hamilton  
Iris Kivell  
Stanley Lucas  
Curtis Mack  
Shelbee N. Sam  
Marisa Sutherland  
Letitia Titian  
Danielle Watts



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*by Julian F. Wilson, Saulteaux*

The Seventh Generation Club, aimed at British Columbia First Nation youth in First Nation and public schools, has taken education for both student and teacher to new levels of learning and interaction. Now in its third year, the club has expanded its membership from a mere 500 members to more than 3,400 clubbers and growing!

Christa Williams, spokesperson for First Nations Schools Association, which is responsible for the club's administration, says, "The club started with an idea between John Watson and Paul Kyba." John Watson is the current Regional Director General for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) and, at the time, Paul Kyba was the Associate Regional Director General, Medical Services Branch, Health Canada. They were both really interested in a stay-in-school and make-healthy-choices club for kids in combination with sports. From these discussions, the Seventh Generation Club was created.

"Our work has demonstrated that there is an urgent need for the federal and provincial governments to take leadership on this issue," says Alex Archie, Co-Chair of the task force. "If the problem is not brought in check, the cost in human and financial terms will be very high. We need Prime Minister Chretien and Premier Clark to send a clear message that this issue is a priority," he continued.

Christa says, "Initially it started off as a basketball club and then the Vancouver Canucks asked if they could be included." Through Orca Bay Sports and Entertainment, Gino Ojick of the Vancouver Canucks, and Ivan Newbill of the Vancouver Grizzlies helped launch



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the club as co-captains. They have since been traded to other teams in their respective leagues. The club's current co-captains are Vancouver Grizzlies' Cherokee Parks, and Vancouver Canucks' Brad May. Their messages inspire members to do their best, to get involved in sports, and strive to achieve. They give members a chance to see where hard work, staying in school and healthy life choices pay off through the "Co-captains' Corner" in the club's newsletter.

The newsletter is full of exciting contests, stories on people who have made a difference, neat prizes, the "Co-captains' Corner" and mascot K.G. Coyote's "The Nook," which gives healthy pointers and helpful study tips. The newsletter promotes participation not only during the school year but through summer vacation. "The teachers have been sort of the core of the organization," says Christa. "If we didn't have the contributions from the teachers we wouldn't have a club." Teachers play a pivotal role by distributing the newsletter, encouraging students to enroll and participate in the club's activities, submitting entry forms, and keeping records of outstanding school attendance to allow member to be eligible for the Ball Girl/Ball Boy contest. The teachers also work closely with club organizers in planning and providing input to the Mentor and Career-for-a-Day Programs, planning and coordinating field trips, and encouraging participation in the Book Club and the Pen Pal Program. Clubbers have the opportunity to win the grand prize of being a Ball Girl or Ball Boy at a Grizzlies Game by achieving outstanding school attendance with an average of 95 percent or better. Last year's winner was Jesse-Ann Gabriel of Xit'olacw Community School in Mount Currie. She assisted as Ball Girl on March 20, 1999, when the Grizzlies played the San Antonio Spurs.

Financially supported by Health Canada, DIAND, B.C. Hydro and in-kind support through Orca Bay Sports and Entertainment, all club members have a chance to win the grand prize or other premium prizes such as Seventh Generation hats, t-shirts, backpacks and free Grizzlies or Canucks tickets. Last year club members with excellent attendance had the opportunity to win one of about 2,000 free tickets to a Grizzlies or Canucks game. "We want to make sure the club is accessible to all students, not just the ones in the Lower Mainland," Christa says. "As the last event of the year, on April 29, 1999, the club, with special thanks to B.C. Hydro and Orca Bay Sports, was able to bring 75 students and 28 teachers and parents to Vancouver for a day at Science World, a pre-game dinner, and tickets to see the Vancouver Grizzlies play the San Antonio Spurs.

This was just one of ten games that winning club members attended in the club's second year. It being the last event of the year, this one

seemed to gain more attention because of the distance some of the children had to travel,” says Christa. The students came from Gitanyow Independent School, Gitsegukla Elementary School, Kispiox Elementary School, Gwa’Sala’Nakwaxda’xw School and Haahuupayak School. The Grizzlies may have lost, but the real winners that night were the organizers, teachers, parents/chaperones, bus drivers and 75 excited children.

The tremendous success of the Ball Girl, Ball Boy grand prize with the Vancouver Grizzlies has demonstrated that recognition of one’s achievement pays off. So much so, that the Vancouver Canucks want a matching grand prize to be included in the next school year.

The Seventh Generation Club has had huge success with the younger students. “When we first started the club we wanted to come up with something that would be our signature piece,” says Christa. “Something the students would find useful and nice enough that they would want to keep. That’s when we first came up with the idea for the Seventh Generation Club Daytimer. That was probably our biggest promotion of the club that increased the membership to where it is today - three schools signed up their entire school population! We have increased our production of the daytimer to 4,000 for the 1999-2000 school year, available on a first-come-first-serve basis.” The interest the club has generated is evident in public schools as well.

Public school interest in the Seventh Generation Club comes about in a couple of ways. Families may have two or more children, with some attending a provincial public school and the others enrolled at a First Nations school. Word of mouth among First Nations kids has also increased the awareness of, and participation in, the Seventh Generation Club. First Nation support workers in provincial schools have formed clubs in their own schools with activities that mirror the Seventh Generation Club newsletter. For example, one school has club members who usually meet on Fridays to read the latest newsletter, fill out entry forms, and work on their contest submissions. “We want to make it clear,” says Christa, “that we’re here to support all the schools in B.C. regardless of their political affiliation. The Seventh Generation Club is maintained through the First Nations Schools Associations, which is an independent society, a not-for-profit organization that isn’t affiliated with any First Nation political body or organization. ”

The underlying purpose behind the club’s existence, stated in Volume 1, Issue 1 of the newsletter in November 1997, pretty much sums up the importance of new partnerships forged through this exciting new adventure: “The Seventh Generation Club name represents you as a

generation. The name says that the choices you make today will affect seven generations in the future. The name is yours alone, because everything you do today affects your tomorrows." The club's success is due to a dynamic group of individuals who, through their belief, contribution, dedication, commitment and expertise in their respective professions, have seen the club evolve to what it is today.

For more information, please contact the Seventh Generation Club at (604) 990-9939, or e-mail: [fnesc@fnesc.bc.ca](mailto:fnesc@fnesc.bc.ca)



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*by Kelly Scarrow, DIAND*

*“Capacity relating to lands and resources in First Nations communities is built on and drawn from the cultural and community context and, as such, is the ability of the community and its members to perform functions effectively, efficiently and sustainably.”*  
*(Post-Delgamuukw Capacity Panel - Final Report)*

In April 1999, Jane Stewart, then-Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND), announced the Capacity Initiative and associated funding of up to \$15 million over three years. The Capacity Initiative was undertaken to enhance the capacity and expertise of British Columbia First Nations to prepare for negotiations on land and resource components of comprehensive land claim settlements, and to manage and consult on land and resource issues.

At the time, then-Minister Stewart said, “This capacity initiative is consistent with the spirit and intent of Gathering Strength-Canada’s Aboriginal Action Plan, which commits us to work in partnership to strengthen First Nations governance and build strong self-reliant communities. Successful management of land and resources is key to the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of First Nations communities now and in the future.”

The announcement came on the heels of the final report of the Post-Delgamuukw Capacity Panel, which was struck in July 1998 to examine effective ways of preparing First Nations for land and resource negotiations and consultations.

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Acting upon the recommendation of the Capacity Panel, then-Minister Stewart appointed an independent committee, the Capacity Initiative Council, to review project proposals from First Nations and to make recommendations to DIAND as to which capacity building projects to fund.

British Columbia has earmarked \$2 million of existing funds for First Nation capacity building initiatives.

All First Nations in B.C. with an unresolved land claim are eligible to apply for funding, including both those within and outside of the British Columbia Treaty Commission process.

Information on the Capacity Initiative and how to apply for funding was sent to B.C. First Nations in May 1999. To date, feedback from First Nations has shown considerable interest in the Initiative.

Further information regarding the Capacity Initiative may be obtained by contacting Bonnie Larush, Secretariat, Capacity Initiative Council at (604) 775-5118 or [larush@inac.gc.ca](mailto:larush@inac.gc.ca)

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Chief, Cowichan Tribes

**Robin Billy**, Vice-Chair

Kamloops Indian Band

**Cliff Atleo**,

Ahousaht First Nation

**Graham Dallas**,

Director, External Relations,

Canadian National Railway

**Peter Lusztig**,

British Columbia Treaty Commission

**Nathan Matthew**, Chief,

North Thompson First Nation

**Hilarie McMurray**,

B.C. Federation of Labour

**Frank Parnell,**  
TRICORP

**Justin Wilson,**  
Heiltsuk First Nation

*“The path of capacity building will lead to stronger First Nation communities.”*

**Chief Lydia Hwitsum**

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## Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of British Columbia

*by Julian F. Wilson, Saulteaux*

*The new Aboriginal Financial Officers Association Board of Directors: (left to right) Todd Mastel, Director; Norman Taylor, President; John Mosimann, Vice-President; Elaine Sinclair, Vice-President; Lynn Anderson, Treasurer*



“While the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (A.F.O.A.) of British Columbia may not have officially adopted ‘Committed to success in First Nation financial management’ as its vision, it best describes the association’s goal when it comes to financial management in First Nation organizations, commercial entities,

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Tribal Councils and education authorities,” says Norman Taylor, President of the A.F.O.A., and Executive Director of the Nuu-chah Nulth Tribal Council.

Financial officers in First Nation organizations encounter many of the same or similar situations in financial management and accountability daily. Before the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association was established, financial officers had nowhere to turn for support or advice in effectively managing their organization’s budget and various financial arrangements. “It was approximately four years ago at a technical advisory group meeting in Vancouver when informal discussions around financial management in First Nation organizations, high staff turnover, and lack of common financial controls, lead to the strategy for our first meeting and eventual creation of the association,” says President Taylor.

One hundred fifty financial officers from various First Nation organizations in British Columbia attended the first meeting held at the Squamish First Nation in North Vancouver in 1996. Delegates broke up into working groups and reported back to the main plenary. It was unanimous – principles and practices had to be developed to address issues of common concern. The A.F.O.A. was formally incorporated in November 1996. Its mission statement reads, “The Aboriginal Financial Officers Association exists to provide a united organization to represent financial officers, provide for the advancement of education, and the sharing of knowledge and information to assist our members in ensuring their communities’ sound financial management.”

“I must emphasize,” says Norman, “we are not a political organization. We have political leaders who have this responsibility.” The objectives the A.F.O.A. has established are: “Advance the knowledge and proficiency of members through education and accreditation; maintain standards of practice of members through a code of ethics and conduct; represent A.F.O.A. members and advocate positions and policies of the association; promote professional practices in financial management by First Nations’ organizations; facilitate the development and implementation of standards for accounting and financial management which meet the needs of First Nations’ organizations; and, affiliate with any other association or corporation having similar objectives or with whom an alliance would be beneficial.”

More recently, the A.F.O.A. has concentrated its efforts on developing an accountability policy in conjunction with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The process will deal with disclosure, redress and transparency in



financial management for First Nation organizations. To address this issue, the association has developed its own generic set of accountability policy and financial policy manuals for its members, that may be used by any First Nations in British Columbia or the rest of Canada. "The two generic policies will not be forced upon any organization. We plan to circulate the policies and let First Nations organizations know that they are available for their use and that they can be modified to meet the specific needs of the Chief, Council and membership as they see it being utilized," says Norman. The policies are also available at the A.F.O.A.'s website at [www.afoabc.org](http://www.afoabc.org). Other initiatives will be looked at and pursued by the A.F.O.A. as the association develops its own capacity.

The A.F.O.A. is on the leading edge in professional development for its members. The executive meets regularly throughout the year to develop or schedule training sessions and workshops for its 96 members. Workshops such as Y2K options, human resource interviews, taxation, salary scale development and computer training are just a few of the activities that allow members to network while building capacity.

The association is also working with the Capilano Community College to offer a second pilot project in the Aboriginal Financial Management Certificate Program that could be accredited to a Certified General Accountant degree. Members are encouraged to take the courses being offered to achieve a recognized level of professional status in finance.

The Assembly of First Nations supports the A.F.O.A.'s goal to look at audit requirements and standards for First Nations through its Certified General Accountants initiative. "I'm a member of the working group," says Norman. "The process has proceeded a lot quicker than we anticipated. Delegates recently met from all across Canada to discuss the terms of reference with the intent of incorporating a national A.F.O.A. The papers to incorporate have been submitted to proceed. At this rate, regional and national associations of Aboriginal Financial Officers across the country should be in place a lot sooner than we expected. It is hoped that after the two-year mandate is over with the AFN/CGA initiative, many of the recommendations of the working group will be pursued by the national A.F.O.A. and its regional counterparts."

The A.F.O.A. also received a motion of support from the First Nations Summit and has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the summit. The MOU states that "the A.F.O.A. would provide financial advice and expertise to the First Nations Summit upon request." A similar MOU with the Union of British Columbia



Indian Chiefs is in the works.

“Indian Affairs Minister Jane Stewart mentioned the British Columbia Aboriginal Financial Officers Association in her January 1999 Gathering Strength progress report as a positive step toward capacity building,” says Norman. “Even though we were way ahead of her in regard to the partnerships embraced by Gathering Strength, I agree with a statement she made in an interview that associations such as this must go ahead. Especially with things like treaties and self-government. As an association we want to make sure that First Nation organizations have the capacity to take on the finances. What we are talking about here is billions and billions of dollars our financial officers will be responsible for. The association is the long-term solution to First Nation financial self-management as we make our way into the next millennium.”

Gabrielle McLean, Executive Director, and Julie Marks, Executive Assistant, make up the two full-time staff who handle the day-to-day operations of the A.F.O.A. The office is located at 1959 Marine Drive, Suite 060, in North Vancouver. If you're a financial officer for a First Nation organization, visit the association's website or drop by when you're in Vancouver. Call first though. To contact the A.F.O.A. call (604) 988-5564.



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## Native Golden Wings Select Team's 1999 European Soccer Tour



In May 1999, the Golden Wings Select Team participated in a sixteen-day European soccer tour in England. The games were all very close, and the players came mainly from northern Vancouver Island First Nation communities, with two boys from Saanich and two from Sliammon. Out of nine games played, the Golden Wings won four, tied two, and lost three that were very close. Pictured here are:

**(back row)** Stan Tooth, Organizer Graham Cope, Doug Watson, Herb Moon, Cris Hunt, Kelsay Louie, V.J. Kos, Brandon Louie, Ryan Nichalson, Byron Harry, Coach John Henderson, Manager Flavian Harry;

**(front row)** Dustin Price, Bert Stanvick, Nowell Joseph, Mike Child, Leslie Coon, Norman Charlie, Steve Child, Gerald Henry, Chris Olson, Preston Johnny, Assistant Coach Scott Harris;

**(missing from photo)** Leonard Nelson.

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## First Nations Employment/Enterprise Development Centre - Working Together

*This eighteen-foot red cedar totem pole carved by Coast Salish artist Richard Krenz graces the lobby of the new First Nations Employment/Enterprise Development Centre.*

*by Edna Tait, Nisga'a Nation*

The First Nations Employment Society was formed in 1997 to administer employment and training programs to ten First Nations under a regional agreement between the B.C. Region of the Assembly of First Nations and Human Resources Development Canada. The society's members include the Homalco, Klahoose, Mount Currie, Musqueam, N'quatqua, Sechelt, Sliammon, Squamish, Tsawwassen and T'sleil Waututh First Nations. In May of 1998 the society signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to assist First Nations on reserves to move from welfare to employment.



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One of the First Nations Employment Society's main accomplishments to date is the establishment of the First Nations Employment/Enterprise Development Centre, an organization dedicated to solving a very difficult problem – rampant unemployment among Aboriginal people living in urban centres.

The new centre will operate under the auspices of the society, in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada and local First Nations. There will be an official opening in the fall of 1999. Services will be available to urban First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Special programs and projects will include persons with disabilities, youth and women.

The centre will support capacity building with First Nations in the Vancouver/Lower Mainland/Sunshine Coast and Whistler-Pemberton areas of British Columbia while providing on site and Internet-based services to Aboriginal people in Greater Vancouver. The range of services will assist Aboriginal people to return to work, start a business, access training, develop personal return-to-work action plans, provide community access to the Internet, assist employers to screen applicants, deliver federal measures, and more.

The First Nations Employment/Enterprise Development Centre celebrated a totem pole raising in June 1999, in advance of the official opening. An eighteen-foot red cedar totem pole carved by Richard Krentz, a Coast Salish artist of the Shl'sha'lth (Sechelt) Nation, was erected in the centre. The totem pole features three figures which represent the guiding values and cornerstones of the First Nations Employment Society. The top figure is the goose. The gift of the goose symbolizes encouragement. Watch a flock of geese migrating and you'll always hear one or two honking. Those geese are encouraging the others to go on. The long journey of the goose needs not only strength and cunning, but also encouragement. At the centre we have all the knowledge and equipment, but unless we are encouraged the journey will be difficult.

Next, we have the squirrel. The spirit of the squirrel represents meaningful work. When there is work to be done, the squirrel works hard. The squirrel knows when to rest as it hibernates for the winter. There is a saying that better describes the squirrel's work: "Work without vision is drudgery, and vision without work is daydreaming." The First Nations Employment/Enterprise Development Centre's goal and purpose is to help First Nations people attain meaningful work.

And finally, we have the beaver. The way of the beaver represents working together. When a dam is built and one section is damaged,



the beavers do not ignore the problem hoping someone else will fix it. They all work together until there is a solution. Too many times we work on problems alone, often duplicating work. If we work together with our limited resources, solutions are easily found.

Located in downtown east side Vancouver, the First Nations Employment/Enterprise Development Centre is across the street from Vancouver Community College, near the downtown campuses of Simon Fraser University and the British Columbia Institute of Technology, and easily accessible from the skytrain, seabus, and transit routes. For more information on programs and services please contact the First Nations Employment/Enterprise Development Centre at Suite 101A - 440 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6B 2N5; telephone (604)605-7194; fax (604)605-7195; or email at [jobs@firstnationsemployment.com](mailto:jobs@firstnationsemployment.com)



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## ***Gathering Strength Around B.C.***

*by Shelagh Ryan McNee, DIAND*

The feedback from First Nations groups confirmed that DIAND needs to concentrate on building relationships at the community level in order to truly understand the complexity of issues facing individual communities.

Skeetchestn, Darcy, Lillooet, Sto:lo Nation, Campbell River, Okanagan Nation, Terrace, Esk'etemc. Over the past year, each of these Nations or communities has co-hosted with DIAND, B.C. Region, a workshop and dialogue session on *Gathering Strength - Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan* – the federal government's response to recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Focussing on how to become partners in the design, development and delivery of programs at the regional and community levels, the sessions were designed to be community-based and as inclusive as possible.

Although the workshops varied considerably, an average of twenty



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different Nations were represented at each session. First Nation representatives included Chiefs and administrators, Tribal Council members and other interested community members. Attendees and presenters from Indian Affairs included the Regional Director General, John Watson; the Associate Regional Director General, Wendy John; directors of Funding Services, Intergovernmental Affairs, Lands and Trusts Services, and Executive Services; as well as Funding Services and Lands Officers. The scope of involvement from both the First Nation and departmental perspectives ensured that dialogue was informed and relevant to the community.

The feedback from First Nations groups confirmed that DIAND needs to concentrate on building relationships at the community level in order to truly understand the complexity of issues facing individual communities. However, at every workshop theme four of Gathering Strength - "Supporting Strong Communities, People and Economies to improve people's lives" - generated the most discussion and optimism regarding the ability to work together.

This community involvement has ensured that solutions to problems are undertaken from a holistic perspective. One of the criticisms of DIAND that ran through almost all the sessions was that Indian Affairs did not seem to comprehend the inter-relatedness of capacity needs within communities. For example, the department may focus on education needs, but not link those needs with economic development which is critical to helping people stay within their home communities, educated and working.

"The purpose of *Gathering Strength* is to turn around the relationship so we work together, not at cross purposes," said RDG John Watson, while attending the two-day workshop at Skeetchestn. This viewpoint is shared by others. "I can say I'm glad we're being involved and that there's going to be a change in the way we work together," said Esk'etemc (Alkali Lake) Chief Bill Chelsea. "We want to have a voice in what happens."

As *Gathering Strength* initiatives move into the second year of funding, community voices will continue to be heard, because building new partnerships takes longer than a two-day workshop. As Associate RDG Wendy John acknowledges, "We have a lot of work to do out on the road, and internally within our department, and this is only a first step."



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## Eslha7àn Family Drop-In Centre: The National Child Benefit Supplement for BC Region

*by Edna Tait, Nisga'a*



Darcy Baker (left) and Chum Newman practice their carving skills at the Eslha7àn Family Drop-In Centre.

Keeping in stride with *Gathering Strength Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*, the federal government is committed to working with First Nations, provincial and territorial partners to improve socioeconomic conditions on reserves. The National Child Benefit (NCB) is the federal, provincial and territorial governments initiative aimed at the low income families in Canada. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) has been working with First Nations across Canada for the past year on the

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implementation of the National Child Benefit Reinvestment to ensure that First Nation families and communities benefit from initiatives in parenting, income support programs, child support supplements, earned income supplements, training, child care, recreation, youth development and other social services that promote attachment to the workforce.

The National Child Benefit Supplement (NCBS) was introduced in July 1998 to all low income families with children and is administered through the Revenue Canada, Canada Child Tax Benefit payment system. In the summer and fall of 1998, thirty training sessions were held around B.C. for the administering authorities of the social development program and 217 First Nations social development workers attended the sessions.

Anita Jack is the Advisor in Intergovernmental Affairs who designed and delivered the training sessions and participated on the National Child Benefit Implementation Team. The Team received the Deputy Ministers' Outstanding Achievement Award 1998/1999, which was presented at the B.C. Regional Office by Associate Deputy Minister Dennis Wallace. Anita is originally from the Okanagan Nation and has six years' experience in Band social development programs.

An example of the progress being made through the National Child Benefit Reinvestment is the Squamish First Nation's Family Drop-In Centre, which officially opened on February 15, 1999. This centre can be accessed through the Eslha7án Learning Centre located on Squamish Nation traditional territory. The drop-in centre, which has been very well received by the community, offers a wide range of programs for all members of the family. Programs offered during the regular school year from September to June include: youth drop-in, student support services, beauty shop, Squamish Warriors, men's club, ladies craft night, powwow dancing and workshop.

Halfway through the drop-in centre's first year of operation an open house was held for the community, and all of the programs were running on one evening. About 150 community members came out; the atmosphere was lively and healthy. The centre's best hopes were realized in terms of both community support and the level of involvement. "It is clear that this kind of program is needed, and organizers plan to enhance the Family Drop-In Centre's slate of programs in the 1999-2000 school year," says Lorna Joseph, Life Skills Worker for social development. "Our very special thanks to everyone who helped us realize this program both financially and especially with their valuable time and expertise."

For more information on the Eslha7án Family Drop-In Centre, please

contact Lorna Joseph or Rosemary Hundle at the Squamish Nation  
Social Development office, 321 Seymour Blvd. NORTH  
VANCOUVER BC, V7L 4J5 or telephone: (604) 985-4111 fax:  
(604) 983-9380.

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*by Penny McLaughlin, Veterans Affairs Canada*

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B.C. representatives of the National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) at the 1999 Veterans International Memorial Day Parade and Candlelight Tribute (May 30th at Mountainview Cemetery, Vancouver, B.C.)

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Traditions of sacrifice and achievement are ever present in our minds as we witness the recent events in Kosovo, and remember the nearly two million Canadian men and women who previously served their country in the time of war during the First and Second World Wars as well as the Korean War. Included in this number are thousands of Aboriginal people who joined the armed forces and fought in foreign lands to protect our common values and restore peace.

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For Aboriginal people these sacrifices and achievements date back even further. Historical records indicate that as early as the 1700s Aboriginal people joined with the Crown to protect civil unrest and bring peace to fracturing nations. This long and strong tradition of military involvement did not come without significant challenges. Aboriginal people who volunteered encountered dramatic changes to their lifestyles. There were language and cultural barriers with travel far away from their families and home land. For many it was their first exposure to military policies, custom, dress, and terminology. A very different way of life that was not always as welcoming as it could have been.

These challenges did not deter the commitment of Aboriginal people to be steadfast in responding, time and time again, to our country's call to arms for the preservation of peace and freedom throughout the world.

In recognition of the sacrifices made by Canadians in this nation's war and peacekeeping efforts, Canada offers a wide range of services and benefits to qualified Veterans, as well as to their dependants or survivors. Veterans Affairs Canada provides disability pensions, economic support allowances and benefits in health care, as well as other services all designed to meet the changing needs of Veterans.

Veterans Affairs Canada offers counselling on services and benefits, including explanation of eligibility criteria, needs assessment, advocacy, case management and co-ordination. The department assists with the preparation of applications for benefits based on the eligibility requirements.

For more information call Veterans Affairs Canada District Offices:

- Penticton (250) 770-4400 or 1-800-265-9449
- Vancouver (604) 666-3776 or 1-800-663-1931
- Victoria (250) 363-3836 or 1-800-789-8299
- French Service 1-800-253-1980







Recruits from Saskatchewan's File Hills community pose with elders, family members and a representative from the Department of Indian Affairs before departing for Great Britain during the First World War. (National Archives of Canada, PA-66815)

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