

Volume 11 Issue 3

February 2011

EV'S 123rd Issue!

ATTENTION: Elders Contact People Please Remember To Make Copies of The EV Each Month For Your Elders And If You Could Also Make Copies For Your Chiefs and Councils That Would Be A Great Help, And Much Appreciated!



BC ELDERS COMMUNICATION CENTER SOCIETY

ELDERS VOICE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL ELDERS BORN IN FEBRUARY !!

***Any group who does not yet have a member on the BC Elders Council is encouraged to contact this elder's office at 1-877-738-7288 or email: bcelders@telus.net**

Dear All,

Support fees that allow this office to run for you are due and requested now. Please talk to your group leaders and Chief and Councils for support in paying this fee. I need your help here please.

Thank you. Sincerely, Donna Stirling, BCECCS Coordinator

Quote: "Life isn't about how you survive the storm, but how you dance in the rain."

Happy Valentine's Day To All!

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Quote

"Love is the condition in which the happiness of another person is essential to your own." R. Heinlein

"Love is the only gold." Lord Tennyson
"To love is to receive a glimpse of heaven." K. Sunde

"Love is just a word until someone comes alone and gives it meaning." Unknown

"Everything is clearer when you are in love." John Lennon

Easy Bakers Corner – ‘Easy’ Coconut Cake

Make 1 box of white cake mix according to directions on box. Pour into 2-9 inch round cake pans. Bake at 350°F for 28-30 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

Drain 1 small can crushed pineapple - drained well, then put pineapple on top of one layer - then put some of can of white icing on top of the pineapple. Put the two layers together. Use remaining frosting all over the cake -- then cover entirely with 2-3 cups of coconut. And enjoy!

HANDY TIPS

1. Have a drain in your sink that is clogged? Pour 1/2 cup of baking soda over the drain, and then pour a cup of vinegar over it. Let set for a minute till it foams, then run your hot water or pour boiling water down the drain! You may need to repeat the process. Works for most simple clogs.
2. Have silver? Polish it to a shine with a soft cloth and some dampened baking soda placed on the cloth.
3. Did you know that cold tea will clean woodwork? Give it a try!
4. Have a grease stain on your wallpaper? Try mixing corn starch and water and make into a paste. Rub on with a soft clean cloth. Test this in an inconspicuous area first.
5. Foggy Windshield? Go to the stationary store and buy a chalkboard eraser. Keep the eraser in your glove compartment of your car. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser! Works better than a cloth.
6. Here is a test to see if you have a leaking toilet: Add food colouring to the toilet tank (not the toilet bowl). Do not flush for 30 minutes. If the water in the toilet bowl changes colour, you have a leaking toilet.
7. Grease stains on your carpet? Shake some cornstarch over the grease stain and let set there overnight or at least 8 hours. Vacuum.

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, 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

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 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).

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.

BCECCS 11th Year GRATITUDE LIST

Support Fee from Dec. 1st 2010 – Nov. 30th 2011

(In the past the fee has always been \$250 yearly, but in these economic times it has become necessary to ask groups to consider assisting more, if possible to make up for groups who cannot help.) Your support is much appreciated!

LEVELS OF SUPPORT

\$1000 – Salmon

\$750 – Frog

\$500 – Sisiutl

\$250 - Hummingbird

Sisiutl Level

- 1. Adams Lake Indian Band**
- 2. Ts'kw'aylaxw Elders**
- 3. Tsleil-Waututh Nation**
- 4. Cook's Ferry Indian Band**
- 5. Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation**

Hummingbird Level

- 1. Nuxalk Ts'ikt Elders**
- 2. Kla-How-Eya Circle of Elders**
- 3. Shuswap Nation Tribal Council**
- 4. Kluhx Kluhx Hu-Up**
- 5. Indian Residential School Survivors Society**
- 6. Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society**
- 7. Osoyoos Indian Band**
- 8. Tansi Friendship Centre Society**
- 9. Tobacco Plains Indian Band**
- 10. Uchucklesaht Band Council**
- 11. Douglas Band**
- 12. Neskonlith Indian Band**
- 13. Qualicum First Nation**
- 14. Gitxaala Nation**
- 15. Ka:'Yu:'k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' Nation**
- 16. Heskwen'scutxe Health Services**
- 17. Ehattesaht Tribe**
- 18. UBCIC**
- 19. Cowichan Elders**
- 20. Wei Wai Kum First Nation**
- 21. BCAFC**
- 22. Daylu Dene Council**
- 23. Akisqnuq First Nation**
- 24. Carnegie Community Centre**
- 25. BC Assembly of First Nations**
- 26. McLeod Lake Tse'khene Elders Society**

Registration Process for Bill C-3 Applicants

On December 15, 2010 Bill C-3 *Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act* received Royal Assent. Bill C-3 will ensure that eligible grand-children of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men will become entitled to registration (Indian status). Because of this legislation, approximately 45,000 persons will become newly entitled to registration.

Generally speaking, the key criteria to be newly entitled to registration are:

- **Did your grandmother lose her Indian status as a result of marrying a non-Indian?**
- **Is one of your parents registered, or entitled to be registered, under subsection 6(2) of the *Indian Act*?**
- **Were you, or one of your siblings, born on or after September 4, 1951?**

General enquires on *Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act* should be directed to:

INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre

Email: InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca

Phone: (toll-free) 1-800-567-9604 Fax: 1-866-817-3977 TTY: (toll-free) 1-866-553-0554

Bill C-3 applicants will be offered an improved service offering, whereby eligible applicants can expect to receive registration as an Indian under the *Indian Act* AND an [in-Canada Secure Certificate of Indian Status](#) (status card) in one step. The Secure Certificate of Indian Status is an identity document issued by INAC to confirm that the cardholder is registered as a Status Indian under the *Indian Act*.

INAC is providing this service offering to Bill C-3 applicants as they do not currently have a status card. As INAC is moving towards fully implementing the Secure Certificate of Indian Status, it is more efficient for both clients and for INAC to provide these new first-time clients with the new SCIS at the time of registration. Both cards, the current Certificate of Indian Status and the new SCIS provide equal access to benefits and access to programs.

This service offering has resulted in the development of a specific registration form which must be used by Bill C-3 applicants when submitting their request for registration. Once the Act comes into force, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Canada will make the forms available at the following locations:

- **Online:** (Once the Act comes into force)
- **By mail:** Call 1-800-567-9604 to request an application package.
- **In person:** At any [INAC Regional office](#) or call 1-800-567-9604.

Due to the large volume of applications that is anticipated to be received in a short time frame, INAC will only be offering a self-service mail-in application option which will accept applications on or after the date in which the legislation comes into force. INAC has set up a dedicated processing unit to handle in a timely fashion Bill C-3 applications. We therefore ask applicants not to send their application to the regional office but rather to mail it directly to the INAC Processing Unit to ensure that their application is processed in an expedited manner:

Applicants will be required to include certain identification documents with their completed application form in order to be registered and receive an in-Canada SCIS:

- Original birth certificate (listing parents names)
- Two passport style photographs
- Original piece of valid identification (i.e. - driver's licence, passport, government issued ID)
- Guarantor Declaration for SCIS

And if applicable:

- Legal change of name document or marriage certificate
- Custody Court Order
- Statutory Declaration Form(s)

Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide all required information and documentation at the time of application. This will avoid unnecessary delays in obtaining registration and the SCIS. Incomplete applications will be assessed for eligibility of registration, and if deemed eligible, clients will be contacted to provide any remaining information or documents

We also encourage applicants to use the INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre (1-800-567-9604) for questions and mail-in their complete applications directly to the INAC Processing Unit to ensure optimal client service under the circumstances introduced with Bill C-3.

Confirmation of registration and receipt of the in-Canada format of the SCIS will occur in two stages. INAC has established an application processing service level standard, which takes into consideration the expectation of receiving large volumes of applications over a short time period. Applications which are complete will be processed for registration within 4-6 months. Individuals who are deemed eligible for registration will receive a letter of confirmation and providing them with registration number which will allow access to benefits and services until the in-Canada SCIS is issued.

If all the required documentation has been provided with the application, individuals will receive their in-Canada format of the SCIS within 10-12 weeks after the letter confirming registration has been mailed.

Frequently Asked Questions

Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act

- **Q1) [Who benefits from the new legislation?](#)**

- All eligible grandchildren of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men are entitled to registration (Indian status) in accordance with the *Indian Act*.

- **Q2) [What are the eligibility requirements?](#)**

- Generally speaking, the key criteria to be newly entitled to registration are:

- Did your grandmother lose her Indian status as a result of marrying a non-Indian?
- Is one of your parents registered, or entitled to be registered, under sub-section 6(2) of the *Indian Act*?
- Were you, or one of your siblings, born on or after September 4, 1951?

- **Q3) [Why did the Government of Canada make these amendments?](#)**

- The Government of Canada made these amendments in response to an April 2009 decision by the Court of Appeal for British Columbia in the case of *McIvor v. Canada (Registrar of Indian and Northern Affairs)*.

- **Q4) [When will these amendments come into effect?](#)**

- The Bill has received Royal Assent. The Governor in Council will announce a date at which the Act will come into force in the coming weeks.

- **Q5) [Will anyone lose their Indian status as a result of this legislation?](#)**

- No one will lose Indian status. In fact, approximately 45,000 individuals will become entitled to Indian registration as a result of this legislation.

- **Q6) [There has been a lot of criticism about the narrow focus of the bill. Why did you not expand the scope of Bill C-3?](#)**

- Bill C-3 was in direct response to a very specific Court decision. We are aware there are broader issues related to Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship that cannot be addressed as quickly.

Putting forth broader amendments to the *Indian Act* has to be backed by a thorough engagement with First Nations and other Aboriginal groups and organizations. These issues are complex and as such, broader reform on these matters cannot be resolved overnight or in isolation. The exploratory process will be launched with the passing of Bill C-3 into law.

Registration Process related to Bill C-3

- **Q7) [If a person meets these criteria, do they need to apply for registration?](#)**

- Yes. The decision to apply rests with the individual, the parents or guardians. If an individual meets **all** of the above criteria, they can apply if they are an adult. If they are a minor (ages 15 years of age and under) or a dependant adult, their parent or legal guardians can apply on their behalf once the legislation comes into force.

- **Q8) [Now that Bill C-3 has received Royal Assent, can I apply now?](#)**

- No. People should wait until the legislation comes into force, a date which will be fixed by the Governor in Council. As information becomes available, INAC will post the updates on its website.

- **Q9) [Is INAC providing a different registration process to eligible Bill C-3 applicants?](#)**

- Yes. INAC has developed an improved service offering for Bill C-3 applicants, whereby eligible applicants can expect to receive registration as an Indian under the *Indian Act* AND an [in-Canada Secure Certificate of Indian Status](#) (status card) in one step.

The Secure Certificate of Indian Status is an identity document issued by INAC to confirm that the cardholder is registered as a Status Indian under the *Indian Act*.

- **Q10) [As a result of the new service offering to eligible Bill C-3 applicants, will I have to provide different supporting documentation than the current process? If so why?](#)**

- Yes. Since 2006, INAC has been reviewing its processes and procedures in issuing the Certificate of Indian Status to better align with Government of Canada Identification management policy which requires rigorous processes when program funds and tax credits are involved.

This has prompted INAC to review the documentation required for the registration of Status Indians in the Indian Register which results in the issuance of a Card.

- **Q11) [Why is INAC offering Bill C-3 applicants the opportunity to apply for a Secure Certificate of Indian Status before current registered Status Indians?](#)**

- Unlike those who currently have Indian Status, Bill C-3 applicants do not currently have a status card. As INAC is moving towards fully implementing the SCIS, it is more efficient for both clients and INAC to provide these new first time clients the new SCIS at the time of registration. Both cards, the current CIS (Certificate of Indian Status) and the new SCIS provide equal access to benefits and access to programs.

- **Q12) [What documentation will I need?](#)**

- The following provides a general list of the documentation which will be required to apply for registration and for an in-Canada SCIS:
 - Original birth certificate (listing parents names)
 - Two passport style photographs
 - Original piece of valid identification (i.e. - driver's licence, passport, government issued ID)
 - Guarantor Declaration for SCIS

And if applicable:

- Legal change of name document or marriage certificate
- Custody Court Order
- Statutory Declaration Form(s)

More details on the specific requirements are provided in the application form instructions.

- **Q13) [If I don't have all the supporting documentation required can I still submit my application form and follow up at a later date?](#)**

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide all required information and documentation at the time of application. This will avoid unnecessary delays in obtaining registration and the SCIS.

Incomplete applications will be assessed for eligibility of registration, and if deemed eligible, clients will be contacted to supply any remaining information or documents.

- **Q14) [Once I apply, how long will it be before I receive my original documents that I had to submit?](#)**

- Every possible effort will be made to return original documents within 1 month after an application has been received. Complex situations, such as adoptions, may take longer.

- **Q15) [Where can I apply?](#)**

- At this point, due to the large volume of applications that are anticipated to be received in a short time frame, INAC will be offering a self-service mail-in application option. This is a similar process to the one that exists today for new adult registration. However, the department is exploring other avenues such as in person application sites. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada website.

- **Q16) [Where, and when, can I obtain an application form?](#)**

- It is the intention that applications forms will be available at the following locations, once the Act comes into force.

- **Online:** (Once the Act comes into force)
- **By mail:** Call 1-800-567-9604 to request an application package.
- **In person:** At any [INAC Regional office](#) or call 1-800-567-9604.

General enquires on Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act should be directed to:

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Email: InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca

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Fax: 1-866-817-3977

TTY: (toll-free) 1-866-553-0554

• **Q17) [Will Regional Offices accept applications once they are completed?](#)**

- Due to the large volume of applications that is anticipated to be received in a short time frame, INAC will only be offering a self-service mail-in application option. INAC has set up a dedicated processing unit to handle in a timely fashion Bill C-3 applications. We therefore ask applicants not to send their application to the regional office but rather to mail it directly to the INAC Processing Unit to ensure that their application is processed in an expedited manner.

We also encourage applicants to leverage the INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre for questions and mail-in their complete applications directly to the INAC Processing Unit to ensure optimal client service under the circumstances introduced with Bill C-3.

For more information contact:

INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre

Email: InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca

Phone: (toll-free) 1-800-567-9604

Fax: 1-866-817-3977

TTY: (toll-free) 1-866-553-0554

• **Q18) [If I applied for status previously and was refused, will my application automatically be reviewed now that the legislation has been passed, or will I have to reapply?](#)**

- If you have applied before and were refused, you will need to re-apply, with the entire supporting documents which are required, as INAC cannot assume that you still want to be registered.

• **Q19) [I meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the amended *Indian Act*. Should I apply now?](#)**

- No. Applicants are encouraged to wait until the legislation comes into effect.

- Q20) [I applied for status prior to the Bill being passed into law, using the registration form I found on your website as I believe I am eligible to receive status as a result of Bill C-3. What will happen to my application now? Will it be considered under the new rules or will I have to re-apply?](#)

- If the application was sent prior to the passage of Bill C-3 into law, and you were advised from INAC that the application was set aside for consideration once the Bill comes into force, the processing of your application will begin with the information you provided.

If you are deemed eligible for registration, INAC will contact you to provide the additional documentation required to complete the application process so that you can obtain your in-Canada SCIS.

- Q21) [I have sent my application in; how long will it take for it to be processed? When can I expect an answer?](#)

- INAC has established an application processing service level standard, which takes into consideration the expectation to receive large volumes of applications over a short time period. Applications which are complete will be processed for registration within 4-6 months. Individuals who are deemed eligible for registration will receive a letter of confirmation and providing them with registration number which will allow access to benefits and services until the in-Canada SCIS is issued.

If all the required documentation has been provided for the in-Canada format of the SCIS, you will receive your SCIS within 10-12 weeks following that date.

- Q22) [Once I receive confirmation that I am registered and have received a letter which will allow access to benefits and services, can I apply for a laminated Certificate of Indian Status \(status card\)?](#)

- As INAC is moving towards the national roll-out of the Secure Certificate of Indian Status (SCIS) it is more efficient for both clients and INAC to provide these new first-time registered Indians with the new SCIS at the time of registration, rather than the laminated Certificate of Indian Status will be gradually phased out.

- Q23) [Q.23 Why do I need a guarantor? Who can act as a guarantor and will they be contacted?](#)

- A guarantor is required to certify an applicant's identity and the photographs. This is a requirement for the new SCIS which adheres to the Government of Canada Identification management policy when programs and benefits are involved. In some cases, a guarantor may be contacted.

On Accessing Benefits:

- Q24) [I believe that I will be deemed eligible for registration. When can I access Non-Insured Health Benefits which are normally available to registered First Nations individuals services?](#)

- Non-Insured Health Benefits are normally available to First Nations people once they have been registered under the *Indian Act*. As such, individuals who believe they will be eligible under the provisions of Bill C-3 must first apply for 'status' through INAC's Office of the Indian Registrar.

The Registrar's Office will communicate with applicants in writing regarding receipt and processing of their application, and will confirm whether and when an individual is registered.

Once an individual is registered with INAC, clients are asked to allow up to two weeks for their information to be provided to Health Canada for processing of Non-Insured Health Benefits. Clients are advised to retain all correspondence from INAC for their records, and to contact their respective Non-Insured Health Benefits regional office if they have questions regarding which benefits will be eligible.

On the Exploratory Process:

- **Q25) [What is the exploratory process?](#)**

- On March 11, 2010 the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-3, The Gender Equity in Indian Registration Act, in response to the British Columbia Court of Appeal's decision in the McIvor case. The objective of Bill C-3 was to ensure that eligible grandchildren of women who lost Indian status as a result of marrying non-Indian men will become entitled to registration (status) under the *Indian Act*.

On the same day that Bill C-3 was introduced in Parliament, the Government of Canada also announced its intention to open an exploratory process to examine the broader issues associated with Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship in response to First Nations and other Aboriginal feedback during engagement on Canada's legislative approach to the McIvor decision.

This exploratory process is an Aboriginal-led initiative that is meant to examine and discuss the broader issues relating to registration, membership and citizenship that go beyond the scope of the Bill C-3 amendments to the *Indian Act*.

The Government is encouraging First Nation and other Aboriginal organizations who are leading activities under the exploratory process to utilize both traditional and new technologies in undertaking activities, the latter of which encourages First Nations and other Aboriginal youth participation.

- **Q26) [Is the exploratory process a consultation?](#)**

- The exploratory process is meant to examine and discuss the broader issues associated with Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship that go beyond the scope of the Bill C-3 amendments as identified by participating First Nations and other Aboriginal groups.

• **Q27) What is the anticipated goal of the exploratory process?**

- The purpose of the exploratory process is to gather information and discuss the broader issues associated with Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship. In this context, the exploratory process will help shed light and encourage further discussion on these complex issues.

• **Q28) What subject-matters will be discussed as part of the exploratory process?**

- Without predetermining the full range of subject-matters that will be identified, the objective of the exploratory process is to collect views and identify and examine issues that go beyond the scope of Bill C-3 that may include, but may not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Residual discrimination and second generation cut-off
- Unstated paternity
- The current system of Indian registration under the *Indian Act*
- Emerging concepts of Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship
- First Nations assertion of jurisdiction over citizenship and issues related to governance and identity
- The relationship between policies, programs and services and Indian status and Band membership
- Métis-specific issues relating to citizenship in reference to the *Powley* decision.
- Emerging concepts of Métis citizenship and identity (as distinct from those of First Nations)
- The duality of identity, affiliation and eligibility as they relate to Indian status and the concept of Métis identity and citizenship, including their treatment within Métis communities and organizations

• **Q29) Who will lead activities under the exploratory process?**

- The Assembly of First Nations, the Native Women's Association of Canada, the National Association of Friendship Centres, the Métis National Council and the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples are leading activities under the process at the national level. The Department is providing funding for their planning, organization and implementation of activities to explore the issues with their respective membership through proposal-based funding.

In addition, the Department will work with regional First Nations organizations who are interested in leading activities under the process with their constituencies.

• **Q30) Who can participate in activities under the exploratory process?**

- The exploratory process itself is inclusive and it is structured to encourage the participation of First Nations, Métis and other Aboriginal groups, organizations and individuals at the national, regional and local community levels.

This includes the participation of national and provincial/territorial First Nations, Métis and other Aboriginal organizations, Treaty and Nation groups, Tribal Councils, First Nations

governments and communities, Métis communities, First Nations individuals living on and off reserve, Métis individuals and other interested parties.

• Q31) [Will First Nations communities receive direct funding to participate in the exploratory process?](#)

- There will be no direct funding provided to First Nations communities for their participation in the process. However, First Nations communities can directly participate in activities that are being led by their national organization(s), as well as their respective Treaty, Nation and regional organizations.

• Q32) [What is the duration of the exploratory process?](#)

- Activities under the exploratory process are expected to take place over a period of one year, ending in December 2011.

• Q33) [Why are the Métis involved in a process that deals with First Nations issues under the *Indian Act*, such as registration \(status\) and membership?](#)

- The exploratory process is meant to be inclusive and therefore all of the National Aboriginal Organizations have been invited to participate.

As the Métis National Council expressed interest in the process and in the spirit of inclusiveness, the Métis National Council is leading activities on questions specifically relating to Métis citizenship that are of importance to the Métis Nation, including issues relating to the eligibility of some Métis citizens to be registered under the *Indian Act*.

• Q34) [Will the outcome of the exploratory process lead to further legislative reform in respect of Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship?](#)

- Issues surrounding Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship are complex and First Nations and other Aboriginal groups hold diverse views on these matters. As such, these important issues cannot be resolved over the short-term and broader reform cannot be accomplished overnight or in isolation. It requires the gathering of information and the identification of critical issues for discussion prior to embarking on any meaningful process for substantive change.

The exploratory process on the complex issues of Indian registration, Band membership and citizenship will help inform the government's next steps on future initiatives in respect of these matters.

• Q35) [How can I get more information on how to participate in this exploratory process?](#)

- Organizations, communities, community members and individuals who are interested in taking part in the exploratory process can contact their respective participating national or regional organizations who are leading activities under the process. A list of participating organizations and their contact information can be found on the [Department's website](#).

2011: 20th Annual Feb 14th Womens Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women

February 1 - 14, 2011

- Please forward this notice to your friends, family, and networks -

2011: 20th Annual Feb 14th Womens Memorial March for Missing and Murdered Women

~ 20th- year commemoration events from Feb 1 – 14. Details to be confirmed.

~ Annual Women's Memorial March on Monday, February 14 2010, begins at 12pm.

The first women's memorial march was held in 1991 in response to the murder of a woman on Powell Street in Vancouver. Her name is not spoken today out of respect for the wishes of her family. Out of this sense of hopelessness and anger came an annual march on Valentine's Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Coast Salish Territories. Twenty years later, the women's memorial march continues to honour the lives of missing and murdered women.

In its twentieth year, we are hosting a series of events leading up to the memorial march from Feb 1- Feb 14. These events will include film screenings, educational events, art installations, DTES women's poetry, a music night, and more to honour the voices of women and women's leadership in the Downtown Eastside. Details, as they become available, will be posted to <http://womensmemorialmarch.wordpress.com/> and <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=179000328797540>

On Feb 14th, we will gather at the Carnegie Community Centre Theatre, 401 Main Street (corner Hastings, Vancouver) where family members speak in remembrance. At 1 pm, the march takes to the streets and proceeds through the Downtown Eastside, with stops to commemorate where women were last seen or found; speeches by community activists at the police station; a healing circle at Oppenheimer Park around 3 pm; and finally a community feast at the Japanese Language Hall. This event is organized and led by women in the DTES because women, especially Indigenous women, face physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence on a daily basis.

Increasing deaths of many vulnerable women from the DTES still leaves family, friends, loved ones, and community members with an overwhelming sense of grief and loss. Over 3000 women are known to have gone missing or been murdered in Canada since the 1970s. Two years ago, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women issued this statement: "Hundreds of cases involving aboriginal women who have gone missing or been murdered in the past two decades have neither been fully investigated nor attracted priority attention." The February 14th Women's Memorial March is an opportunity to come together to grieve the loss of our beloved sisters, remember the women who are still missing, and to dedicate ourselves to justice.

* SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH

There are many ways to support the Annual Women's Memorial March:

- 1) Join us. Please join us (all genders welcome) to our events and to the Feb 14th march. We respectfully ask that you please do not bring your banners, flags, or leaflets as the Women's Memorial March carries five banners only to honour the women.
- 2) Plan a memorial march in your community. We encourage women in other cities and communities to journey and heal together by organizing memorials on this day because women face violence on a daily basis. Last year, memorial marches were held in approximately ten other cities and communities. If you are organizing a memorial march please email us the details at marlene.george@vancouver.ca so we can maintain communication, compile the information on our website, and build strength in our coordinated efforts.
- 3) Organize an event. If you are a community centre, youth association, union, women's group, educational institution, Indigenous organization, social justice collective, or artist space in the Lower Mainland and want to host an event during Feb 1-Feb 14, we encourage you to do so and to contact us. We can provide suggestions for speakers or films for your event, and we support a wide spectrum of individuals and groups raising awareness about the issue of missing and murdered women. We are compiling events on our website, so please email us details of your event at hwalia8@gmail.com.
- 4) Please donate. The February 14th Women's Memorial March is made possible by organizations and individuals like you. Each year the Memorial March committee must raise funds to pay for such things as hall rental, sound system, food, red & yellow roses, memorial brochures, blankets, posters, candles, tobacco and other expenses. Please make cheques payable to the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, and include Women's Memorial March on the memo line. Mail cheques to the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, 302 Columbia St. Vancouver, BC V6A 4J1. All donations over \$10 will be gratefully acknowledged with a tax deductible receipt.

Violence against women is always unacceptable; every life is precious and we must continue to honour and work for justice for murdered and missing women.

Thank you all for your support and commitment,
Women's Memorial March Committee

Website: <http://womensmemorialmarch.wordpress.com/>

Phone: 604 665 3005

Email: marlene.george@vancouver.ca (Committee Chair Marlene George)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=264380380945> or search "FEBRUARY 14 WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH DTES VANCOUVER"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2011

**TRC Launches Call for Proposals for
Commemoration Initiative**

The Residential School era in Canada is gone, but it must not be forgotten. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) aims to ensure that this shared piece of Canadian history remains in the minds of all Canadians.

Earlier today, the TRC launched its first call for proposals for a Commemoration Initiative.

“Survivors of residential schools have been waiting a long time for this,” says Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the TRC. “When the work of the Commission is complete, we will ensure that the whole world hears the truth about residential schools, so that generations to come- Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians alike- will hold to the statement that resonates with all of us: ‘This must never happen again.’”

In total, \$20 million will be available for Commemoration, with \$10 million available for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the TRC, who will then make its recommendations to the Government of Canada. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will also be responsible for administration of the funding on behalf of the Government of Canada through a Contribution Agreement between the proposer and INAC. Approved projects will begin to receive funding in April 2011.

The Commemoration is rolling out as part of the TRC’s mandate to: learn the truth about what happened in the residential schools and to inform all Canadians about what happened in the schools; and to guide and inspire First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and Canadians in a process of truth and healing leading toward reconciliation and renewed relationships based mutual understanding and respect.

Those wishing to obtain funds for their respective Commemoration initiatives can get more information on criteria, eligibility and how to apply from the Commemoration Initiative Call for Proposals Guide at www.trc.ca. The applications for 2011 Commemoration proposals will be accepted until 2 p.m. CT on March 18, 2011.

-30-

More information:

Senior Communications and Outreach Advisor
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
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Nancy.pine@trc.ca



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Commission de
vérité et
réconciliation
du Canada

March 1-3, 2011
Sheraton Wall Centre
Vancouver, BC

National Research Centre Forum

Sharing Truth – Creating a National Research Centre on Residential Schools

Canada's Residential School system lasted 150 years. Aboriginal families continue to feel its negative impacts today. As part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's mandate to educate Canadians about Residential schools and their legacy, a National Research Centre will be established.

Join TRC Commissioners Chair Justice Murray Sinclair, Chief Wilton Littlechild and Marie Wilson as they hear from experts from truth commissions from around the globe. These experts have been invited to share their ideas and strategies for the development of the National Research Centre on Residential Schools. Stakeholders attending this forum will include representatives from international, federal and provincial governments, academia, archivists and institutes. Residential School survivors, Aboriginal organizations and parties to the Residential School Settlement Agreement will also be invited.

This Forum provides a unique opportunity for stakeholders to witness the beginning of what will become Canada's largest permanent collection of oral history of its kind.

Organizations interested in being involved in the establishment and operation of this national research centre should consider participating in the Forum.

For more information on the program, speakers and registration please visit:

>>>> trc-nrc.ca <<<<



Register today at
trc-nrc.ca 

Carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston, the TRC Bentwood Box is a lasting tribute to all Indian Residential School survivors.

Day scholars and excluded schools spark reconciliation debate in Windspeaker

Author: By Shari Narine, Windspeaker Contributor, GATINEAU, QUE.

Volume: 28 Issue: 10 Year: 2011

The chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission warned that if day school scholars aren't brought into the equation soon, the work accomplished by the TRC could be for naught.

"The issue of day scholar exclusion, and exclusion of certain schools from the settlement agreement or from the class action litigation, still remains to be discussed because I'm not sure it makes any sense for us to be looking at the possibility there may be another class action lawsuit, there may be another settlement agreement and there may be another truth and reconciliation process in the future," said Justice Murray Sinclair.

Sinclair was part of a forum held Dec. 13 to discuss the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement process. A group of chiefs and residential school and day school survivors met the day prior to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly gathering in Gatineau.

The agreement that was negotiated does not include day schools or students who attended day schools.

At the AFN's annual general assembly this summer in Winnipeg, the chiefs passed a resolution directing the AFN to "engage the government of Canada in a reconciliation and compensation package for day scholar students and, failing progress, to seek support for a class action suit on this matter."

"(What) truly impacts our community is day scholars," said Shane Gottfriedson, chief of Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nations of B.C., who introduced the motion in July. "Our families suffered from the same sort of abuse, if not worse, as day scholars as (did) regular scholars and we're not even considered for compensation for anything."

Names of day school students are being gathered for possible class action litigation, said Ray Mason of Peguis First Nation in Manitoba.

"We're taking names to prove to Canada and the courts that there are day scholars across Canada," said Mason.

Dan Ish, chief adjudicator for the Independent Assessment Process, confirmed that "some legal action has been brought to include (day school scholars) and so forth, but I'm not included in that because I'm not the decision maker in that."

Ish said day school students who were abused are only eligible for compensation through the IRSSA and the IAP if they were abused while attending an Indian residential school. If the abuse occurred at a day school, those former students are not included in the agreement.

In figures provided by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, of the 4.4 per cent of Common Experience Payment applications turned down, eight per cent were claims made by day school scholars (1,749 applications) and 41 per cent were for schools not included in the agreement (8,731 applications).

There were 130 institutions originally deemed eligible for compensation. Six more have been added. However, applications were made on 1,414 schools, with decisions rendered on all but three, said INAC Assistant Deputy Minister Elisabeth Chatillon, in charge of administration and implementation of the IRSSA.

The application process is underway for Stirland Lake and Cristal Lake residential schools in Ontario and Timber Bay residential school in Saskatchewan. Appeals on school decisions are made to the courts supervising the IRS settlement agreement. There are nine courts across the country with supervisor roles.

"In this particular settlement agreement, the agreement was limited to the residential schools as opposed to day scholars. That's what they've adjudicated on, that's the settlement that's being implemented here. Unless there's something before the courts, there's nothing for them to adjudicate on," said Ish.

Gottfriedson said it was time for the day school scholars to be included in the process.

Sinclair noted that not including day scholars in the settlement agreement left out a “large segment of the Aboriginal population.”

Said Sinclair, “This whole discussion that we’re having now may end up being fruitless and becoming unfocused. So I think we need to think seriously about whether the reconciliation process that we are going to be engaging in the next little while needs to also include a reconciliation focus for day scholars and those who are claiming to have attended other schools run by government whose lives have been affected by their experience in those schools.”

The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement was signed in May 2006 between Canada, representatives from the Catholic Entities, Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches, representatives for the students, Assembly of First Nations and Inuit representatives.

The agreement does not include day schools nor does it include Metis residential schools or residential schools operated solely by religious orders or provincial governments.

Chiefs vote for public disclosure of salaries in Windspeaker

Author: By Shari Narine, Windspeaker Contributor, GATINEAU, QUEBEC

Volume: 28 Issue: 10 Year: 2011

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo applauded the chiefs at the special assembly held in Gatineau for unanimously passing a resolution that pushes for accountability and calls for “itemizing and publicly disclosing salaries, honoraria and expenses associated with the operations of chief and council.”

The resolution, entitled “First Nation Governments Demonstrating Accountability,” which was voted on during the Gatineau Assembly held Dec. 14 to 16, re-affirmed the chiefs “commitment to maintaining transparent and accountable decision-making structures in their communities.”

Early in 2010, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation launched a campaign pushing First Nations’ members to disclose their elected officials salaries. Later the CTF began publishing salary figures of some named and some unnamed chiefs and councilors, comparing their earnings to other elected officials, including the Prime Minister and the premiers.

“I take great exception to the way the information they gathered was collected and then described. It suggests that all 3,300 chiefs and councillors that serve our people are corrupt and are not accountable. It’s simply not true and you know our own internal analysis (of the information provided by CTF) says it’s completely inaccurate,” said Atleo.

He maintained that if the same analysis was done of MPs’ earnings and included salaries, allowances, and other financial compensation, “you might as well say every MP makes \$500,000 in a year.”

The resolution also noted that the chiefs “primary reporting and accountability relationship is to their citizens, and that they will design mechanisms to ensure open and informed involvement in community decision-making.”

That the push to publicize the salaries of chief and council comes from the CTF doesn’t sit well with Atleo.

“(This is a) principally unilateral, external attempt to impose on our people, and I think that’s where I take great issue and exception,” said Atleo.

He noted that in 2006, First Nations approached the federal government asking that a First Nations auditor general and a First Nations ombudsperson be named. The suggestions were turned down. The resolution calls once more for the creation of the positions.

Auditor General Sheila Fraser attended the assembly gathering.

“She said the real issue of accountability lies with the federal government,” said Atleo. He said she brought into question how the government manages and expends its budget, which includes “operations ballooning by over 50 per cent while resources to children still remain at least \$2,000 less per student than the average Canadian.”

The resolution noted that First Nations provide a minimum of 168 financial reports to the four federal departments from which they receive the majority of their funding: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Health Canada, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

Atleo said Fraser admitted that many of the reports aren’t read.

“The vast majority of First Nations are very accountable and they demonstrate that to their citizens and, to their credit, (the chiefs) stood up in the assembly and said, notwithstanding the attacks, we’re going to commit to this resolution and ongoing accountability to our people because that’s where the power and demanding accountability rightfully belongs is with the citizens,” said Atleo.

Commitment from the highest office has Atleo hopeful in Windspeaker

Author: By Shari Narine, Windspeaker Contributor, GATINEAU, QUE.

Volume: 28 Issue: 10 Year: 2011

A letter stating the commitment of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, his office and the top levels of the federal government to tackle issues facing First Nations “is significant,” said Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn Atleo.

The correspondence from Harper came on the last day of the AFN’s Special Chiefs Assembly held in Gatineau, Dec. 14 to 16. The theme of the assembly was moving from endorsement to action. Canada had endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People on Nov. 12. Implementation is the next step forward on that front.

Harper’s promise to commit came as U.S. President Barack Obama met with tribal leaders in his country and endorsed the declaration.

“It’s really good to have high level commitment. Now we need to see results from it,” said Atleo.

Harper’s letter follows a meeting between the Prime Minister and Atleo held Oct. 28, and correspondence from Atleo in November. Harper committed officials from his office, the Office of the Privy Council, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to a meeting to assess the viability of a First Nations-Crown gathering to set out plans to transform the approach to First Nation education, economies and governments.

The prime minister’s words are far-reaching and sweeping, said Atleo.

“In my view he acknowledges the failure over the course of history of government policies where he acknowledges that fundamental reforms are needed in relation to First Nations economies and First Nations governments and that a specific plan is required,” said Atleo.

Education was one area specified by Harper in need of renewal.

Under the leadership of the AFN’s Chiefs Committee on Education, education forums, specifically tailored to regions and individual First Nations, will take place over the next six months. The report from those forums will be considered for action and recommendations at the AFN’s assembly in Moncton in July.

It will also go to the government. Atleo said no action will be finalized with the government until the chiefs have deemed any proposal on education reforms acceptable.

“We don’t know what that final outcome looks like. What we do know is we shouldn’t take forever to do this work. . . . We need to organize our work so we can build on 30 years of advocacy for First Nations’ control for First Nations’ education,” said Atleo.

The push is for kindergarten to Grade 12 education, because that area is “very anchored in the Indian Act,” said Atleo, but post-secondary education is also a priority.

The AFN is hosting a virtual summit on Jan. 27 to look at aspects of higher education.

“First Nations are very resolved to make sure post-secondary education for our people is protected, sustained and, in fact, should be enhanced,” said Atleo.

Reports like the one tabled in March 2010 by the Macdonald-Laurier Institute for Public Policy, which calls for post-secondary funding to bypass the band and go directly to the student, is on the agenda for the virtual summit, which will include input from young people.

“I’m very concerned about this report, very concerned about our treaty rights and title land rights being overstepped,” said Atleo.

While the national chief believes that education is a “shared value amongst all people” and that, in part, is responsible for Harper prioritizing First Nations’ education, Atleo said there is also a practical side to Harper’s new focus.

“I think Canada’s concerned about the economic future and see (that) Aboriginal people forge a large part of the potential for the economic future of the country. And, of course, First Nations are playing a more prominent role in the economy in terms of resources and how the economy is progressing, and the relationship with First Nations is going to play an increasingly important role,” said Atleo.

Over the next 18 months of his term, Atleo said education, economy and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, will remain his priorities.

Atleo said the declaration moves treaty rights and Aboriginal title rights forward, which was supported by numerous resolutions passed by the chiefs at the special assembly.

He noted that fighting for these different aspects of First Nations’ society, whether economy, education, or development, was fighting for the rights of First Nations people.

“The ancestors knew when they forged treaties that these are one and the same and they needed to be treated as such. So all of our work is about supporting the advancement of First Nations treaties and First Nations title land rights. If you talk about education, you’re talking about treaty rights and title land rights. It goes in my view that way across the entire spectrum of the topics we might talk about,” said Atleo.

“I know there’s a strong desire for deep and rapid change to the conditions in our communities. I think that’s going to be what will continue to propel us forward, the shared sense of urgency of the need for a better day for our people,” said Atleo.

Quotes

“A single moment of understanding can flood a whole life with meaning.”

Unknown

“Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.”

William James

Living Legends Festival- For Immediate Release Quwutsun Cultural Centre, Duncan BC

Feb 4-Feb 26

"Storytelling, the act of one voice talking, sharing experience, observations, learning and teachings is becoming a lost art. Even though everyone from every culture has an oral tradition, we have ceased to be storytellers and lost touch with our original voice.

When a tradition diminishes or disappears we lost on two counts. We lose the richness of the tradition itself in our lives and we lose the spiritual, ethical and cultural underpinnings of that tradition. With a shrunken capacity for storytelling we lose these crucial skills:

Listening: The ability to focus on a message and concentrate on what is being told to us.

Hearing: The ability to form an emotional reaction to both words that are spoken and to the speaker.

Integrating: The ability to frame a story within our own experience and to discern personal meaning from it.

Sharing: The ability to personalize a story and offer it to others with our own emotional and spiritual interpretation in the telling.

In short, we lose the ability to make ourselves known to each other. We lose crucial community, family, home, team and nation building abilities. Without story and without storytelling much of who we are is lost, misinterpreted or misrepresented." *Quote from Richard Wagamese one of Canada's foremost Aboriginal Story Tellers*

Join us in the Living Legends Festival and help bring our stories to life. Living Legends Festival will take place during the month of February 2011 in Duncan BC.

Presented by The Cowichan Aboriginal Film Festival in association with the Cowichan Valley Arts Council.

February 4th Opening Celebration

7:00 pm-Quwutsun Cultural Centre, Comeakin House By Donation

Sharing the warmth of chilli and bannock and potluck, Opening Ceremonies, Cowichan Elders sharing the local story of Tth'uw'xe'luts, the Wild Woman, presenting our lead carver Edgar Rice. Welcoming guest story teller Richard Wagamese from the Ojibway Nation.

Saturday Feb 5, 12, 19, 26. Carving Workshops

10:00 am- 4:00 pm Quwutsun Cultural Centre, Quamichan House By Donation

Take part in bringing to life the story of Tth'uw'xe'luts the Wild Woman by carving a piece of the legend. Registration required. Phone 250-746-7930.

Carving workshops are open to all (no experience required), but limited to 15 participants for each workshop. These full day workshops will include beginner carving teachings, sharing of stories, lunch, and carving time. Workshops will be led by carver Edgar Rice. All workshop materials included.

Tuesday Feb 8, 15, 22 Story Telling Nights- the magic sound of one voice talking

7:00 pm- Quwutsun Cultural Centre, Theatre By Donation

Tuesday nights will be story telling time. Each Tuesday in February, starting on the 8th, Living Legends Festival will present an evening of traditional and contemporary stories and songs. Each evening will feature one or two guest story

tellers. Our guests will be welcomed by Cowichan story teller John George, host for the evenings. Guest story tellers include Penelakut Elder Simeyltun, Joey Caro, author of Cowichan Bones, carver Herb Rice, on carving and masks among others.

Saturday Feb 26 Blessing Ceremony
7:00 pm-Quwutsun Cultural Centre, Comeakin House

Closing ceremony will include a blessing of the carvings and the story of Tth'uw'xe'luts to ensure that the work travels to the community in a good way. The Legend of The Wild Woman -Tth'uw'xe'luts', will be unveiled at the Cowichan Aboriginal Festival of Film & Art, at the Opening of the Gallery of Artists, April 14, 2011. This multi media installation will include carvings, the story of Tth'uw'xe'luts and film.

Huy ch q'u to our Living Legends Festival sponsors
Province of BC, BC Association of Arts Councils
Media Sponsors The Citizen, A Channel

Media Contact:

Louise McMurray, Festival Director
250-746-7930, film @ cowichan.net www.livinglegends.cowichan.net

This message was sent by: Aboriginal Film Festival, Cowichan International Aboriginal Film Festival
PO Box 158, Duncan, BC V9L 3X3, Canada

2011 Call for entries for the 7th Cowichan Aboriginal Festival

After an amazing festival last year with guests joining us from far and wide; films that inspired, educated and entertained audiences for five nights; live performances that shook the house; an art gallery filled with creative message and beauty; and food that melted in your mouth, we're gearing up for 2011.

The films you bring to life are the invitation for the people to come together and share in five nights of celebrating Indigenous films, performance, art and food. Send us your film (s), join us in the 7th Annual Cowichan Aboriginal Film Festival and invite other Indigenous filmmakers to do the same.

Email questions to aff.info@cowichan.net To check us out go to www.aff.cowichan.net

Video link from AFF 2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wlgmrKVVciw>

For Submission Forms and Details www.aff.cowichan.net/

Awards Categories: Best Director, Best Film, People's Choice Award

Know any young filmmakers 11 - 18 ?

Send them to

www.aff.cowichan.net/youth/

now accepting youth film entries

Multiple Award Categories: plus for 2011 **TWO** one week scholarships will be awarded for a youth intensive media program at GIFTS.

Youth Workshop Mini Doc from 2010

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mC18KI_HwqA

The Healthy Aboriginal Network

Non-profit promotion of health, literacy & wellness

Good day. We've been busy through the holidays and have some interesting work coming up:

Integrating gang youth back into community

I held interviews with incarcerated Aboriginal youth gang members last April, for our new justice comic book, and learned a couple of things:

Most of the gang youth felt powerless to change their situation. They were in the system and felt that their future is pretty much laid out for them in and out of incarceration.

All of the gang youth I interviewed, except for one, felt that they were going to return to their old lifestyle and gang involvement. No one saw a life for themselves outside of the one they were living now.

Which means that if we want to change behavior and a youth's perception of the gang lifestyle, we'd better start teaching them the truth, exit strategies and offering alternatives. The final decision has to come from them.

Please consider reviewing our new draft story on integrating gang youth back into community. We are focus group testing it online at www.youtube.com/user/healthyaboriginal, or if YouTube is blocked at work, you can view on our website at www.thehealthyaboriginal.net. Feedback from youth and people working with gang youth can be emailed to sean@thehealthyaboriginal.net.

We will be testing the story in person with youth in Manitoba the last week of January. If there is a youth facility in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan or Ontario that has Aboriginal gang members in it, and we have workers that are willing to let us test the story with their youth, I would enjoy hearing from you as soon as possible at sean@thehealthyaboriginal.net. The comic book is being evaluated by Justice Canada.

Good Food Hero Comic Contest

Food Secure Canada is looking for youth to help illustrate a comic book for them. Check it out at <http://foodsecurecanada.org/good-food-hero-comic-contest>.

You can check out our other books at www.thehealthyaboriginal.net. We have suicide prevention, mental health, smoking prevention and gang prevention comic books in stock.

Sean Muir
Executive Director

3240 Comox Road Courtenay , BC V9N 3P8

P 250-871-8880 sean@thehealthyaboriginal.net

A BC incorporated non-profit Society

**BC ELDERS
COMMUNICATION
CENTER SOCIETY**

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Coordinator: Donna Stirling
Website: www.bcelders.com
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bcelders@telus.net**

**'ELDERS VOICE'
ISSUES
ARE SENT OUT TO
COMMUNITIES BY THE
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If your area's copy is not
received in a timely manner
please call into the office.**

Valentine Memories by Shirley Sallay

Grandma's book of valentines
Rekindles memory's flame,
Of days when she was just a girl
And life a happy game.
Each lace-edged card a getting bears
From friends of long ago,
Girls in gingham dresses
And that "special" Sunday beau.
It brings a twinkle to her eye,
Dissolving lines of age,
As we sit in the lamplight
And turn each well worn page.
It makes me kind of wonder
If perhaps some distant day,
A grandchild shall sit at my side
And leaf each page this way.
'Cause I could sit for hours,
There at my grandma's knee,
And listen to the stories
That the valentines set free.
A book of antique valentines
That reaches back in time
To tell the tales of yesteryear
In illustrated rhyme.

QUOTES:

"One of the greatest of all principles is that men can do what they think they can do." Norman Peale
"What lies behind us, and what lies before us are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

AQUARIUS - The Sweetheart (Jan 20 - Feb 18) Optimistic and honest. Sweet personality. Very independent. Inventive and intelligent. Friendly and loyal. Can seem unemotional. Can be a bit rebellious. Very stubborn, but original and unique. Attractive on the inside and out. Eccentric personality.

Annual Elders Gathering Grand Entry Photos are on: www.bcelders.com

ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING INFORMATION CORNER

**THE DATES ARE ANNOUNCED!!
Hosts: Sto:lo and Coast Salish
35th Annual BC Elders Gathering
July 12, 13, 14, 2011
LOCATION: The Fraser Valley Trade & Exhibition Centre or Tradex
1190 Cornel Street, Abbotsford**