



ELDERS VOICE

ATTENTION: ELDERS SUPPORT PEOPLE PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO MAKE COPIES OF THE ELDERS VOICE EACH MONTH FOR YOUR ELDERS

EV'S 101st Issue!
HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!!!

Invoices

Dear Elders, Elders Workers, Presidents, Chief and Councils, & Boards Support Invoices accompanied the Dec. issue. Please see if you can assist with the costs for this provincial elder's office to operate. Please call into the office if you need a copy of the invoice faxed. Thank you, Donna Stirling, BCECCS Coordinator

APRIL BIRTHDAY WISHES: Splatsin First Nation

Jennifer Jones, Chuck You, Brian Williams, James Antoine, David Beattie, Richard Nicholas and Leonard Lezime.

FUNDING REMINDER: NRT's (New Relationship Trust) website says: BC FN Elders Grant Program

Please check again in the spring of 2009 for application guidelines for the 2009/10 fiscal year. In the 2008/09 fiscal year, NRT allocated \$125,000 for the BC First Nation Elders Grants Program. A total of 44 projects were supported. Types of initiatives included traditional knowledge transfer, culture and language initiatives, and travel expenses for groups of elders to attend the annual Elders Gathering. Mail: Suite 1008 - 100 Park Royal South, West Vancouver BC V7T 1A2 Phone: Toll-free: 1-877-922-3338 Fax: (604) 925-3348

Quote: "The world is a grindstone, whether it wears you down, or polishes you up, is up to you."

Inside this issue

Table with 2 columns: Article Title and Page Number. Includes: Easy Bakers Corner/Handy Tips/Website Information (2), List of Paid Support Fees (3), 50 Survey Contest Winners!! (4), Annual Elders Gathering Info (5-9), Elders Transportation Forms (10-13), Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay (14-17), First Nations Leadership Council Letter (18-19)

Did You Know?

"THEREIN" is a seven-letter word that contains thirteen words spelled using consecutive letters: the, he, her, er, here, I, there, ere, rein, re, in, therein, and herein.

Pg. 20: Press Release March 2, 2009 Nak'azdli First Nation
Pg. 21: Press Release March 16, 2009 Chehalis Indian Band
Pgs. 22-23: March 22, 2009 A Win For Treaty Critics At United Nations
Pg. 23: The 'Little Things' and "This is Serious"
Back Page: Annual Elders Gathering Information Updates/ Quotes/Horoscope/

## Easy Bakers Corner – A Basic Crepe – Serves 4

Whisk 1 cup of all-purpose flour and 2 eggs together in a large mixing bowl. Slowly stir in 1/2 cup low-fat milk and a 1/2 cup of water. Add 1/4 tsp. of salt and 2 Tbsp. butter, and beat the mixture until smooth.

If you have a crepe maker, you probably know what to do next. If you're not so lucky...

Heat a griddle or frying pan to medium. Give it a very light spray of cooking oil. Drop the crepe mixture onto the heated surface. Using about a 1/4 cup of batter for each crepe. Tilt the pan with a circular motion so that the batter coats the surface evenly. "Thin is in" when it comes to the layer of batter.

Cook each side until the golden brown, (brown about 2 minutes for side one -- batter will bubble; and 1 minute for side 2). Gently remove and place on a plate. Place waxed paper between cooked crepes to prevent sticking. This will make 8 crepes. 2 crepes make a serving.

*Handy Tips:* Coffee filters ...who knew! (1000 at the dollar store for almost nothing!)

1. Apply shoe polish. Ball up a lint-free coffee filter.
2. Recycle frying oil. After frying, strain oil through a sieve lined with a coffee filter.
3. Keep in the bathroom. They make great "razor nick fixers."

## What Can you please share?

The following is a short list of Elders suggestions of what might be shared: Your local Newsletters/Upcoming Local Events/Prayers/Poems/Quotes/Comments/Storytelling/Drawings/Articles of Interest/Native Songs Lyrics/Wellness Seminars/Obituaries/Birthday Wishes, etc. Submissions are best forwarded to me via email by the 15th of the preceding month. If you are interested in providing articles, please do so, I look forward to hearing from anyone who wants to contribute to the content of your newsletter.

Gilakasla, Donna Stirling

## ‘PRESERVING THE PAST’ New Elder’s Website: [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com)

The *First Ever* Elder’s Website “Preserving the Past” is now online (as of Sept. 2002). Registration forms, booth forms, maps of the host territory, accommodation information, etc. concerning the Annual Elders Gatherings are available each year on the BC Elders Communication Center Society’s website [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com) as soon as they are made available from each new host community.

Issues of your Elders Voice Newsletter are also posted on the website each month, though all issues still continue to be mailed out to your Elder’s Contact People throughout the province (to ensure that no one is left out because of a lack of access to the internet).

\*\*\*Comments? Please feel free to call in to the Communication Center - contact info is on the back page.\*\*\*

### Disclaimer:

Health articles, etc. are provided as a courtesy and neither the BC Elders Communication Center Society’s Board/ Members or anyone working on its behalf mean this information to be used to replace your doctor’s and other professional’s advice. You should contact your family physician or health care worker for all health care matters. Information is provided in the Elders Voice for your reference only. And opinions contained in this publication are not those of Donna Stirling, Coordinator unless her name appears below the material.

## BC ELDERS COMMUNICATION CENTER SOCIETY

### 9th Year GRATITUDE LIST

Groups who have thankfully paid their \$250 'Yearly Support Fee'  
so far for the Dec. 2009 – Nov. 2010 Year

1. Snuneymuxw First Nation
2. Ts'kw'aylaxw Elders
3. Hamatla Treaty Society
4. BC Assoc. of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
5. Mamalilikulla Qwe'Qwa'Sot'Em Band
6. Tansi Friendship Centre Society
7. Gitanyow Health Services
8. Qualicum First Nation Council
9. Tseil-Waututh Nation
10. Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council
11. Lower Nicola Indian Band
12. K'omoks First Nation
13. McLeod Lake Tse'khene Elders Society
14. Hailika'as Heiltsuk Health Centre
15. Quatsino Band
16. Wei Wai Kum First Nation
17. Ehattesaht Tribe
18. Tobacco Plains Indian Band
19. Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation
20. Ktunaxa Nation Council
21. Xaxli'p Band
22. Tsawwassen First Nation
23. Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
24. Simpcw First Nation
25. Hesquiaht First Nation
26. Squiala First Nation
27. Lower Kootenay Band
28. Bridge River Indian Band
29. BC Transmission Corporation
30. Blueberry River First Nation
31. Carnegie Community Centre
32. Osoyoos Indian Band
33. Tl'azt'en Nation
34. Da'naxda'xw First Nation
35. Kermode Friendship Society
36. BCAFN
37. Cowichan Elders
38. UBCIC
39. Indian Residential School Survivors Society
40. Wet'suwet'en First Nation
41. Doig River First Nation
42. Cook's Ferry Indian Band
43. Akisqnuq First Nation
44. Mt. Currie Band Council
45. Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation
46. Kwadacha Band
47. Wui'kinuxv Nation
48. First Nation Summit Society
49. Adams Lake Indian Band
50. Kamloops Indian Band
51. Gitwangak Education Society
52. Sumas First Nation
53. Kaien Island First Nation Elders
54. Gitsegukla Band Council
55. Uchucklesaht Band Council
56. Douglas Band
57. Musquem Indian Band
58. T'It'Qet Elders Council
- 59.

Dear Elders Contact Person,

\*If your office has paid the support fee, thank you very much for your assistance!

\*If your office/group has VOIDED the invoice for this year and faxed it back into the office then thank you also.

\*Staff changes often occur, so please call into the office if you require the Invoice to be resent to a new elder's 'Contact Person'.

Thank you for your continued support!

Donna Stirling, BCECCS Coordinator

**50 Survey Incentive Winners (\$100 each) CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!**

1. C. Peter Alexander – Seton Portage
2. Leonard Alexcee – Prince Rupert
3. Hazel Alexis - Vanderhoof
4. Ruth Alfred – North Vancouver
5. Nick Andrew – Mount Currie
6. Betty M. Angus - Kincolith
7. Maddy Biccum - Rosedale
8. Donna Bobb – Mount Currie
9. Judy M. Cameron – Moberly Lake
10. Irene Cardinal – Prince George
11. Ethel Cliffe – Campbell River
12. Alfred W. Davidson - Masset
13. Victoria Davis – Moberly Lake
14. Roy J. Desjarlais – Moberly Lake
15. Amy Ann Gauthier – Moberly Lake
16. John Gazdwick – Seton Portage
17. Ramona Gus - Burnaby
18. Deanna Hamilton - Westbank
19. Clara Hugo - Masset
20. Daniel Lands - Vancouver
21. Leonard Leon – Pitt Meadows
22. Rose Lube - Westbank
23. Johnny Luggi Sr. – Fraser Lake
24. Caroline Lytton - Lytton
25. Georgina McKay – Boston Bar
26. Mary Mahseelah - Grasmere
27. Lucille Martin - Chase
28. Woodrow Morrison - Vancouver
29. Hilda Nookemis – Port Alberni
30. Donald Norris – Prince George
31. Billy-Marie Padmoroff - Kelowna
32. Billy Peters – Alert Bay
33. Theresa Peters - Lillooet
34. Dorothy Claire Phillips - Lytton
35. Rita J. Price – Kitamaat Village
36. Muriel Rosevear - Kelowna
37. Helena L. Rush - Kitwanga
38. Maureen Sager – Port Alberni
39. Mary L. Sandoval - Hope
40. Roy Sankey – Prince Rupert
41. Clara Shields – Seton Portage
42. Susan Sport – Port Alberni
43. B.A. Stephenson - Yarrow
44. Patrick Weir - Vancouver
45. Jake Wells Sr. – Mount Currie
46. Doreen Whitney - Lillooet
47. Esther Williams - Kitwanga
48. Marilyn Vickers - Vanderhoof
49. Marjorie Yamelet - Westbank
50. Amanda Zettergreen - Kitwanga

**NISGA'A NATION ELDERS ASSOCIATION**  
**5200 SKATEEN AVENUE,**  
**NEW AIYANSH, B.C. V0J 1A0**  
**TELEPHONE – 250-633-2242**  
**FAX 250-633-2265**

## **INFORMATION PACKAGE**

### **2009 B.C. ELDERS GATHERING:**

THE NISGA'A NATION ELDERS FROM NEW AIYANSH, GITWINKSIHLKW, LAXGALTS'AP, GINGOLX AND TERRACE NISGA'A URBAN LOCAL WILL BE HOSTING THE 2009 ELDERS GATHERING IN TERRACE, B.C.

### **2009 B.C. ELDERS KING & QUEEN:**

MELVIN & ROSE ROBINSON FROM THE COMMUNITY OF NEW AIYANSH WERE SELECTED AS KING & QUEEN FOR 2009. OVER THE NEXT TWO MONTHS THEY WILL BE TRAVELLING THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST ADVERTISING AND PROVIDING UPDATES ON THE STATUS OF THE 2009 ELDERS GATHERING.

### **THEME:**

**AT THE GINGOLX MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009, THE ELDERS HAVE AGREED THAT THE THEME OF THE GATHERING SHALL BE:**  
**“SAYT-K'ILIM-GOOT” (ONE HEART-ONE PATH-ONE NATION).**

### **CONFIRMED DATE:**

THE DATE FOR THE B.C. ELDERS GATHERING SHALL BE **JULY 13, 14 & 15, 2009.**

### **LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

A FORMAL LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE TSIMSHIAN NATION – KITSUMKALUM – KITSALAS, REQUESTING PERMISSION TO HOST THE BC ELDERS GATHERING IN THEIR TERRITORY.

### **INVITATIONS:**

INVITATIONS TO BC ELDERS WILL BE SENT OUT IMMEDIATELY AND INVITES FOR DIGNITARIES SHALL BE SENT OUT BY END OF MARCH.

### **VENUE:**

THE GATHERING SHALL BE HELD AT THE **TERRACE ARENA.**

### **REGISTRATION:**

PARTICIPANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER BY JUNE 15, 2009 TO ENABLE THE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO PROPERLY PLAN FOR MEALS. REGISTRATION FOR ATTACHED.

### **REGISTRATION FEES:**

THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR THE BC ELDERS GATHERING SHALL BE **\$30.00.**

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

WE ANTICIPATE APPROXIMATELY 3500 ELDERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE OF BC TO ATTEND THE GATHERING PLUS THEIR CHAPERONES, HOME SUPPORT WORKERS AND FAMILIES, POSSIBLY AN ADDITIONAL 500 PEOPLE.

### **HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

AS OF DECEMBER 2008, ALL THE ROOMS IN TERRACE HAVE BEEN BOOKED BY ELDERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE FOR THE ELDERS GATHERING. ELDERS ARE NOW BOOKING ROOMS IN KITIMAT, APPROXIMATELY 40 KM AWAY – HALF HOUR DRIVE.

### **BILLETING:**

TERRACE NISGA'A SOCIETY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR BILLETING FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNABLE TO SECURE A ROOM. YOU MAY CONTACT THEIR OFFICE TOLL FREE AT 1-866-935-4422 OR 250-635-4422.

**NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE:**

WE HAVE BOOKED THE NWCC DORMS FOR THE LAXGALTS' AP ELDERS AND OUR COOKING CREW.

**VENDOR + INFORMATION BOOTHS:**

SPACE IS LIMITED AND WILL BE RESERVED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE PAYMENT BASIS. THE COST PER TABLE FOR VENDORS SHALL BE \$100.00 FOR THREE (3) DAYS, AND THE COST FOR INFORMATION BOOTHS SHALL BE \$200.00 FOR THREE (3) DAYS. APPLICATION FORM ATTACHED.

**ORGANIZER:**

DARLENE MORGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FROM NEW AIYANSH HAS AGREED TO ORGANIZE THE EVENT ON BEHALF OF THE NISGA'A NATION ELDERS.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR THE EVENT SHALL BE OSCAR MERCER, CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS, THE 2009 KING & QUEEN – MELVIN & ROSE ROBINSON, 4 MEMBERS OF TERRACE NISGA'A LOCAL, 4 MEMBERS FROM GINGOLX, 4 MEMBERS FROM LAXGALTS'AP, 4 MEMBERS FROM GITWINKSIHLKW AND 4 MEMBERS FROM NEW AIYANSH. THIS COMMITTEE WILL MEET ONCE PER MONTH.

**PRIMARY CO-ORDINATOR:**

MARGARET NELSON HAS BEEN HIRED AS THE PRIMARY CO-ORDINATOR AND SHALL START WORK ON MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009. SHE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO OVER-SEE THE DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS OF THE PLANNING, SUPERVISE THE 4 COORDINATORS AND THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION PROVINCE WIDE REGARDING THE EVENT. NEW AIYANSH VILLAGE GOVERNMENT HAS PROVIDED OFFICE SPACE, TELEPHONE, FAX, INTERNET SERVICE AND LAPTOP.

**OTHER CO-ORDINATORS:**

EACH NISGA'A VILLAGE GOVERNMENT WILL HIRE A CO-ORDINATOR TO WORK WITH THE PLANNING TEAM AND THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR. KATHLEEN CLAYTON HAS BEEN HIRED AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR NEW AIYANSH.

**FUNDING:**

ON BEHALF OF THE NISGA'A ELDERS, DARLENE MORGAN SUBMITTED A PROPOSAL TO NISGA'A LISIMS GOVERNMENT FOR A CULTURAL GRANT TO OFF-SET COSTS.

THE BC ELDERS COMMUNICATION CENTER SOCIETY OFFICE HAS CONFIRMED FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.00 FOR THE VENUE RENTAL AND IS WAITING FOR FINAL CONFIRMATION OF THE \$75,000.00 FOR FOOD COSTS FROM THE MINISTRY OF HEALTHY LIVING AND SPORT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION.

FUNDING PROPOSALS HAVE SUBMITTED TO NEW RELATIONSHIP TRUST, FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT.

**BOOKLETS:**

WE HAVE REQUESTED COST QUOTES FOR THE ELDERS GATHERING BOOKLET.

**NISGA'A NATION ELDERS MEETING DATES:**

NEW AIYANSH	5:00 PM – JANUARY 26,2009	AUDITORIUM
GINGOLX	5:00 PM – FEBRUARY 23, 2009	DOVE
GITWINKSIHLKW	5:00 PM - MARCH 23, 2009	REC CENTRE
TERRACE LOCAL	5:00 PM - APRIL 20, 2009	LOCATION - TBA

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

BC ELDERS GATHERING OFFICE – NEW AIYANSH  
 TELEPHONE 250-633-2242  
 EMAIL [margaretn@nisgaa.net](mailto:margaretn@nisgaa.net) or [kathleenc@nisgaa.net](mailto:kathleenc@nisgaa.net)  
 FAX 250-633-2265

33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING  
HOSTED BY NISGA'A NATION ELDERS  
JULY 13, 14 & 15, 2009  
TERRACE ICE ARENA, TERRACE, B.C.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NATION/BAND: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GROUP LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL INFO: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIABETIC, ALLERGIES, HEART CONDITION, ETC.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

METHOD OF PAYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_ CERTIFIED CHECK \_\_\_\_\_ MONEY ORDER

\*\*\* THE REGISTRATION FEE IS \$30.00 PER PERSON

\*\*\* All elders and support workers are encouraged to carry emergency medical and contact information with them at all times in case of an emergency.

Mail in completed registration forms with fee to:  
Nisga'a Nation Elders Association  
P.O. Box 233, New Aiyansh, B.C. V0J 1A0  
Attention: Kathleen Clayton

Please ensure you are registered by June 15, 2009  
Registration check-in for the gathering shall begin on Sunday, July 12, 2009 – 1:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
On-site registration will be available on Sunday, July 12, 2009

Group leaders are responsible for checking-in those Elders who are registered as a group.

33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING  
HOSTED BY NISGA'A NATION ELDERS  
JULY 13, 14 & 15, 2009  
TERRACE ICE ARENA, TERRACE, B.C.

VENDOR REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ fax: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NATION: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of craft: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT:

- Vendor booth registration fee is payable with registration.
- Method of payment – certified cheque or money order – payable to New Aiyansh Village Government in the amount of \$100.00.
- Upon receipt of registration with payment, you will then receive confirmation of payment and an assigned floor space. There will be no changing spaces once assigned a booth.

SET UP OF BOOTH:

- Set up can begin at 1:00 pm on Sunday, July 12, 2009
- Booths are to be set up no later than 9:00 am on Monday, July 13, 2009

GUIDELINES:

- Vendors are asked to donate 2 items, which will be collected at the time of Vendor check-in, and will be used for door prizes for the Elders Gathering.
- The 2009 Elders Gathering Planning Committee, workers and volunteers are not responsible for lost or stolen items or injury.
- Vendors may not sell food or drinks.
- Vendors may sell raffle tickets throughout the duration of the gathering but are not permitted to sell 50/50 raffles, as this will be done by the Planning Committee.
- No burning will be allowed in the booths as some elders may have respiratory ailments.
- One table and 2 chairs will be provided for each vendor.
- Electrical outlets will **not** be available for vendors.
- Notice of cancellation must be provided by June 30, 2009. Any cancellations after this date will not be issued refunds.
- If a Vendor does not set-up their booth by 9:00 am on Day I of the Gathering, the booth will be re-rented with no refund to the original Vendor.

I have read and agree to all of the above guidelines:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail in completed Registration Forms with fee to:  
P.O. Box 233, New Aiyansh, B.C. V0J 1A0  
Attention: Kathleen Clayton, Administrative Assistant

33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING  
HOSTED BY NISGA'A NATION ELDERS  
JULY 13, 14 & 15, 2009  
TERRACE ICE ARENA, TERRACE, B.C.

INFORMATION BOOTH REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ fax: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NATION: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

BOOTH INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT:

- Information booth registration fee is payable with registration.
- Method of payment – certified cheque or money order – payable to New Aiyansh Village Government in the amount of \$200.00.
- Upon receipt of registration with payment, you will then receive confirmation of payment and an assigned floor space. There will be no changing spaces once assigned a booth.

SET UP OF BOOTH:

- Set up can begin at 1:00 pm on Sunday, July 12, 2009
- Booths are to be set up no later than 9:00 am on Monday, July 13, 2009

GUIDELINES:

- The 2009 Elders Gathering Planning Committee, workers and volunteers are not responsible for lost or stolen items or injury.
- Information booths may not sell food, drinks or raffle tickets.
- No burning will be allowed in the booths as some elders may have respiratory ailments.
- One table and 2 chairs will be provided for each vendor.
- Electrical outlets will **not** be available for vendors.
- Notice of cancellation must be provided by June 30, 2009. Any cancellations after this date will not be issued refunds.
- If a Vendor does not set-up their booth by 9:00 am on Day I of the Gathering, the booth will be re-rented with no refund to the original Vendor.
- If you do not hear from us within 10 days of submitting your registration, please call to confirm that it was received by our office.

I have read and agree to all of the above guidelines:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail in completed Registration Forms with fee to:  
P.O. Box 233, New Aiyansh, B.C. V0J 1A0  
Attention: Kathleen Clayton, Administrative Assistant

# Elders Transportation Program

## 2009 Application Form

### **Objective:**

The Elders Transportation Program provides partial funding to Elders travelling to the Annual BC Elders Gathering. Twenty-five individual grants are available (up to \$1,000 each).

### **Deadline:**

Applications are due by the second Friday of June annually. The 2009 applications will be due *by 4:30pm on Friday June 12, 2009.*

### **Eligibility:**

1. Applicants are an Aboriginal Elder or recognized Aboriginal organization on behalf of Elders.
2. Only British Columbia residents are eligible.
3. Travel distance to the event is greater than 200 kilometers (one way, road distance only).
4. Applicants send in a completed application form.
5. Eligible travel costs are as follows: accommodations, transportation, meals, and other related travel expenses such as parking or taxi. Travel costs must be by the most economical means.
6. Applicants who have received an Elders Transportation grant in the previous two consecutive years are ineligible to apply this year and may apply the following year.

### **General Program Conditions:**

1. Original signed applications must be accompanied by:
  - cover letter indicating number of Elders planning to attend
  - letter of support from a recognized Aboriginal organization, confirming financial need
2. Applicants are eligible to receive funding up to a maximum of \$1,000. Applications will be reviewed by a subcommittee and approved for funding based on factors including: meets criteria, complete application, overall travel costs, distance away from the event, regional representation, and include individual Elders.
3. Only one application per fiscal year per organization will be approved.
4. The BCAAFC is not responsible for any expenses incurred prior to the applicant receiving a written confirmation of approval.
5. Previous Elders Transportation or other provincial grants to the applicant and/or Aboriginal Organization must be accounted for or the applicant may be ineligible for funding.
6. If actual travel expenses are less than the \$1,000 advanced, the difference must be repaid.

### **After the conference:**

Funding recipients must submit a report within 30 days of travel to the BCAAFC and include:

- brief summary listing names of Elders who attended the event
- financial summary of actual travel costs

### **Submit applications to:**

Attn: First Citizens Fund Administrator  
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
#200 - 506 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8W 1E6  
Phone: (250) 388-5522 or 1-800-990-2432  
Fax: (250) 388-5502 Email: [admin@bcaafc.com](mailto:admin@bcaafc.com)

**B.C Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
First Citizens Fund  
Elders Transportation Program 2009 Application Form**

Complete All Sections of this Application

**A. Contact Information**

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*Office Use Only*

1. Elder's Organization/Band:

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2. Mailing Address:

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3. Region:

[1 Vancouver Island/Coast](#)

[2 Mainland/Southwest](#)

[3 Thompson/Okanagan](#)

[4 Kootenay](#)

[5 Cariboo](#)

[6 North Coast](#)

[7 Nechako](#)

[8 Northeast](#)

Please visit this website to view regions in BC: <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/maps/drmap.htm>

4. Name of Contact Person for this Application:

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Telephone: (business) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Number of Elders Requesting Transportation Assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Travel Information**

6. Distance one-way (according to Tourism BC Road Map): \_\_\_\_\_ km

7. Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Return Date \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Supporting Documentation**

8. Original signed applications must be accompanied by:

-cover letter indicating number of Elders planning to attend

-letter of support from a recognized Aboriginal organization, confirming financial need

## D. Financial Information

Please complete the total budget for Elders' travel to the Annual BC Elders Conference, including all expenses and revenue.

REVENUE		
<i>First Citizens Fund Elders Transportation Program</i>		\$1,000.00
(*list other sources)		\$
		\$
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>\$</b>
EXPENSES*Note travel costs are eligible one way only , as overall budget is part of criteria		
TRANSPORTATION	First Citizens Fund	Other sources funding:
*Include all transportation costs ie. vehicle rental, ferry etc.	\$1,000-	
Mileage # _____ x \$0.44/km	\$	\$
Other:	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
MEALS (Up to \$44.50/day per person)		
# Elders _____ x _____ # days x \$44.50	\$	\$
ACCOMMODATION (Hotel-up to \$115/day per person) Base on double occupancy		
# Elders _____ x _____ # nights x \$115.00	\$	\$
OTHER COSTS:		
Caregiver:	\$	\$
Driver:	\$	\$
Other:	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED EXPENSES AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

## **E. FOLLOW UP REPORT**

Final report to be submitted by fax within 30 days of travel and include:

- brief summary listing names of Elders who attended the event
- financial summary of actual travel costs

Please send to:

Attn: First Citizens Fund Administrator  
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres  
#200 - 506 Fort St Victoria, BC V8W 1E6  
Phone: (250) 388-5522 Fax: (250) 388-5502

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## **CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all information in this application is correct and in accordance with the policy of the Elders Transportation Program. I agree to inform the **B.C Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres** of any changes in the travel information given.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Authorized Person*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Witness*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

## **Aboriginal youth, elders to play special roles in Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities asked to nominate members for flame attendant and torchbearer positions**

Mar 6, 2009

**Vancouver, BC** – The bright light of the Olympic Flame will shine on Aboriginal communities across Canada during its 106-day journey starting this fall. Carrying the flame’s special message of hope and peace, and keeping its fire burning brightly, will be over 300 Aboriginal people including youth, elders and athletes specially chosen by their communities for these extraordinary tasks.

In the coming weeks, First Nations, Inuit and Métis will be invited to submit nominations to their respective organizations assisting the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) in the Aboriginal torch relay program. Aboriginal people may apply through the Assembly of First Nations ([www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)), Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami ([www.itk.ca](http://www.itk.ca)), Métis National Council/Métis Nation BC ([www.mnbc.ca](http://www.mnbc.ca)), Aboriginal Sport Circle ([www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca](http://www.aboriginalsportcircle.ca)) and National Association of Friendship Centres ([www.nafc.ca](http://www.nafc.ca)).

The torchbearers, flame attendants and honorary elder fire keepers are part of the Aboriginal torch relay program, designed by VANOC in partnership with the Four Host First Nations and other Aboriginal organizations. These torch relay positions are part of a larger ongoing program to achieve unprecedented Aboriginal participation in the planning and hosting of the 2010 Winter Games.

“The Olympic Flame’s message of hope, peace and respect resonates deeply with Aboriginal peoples in Canada,” said Tewanee Joseph, executive director and chief executive officer of the Four Host First Nations, comprising the Lil’wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh. “As we host a world event we want our young people to feel the pride as they come out to witness the procession of the Olympic Flame as it makes its way across the country.”

The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, presented by Coca-Cola and RBC and supported by the Government of Canada, starts October 30 in Victoria, BC. The Olympic Flame will visit over 100 Aboriginal communities in Canada during the course of the longest domestic torch relay in Olympic history. A list of these communities is attached at the end of this release.

These Aboriginal torch relay positions are separate from the larger torchbearer nomination process open to the general Canadian public through relay presenting partners Coca-Cola and RBC. Interested Aboriginal torchbearer candidates may also apply to these programs at [www.iCoke.ca](http://www.iCoke.ca) or [www.rbc.com/carrythetorch](http://www.rbc.com/carrythetorch). Both programs invite Canadians to share a brief story about how they plan to make themselves, their community or their country a better place.

The three main areas for Aboriginal torch relay-related opportunities are:

### **Torchbearers**

**115 community torchbearers:** Every Aboriginal community where the torch relay will pass through will have the chance to select a torchbearer they feel best represents their community’s achievements and dreams. He or she will participate in a flame welcome and blessing ceremony with a community elder, as well as carry the flame.

“Fire is a sacred element for First Nations peoples in Canada,” explained National Chief Phil Fontaine of the Assembly of First Nations. “It represents cleansing and renewal. Out of the ashes comes new growth, new thoughts, rebirth of ideas and new ways of being. We hope the Olympic Flame will inspire our young people to be proud of their unique heritage and reach out to fulfill their dreams.”

National Inuit leader Mary Simon, president of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, added: "Inuit are proud to be part of this exciting journey across Canada, highlighting the people behind the inukshuk. As the Olympic Flame travels from community to community it will carry within its glow the blessings of indigenous peoples. Those blessings, along with Inuit youth protecting the flame on its journey as flame attendants, will help ignite the Olympic Cauldron in Vancouver less than a year from now."

**71 language torchbearers:** Although the Olympic Flame is visiting over 1,020 Canadian communities during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay, it is impossible for it to reach every corner of the second largest country in the world. One factor that connects people separated over great distances is a common language. Seventy-one positions have been set aside for torchbearers representing Aboriginal linguistic groups, including 43 First Nations, seven Inuit and 21 Métis.

"The approximately 350,000 to 400,000 Métis in Canada are spread out over five provinces and the Northwest Territories making it difficult for the Olympic Flame to visit our many communities," explained Clément Chartier, president of the Métis National Council. "Having over 20 torchbearer positions set aside in recognition of the Métis language, Michif, means our people will be well represented when the flame crosses Canada. Our people — especially our young people — will play a significant role in the countdown to Canada's Games in 2010."

**20 hero torchbearers:** Ten spots each have also been set aside for torchbearers representing Aboriginal heroes in sport, as well as urban Aboriginal community heroes who have acted as mentors and inspirational figures to others. The Aboriginal Sport Circle and National Association of Friendship Centres in collaboration with VANOC will oversee these nomination processes.

"First Nation, Inuit and Métis people in urban areas account for over 50 per cent of the total Aboriginal population in Canada and they make meaningful contributions every day to their communities," said Vera Pawis Tabobondung, president of the National Association of Friendship Centres. "Carrying a powerful, international symbol like the Olympic Flame will focus light on our urban Aboriginal heroes and showcase their accomplishments."

"A love of sports, from hockey to unique Aboriginal sports like the knuckle hop or snow snake, unites First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples across this land and keeps our cultures and languages alive," added George Tex Marshall, chairperson of the Aboriginal Sport Circle. "Being a torchbearer is a great way to recognize the athletes and coaches who promote healthy living and mentorship in our communities and fill us with so much pride as our ambassadors wherever they go."

### **Youth Flame Attendants (12)**

Once the Olympic Flame is lit in Olympia, Greece, it must be tended to 24 hours a day to ensure it stays lit until the final moments of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. In recognition of the Aboriginal tradition of fire keepers, 12 young men and women, aged 19 to 25, will be selected as flame attendants. They will work alongside the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to maintain the lanterns and keep the backup flames burning. Flame attendants will also guide torchbearers while the flame is carried and passed from torch to torch. Six of the volunteer attendants will be First Nations along with three Inuit and three Métis.

### **Honorary Elder Fire Keepers (115)**

Fire keepers traditionally play a dual role in Aboriginal ceremonies: they are tasked with keeping fires burning during ceremonies as well as teaching the spiritual meanings of the fire. Whenever the Olympic Flame arrives in an Aboriginal community during the Olympic Torch Relay, an elder chosen by his or her people will act as an honorary fire keeper and perform a short welcoming and blessing ceremony for the flame. The role is an honour and acknowledgement of the person's commitment to the teachings of their nation. There will be approximately 115 fire keepers for the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay.

To be considered for the Aboriginal torch relay positions, nominees must be community-minded and a positive role model to others, as well as strive for excellence in whatever they do. Torchbearers must be aged 13 or older and flame attendants, who will travel with the flame across Canada for over three months, must be between the ages of 19 and 25 by October 30, 2009. For more details and nomination forms, please contact the appropriate Aboriginal organization — the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Métis National Council/Métis Nation BC, National Association of Friendship Centres and Aboriginal Sport Circle.

“Seeing and holding that magnificent Olympic Flame is a transformational and emotional experience,” said John Furlong, VANOC’s Chief Executive Officer. “This is a very special opportunity for Canada’s Aboriginal communities to participate in the Olympic Torch Relay so I encourage all First Nations, Inuit and Métis to nominate individuals that reflect the best in their communities — in guidance and mentorship from elders, vision and hope from youth and sportsmanship and determination from athletes. The Olympic Flame truly symbolizes the best in all of us.”

The Olympic Flame, carried proudly by 12,000 torchbearers young and old, will visit over 1,000 communities in every corner of Canada, including the country’s most northern, southern and eastern points, before arriving back in the host province of British Columbia for the start of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games on February 12, 2010. Further information on the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay is available online at [www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay](http://www.vancouver2010.com/torchrelay).

### **About VANOC**

VANOC is responsible for the planning, organizing, financing and staging of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be staged in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. Vancouver and Whistler will host the Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010. Visit [www.vancouver2010.com](http://www.vancouver2010.com).

### **About the Four Host First Nations Society**

The Four Host First Nations Society is a not-for-profit organization that has been established to coordinate the participation in the 2010 Winter Games by the Lil’wat, Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. To learn more about the Four Host First Nations Society, visit [www.fourhostfirstnations.com](http://www.fourhostfirstnations.com).

### **About Coca-Cola and the Olympic Movement**

The Coca-Cola Company has been associated with the Olympic Games since 1928 and is the longest continuous corporate supporter of the Olympic Movement. Through the Olympic Games, Coca-Cola encourages people to create their own path of "positivity" in everyday life by believing that anything is possible. The Company's sponsorship supports National Olympic Committees in more than 200 countries to help athletes train and compete. The Coca-Cola Company is the exclusive non-alcoholic beverage provider to the Olympic Games through 2020. For more information about Coca-Cola Canada, please visit our website at [www.cocacola.ca](http://www.cocacola.ca) or our parent company's website at [www.thecoca-colacompany.com](http://www.thecoca-colacompany.com).

### **About RBC**

As part of our commitment to helping create a better Canada, RBC sponsors amateur sport, from grassroots programs in local communities to national sport associations that support the development of amateur athletes who compete at home and abroad. Canada’s longest-standing supporter of the Canadian Olympic Team since 1947, RBC continues its sponsorship through the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and is proud to bring the Olympic Spirit to communities across Canada as co-presenting sponsor of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay. RBC is also a premier sponsor of Hockey Canada, the Canadian Snowboard Team, the



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ASSEMBLY OF  
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507-100 Park Royal South  
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Ph: 604-922-7733  
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FIRST  
NATIONS  
SUMMIT

1200-100 Park Royal South  
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Ph: 604-926-9903  
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UNION OF  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
INDIAN CHIEFS

500-342 Water Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 1B6

Ph: 604-684-0231  
Fx: 604-684-5726

March 19, 2009

Premier Gordon Campbell  
Government of British Columbia

Honourable Wally Oppal  
Attorney General

Honourable John van Dongen  
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Honourable Michael de Jong  
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Dear Sirs,

The BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs welcome the release of the interim report, *Alone and Cold* by Commissioner Davies. The insightful findings and recommendations in his report raise many critical issues and concerns regarding municipal policing in British Columbia. While it is deeply regrettable that it has taken the loss of Frank Paul's life to have these issues brought to the forefront, we express our sincere desire and collective commitment that the report will lead to change. We fully support the recommendations and urge the BC government to move swiftly to implement them.

We wish to acknowledge Commissioner Davies and his staff for the courage and integrity they have shown. We are greatly encouraged by the opportunities to move forward as identified in the report's recommendations.

The report validates the concerns expressed by Mr. Paul's family who have pushed for years for a public inquiry into his tragic death. There can be no question that the system failed Mr. Paul. The Vancouver Police Department failed to safeguard his life, services for the homeless were severely lacking and most significantly, the police investigations were fundamentally flawed. Moreover, the decision not to lay any criminal charges regarding Mr. Paul's death highlights the critical need for far-reaching changes, especially if Aboriginal people and the public are to ever regain a level of confidence in policing in BC.

The report has shed light on serious systemic flaws within the municipal police system and states that these flaws are grounded in conflict of interest. The present practice where police investigate police when there is a police-related death must not and cannot continue.

The need for a complete overhaul of the police system is, in our view, without question. We agree with the Commissioner's comment that nothing short of a wholesale restructuring of police investigations will suffice. We therefore welcome and fully support the recommendation to establish a civilian-based body to investigate police-related deaths. We understand that the Davies Report focused only on municipal policing in BC. We urge the BC government to consider the expansion of the mandate of a civilian-based body to include the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and that this be a priority item for the preliminary negotiations for the renewal of BC government's contract with the RCMP.

In addition, we urge the BC government to pay particular attention to the report commissioned by Commissioner Davies titled *The Most Vulnerable of the Vulnerable: Aboriginal Chronic Alcoholics in the Downtown East Side*. We commend and fully support Commissioner Davies' call for a civilian-operated sobering centre, an enhanced civilian-based detoxification centre and permanent housing for chronic alcoholics.

The BC government must not lose sight of the fact that the process is not yet complete - several critical matters remain outstanding.

Firstly, it is now clear that the conduct of the officers involved was "marked by indifference, callousness, and failure to care" and that "the VPD investigation into the circumstances of Frank Paul's death was methodically flawed". In light of the report's findings, we call for the Criminal Justice Branch to now reassess whether criminal charges are warranted. It is our view that those responsible for Mr. Paul's death must be charged. This goes to the heart of our justice system – those tasked with enforcing the law cannot be seen to be above it.


Secondly, there is the issue of compensation for Mr. Paul's family who have had to endure a lengthy and painful campaign to see justice served, quite apart from the loss they have suffered.

Thirdly, the BC Court of Appeal has yet to issue its ruling on whether the prosecutors involved in the decision not to lay charges in the death of Mr. Paul can be compelled to testify at the inquiry. We have been deeply disappointed by the decision of the Criminal Justice Branch to challenge Commissioner Davies' jurisdiction – it not only obstructs the course of justice, it prolongs the process and delays the conclusion of this matter for the family and friends of Mr. Paul who deserve closure and answers. We urge the Attorney General to act with integrity and respect and withdraw his objection.

We request a meeting as soon as possible to discuss how we can move to enact the report's recommendations on an urgent basis and work together to prevent recurrences of this type of tragedy.

Sincerely,

**On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT:**

  
Grand Chief Edward John

  
Dan Smith

  
Grand Chief Doug Kelly

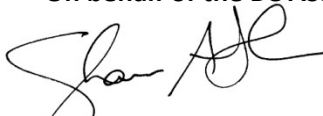
**On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS**

  
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip

  
Chief Robert Shintah

  
Chief Lynda Price

**On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:**

  
Regional Chief A-in-chut (Shawn Atleo)

**For:** Nak'azdli First Nation

**Contact:** Anne Marie Sam, Nak'azdli First Nation

Primary Phone: 250-649-8284

Secondary Phone: 250-996-7171

**Date issued:** March 2, 2009, 22:03 e

**Attention:** Assignment Editor, Environment Editor, Energy Editor, News Editor, Government/Political Affairs Editor

### **Proposed Shus Nadloh (Mt. Milligan) Mine Cannot Proceed without Nak'**

Fort St James, BC, PRESS RELEASE, Mar.02 /CCNMatthews/ - Nak'azdli First Nation has recently submitted two reports by anthropologist John Dewhirst, M.A., RPCA, to the BC government and Canada in support of our aboriginal title to the proposed Shus Nadloh (Mt. Milligan) mine site (the "project area"). This work also counters the claim of the McLeod Lake Indian Band to our land. (At this time our reports will not be presented publically due to culturally sensitive materials.)

Nak'azdli aboriginal rights and title to the project area are undeniable. Ethnographic sources support that prior to British assertion of sovereignty there was a trail from Nak'azdli to a permanent settlement at Nation Lakes that was used to regularly access the project area for hunting, gathering and other resource use. Today, Nak'azdli hunting cabins, traplines and campsites in the project area demonstrates continued exclusive use and occupation of the area. Any presence of the McLeod Lake Sekani people in the project area prior to assertion of British sovereignty was short lived and was as a result of their nomadic hunting and gathering practices only. Any use of the area was insufficient to ground aboriginal title. In any event, McLeod Lake has ceded any aboriginal rights and title it may have held in the project area in exchange for treaty rights under Treaty 8. By contrast, Nak'azdli's aboriginal interests in the project area remain intact.

Nak'azdli is of the view that the British Columbia Environmental Assessment process does not come close to addressing Nak'azdli's aboriginal rights and title concerns and it has chosen not to participate in it. The recent BC Court of Appeal decision in *Kwikwetlem First Nation v British Columbia (Utilities Commission)* 2009 BCCA 68 recognized and confirmed the flaws in the EA process that Nak'azdli has been trying to address with the BC government.

"We have been waiting since January 2007 for meaningful and respectful talks to occur between BC, Canada and Nak'azdli but all along we have been told that the BC Environmental Assessment process is our opportunity to be heard before approval of Mt. Milligan is given" states Chief Fred Sam. "The Province has not dealt with our title and the EA process has not dealt with our concerns with respect to negative impacts on our way of life. Nak'azdli will remain opposed to the mine unless and until title is properly dealt with and until there is a proper impact assessment process that includes Nak'azdli. It is anticipated that the recent submission to the BC Environmental Assessment Office will bring Minister Penner and the BC government to the negotiating table with the appropriate mandate to consult and accommodate impacts of the proposed Shus Nadloh (Mt. Milligan) mine on our people. If not, we will be considering all of our legal options."

We have high hopes for application of the newly proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act. It's not enough for a mining company to go to government for a permit," said Mr. [Edward] John, one of the six key people involved in developing the proposed law that is to recognize aboriginal rights and title in the Province. "It's not going to happen anymore. ... The reality of conducting business will change."

**For:** Chehalis Indian Band

**Contact:** Willie Charlie, Chief, Chehalis Indian Band

Primary Phone: 604-702-8520      Secondary Phone: 604-796-2116

E-mail: [willie.charlie@chehalisband.com](mailto:willie.charlie@chehalisband.com)

**Date issued:** March 16, 2009, 09:00 e

**Attention:** Assignment Editor, Business/Financial Editor, News Editor, Government/Political Affairs Editor

### **Chehalis Indian Band Announces Canada and BC Agree to Consultations**

*Chehalis Indian Band wants to announce that Canada and British Columbia have agreed to enter into a process of consultation to accommodate Chehalis aboriginal rights and title*

Agassiz, BC, PRESS RELEASE, Mar.16 /CCNMatthews/ - Pending announcement by British Columbia and In-SHUCK-ch, the Chehalis Indian Band wants to announce that Canada and British Columbia have agreed to enter into a process of consultation to accommodate Chehalis aboriginal rights and title and ensure that there is no adverse impact on our aboriginal rights and title as a result of the In-SHUCK-ch treaty.

The Chehalis Band's most recent meeting with Canada and British Columbia occurred on Friday, March 6, 2009. Chief Willie Charlie stated: "We are very happy with the commitment made by Canada and British Columbia after such a long period of time in which it appeared that after the signing of the In-SHUCK-ch AIP, Canada and British Columbia were leaving all discussions solely between In-SHUCK-ch and Chehalis. As a result of our most recent meeting with In-SHUCK-ch, it was clear that the In-SHUCK-ch do not wish to engage in a process where our serious concerns with respect to the impact on our aboriginal title will be addressed."

Chief Charlie further stated: "Less than one week after our March 6 meeting with Canada and British Columbia, we were shocked to see the In-SHUCK-ch announcement that there will be a signing of the Bilateral Agreement on Monday, March 16th at the In-SHUCK-ch Nation office in Deroche." The In-SHUCK-ch press release states that the agreement with British Columbia "will demonstrate the In-SHUCK-ch Nation has completed treaty talks on all substantive issues with the Province." Canada will not be a signatory to this agreement.

Chehalis is very concerned that British Columbia, by signing this agreement without addressing the very serious issues including a proposal of giving away land in the heart of the Chehalis territory to In-SHUCK-ch, is ignoring its constitutional duty to consult with the Chehalis. Chief Willie Charlie has responded by stating: "I carefully explained to the chief negotiator for Canada and British Columbia how St'epsum (20 Mile Bay) is in the heart of our territory. It has always been part of Chehalis territory and the Chehalis have protected our traditional territory since before the arrival of the first white man. Chehalis has repeatedly told Canada and British Columbia that they must address critical issues of protection of Chehalis sites at the north end of Harrison Lake and they can not be assuming control in any way of parts of the Chehalis territory in the heart of our territory at St'epsum, which is one of Chehalis' ancient village sites."

It is a relief to Chehalis that Canada recognizes that the agreement with In-SHUCK-ch has not been substantially completed. It is a very sad day that British Columbia is ignoring the very clear concerns of Chehalis by signing this agreement on March 16 with the In-SHUCK-ch.

- END RELEASE - 16/03/2009

For further information:

Gordon Mohs, Aboriginal Rights & Title, Heritage Resource Advisor, at 604-796-2116

([gordon.mohs@chehalisband.com](mailto:gordon.mohs@chehalisband.com)).

## A win for treaty critics at United Nations

Published: March 22, 2009 7:00 AM

Updated: March 22, 2009 10:24 AM

<http://www.bclocalnews.com/news/41601957.html>

Canada's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva has been told his country must co-operate with a UN investigation into complaints about the B.C. treaty process and the agreements it has produced.

In a carefully worded letter, the chairperson of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), Fatimata-Binta Victoire Dah, says when the issue is "encroachment on the traditional lands of indigenous peoples," Canada is required to submit a report whenever the UN committee requests.

In the letter, posted online at the UN website, Dah notes that Canada signed an international agreement on the elimination of all forms of racism that gives CERD the power to demand such reports under an "early warning and urgent action procedure."

Canada has been given until July 31 to respond.

The Dah letter is a victory for Bertha Williams from the Tsawwassen First Nation (TFN) in Delta, and Arthur Manuel from the Neskonlith Indian Band near Kamloops, who went to Geneva in February to ask the UN to intervene.

Williams and Manuel argued the new treaties with their bands have eliminated the existing form of aboriginal title where land belongs to families and cannot be taken away or sold to non-natives.

"This is my birthright handed to me by my parents and grandparents and ancestors," Williams said last month.

"But it will be severed come April 3, 2009 when the Tsawwassen Agreement comes into force."

Manuel said the expansion of the Sun Peaks ski resort near Kamloops on land claimed by natives is another example of the Canadian government's determination to extinguish aboriginal property rights.

"Our land is being sold right from under our feet," Manuel said last month.

The UN letter asks the Canadian government to respond to complaints about supposed irregularities in treaty negotiations and voting, including "allegations concerning financial inducements to conclude agreements."

That is an apparent reference to suggestions that certain payments made to TFN members were designed to secure a positive vote, a claim that has been denied by the BC Treaty Commission and TFN Chief Kim Baird.

Baird has said the treaty was passed in a democratic fashion in the summer of 2007 when 70 per cent of the band's members voted in favour of the treaty.

The treaty gives the TFN 724 hectares of land, roughly doubling the reserve land base, along with nearly \$32 million in cash and one-time funding, and a portion of the commercial salmon fishery.

However, band members will over time lose their federal Indian Act tax exemptions, and reserve lands will be converted to a different kind of ownership where they can be mortgaged and taxed.

Williams said the deal has traded away the "protections and few rights and privileges" provided by the Indian Act without getting enough in return.

The UN does not have the direct authority to order the Canadian government to alter treaty provisions, but if the CERD investigation declares the treaty process a violation of aboriginal land rights, it could embarrass the government into making changes, something that has happened before.

In 1985, the Canadian government changed the law that stripped native women of their status when they married non-native men, after the United Nations declared the practice unjust. [dferguson@surreyleader.com](mailto:dferguson@surreyleader.com)

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### The 'L I T T L E' Things. . .

As you might know, the head of a company survived 9/11 because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was His turn to bring donuts.

One woman was late because her Alarm clock didn't go off in time.

One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike Because of an auto accident.

One of them Missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to take Time to change.

One's Car wouldn't start.

One went back to Answer the telephone.

One had a Child that dawdled And didn't get ready as soon as he should have.

One couldn't Get a taxi.

**The one that struck me was** The man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, Took the various means to get to work but before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot. He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid. **That is why he is alive today.**

Now when I am stuck in traffic, Miss an elevator, Turn back to answer a ringing telephone... All the little things that annoy me. I think to myself, This is exactly where my guardian angel wants me to be At this very moment.. Next time your morning seems to be Going wrong, The children are slow getting dressed, You can't seem to find the car keys, You hit every traffic light, Don't get mad or frustrated; It May be just that Someone is watching over you. May Love continue to find you. With all those annoying little things. And may you remember their possible purpose.

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**This is Serious!** This incident happened recently in North Texas.

A woman went boating one Sunday taking with her some cans of coke which she put into the refrigerator of the boat. On Monday she was taken to the hospital and placed in the Intensive Care Unit. She died on Wednesday.

The autopsy concluded she died of Leptospirosis. This was traced to the can of coke she drank from, not using a glass. Tests showed that the can was infected by dried rat urine and hence the disease Leptospirosis.

Rat urine contains toxic and deathly substances. It is highly recommended to thoroughly wash the upper part of all soda cans before drinking out of them. The cans are typically stocked in warehouses and transported straight to the shops without being cleaned.

A study at NYCU showed that the tops of all soda cans are more contaminated than public toilets (i.e.) full of germs and bacteria. So wash them with water before putting them to the mouth to avoid any kind of fatal accident.

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**BC ELDERS  
COMMUNICATION  
CENTER SOCIETY**

For information on the Residential School Settlement's Common  
Experience Payment please call:  
Service Canada at 1-866-699-1742

1415 Wewaikum Road  
Campbell River, B.C. V9W 5W9

To be put on the Telemarketing  
National Do Not Call List call: 1-866-580-3625

Phone: 1-250-286-9977  
Fax: 1-250-286-4809  
Toll-Free: 1-877-738-7288  
Coordinator: Donna Stirling  
Website: [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com)  
Email:  
[bcelders@telus.net](mailto:bcelders@telus.net)

**QUOTES**

"If you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm."  
Audrey Hepburn

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."  
Albert Sweitzer

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm."  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."  
Henry Ford

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra."  
Unknown

I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails.  
Unknown

'ELDERS VOICE' ISSUES  
ARE SENT OUT TO  
COMMUNITIES BY THE  
**1st** OF EACH MONTH.

If your area's copy is not received in a timely manner please call in to the office.

***Please mail, fax, email, or call in your  
Special Wishes/Community Events !!***

**Happy! Happy! Birthday To All Elders Born in April!!**

**ARIES** - The Daredevil (Mar 21 - April 19) Energetic. Adventurous and spontaneous. Confident and enthusiastic. Fun. Loves a challenge. **EXTREMELY** impatient. Sometimes selfish. Short fuse. (Easily angered.) Lively, passionate, and sharp wit. Outgoing. Lose interest quickly - easily bored. Egotistical. Courageous and assertive. Tends to be physical and athletic.

**National Survivors Support Line**

24 Hours a day - 7 days a week - 1-866-925-4419

The Indian Residential School Survivors Society provides free, immediate, confidential, non-judgmental, support for residential school survivors across Canada.

**ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING INFORMATION CORNER**

The next Annual Elders Gathering will be July 13, 14, 15 2009  
At the Terrace Arena, Terrace, BC.

*(Groups are already booking rooms in Kitamaat as Terrace is booked-up).*

**Contact Group:**

**Nisga'a Nation Elders Association**

**Address: 5200 Skateen Ave. New Aiyansh, BC. V0J 1A0**

**Phone: 250-633-2242 fax: 250-633-2265**