

Volume 4 Issue 1

December 2003



B.C. ELDER'S COMMUNICATION CENTER SOCIETY

# ELDER'S VOICE

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year To One And All!!!

Mount Currie Indian Band puts out a PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE Oct. 31 2003 Over 300 evacuated residents are struggling to repair homes before winter. The water has receded from the height of flooding two weeks ago, but the time that will elapse before receiving any compensation is crippling given that winter is fast approaching.

“Many people will receive compensation from the provincial Disaster Financial Assistance program,” explains Chief Leonard Andrew. “But the program only funds partial amounts of the total loss value and there is real concern that many of our people’s needs will fall through the cracks.”

In addition, Mount Currie Band members lost 303 round bales of hay and 3822 square bales of hay. “This hay is necessary to feed livestock on reserve over the coming winter,” says Chief Andrew. “the cost of replacing all of this hay is approximately \$25,000 and it will not be compensated under the Provincial Emergency Program.”

As a result, the Mount Currie Indian Band on behalf of the members of the community is putting out a plea for assistance. Mount Currie Band has set up a bank account at Scotiabank to receive donations. The name is: “2003 Mount Currie Flood Relief” Acct. # is 90670-002-021-4329. Donations of hay and livestock are also being sought. For info call Sheldon Tetreault 604-894-6115

Please don't forget that we need every area's list of Artist to approach for the Raffle. Please fax your lists to 250-286-4809 or email bcelderscommcenter@telus.net

*(Belated) Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary!!!!*

*To Patricia and Walter Piatocka  
&  
To Margaret and Ken Harris*

### Inside this issue

Easy Bakers Corner/Tips	2
What can you share?	2
www.bcelders.com	2
Emergency Flood Support!	3
Open Letter From UBCIC	4
B.C. Elder's Council List	5

<u>Pgs. 6 &amp; 7:</u> The Lie That First Nations Pay No Taxes
<u>Pg. 8:</u> All Peanut Butter is Healthy
<u>Pg. 9:</u> Killing Broccoli's Benefits
<u>Pg. 10:</u> Jeanette McMaster Letter
<u>Pg. 11:</u> Protection Against Fraud
<u>Pg. 12:</u> B.C. Tap Water Alliance
<u>Pg. 13:</u> POEM
<u>Pgs. 14 &amp; 15:</u> Elder's Raffle & Prize
<u>Back Page</u>
• <i>Proverbs/Bible Quotes/Events</i>

## **Easy Bakers Corner – Banana-Nut Muffins – Makes a dozen**

Sift 2 cups of all-purpose flour, 1/4 cup of sugar, 1 tablespoon of baking powder and a half teaspoon of salt in a medium bowl; make a well in the center.

In a second bowl mix 1 cup of milk, 1 egg (beaten), 1/3 cup of vegetable oil, 3/4 of a cup of mashed bananas, 1/2 cup of chopped walnuts; pour into well in the first bowl.

Mix batter just until moistened; do not over mix. (You may substitute blueberries or raisins for the mashed bananas).

Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups. Bake at 400° until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean or until muffins are golden brown, about 15 minutes.

To ensure round muffin tops, grease only the bottom and halfway up the sides of each muffin cup.

***Handy Tips:*** Use ice on clothing to remove melted wax.

To help your Christmas tree to last longer, feed it a mixture of 1 quart of water, 1/2 tsp. of liquid bleach, 2 Tbsp. of lemon juice and 1 Tbsp. of sugar. Or use Listerine or 7-Up, or 2 Tbsp. of maple syrup.

Use a turkey baster to water the Christmas Tree to protect your carpets and you can use a plastic tablecloth under the tree stand to protect carpeting too.

## **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/Photo's/Storytelling/Drawings/Articles of Interest/Native Songs Lyrics/Wellness Seminars/Obituaries/Birthday Wishes, etc. If you are interested in providing articles, please do, I look forward to hearing from anyone who wants to contribute to the content.

## **'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 (Sept. 2002). Future registration forms, booth forms, maps of the Hosting territory, accommodation information, etc. concerning the Annual Gatherings will all be available on the B.C. Elder's Communication Center Society's Web Site at [www.bcelders.com](http://www.bcelders.com) as soon as they are made available for each new host community.

Issues of your Elder's Voice Newsletter are 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 - info on back page\*\*\*

**Disclaimer:** Opinions contained in this publication are not those of Donna Stirling unless her name appears below the material. Elders are free to forward in whatever they feel they need to communicate to their peers without fear of censorships because this is the Elder's Voice. Also, the health articles are not meant to replace your doctor's advice, while they may help you have a list of questions at your disposal when you do see him or her, you should contact your family physician or health care worker for all health care matters.

Chief Leonard Andrew  
Mount Currie Indian Band  
PO Box 602  
Mount Currie, BC V0N-2K0

SENT VIA FAX: (604) 894-6841

October 20, 2003

RE: Open Letter - Emergency Support and Assistance

Dear Chief Andrew;

On behalf of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, I would like to express our deep concerns and commit the full support of the UBCIC to the community of Mount Currie during this flood. I understand that access to Mount Currie is restricted as the highway to the south is washed out and to the north there is a strong possibility of slides. I would like to indicate that the UBCIC is willing to assist in any effort being contemplated.

As I understand, the flood has also impacted the communities of Douglas First Nation, Samahquam First Nation and Skatin First Nation. I would encourage everyone to lend any assistance possible to these four communities at the following numbers:

Mount Currie Indian Band: (604) 894-6115

Douglas First Nation: (604) 820-3082

Samahquam First Nation: (604) 700-3374

Skatin First Nation: (604) 894-6931

In closing, our hearts and prayers go out to all community members who are working hard under exceptional circumstances to help those in need.

Sincerely yours,  
Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs

[Original Signed by Chief Stewart Phillip] President

Established in 1969, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs is a political organization protecting the Aboriginal Title and Rights of our member communities. We are based in Kamloops and have an office in Vancouver. For further details visit our website at <http://www.ubcic.bc.ca>.

OPEN LETTER October 31, 2003  
Mr. Ray Bonin  
Chair, Parliamentary Standing Committee on  
Aboriginal Affairs, Natural Resources  
And Northern Development  
House of Commons  
Unsurrendered Algonquin Territory  
(Ottawa, Ontario)

Ms. Thelma Chalifoux  
Chair, Senate Standing Committee on  
Aboriginal Peoples  
Senate  
Unsurrendered Algonquin Territory  
(Ottawa, Ontario)

Re: Bills C6, C-7 & C-19

Dear Mr. Bonin and Ms. Chalifoux:

This is to give you notice of the results of the AFN Special Chiefs' Assembly held in Squamish, Coast Salish Territory (North Vancouver, B.C.), on October 8, 9, 2003, regarding the above noted Bills presently before Parliament.

The Chiefs-in-Assembly once again voted down a resolution in support of Bill C-19, and once again it was by a clear majority. The results were 109 against, 65 In favour, and 2 Abstentions.

As for Bills C-6 (Specific Claims Resolution Act) and C-7 (First Nations Governance Act), the Chiefs-in-Assembly continue to strenuously oppose these Bills.

If any of these three Bills should pass through Parliament and be given "Royal Assent", rest assured that many First Nations will politically and legally challenge the legitimacy of the law(s), but also Parliament's lack of authority to pass such laws without clear First Nations' consent, which obviously has not been obtained with respect to Bills C-6, C-7, and C-19!

In conclusion, we advise you assist your political party by convincing your outgoing and incoming party Leaders to withdraw these three Bills and work to seek a cooperative approach to First Nations-Canada political and fiscal relations.

We remain convinced that the starting point for such a bilateral process is contained in the many recommendations of the:

Penner-Jamieson Report on Self-Government; Final Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples'; Watt Senate Report on 'Forging Relationships'.

Should you wish to come to your senses, you can count on us to assist you in convincing your Leader(s).

Yours Truly,

[Original Signed by Chief Stewart Phillip]  
Chief Stewart Phillip President, Union of BC Indian Chiefs

## **B.C. Elder's Council**

**All members can be reached through the B.C. Elder's Communication Center Society**

**October 2003**

Margaret Antoine - Stelat'en First Nation - Vanderhoof  
Emma Baker - Carrier Dena Nation - Frazer Lake  
John Leonard - Shuswap Nation - Kamloops  
Frazer Smith - Tsartlip Nation - Saanich  
Patricia Piatocka - We Wai Kum First Nation - Campbell River  
Christine Dawson - Nuxalk Nation - Prince George  
Frank Morris Sr. - Nee-Tahi-Buhn Nation - Burns Lake  
Ginger Alec - Xaxli'p Nation - Lillooet  
Irene Bryson - Okanagan Nation - Osoyoos  
Marlene Billy - Ehattesaht Nation - Zeballos  
Sophie Ogen - Cheslatta Carrier Nation - Burns Lake  
Amanda Zettergreen - Gitwangak Nation - Kitwanga  
Lester Williams - Secwemtexc Nation - Adams Lake  
Dee George - Tsleil-Waututh Nation - Burrard  
Andrea Jacobs - Squamish Nation - West Vancouver  
Vivian Stogan - Squamish Nation - West Vancouver  
Irene Wydenes - We Wai Kai First Nation - Campbell River  
Mary Prince - Tsekani Nation - McLeod Lake  
Chief Rhonda Larrabee - QayQayt First Nation - New Westminister  
Frank Hanuse - Oweekeno Nation - Port Hardy  
Adele Lewis - We Wai Kai First Nation - Quadra Island  
Audrey Aiken Young - Haida Nation - Skidegate  
Catherine Haller - Chilcotin Nation - Nemaiah Valley  
Jeanette McMaster - Okanagan Nation - Merritt  
Desmond Peters Sr. - St'at'imc Nation - Lillooet  
Rose Lube - Westbank First Nation - Kelowna  
Sarah Modeste - Cowichan Tribes - Duncan  
Violet Wishart - Nisga'a Nation - Port Alberni  
Mary Porter - Shuswap Nation - Cache Creek  
Willie Walkus - Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw - Port Hardy  
Norbert Dennis - Lake Babine Nation - Lake Babine  
William R Blackwater - Gitxsan Nation - Hazelton  
Chief Ken Russell - Gitsegukla First Nation - South Hazelton  
Dorinda Shirey - Gitanyow First Nation - Kitwanga  
Ed Dawson - Whe-La-La-U Area Council - Alert Bay  
Anna Mae Tanner - Okanagan Nation - Oliver  
Terry Spahan - Thompson Nation - Merritt  
Gwen Harry - Squamish Nation - Squamish  
Laurine Vilac - Shuswap Nation - 100 Mile House  
Betty Nicolaye - Kyoquot First Nation - Campbell River  
Amy Eustergerling - Cree Nation - Burnaby

Interesting to read...

I am of Mikisew Cree decent and the Benoit case directly relates to my family members who signed Treaty 8, with the Indian Agent understanding that the Chiefs agreed so long as their members did not pay tax.... "For as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow..." Isko pîsim ta-sâkâsot, maskosîya ta-ohpikihi, êkwa sîpîya ta-pimâpotêki ki'htwa'm ka-wa'p(a)mit(i)n Lisa Gagnon

Original Message from Roger Thomas - **September 19, 2003**

Subject: **The lie that First Nations pay no taxes**

Tansi relatives,

I know that all of us are sick and tired of hearing the lie that First Nations do not pay taxes and that Canadians are stuck paying the bill for our "special privileges". Groups like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and the Canadian Alliance Party routinely, almost daily propagate this lie to the National media. While I understand why the CTF and CA would suppress the truth on this matter, it's harder to understand why our own leaders and Aboriginal media have been negligent in educating our people as well as the general public on this very divisive subject. Revenue Canada and INAC are at the very least negligent in their failure to dispel this myth that has soured the relationship between First Nations and Canadians for a number of years.

In the article attached you will see the proof that our people are the targets of a racist smear campaign that reaches from coast to coast. In paragraph 6 of this article, from cbc.ca, quotes directly from Revenue Canada, the amount of taxes (which includes the income taxes that I pay) and duties collected from First Nations people totals 8 billion dollars a year. The annual federal expenditures for First Nations are only 7 billion dollars. So in reality we find ourselves paying not only for our own oppression and misery but also for the prosperity and comfort of others who are considerably better off than most of us. The federal government, on behalf of the people of Canada, has not only expropriated 97% of our lands but is now taking 1 billion dollars annually to subsidize for others in this country the high standard of living that the vast majority of our people will never enjoy in this lifetime. In conclusion I urge all of you to spread this email far and wide, we all have an obligation to educate as well as protect ourselves and our people from those individuals and groups that seek to capitalize on our misfortunate situation in this land. Sincerely, Roger Thomas

---

C B C. C A N e w s - F u l l S t o r y:

Canada appealing decision to exempt natives from taxation

Last Updated Nov 19 2002

OTTAWA: Government lawyers will try Tuesday to have a federal court ruling, which exempts thousands of First Nations people from paying taxes, reversed.

The court ruled in March that members of Indian Treaty No. 8, signed in 1899, were entitled to be free from any kind of taxation. At the time, negotiators for Canada promised native leaders the treaty wouldn't open the door to any form of taxation.

In his ruling last March, Federal Court Justice Douglas Campbell said the promise probably wasn't intended to mean that native people would never be taxed, but the Indians thought differently.

He said the forty bands in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories must, therefore, have the right not to have any tax imposed on them for any reason at any time.

Lawyers for the governments of Canada and the provinces involved said if the ruling stands it could throw parts of the Canadian economy into chaos.

Revenue Canada estimated the cost to the federal government in lost excise duties and taxes could be more than \$8 billion a year.

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is an intervener in the case and said the ruling could open the door to other First Nations making similar claims.

"It actually exempts one group of Canadians from paying taxes based on their ethnicity," said Tanis Fiss of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

Gordon Benoit launched the case ten years ago and says the tax exemption is a small price to pay to a people who weren't even allowed to vote until 1960.

"You expect us to be sympathetic to the white people crying, 'Oh, you guys got it right, you got it easy'? Bullshit. This is a treaty right. This has nothing to do with taxes," said Benoit.

The government lawyers will argue that if the treaty right ever existed, it was cancelled out when the Constitution came into effect 20 years ago.

Three days of hearings are scheduled at the Federal Court of Appeal. Any decision will likely be taken to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Written by CBC News Online staff Copyright (c) 2003 Canadian Broadcasting Corporation - All Rights Reserved

Dr. Fred J. Shore, Executive Director Office of University Accessibility 128 Education Building, University of Manitoba  
Phone: (204) 474-6084 Fax: 479-3061

## All Peanut Butters Healthy Processed or Fresh, Peanut Butter Is Good Food

By Daniel DeNoon

Oct. 3, 2003 -- Store-bought peanut butter is as good for you as the fresh-ground-in-the-health-food-store variety, a study shows.

That any kind of peanut butter is healthy seems too good to be true. But the lowly peanut is packed full of healthy oils and vitamin E.

Wait a minute. Doesn't processing raw peanuts into commercial peanut butter remove those healthy vitamins? No, find University of Georgia researcher Ron Eitenmiller, PhD, and colleagues. They measured vitamin E in raw peanuts, roasted peanuts, and commercial peanut butter.

The bottom line: Processing removes no more than 5% of total vitamin E from the product. "We'd run so many studies on peanuts and peanut butters in the past, we had our suspicions that vitamin E content would remain high in the finished product," Eitenmiller says in a news release.

It's true that exposure to air erodes the vitamin E content of peanut butter. But Eitenmiller says that the commercial product's oil base and container protect against oxygen.

The findings appear in the September issue of the *Journal of Food Sciences*.

### **2 Tablespoons -- Not the Whole Jar**

It's not just the vitamin E that makes peanut butter wholesome, says Leslie Bonci (pronounced BAWN-see), MPH, RD, director of sports nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

"There are some terrific health benefits to it, not just taste benefits," Bonci tells WebMD. "People get hung up on the fact that peanut butter has fat in it, but it is not as bad as other kinds of fat."

Bonci says the new findings confirm what she already knows: Grocery-store peanut butter is nutritionally the same as peanut butter freshly ground in a health-food store.

Which one should you pick? Let your personal taste be your guide, Bonci says.

"Fresh ground is not necessarily better," Bonci says. "The fat and calorie content are pretty much the same whether you grind your own or buy commercial peanut butter. The monounsaturated fat is still there."

But please remember this: Nothing is healthy unless portions are kept under control. Too much of a good thing is too much.

"The serving size is two tablespoons -- not the whole jar," Bonci warns.

© 2003 WebMD Inc. All rights reserved.



## **Hot Water Kills Broccoli's Benefits** By Jennifer Warner

### **Boiling, Blanching Can Cause Veggies to Lose Antioxidants**

Oct. 17, 2003 -- Too much water may spoil a cook's best efforts to eat healthy. Two new studies show that using a lot of water to cook vegetables can cause them to lose much of their cancer-fighting antioxidants.

Researchers found blanching, boiling, or microwaving vegetables in water caused antioxidants to leak out of the vegetables and into the cooking water. But steaming them preserved most of these valuable nutrients.

Flavonoids, an antioxidant, are nutrients that are found naturally in many vegetables. They're thought to have a variety of healthy effects in the body by helping to protect cells from free radicals (unstable compounds that damage cells). The results appear in the November issue of the *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*.

#### **Beware of Boiling Broccoli**

The first study compared the effects of various cooking methods on the antioxidant content of fresh broccoli. Researchers tested high-pressure boiling, low-pressure (conventional) boiling, steaming, and microwaving about 5 ounces of broccoli using about two-thirds of a cup of water.

They found that microwaving the broccoli in the water for five minutes at full power produced the greatest nutrient loss, and the microwaved broccoli lost 74% to 97% of three key antioxidants. Boiling also led to a significant loss of these antioxidants. In contrast, steaming broccoli over the water for three and a half minutes caused only minimal loss of the three antioxidants (0% to 11%).

"Most of the bioactive compounds are water soluble; during heating they leak in a high percentage into the cooking water, reducing their nutritional benefits in the foodstuff," says researcher Cristina Garcia-Viguera, of the department of food science and technology at CEBAS-CSIC in Murcia, Spain, in a news release. "Because of this, it is recommended to cook vegetables in the minimum amount of water (as in steaming) in order to retain their nutritional benefits."

#### **Beware of Blanching Before Freezing**

In the second study, researchers looked at the effects of blanching 20 different types of vegetables before freezing and storing vegetables.

They found that blanching (briefly immersing them in rapidly boiling water) of vegetables prior to freezing caused a loss of up to one-third of their antioxidant content, including vitamin C. Slight additional losses were detected during freezer storage.

Folic acid was also very sensitive to the effects of blanching and more than half of this vitamin was lost during blanching. Researchers say these effects varied greatly depending on the particular vegetable, but in general vitamins and antioxidants were much more sensitive to processing and storage than fiber content, which was not affected and even increased slightly after blanching and freezing in some cases.

WebMD Medical News Reviewed By Brunilda Nazario, MD on Saturday, October 18, 2003

November 13,2003

Well, it's been one year now since Lloyd and I moved back to the Nicola Valley. The time just seems to fly out the window. So many things have happened, since we left Campbell River, I do miss the many good friends I met while we lived in Campbell River, the First Nation people of Campbell River, as well as others from other parts of Vancouver Island, you are all very kind and gracious people. Thank you all, for your friendships and kindness towards my family, and myself while we lived in your territory.

I do look forward to receiving and reading the Elder's Voice newsletter every month, many times I see names and recognize them. The Elder's Voice is like a big link, it crosses over many, and touches many lives.

We here in the Nicola Valley once again paid tribute to the Aboriginal veterans who fought in past and present wars. The service was very well planned and well attended. Thank you to Mike Bob and Patrick Sterling, for organizing the event. The work is big, it must take a lot of research, then the task of documenting all of the photos. The photos were given by people who had loved ones in the war. The photos are priceless. Thank you everyone for making this Remembrance Day so special, the cooks who prepared the lunch and the volunteers who served it, the drummers, for their powerful singing, it took many volunteers to make it all possible.

This coming Sunday, we will be giving a luncheon, in honor of two very dear people. We will be saying our farewells to Mary and Sylvester Charlie. They are going home to their people at Granisle, B.C., they are originally from the Carrier Nation and are both ordained ministers in the Native Evangelical Ministry. We here at Nicola Valley have been so very blessed by these two, Sylvester is an Elder, his wife Mary is an Elder in training...we tease her.

They came to the Nicola Valley, they brought with them only good and they leave us with so many good things, which they taught from the Bible. You know, some people come into our valley, they take away good, and never leave anything good behind them. But not so with Mary and Silver, thank you both, you will be remembered with much fondness, you will go home to your people, and we hope you remember the Thompson and Okanagan People. We hope we treated you well, while you lived among our people. We love you in Christ Jesus.

“Where no wise guidance is, the people fall, but in a multitude of counselors, there is safety.”  
Proverbs 11:14

We, as Elders need to safe guard youth, our Elderly, and our in-between people, how do we safe guard them? We make sure they are receiving sound teaching from our Elders. Check out the teaching that are given to your youth, as there are many who will come and teach wrong things. Ask questions.

Jeanette McMaster, Okanagan Nation  
B.C. Elder's Council

## Protection Tips Against Fraud

This is some GREAT advice from an attorney in Ontario about how to protect yourself from identity theft and fraud. Feel free to pass it along. Read this and make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday. A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.

Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, SIN number, credit cards, etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month.

Within a week, the thieves) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never even thought to do this).

Call the three national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SIN number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are: Equifax Canada : (Your Credit File): 1-800-465-7166 and Experian: (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 and Contact Trans Canada Credit: 416-465-71 66

In Canada Contact: Human Resources Development Canada (1-800-206-7218)

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting British Columbia's Community Water Supply Sources (Website: [www.alternatives.com/bctwa](http://www.alternatives.com/bctwa))

**ALLIANCE CALLS ON CABINET MINISTERS HAGEN AND DE JONG TO RESIGN**

Vancouver - The B.C. Tap Water Alliance is calling for the immediate resignation of two provincial B.C. Liberal Party Cabinet Ministers, Comox Valley MLA and Minister of Sustainable Resource Management Stan Hagen, and Abbotsford-Mount Lehman MLA and Minister of Forests Michael de Jong, for their shameless backing of the Working Forest legislation, Bill 46, recently passed in the Victoria Legislature.

The legislation, when linked to controversial changes to the Land Act under Hagen's Ministry, would dedicate the province's Community Watershed Reserves to commercial resource activities - something industry has been after for over 40 years. As summarized in the Alliance's 100-page submission to Hagen's Ministry, *The Working Forest: "End of the Commons"*, April 30, 2003 (see website), the new Working Forest legislation would undo approximately 100 years of existing legislation specifically designed to protect the public's drinking water sources.

Hagen requested public response to the Working Forest legislation by April 30, 2003, at which time it was overwhelmingly rejected, as it had been in early 2001, when former NDP Forests Minister Gordon Wilson tabled similar legislation. As the final August 2003 report on the public submissions, *A Working Forest for British Columbia Consultation Report*, states, "The general public, First Nations, environmental organizations, recreational interests, and some community interests strongly oppose the Working Forest Initiative."

Since December 1907, legislation under the Land Act has prevented further privatization of Public lands in BC. Despite strong and consistent public disapproval, Hagen, with the backing of Campbell's Cabinet, has been determinedly proceeding, thereby making a mockery of democracy and public participation in it.

"This government is out of control", says Will Koop, Coordinator of the Alliance, "particularly these two Ministers, who have knowingly passed this legislation against not only the wishes but the best interests of the public. They appear to be little more than bagmen for the forest industry's \$3 million in contributions to the BC Liberal Party between September 1995 and 2002, and as such they have no business making any more decisions on behalf of the people of British Columbia."

For more information: Will Koop (604) 224-4717; or email, [bctwa@alternatives.com](mailto:bctwa@alternatives.com)

## **When you thought I wasn't looking...**

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you helping at the Feasts, and I learned about culture, respect and sharing.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make my favourite cake or me and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you make a meal and take it to a friend who was sick, and I learned that we all have to help take care of each other.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don't.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw how you handled responsibilities, even when you didn't feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking I learned most of life's lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.

When you thought I wasn't looking I looked at you and wanted to say, "Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking."

**The foundation of every nation is the education of its youth**

The College of New Caledonia, Visit us at <http://www.cnc.bc.ca>

# Raffle

There is a beautiful PRIZE for the Elder  
or Elder's Group

Who brings the most Artists  
on board for the

## **1st Annual B.C. Elder's Raffle**

The prize is a framed and numbered print,  
Sisiutl & Canoe By Jr. Henderson

**If all Elders could make sure and keep these 2-pages which describes how the Raffle will work, and how the Native Artists in B.C. will be advertised and will benefit from giving their support to the Annual Elder's Fundraiser it would be appreciated and beneficial to everyone.**

**If you would be so kind as to make copies back home and distribute them to your local Artists - then I believe that we could make this Annual Raffle a great success.**

**All each Artist needs to do when he/she calls in - is to mention your name and provide your phone number and you will be entered in the draw for the Framed 23 x 31 inch Print which will be couriered directly to the winner on January 2nd, 2004.**

<p>B.C. ELDER'S COMMUNICATION CENTER SOCIETY</p>	<p><b><u>TRADITIONAL HEALING CORNER</u></b>  <b>First Nations communities have much to offer in the way of traditional healing. If you can provide information of who and what is available in your area, please call in to the office on the toll free line to talk.</b></p>
<p>1420 C 16th Avenue  Campbell River, B.C.  V9W 2E3</p>	<p><b>LOGO—Our thanks and appreciation go out to Shuswap First Nation's Artist Ivan Christopher for donating our Center's Logo.</b></p>
<p>Toll-Free: 1-877-738-7288  Phone: 1-250-286-9977  Fax: 1-250-286-4809  Coordinator: Donna Stirling  Website: <a href="http://www.bcelders.com">www.bcelders.com</a>  Email:  bcelderscommcenter@telus.net</p>	<p><b>PROVERBS:</b>  He who is outside his door already has a hard part of his journey behind him. Dutch  One should be just as careful in choosing one's pleasures as in avoiding calamities. Chinese  If you bow at all, bow low. Chinese</p>
<p><b>'ELDER'S VOICE' ISSUES ARE SENT OUT TO COMMUNITIES BY THE 1st OF EACH MONTH, IF YOUR COPY IS NOT RECEIVED IN A TIMELY FASHION PLEASE CALL IN.</b></p>	<p>In the morning be first up, and in the evening last to go to bed, for they that sleep catch no fish. English  Love thy neighbor, but don't tear down your fence. German  Never fall out with your bread and butter. English  Since we cannot get what we like, let us like what we can get. Spanish</p>

***Don't forget to mail, fax, or call in your Special Birthday!!***

**Happy! Happy! Birthday To All Elders Born In December!!**

<p><b><u>COMMUNITY EVENTS</u></b></p> <p>The 28th Annual Elder's Gathering will be held at the KXA Auditorium in Kamloops (in the same facility it was held in in 1999) and is being hosted by the Shuswap Nations and the Interior Bands.</p> <p>It will take place July 27, 28, 29 2004 - for more information: Call Doris Bamford, Coordinator at 250-314-9820 Or watch for updates here in the Elder's Voice</p>	<p><b>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</b></p> <p>God rest you merry gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day;  To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.</p> <p>From God our heavenly Father a blessed Angel came;  And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  How that in Bethlehem was born The son of God by name.</p> <p>"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;  This day is born a Saviour of a pure virgin bright, To free all those who trust in him from Satan's power and might."</p> <p>Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas Doth bring redeeming grace.</p> <p>O tidings of comfort and joy. Comfort and joy,  O tidings of comfort and joy.</p>
--	--