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# Message from the Regional Director General



Gathering Strength Strength Canada's Abariginal Canada's Abarigan Plans

As Regional Director General for the Alberta Region of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), it is my pleasure to present the third annual Alberta Region Year in Review. The year 2000/2001 was once again a very successful year in the Alberta Region.

I view my mandate on behalf of INAC as supporting strong First Nations communities, people and economic development. One of my key commitments is to continue to support all of the themes outlined in *Gathering Strength – Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*, in partnership with First Nations membership and other government departments and organizations.

After just three years, Gathering
Strength continues to
produce positive, tangible
results in all four
objectives it addresses –
Renewing the
Partnerships,
Strengthening
Aboriginal

Governance, Developing a New Fiscal Relationship and Supporting Strong Communities, People and Economies. As you read through this report, you will come to learn of the many partnership initiatives that have been undertaken in the Alberta Region during 2000/2001 to support these objectives.

The department's mission is to work together with our partners to make Canada a better place for Aboriginal and northern peoples. To this end, Alberta Region continues its goal of pursuing positive change in the relationship between Indian Affairs and the First Nations of Alberta.

While we have made significant progress and our collective efforts have set in place a solid foundation on which to build for the future, we still have much work to do. Achieving our goals continues to be a challenging task but, as you read through this report, you will note that considerable progress has been made in a number of areas.

This year is the first full year of the "new" structure of the regional office. Indications are that the creation of the First Nations Relations Directorates to serve First Nations in each of the three treaty areas has improved our ability to work with each First Nation in a more comprehensive manner.

On behalf of the Alberta Region, I would like to thank all of you whose hard work contributed to making 2000/2001 noteworthy and whose day-to-day activities help support the goals and objectives of the region.

Barrie Robb

Regional Director General

Alberta Region

# Alberta Region - Strategic Overview

While continuing to build on the four pillars of *Gathering Strength*, much of the department's focus this year shifted to a common First Nations/Alberta/Canada initiative in working to increase First Nations' access to economic development opportunities. This focus has led to the development of joint initiatives in training, employment and business development.

In May 2000, Minister Robert Nault announced a \$75 million increase in strategic spending on economic development. This increase brought the total funding devoted to economic development to \$100 million, of which about \$10 million was allocated to economic development projects for Alberta First Nations. First Nations invested more than \$13 million and outside partners \$36 million, for an overall impact of about \$60 million.

This increased funding marked a significant step towards building viable and sustainable First Nation economies – a priority of the department. In Alberta, with vibrant resource-based industries (forestry, oil and gas), opportunities exist for First Nations to be contributors to (and beneficiaries of) the province's booming economy.

The funding also provided the basis for the creation of a facilitative mechanism, the Alberta Partnership Forum, comprised of federal and provincial assistant deputy ministers, federal director generals and Aboriginal administrators to discuss ways to facilitate joint economic development initiatives.

In the Alberta Region, there are many projects committed to economic development. There is still much work to do but we have made progressive steps over the past year to ensure First Nations are an integral part of the Alberta economic landscape.

The following is a report of the accomplishments, highlights, successes and challenges faced by the Alberta Region during the 2000/2001 fiscal year. This report has been prepared with the cooperation, input and assistance of the First Nations of Treaty 6, 7 and 8.

#### Fírst Nations Relations Directorates

The 2000/2001 fiscal year saw the first full year of operations for the newly created directorates for each treaty area. This focused approach has created an effective partnership between INAC Alberta, Tribal Councils and First Nations.

way of doing business.

The three directorates have worked diligently to improve the delivery of services to Alberta's 44 First Nations and to create stronger working relationships. The creation of this single-window approach has also attracted the attention of the Minister, who has often commented on the many successes of this innovative





## Strategic Planning, Policy & Intergovernmental Relations (SPPIR)

PPIR provides advice, consultation, facilitation, coordination, leadership and analysis for strategic planning and operational policy with First Nation Relations Directorates.

SPPIR is also the region's link to headquarters on Lands and Trust Services matters and policy issues.

On the Lands and Trust Services program, two of the major projects occupying the workload of SPPIR employees this year were the expansion of the Treaty 7 Status Card project to Alberta Region and information sharing and implementation of the Corbiere-based changes to the election provisions of the *Indian Act*.

Within its intergovernmental mandate, SPPIR continued the bi-monthly Executive Directors' Forums and developed the mandate and held the first meeting of the Regional Partnership Forum. The forum is a committee of federal and provincial assistant deputy ministers, regional director generals and Aboriginal executive directors.

On the capital program, SPPIR held joint forums with the technical services advisory group to talk about capital, operations and maintenance and housing programs. The directorate also held the lead federal role in the Treaty 7 housing data project with Statistics Canada, Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

On the social program, SPPIR was involved in the completion of new child and family services agreements with Peigan First Nation and Western Cree Tribal Council. The directorate also developed and circulated draft terms of reference to the province of Alberta and Alberta First Nations for review of the provincial administration reform agreement.

### Claims and Settlements

On January 27, 2001 the members of Horse Lake First Nation ratified their 1928 surrender claim. The negotiated settlement was for the invalid

surrender of a portion of Beaver Indian Reserve No. 152 and all of Neepee Chief Indian Reserve No. 152A. The settlement included a cash component of \$124 million and provides the opportunity for the Horse Lake First Nation to purchase, on a willing buyer/willing seller basis, 11,800 acres of land (including minerals) to be added to reserve.

## INAC/First Nations Education Review

his joint review, co-ordinated by INAC and First Nations education personnel, has been slated to take place over three fiscal years and will examine the structure and efficiency of delivery of First Nations' education programs within Alberta, identify opportunities to improve education delivery and make recommendations for subsequent changes.

The main objective is to enable improvements to the quality of education and achievement for First Nations students, through ensuring sufficient resourcing to support efficient and effective programs, delivery systems and reporting processes.

The scope of this project is expected to include, but is not limited to:

- identifying options and recommendations for delivery systems, structures, governance, advisory and support services, reporting and accountability processes and requirements, recruitment and retention of qualified teachers, development of appropriate programs and curricula and provincial tuition arrangements;
- identifying and developing concrete recommendations to address observations of the Auditor General of Canada, including clarifying the respective roles of First Nations, the provincial government and INAC in terms of education;
- integrating national initiatives such as those for special education, post-secondary education, efforts to adopt measures to reduce the educational gap and processes to transfer jurisdiction for education to First Nations; and
- integrating work done and results of the provincial government's review of its Native Education Policy.

The project will require community consultation and gathering and analysis of current regional methodologies and practices and information from other jurisdictions (school divisions, the province, First Nations and other regions).

A steering committee with First Nation representatives from each of the three treaty areas, INAC Alberta and Socio-Economic Policy and Programs sector (SEPP) of INAC will oversee the development and progress of the project. Specific activities will include defining the scope and themes for review, developing workplans and timelines, co-ordinating research activities and preparing progress reports.







## Corporate Services

Business and process modelling resources are being used to review the business lines INAC is involved in and to identify updated and potentially more efficient ways of doing business. The result of this review will be a user groupapproved, user friendly road map of the tasks and business linkages required to complete the particular process cycle for the identified business line. As well, potential efficiencies will be identified, documented and implemented over time.

The current business areas where this work has

begun are the Regional INAC Social Assistance Monthly Process and the Financial Application Acquisition and Accounts Payable Processes.

Corporate Services (Financial Allocations & Transfer Payments), working together with headquarters and the other directorates within the region, undertook the challenge to realign the internal processing of transfer payments to First Nations. This improved the services and time

frames for processing funding agreements.

After numerous working group meetings and a major re-vamping of existing documents, the steps have been reduced from 27 to 13, which will improve the time frame for processing considerably.

Alberta was selected, along with Quebec, as regions which tested and performed pre-implementation activities for the department's new integrated financial system called OASIS. Alberta Region hosted INAC staff from Yukon, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario regions contributing to the review of the General Ledger, Accounts

Payable, Accounts Receivable, Purchasing and Fixed Asset Modules. This pilot project ran from September 29 to October 27, 2000 and was considered a success with the application operational on April 1, 2001 for the fiscal year 2001/2002.

Informatics, with the invaluable assistance of other Corporate Services staff in Financial Allocations & Transfer Payments, was able to begin implementation of an ongoing three-year life cycle for IT hardware. The first phase, replacement of 50 obsolete laptops, will expand into an ongoing replacement cycle that will see all hardware continually replaced after three years.

The provincial government announced the implementation of the AB Supernet, which will see much of Alberta being connected to high-speed Internet services. INAC Alberta has identified a resource to work closely with the province to ensure First Nations are appropriately included and to maximize the implementation within First Nation communities.

Once again, Corporate Services led the region's response to the United Way Workplace Charitable Campaign. Staff responded enthusiastically to a campaign based loosely on the popular Survivor television program, resulting in increased levels of participation and a Silver Award in recognition of the region's dedication to this worthy cause.

# Economic Development

Alberta Region's Economic Development unit led the way across Canada this year.

Alberta Region had 20 economic development projects approved, more than any other region in Canada. This included 15 First Nation projects in the "up to \$100,000" project category and five projects in the "over \$100,000 and up to \$500,000" category. Approximately \$10 million in INAC funding for these First Nations' economic development projects was used to leverage an additional \$50 million dedicated to these projects.

Approved projects included several logging ventures, gas bar/convenience stores and fire fighting contract companies, as well as two Bison ranches, two oil drilling joint ventures and two general contracting companies.

Additionally, two major projects funded were the Fort McKay/Shell Canada Business Agreement, worth \$27.5 million and the Blood Tribe Mataki Farms Irrigation Project, worth \$6.5 million. INAC Minister Robert Nault publicly announced INAC's contribution of \$1.75 million to the Fort McKay project and \$3 million to the Blood project March 16, 2001 in Edmonton. Chief Jim Boucher of Fort McKay and Chief Chris Shade of Blood accompanied the Minister at the news conference, along with a representative from Shell Canada. The announcement received considerable media coverage throughout Alberta.

The Economic Development unit also funded 53 Resource Access Negotiation projects, focusing mainly on oil, gas and forestry business negotiations. In addition, 14 Resource Partnership Programs were funded. Both of these numbers broke records across INAC regions in Canada.

The Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative (AWPI) was the springboard in developing many positive relationships between the private sector, government and

Aboriginal peoples. This included partnering with the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and Communications directorate to organize networking breakfasts in Calgary and Edmonton that included Alberta's industry leaders and Aboriginal business leaders.





In addition, AWPI facilitated the creation of two new Alberta Business Awards of Distinction in the new First Nation category, funded by Alberta Region Economic Development.

The Eagle Feather Business Award of Distinction recognizes a First Nations-owned business that demonstrates outstanding achievement and incorporates entrepreneurial and cultural concepts into its operation. It was awarded to Pimee Well Servicing Ltd., located in Bonnyville and owned by six First Nations in east central Alberta: Heart Lake, Frog Lake, Saddle Lake, Kehewin, Beaver Lake and Whitefish Lake.

The INAC/AWPI Aboriginal Relations Business Award of Distinction recognizes outstanding achievements in partnering with Aboriginal business, particularly in the areas of employment and training. It was awarded to Flint Energy Services Ltd., located in Sherwood Park. The

awards gala, coordinated by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce, took place in Edmonton on February 27, 2001.

The AWPI Coordinator also played a huge role in developing an AWPI national toolkit and made more than 50 presentations to industry and government to promote the initiative.

The Economic Development unit, with its First Nation partners and members of the Communications and Executive Services directorate, was awarded a Deputy Minister's Outstanding Achievement Award for "taking the department's priority of economic development to a new level."

## Human Resources

he Human Resources directorate maintained high levels of activity in all aspects of human resources management within the Alberta Region.

The directorate, while responsible for a full range of human resource services to management and employees within the regional office, also provides compensation services to the Indian Oil and Gas Corporation.

This year, significant attention was given to the Public Service Employee Survey (PSES). This survey included sharing information and goals with employees, addressing issues of work and workload, fostering an equitable work environment and supporting training and career development. A working group, comprised of management and union representation, cooperatively developed a PSES action plan and continue to work together to measure the survey results.

Efforts continue with the transition to the Universal Classification System of all the jobs within the federal pubic service. As well, the Pay Equity project, which demanded a significant and cooperative effort on the part of the Compensation Unit throughout the year, has finally been concluded.

Keeping in line with a national initiative, the region has emphasized human resource planning in an effort to address issues of recruitment and retention and a focus on achieving and maintaining employment equity goals.

Human Resources looks forward to ongoing and increasing challenges in the coming year as the complex human resource management systems within the public service undergo Treasury Board review.

# Message from Treaty 6 Grand Chief

ansi. I appreciate the opportunity to include a few words in the Alberta Region Year in Review on behalf of the Confederacy of Treaty 6 Chiefs. It is a testament to the improvement in the working relationships that have been fostered between Indian Affairs and the Confederacy.

I would like to commend last year's Grand Chief, Wilson Bearhead, for the work that was started here at the Confederacy of Treaty 6. I congratulate him in his new position as Vice-Chief for Alberta in the Assembly of First Nations and wish him the best of luck in his duties there.

This past year has brought Treaty 6 First Nations many groundbreaking successes and we look forward to the directions that this new year is taking us.

One such endeavor is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Treaty 8 Grand Chief Frank Halcrow, Treaty 7 Chief Chris Shade and myself on behalf of Treaty 6. This MOU shows the First Nations of Treaty 6, 7 and 8's commitment to building strong and self-sustaining communities. We applaud the Minister for his support of many of the economic development initiatives that our Treaty 6 First Nations are pursuing.

I also look forward to the rejuvenation of the Chiefs' Summit process for the Chiefs of Treaty 6, 7 and 8.

It is only through this open dialogue between Alberta's three treaty areas that we can build upon each others' understanding of issues that are common to us all.

The Chiefs have created a dynamic and vibrant atmosphere in Treaty 6 territory through the many successful ventures that are being undertaken. These activities are occurring in many fields, including economic development, innovative social programs, employment and training initiatives or through the strengthening of working relationships with government and the private sector.

I am proud to say that we are committed to improving our working relationships with INAC Alberta and other levels of government. The efforts of Alberta Region to create an environment of clarity, understanding and respect are beginning to take root. I sincerely feel that as we continue down this road of mutual respect and understanding, we will undoubtedly create many opportunities for our generations yet to come.





# Treaty 6 Highlights

#### Minister's Visits

Treaty 6 Chiefs met with INAC Minister Robert Nault on February 28 and on March 16 in Edmonton, along with Treaty 7 and 8 Chiefs. The two meetings were highlighted by discussions about strengthening First Nation economies while protecting the Treaty relationship.

During the Minister's trip to Treaty 6 in February, Chiefs presented Minister Nault with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Chiefs from each treaty area. The MOU sets out the principles of developing and implementing joint economic development strategies in building healthy and self-sustaining First Nation communities and individuals.

The principles also allow Treaty 6 First Nations to participate more fully in Alberta's economy secure in the knowledge that the inherent rights of First Nation members will not be compromised.

### Economic Development

During the 2000/2001 fiscal year, Treaty 6 First Nations launched a number of economic development projects.

Pimee Well Services, owned by the Saddle Lake, Whitefish Lake, Heart Lake, Beaver Lake, Kehewin and Frog Lake First Nations was recognized by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce with the *Eagle Feather Business Award of Distinction*. This award, presented for the first time this year, is given to First Nation businesses who demonstrate excellence in the community. It was sponsored by INAC.

Another business, Keyano Pimee, owned by the Saddle Lake and Whitefish Lake First Nations, signed a joint venture agreement with Auburn Energy Ltd. to extract natural gas on-reserve. The joint venture is an expansion of an existing operation and has resulted in the development of 10 new natural gas wells in the two First Nations. This expansion will result in increased business opportunities for both First Nations as well as benefits through expanded employment and training programs for members in both production and management.

In addition, the Heart Lake, Beaver Lake, Goodfish Lake, Kehewin, Cold Lake and Frog Lake First Nations launched a project through the Northern Lakes Wood Bison Corporation. The project will see the raising of Wood Bison for both stock and meat production. The bison will be raised on a 10-section area of land leased from the Heart Lake First Nation.



## Capital Projects

Through innovative partnerships with INAC Alberta, as well as the private sector, many Treaty 6 First Nations expanded their on-reserve employment opportunities through a variety of capital projects.

Alexis First Nation opened its multi-purpose community building complex to serve the community with a modern health and administration facility. This building incorporates the theme of linking past, present and future with a unique design that combines traditional symbolism with contemporary architecture. The building is shaped like an eagle and combines the delivery of medical services with administration tasks.

Ermineskin First Nation opened the doors of its \$11 million junior-senior high school. The First Nation contributed \$1.3 million toward the cost. The school also links traditional design with a modern educational facility.

As well, Ermineskin established a quick-response fire department to improve upon existing fire prevention techniques and further reduce losses resulting from fires.

Other notable achievements for the 2000/2001 fiscal year include:

- Frog Lake First Nation beginning construction of an all-grade school;
- Beaver Lake First Nation completing its design of a water treatment plant; and
- Many Treaty 6 First Nations completing their community housing plans.

### Education

Sunchild First Nation completed the second year of its co-operative education program, incorporating the theme "Construction and Fabrication." The program placed grade 9 to twelve students with tradespeople involved in the housing industry on-reserve. It provides Sunchild members with employment and helps to solve a housing shortage on-reserve.

The students were involved in all aspects of housing construction, including land allocation, water and sewer, power and phone lines, land surveying, site preparation and actual house construction.

In total, the students helped to build 20 houses during 2000/2001 and it is expected that 28 more will be built in the coming year.



# Message from Treaty 7 Chief



n behalf of the Treaty 7 Chiefs, it is my pleasure to report on the continued progress each tribe has made in the 2000/2001 fiscal year. As our membership continues to increase, so does the demand on the administration services that are offered to each band member.

As each tribe strides forward in the areas of economic development, social issues and tribal government, accountability continues to play a huge role in how each tribe delivers its services to tribal members. Communication is the key to accountability and each tribe has different ways and ideas on how to communicate with its membership. We need to listen to our people and take action on the issues brought forward.

From the previous fiscal year, Indian Affairs
Minister Robert Nault has committed to assist
First Nations through economic development
programs that enhance economic conditions on the
reserve. This is evident with several
announcements on different projects within each
First Nation reserve. We thank Minister Nault for
his commitment to improving the lives of First
Nation 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 excellent service to our people. I look forward to continue working with INAC on numerous issues affecting First Nations.

Chief Chris Shade

## Treaty 7 Highlights

## Treaty 7 Housing Inspection & Assessment Project

The implementation of the Treaty 7 Housing Inspection and Assessment Project is being led by the Treaty 7 Tribal Council and involves the participation of Treaty 7 First Nation Housing Directors, INAC, Health Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Statistics Canada and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT).

SAIT was contracted to train the housing inspectors and Statistics Canada provided training for the surveyors/interviewers and was also contracted to supervise, manage and compile the demographic information collected by the survey. The survey, completed in December 2000, had a 90 per cent completion rate.

The goals of the project are twofold: to inspect each dwelling within the Treaty 7 First Nation communities in order to compile an inventory, determine the condition of each asset and collect demographic information on those families residing in the housing units. This information will be invaluable to First Nations in the management of their housing program as well as to the federal government in relation to housing conditions and healthcare needs.

The project is well underway with expected completion in 2001/2002.

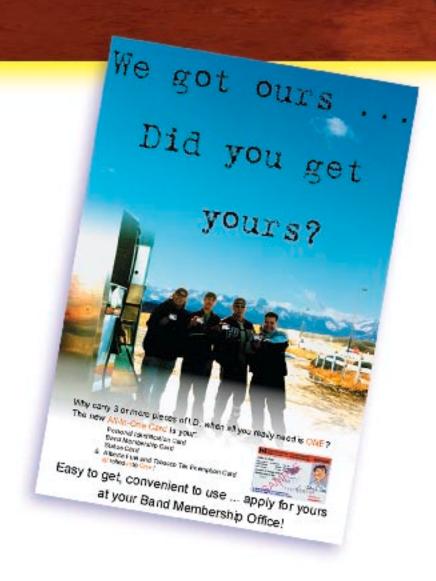
## All-In-One Card

A consolidated First Nations' identification card, or the All-in-One Card, has been in production since May 2000. Treaty 7 Tribal Council, through a joint venture, successfully designed and deployed the card that consolidates all the information currently collected and presented on the National Status Card (INAC), Province of Alberta Fuel and Tobacco Tax Exemption Card (White Card) and Regional Band Membership Card.

Consolidated cards are currently in full use by Treaty 7 First Nation members. In June 2001, INAC offices in Edmonton and Calgary will be issuing an All-in-One Card when processing applications for cards from Treaty 6 and Treaty 8 First Nation members. Significant interest has been expressed by other regions of Canada to issue the card and Treaty 7 Tribal Council will be researching the expansion of this project on a national basis.

## Siksika Delivery of Off-Reserve Child Welfare Services

Siksika Nation signed a framework agreement with the provincial Ministry of Children's Services on July 20, 2000. The only agreement of its kind in Alberta, it will enable the Nation to provide services to members residing off-reserve in Calgary as well as members on-reserve.



## Peigan Social Assistance Program

For approximately five years, INAC contracted out all administrative responsibilities for the social services program for the Peigan Nation. Following a series of bilateral discussions with the department, the Peigan Nation chose to once again assume full management responsibilities, effective September 1, 2000. With the transfer back to the Nation came a very committed effort from the leadership to ensure its membership was kept aware of all related issues. Such effective transparency has greatly impacted the degree of success achieved throughout the recent transition period.



Blood Tribe-Canada-Alberta Child Welfare Agreement

A framework agreement, which set the course for negotiating Blood Tribe's full jurisdictional control on-reserve in the area of child welfare, was signed by the Blood Tribe and Canada on April 5, 2000. An initial draft of an agreement-in-principle has since been concluded.

The new Blood Tribe Council, elected in November 2000, has reaffirmed their commitment to negotiations and have tabled intent to expand the scope of the agreement to include health and education sectors.

<u>Peigan Oldman River Settlement</u>

In 1981, Peigan Nation entered into an agreement

with Alberta, and subsequently received a permit from Canada, which allowed provincial access to the reserve for irrigation purposes. Since this time, the Nation has experienced countless years of dispute with Alberta and Canada.

On June 27, 2000 Canada, Alberta and the Peigan Nation

agreed to a handshake agreement over a period of eight years.

Following the agreement, an extensive onreserve community consultation process immediately got underway through articles in local Peigan newspapers and community meetings. The process will continue in preparation of an anticipated community ratification vote in the fall of 2001.

## Eden Valley Bridge and Arena

On August 31, 2000 a new bridge at Eden Valley was officially opened following two years of planning and construction. The bridge brought reassurance to the entire Stoney community of guaranteed access and egress from the community.

As well, in January 2001, after years of closure, the Eden Valley arena opened its doors once again. Renovations were due to a joint effort by the Stoney Tribe, INAC and the Province of Alberta. The children of Eden Valley were overjoyed about being able to use their local arena again, which will continue to be an integral hub for the Eden Valley reserve.

## Management & Financial Accountability

Minister Nault visited Blood Tribe on August 23, 2000 and toured the community. During the visit, the Minister and Blood Tribe Council signed a Canada-Blood Tribe Funding Agreement, which incorporates not only INAC-funded programs but includes Health Canada's funding for health programs as well.

Tsuu T'ina Nation and Siksika Nation also signed multi-year Canada-First Nation funding agreements in 2000/2001.

As well, Siksika actively participated in the development of their own Financial Administration Code which will be presented to the membership in September 2001 and, if passed, will become a bylaw.





### Economic Development

Blood Tribe Chief Chris Shade and Minister Nault were on hand March 16, 2001 to announce the Tribe's major economic development project, Mataki Farms Irrigation Project. The \$6.5 million project will see the tribe receive \$3 million in federal funding dedicated to economic infrastructure. The federal funds will be used to refurbish the Blood Tribe's irrigation system installed in the 1970s. The Mataki Farms Irrigation Project will result in a total of 3,200 acres of irrigated land on the Blood reserve. Expanded operations and new economic development opportunities following completion of the project will include the growing of seed potatoes and Timothy Hay that will be processed at the Blood hay densifying plant for export to Japan and other Canadian trading partners.

Tsuu T'ina Nation used economic development funding to promote environmental awareness in their community. In June and July 2000, 40 band members were hired for four weeks to plant 150,000 white spruce seedlings on approximately 100 hectares of reserve land. The seedlings were supplied by the Tree Canada Foundation and were funded by ATCO Pipelines Ltd. and Eddie Bauer. INAC Alberta flowed funding to Stantec Inc., through Trees Consulting Ltd., to provide the logistical support and training required for the project.

### Income Security Reform Demonstration Project

The Treaty 7 Tribal Council completed the third year of its Income Security Reform Demonstration Project. The goals of the project include identifying and exploring effective means and barriers to meaningful reform of the social development policy and program.

The project includes a coordinator, an advisory committee and community liaison workers (CLW). The CLW works directly with a specific participant group, including approximately 10 social assistance clients between the ages of 18–35 years. Each community in Treaty 7 offered various training and educational workshops for the participants and



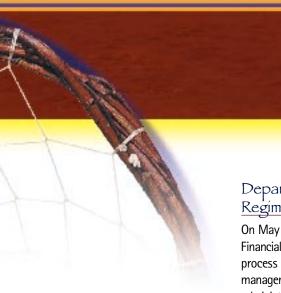
a positive impact on the selfesteem of the participants, allowing them to become self-sufficient and contributing members of the tribe.

## Siksika Housing

recently secured a contract

with the First Nation. There is

Siksika Nation began construction of 33 new housing units in 2000/2001. Seventeen of the housing units are being constructed through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and 16 units are using new housing initiative funding. Construction is well underway and completion is expected in the fall of 2001. The total project cost exceeds \$3 million.



## Departure of the Third-Party Regime at Stoney Tribe

On May 18, 2000 Stoney Tribe signed a transitional Financial Monitoring Agreement, which outlined the process to effectively return all financial management responsibilities back to the Stoney administration. On June 9, 2000 the firm of PriceWaterhouseCoopers Inc. relinquished their responsibilities as the third-party manager, bringing to an end three consecutive years of INAC overseeing a third-party management regime.

Since the departure of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the accounting firm of Meyers Norris Penny, as defined in the Monitoring Agreement, has served as the Stoney monitor. Due to ongoing communication with the Stoney monitor and active participation within the Joint Management Committee, which involves Stoney leadership and staff, INAC Alberta continues to be confident that the transitional phase will continue to be successful.

## Announcement of World Indigenous Conference

On June 1, 2000 delegates from the World Indigenous Conference on Education visited the Stoney Tribe to formally announce that the next World Indigenous Education Conference will take place at Stoney from August 4–10, 2002.

This prestigious international conference, which takes place every four years, is expected to host 5,000 delegates from many countries in the world to showcase and celebrate achievements in Indigenous education. The First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC), a group of 10 First Nations' colleges and post secondary institutions, successfully bid for the sixth world conference being hosted at Stoney.

# Message from Treaty 8 Grand Chiefs

his past year has been one of much activity for the Chiefs of the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, in both new and continuing initiatives. We have accomplished much and continue to identify those issues that affect our communities and our Treaty.

Work continues on the Treaty 8 Bilateral Process, with the finalization of the details of a research initiative called the Harvard Project, which we are very excited about.

During this past year, we have been happy to be host to INAC Minister Robert Nault, in meetings with our Chiefs and our Elders. We have also hosted a gathering in which Treaty 8 (Alberta) Elders and youth met to talk about Treaty No. 8.

Work has intensified in our ongoing initiatives such as the Education Review, the Accountability Initiative and the area of Social Development.

The restructuring within INAC Alberta (by treaty area) has proven to be beneficial and effective in the areas of communication, information flow and getting work done.

Together with INAC Alberta, we hosted our first ever Band Managers' meeting, which was met with much excitement and enthusiasm by the senior management of our First Nations communities. We are looking forward to our continued efforts in strengthening our working relationship with Alberta Region for the betterment of the First Nations people in Treaty 8 territory.

Grand Chief Jim Boucher & Grand Chief Frank Halcrow



# Treaty 8 Highlights

#### Overview

INAC Alberta and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta continued to enhance their working relationship this year. Through joint meetings, they continued to coordinate work efforts both within Treaty 8 territory and in a regional context with Treaty areas 6 and 7. A major outcome of the enhanced relationship was the development of joint workplans.

A prime example of the INAC/Treaty 8 joint efforts is the Ambassador position pilot project. INAC Alberta continued to fund the Treaty 8 Ambassador position again this year, with Dustin Twin, former Chief of the Swan River First Nation, acting as an ambassador/liaison between the Treaty 8 First Nations/Tribal Councils and INAC Alberta to improve working relationships

Treaty 8 has reaped the benefits of the Ambassador position and next fiscal year will expand its scope to include more of an intergovernmental focus involving the three levels of government – First Nation, provincial and federal.

Another example of INAC/Treaty 8 collaboration occurred on November 30 and December 1, 2000, when INAC Alberta and Treaty 8 jointly hosted a meeting with the administrators from the First Nations of Treaty 8. Information and updates were provided to the administrators on the activities of both INAC Alberta and Treaty 8. Feedback indicated this was a successful endeavor and it is hoped in future that similar meetings will occur at least twice each fiscal year.



#### Minister's Visit

Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault made his third official visit to Alberta on June 23 and 24, 2000, visiting three Treaty 8 First Nations and meeting with most of the Treaty 8 Chiefs.

• Dene Tha' Adhesion Ceremony

The Minister spent almost all of Friday, June 23 at the Dene Tha' First Nation where he met with Treaty 8 Chiefs outside in a large arbour, watched by almost 1,000 people. Following the meeting, there was much ceremony associated with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Dene Tha's adhesion to Treaty 8.

Somalia Medal Presentation

A highlight of the visit to Dene Tha' was when the Minister presented the Somalia medal to Corporal Clinton Digness. The Somalia medal recognizes Canadian soldiers who served in the humanitarian mission to Somalia in 1993.

Corporal Digness was an aboriginal soldier who served with the airborne. After his posting in Somalia, he left the army to pursue a career in social work. He earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree and, following graduation, accepted a position as a case manager with the North Peace Tribal Council Child Welfare Agency

serving Dene Tha', Beaver and Tallcree First Nations.

"The men and women of the Canadian Forces are its greatest asset," said the Minister.

"Corporal Digness, it is with great pride that I present you with the Somalia medal in recognition of your outstanding and honorable service to the public and their country."

## Elders Meetings

Dene Tha'

For a good part of the day on June 23, 2000, Minister Nault met with Elders at Dene Tha'. The Elders expressed their concerns surrounding Treaty 8 and, more specifically, the issues of housing, education, health care, hunting, fishing and trapping, firearms legislation and traditional lands and resources.

As the Minister was completing his day's work (at approximately 12:30 a.m.), a giant fireworks display cascaded over the Dene Tha' grounds, while hundreds of people danced traditional dances in the outdoor arbour.

Kapawe'no

In August 2000, Kapawe'no First Nation cohosted the first ever gathering of Elders from Treaties 6, 7 and 8. INAC Alberta partnered with Kapawe'no First Nation and others in supporting and sponsoring the gathering.

Through this gathering, the Elders came together to discuss various issues affecting their communities, had the opportunity to learn more about these issues through keynote presentations and discussed how they could support and assist the leaders and members of their various communities achieve their goals.



## Treaty 8 Bilateral Process

The Treaty 8 bilateral process continued this year. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta received special project funding to proceed with the "critical age" (85 yrs. +) Elders interviews. Within Treaty 8 Alberta, there are approximately 180 Elders 85 years of age and older. It was crucial that their knowledge and understanding of Treaty 8 was recorded. Requests were sent to each First Nation in Treaty 8 asking for their assistance in identifying critical age Elders and where they could be contacted. This process will continue in 2001/2002.

In December 2000, the Executive Board of Treaty 8 appointed Dustin Twin as senior advisor to the Treaty 8 bilateral process. Dustin has been instrumental in bringing INAC representatives to the table as well as ensuring the articles of the Declaration of Intent are articulated and advanced. Dustin has also met with Tim Christian, the senior federal advisor/negotiator, on a regular basis to ensure work on the process advances.

A joint workplan for the 2001/2002 fiscal year was completed with an accompanying budget.

### Gathering Strength

#### • Education Reform

During this fiscal year, INAC Alberta allocated approximately \$1.7 million for education reform in Treaty 8 First Nations. This is an increase of more than \$500,000 from 1999/2000.

A total of 17 projects were funded. Funding was provided based on an assessment of community needs and whether the specific project met one or more of the following four education reform themes:

- strengthening First Nations education management and governance capacity
- improving the effectiveness of classroom instruction
- supporting community and parental involvement with schools
- aiding the school to work transition

Generally, the projects funded fell into the following categories: developing Cree language curriculum, career fairs, student awards, creation of computer labs, parental and community workshops, peer counselling, student council development, Elders in residence program, enhancing existing education programs and providing teacher/teacher aid professional training and policy development relating to education systems.



#### Social Development

Gathering Strength funding was used to operate 16 projects in Treaty 8 territory during the 2000/2001 fiscal year. The intent of the projects was to assist membership in moving away from dependency on social assistance. The major goal is the development of a national Income Security Reform policy. Treaty 8 has ensured its involvement in national developments through representation on national committees and workshops.





## Accountability Initiative

This fiscal year saw the development and implementation of two accountability projects for First Nations in Alberta. The Financial Administration Code Pilot Project and the Access to Information and Privacy Code (ATIP) Pilot Project were coordinated and administered by Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta using funding allocated by INAC Alberta. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta worked with a number of Treaty 8 First Nations and other First Nations from Treaty 6 and Treaty 7 on these projects.

In June 2000, a meeting was hosted in Edmonton by INAC Alberta with the project consultant and administrators from First Nations throughout Alberta. Several First Nations had expressed an interest in participating in the development of their own financial administration codes.

Once the pilot First Nations were identified, visits were made to 12 communities during October 2000. After the visits, the consultant prepared draft documents and additional work was undertaken. As all pilot projects were not complete by the end of 2000/2001 fiscal year, an extension was granted for completion by June 30, 2001.

Since July 2000, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta has been administering and coordinating phase III of the ATIP Pilot Project. This phase included the development and implementation of the code with three Alberta First Nations – Kapawe'no, Duncan's and Alexander. Work on these pilot projects continues in the 2001/2002 fiscal year.

### Economic Development

An increase of \$75 million in federal funding for economic development projects this year, announced by Minister Nault, resulted in increased economic opportunities and developments in Treaty 8.

Several First Nations continued to expand their economic development capacity with the assistance of INAC Alberta's economic development staff. The most notable was the Fort McKay First Nation which received \$1.75 million in federal funding to enable them to enter into a business agreement with Shell Canada to participate in the \$5.1 billion Athabasca Oil Sands Project, of which Shell owns 60 per cent.

The federal funding will help the Fort McKay First Nation purchase, operate and maintain approximately 150 pieces of heavy equipment by the late 2002 opening of the Muskeg River Mine, the "upstream" component of the massive Athabasca Oil Sands Project development taking place in northern Alberta.

Fort McKay First Nation will also construct maintenance shops, bulk fuel storage facilities and a 56,000 square foot office complex. The agreement will result in the creation of approximately 150 jobs over the next five years.

### Claim Settlements

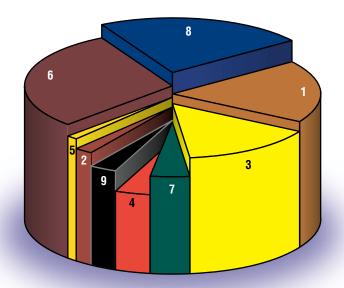
On January 27, 2001, the members of the Horse Lake First Nation ratified a 1928 surrender claim. The negotiated settlement was for the invalid surrender of a portion of Beaver Indian Reserve No. 152 and all of Neepee Chief Indian Reserve No. 152A. The settlement was \$124 million and provides the opportunity for the Horse Lake First Nation to purchase, on a willing buyer/willing seller basis, 11,800 acres of land (including minerals) to be added to reserve.

## 2000/2001 Year in Review - Financial Reports

## Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 2000/2001

### Regional Expenditure Breakdown

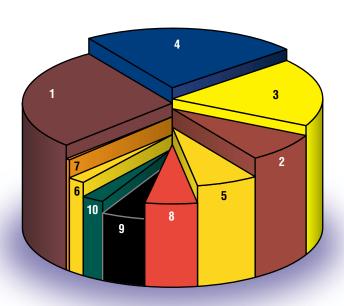
0	•	
1. E	ducation	\$ 104,103,461
2. E	Conomic Development	 11,197,031
3. C	Capital & Facilities Maintenance	 82,082,627
4. Ir	ndian Government Support	 21,789,602
5. L	ands & Trust Services	 6,945,312
6. S	Social Development	 128,881,425
Total Re	egional Expenditures	\$ 354,999,548
7. G	Gathering Strength	 24,195,599
8. F	inancial Transfer Agreements	 166,303,012
9. A	Administration	 16,811,100
Total		\$ 562,309,259



## Gathering Strength Alberta Region

### Expenditure Breakdown

1. Education Reform\$	5,617,091
2. Welfare Reform	1,991,931
3. Water & Sewer	4,507,675
4. Housing	6,799,729
5. Economic Development	1,603,000
6. Reorientation of Self Government	465,000
7. Aboriginal Representative Organizations .	111,000
8. Governance Capacity & Accountability	1,362,515
9. Professional Development	1,151,774
10. Resource Access Negotiations	585,884
Total	24,195,599



## INAC Facts & Figures

## Indian Registration

Registration by Age, Sex &
Type of Residence by Registry Group

Year: 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
Central	Male	16,257	11,711	93	4,453
Alberta	Female	16,882	11,612	117	5,153
Treaty 7	M & F	22,666	17,770	4	4,892
Southern	Male	11,131	8,966	1	2,164
Alberta	Female	11,535	8,804	3	2,728
Treaty 8	M & F	29,568	12,548	2,690	14,330
Northern	Male	14,594	6,500	1,383	6,711
Alberta	Female	14,974	6,048	1,307	7,619

Year: 1999

Band	Sex	Total Population	Total on Reserve	Total on Crown Land	Off Reserve
TOTAL	M & F	82,699	52,079	2,709	27,911
	Male	40,618	26,428	1,356	12,834
	Female	42,081	25,651	1,353	15,077
Treaty 6	M & F	32,201	22,696	202	9,303
Central	Male	15,794	11,409	86	4,299
Alberta	Female	16,407	11,287	116	5,004
Treaty 7	M & F	22,075	17,357	4	4,714
Southern	Male	10,841	8,772	1	2,068
Alberta	Female	11,234	8,585	3	2,646
Treaty 8	M & F	28,423	12,026	2,503	13,894
Northern	Male	13,983	6,247	1,269	6,467
Alberta	Female	14,440	5,779	1,234	7,427

Year: 1998

Band	Sex	Total Population	Total on Reserve	Total on Crown Land	Off Reserve
TOTAL	M & F	80,390	50,707	2,670	27,013
	Male	39,495	25,757	1,314	12,424
	Female	40,895	24,950	1,356	14,589
Treaty 6	M & F	31,398	22,146	219	9,033
Central	Male	15,420	11,145	96	4,179
Alberta	Female	15,978	11,001	123	4,854
Treaty 7	M & F	21,581	16,947	3	4,631
Southern	Male	10,586	8,554	1	2,031
Alberta	Female	10,995	8,393	2	2,600
Treaty 8	M & F	27,411	11,614	2,448	13,349
Northern	Male	13,489	6,058	1,217	6,214
Alberta	Female	13,922	5,556	1,231	7,135

## Grade 12 – Enrollment & Graduates Summary

#### Nominal Roll

Treaty 6	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Enrollments:	232	241	319
Graduates:	38	43	37
%	16%	18%	12%

Treaty 7	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Enrollments:	286	323	331
Graduates:	54	70	66
%	19%	22%	20%

Treaty 8	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
Enrollments: Graduates:	128 23	116 17	115 35
Grauuales.	23	17	
%	18%	15%	30%

## Post Secondary – Enrollment & Graduates Summary

Treaty 6	1995/1996*	1996/1997*	1997/1998*	1998/1999	1999/2000	
Enrollments:	1227	1348	1414	1237	945	
Graduates:	99	145	152	143	117	
%	8%	11%	11%	12%	12%	

<sup>\*</sup>includes Inuit students supported by the Alberta Region Post Secondary Program

Treaty 7	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	
Enrollments:	1018	997	842	1129	795	
Graduates:	102	97	68	71	48	
%	10%	10%	8%	6%	6%	

Treaty 8	1995/1996	1996/1997	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	
Enrollments: Graduates:	745 102	667 60	662 73	811 67	771 62	
%	14%	9%	11%	8%	8%	

Out of Province	~	~	~	1998/1999	1999/2000	
Enrollments:	-	-	-	78	66	
Graduates:	-	-	-	12	8	
%	-	-	-	15%	12%	

<sup>&</sup>quot;Out of Province" includes Inuit students supported by the Alberta Region Post Secondary Program



<u>1998/1999</u>

1999/2000

2000/2001

25,772 (48.28%)

26,002 (44.9%)

25,025 (41.90%)

For the last three years, the number of social assistance recipients located on-reserve has dropped. The total for 2000/2001 was just over 25,000 individuals on-reserve who received social assistance benefits, which represents a 41.9% dependency rate.

This total represents a 6.38% decrease in social assistance recipients since 1998/1999. The lower numbers can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the Income Security Reform Project, the increased National Child Benefit and increased employment opportunities for First Nations.

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

		_	
	<u>1998/1999</u>	<u>1999/2000</u>	2000/2001
Foster Care	915	1118	1139
Group Homes	22	27	50
Institutions	187	158	192
Total:	1124	1303	1381
% of Children in Care:	5.10%	5.80%	6.40%

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.

17 Child Welfare offices are fully operational.

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

Work Opportunity Projects (WOP)

,,	<u>1998/1999</u>	1999/2000	2000/2001
# of Projects:	289	263	317
Person Months of Employment Created:	4637	6884	6863
\$ Transferred to WOP: (in millions)	4791.9	5331.2	4409.5

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.

Pre-Vocational Training Dollars Transferred

	1998/1999	<u>1999/2000</u>	2000/2001
PVT Dollars Transferred: (in millions)	2080.9	1969.7	1990.8

This table identifies total dollars spent on pre-vocational training initiatives for each of the last three fiscal years.

Housing Activity

$\mathcal{C}$			
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Total Houses	11,757	12,117	12,433
Total Renovations	267	208	506
Total New Houses	435	282	279

Note: In 2000, 13 First Nations did not submit an annual housing report. 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.

# Salaries & Travel Expenses – INAC Senior Officials

TITLE	LEVEL	TRAVEL EXPENSES
Salary Range (EX-03) – 100,600 to 118,400		
Regional Director General	EX-03	\$69,374
Salary Range (EX-02) – 89,000 to 105,800		
Associate Regional Director General	EX-02	\$33,752
Director First Nations Relations – Treaty 8	EX-02	\$13,384
Salary Range (EX-01) – 80,200 to 94,400		
Director First Nations Relations - Treaty 6	EX-01	\$21,380
Director Corporate Services	EX-01	\$18,568
Director Strategic Planning, Policy and Intergovernmental Polations	EX-01	¢7 040
Policy and Intergovernmental Relations	ΕΛ-01	\$7,949
Director First Nations Relations – Treaty 7	EX-01	\$29,985

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.

# Alberta Band Location Map & Contact Legend

## Treaty 8

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

## Treaty 6

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

## Treaty 7

41. Blood Tribe	403-737-3753
42. Peigan Nation	403-965-3940
43. Siksika Nation	403-264-7250
44. Stoney Tribe	403-881-3770
• Dearenau	

- Bearspaw
- Chiniki
- Wesley

45. Tsuu T'ina Nation 403-281-4455

