

Volume 12 Issue 1

December 2011

EV'S 133rd 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 DECEMBER!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!**

**SUPPORT FEE INVOICES
WENT OUT WITH THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF THE EV
FOR THE 2012 YEAR AND ARE DUE NOW.**

**PLEASE DO ALL YOU CAN TO HELP THIS OFFICE TO
KEEP OPERATING FOR ALL THE ELDERS IN BC.**

**The 36th Annual BC Elders Gathering
Is to be hosted by
Sto:lo Nation and Tsawwassen First Nation,
In Abbotsford at the TRADEX Centre (as in 2011)
July 10-12, 2012
Roger Andrew and Audrey Kelly
From Shx'wohamel First Nation
Were crowned the King and Queen**

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Easy Bakers Corner – Tiny Christmas Fruitcakes Makes 3 Dozen

Grease tiny muffin tins very well. Preheat oven to 300°F. Place pan of boiling water in over (bottom rack) when baking.

Chop 1/4 pound candied cherries (quartered) and 3 candied pineapple slices, chopped, and toss with 1/2 cup of flour. Mix in 2 1/4 cups of chopped nuts, 1 can of condensed milk, 3 Tablespoons of butter, melted, 1 tsp. of vanilla extract, and 1 tsp. of orange extract.

Fill muffin tins 3/4 full. Bake 30-35 minutes. Remove from tins when done and put on a rack to cool. Spoon Grand Marnier over each fruitcake (repeat each day for 3 days). Store in an airtight container.

Recipe from www.northpole.com

QUOTES:

“Where we are free to act we are free to refrain from acting, and where we are able to say, we are able to say yes.” Aristotle

“For what has been - say thanks! For what shall be - say yes!” Dag Hammarskjold

“The best thinking has been done in solitude. The worst has been done in turmoil.” Thomas Edison

“Blessed are those who listen for they shall learn.” Unknown

“The secret of success is making your vocation your vacation.” Mark Twain

“Work is the grand cure of all maladies and miseries that ever beset mankind.” Thomas Carlyle

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’

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.

Beginning August 1st. 2011 issues of your Elders Voice Newsletter will only be posted on the website at the 1st of each month. Although we mailed out the issues for almost 11 years straight (128 issues) we can no longer afford the cost to mail to your Elder’s Contact People. All groups have been notified to go to www.bcelders.com the 1st of each month.

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 2011 – Nov. 30th 2012

(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

SALMON LEVEL - \$1000

- 1. TAHLTAN BAND COUNCIL**

FROG LEVEL - \$750

- 1. Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation**

SISIUTL LEVEL - \$500

- 1. Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre**
- 2. We Wai Kai First Nation**

HUMMINGBIRD LEVEL - \$250

- 1. Gingolx Elders Group**
- 2. We Wai Kum First Nation**
- 3. Musquem Indian Band**
- 4. St. Mary's Indian Band**
- 5. Osoyoos Indian Band**
- 6. Tsawwassen First Nation**
- 7. Squiala First Nation**
- 8. Akisqnuk First Nation**
- 9. Da'naxda'xw First Nation**
- 10. Hailika'as Heiltsuk Health Centre**
- 11. Indian Residential School Survivors Society**
- 12. Laich-kwil-tach Treaty Society**
- 13. Coldwater Indian Band**

Indian residential schools an ‘education policy gone wrong,’ not ‘genocide,’ says Aboriginal Affairs minister

National News 27 Oct, 2011 APTN National News

OTTAWA—The Indian residential schools school system was not an act of genocide, but the product of an “education policy gone wrong,” said Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan Thursday during an announcement that his government would be installing a stained glass window on Parliament Hill in honour of the system’s survivors.

Duncan, however, said the system may have been “lethal” to Aboriginal culture if it had continued to exist.

“I don’t view it that way (as an act of cultural genocide), but it was certainly very negative to the retention of culture and if it had extended for another generation or two it might have been lethal, yes,” said Duncan.

The federal government, with the help of the RCMP, forcibly seized Aboriginal children away from their parents and put them into church-run residential schools where they were forbidden to speak their native languages and often faced physical and sexual abuse.

Some of the children died at the schools, mostly from sickness and disease, but also from beatings.

Many of these children’s bodies were buried in unmarked graves.

University of Manitoba professor Christopher Powell recently published a book arguing that Indian residential schools fit the definition of an act of genocide because the aim was to wipe out a culture.

“Canadians like to think we are a moral country, that we are good guys. A lot of Canadians recognize that the residential schools were painful, that there was abuse,” said Powell, in a recent interview with APTN National News. “But there isn’t still a widespread recognition that they were part of a systematic attempt to eliminate by force Aboriginal culture.”

In 1920, the deputy superintendent for the formerly named Indian Affairs department said the aim of residential schools was to “get rid of the Indian problem” in Canada forever.

“I want to get rid of the Indian problem,” said Scott. “Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question and no Indian department.”

Under Scott, it became mandatory for all children between seven and 15 to attend residential schools.

Duncan announced that the Conservative government would be commissioning a stain glass window designed by an Aboriginal artist for installation by the Parliament Hill entrance where MPs enter Centre Block. Centre Block home to the House of Commons chamber where MPs debate and pass the laws of the land.

“As we are all aware, the history of residential schools tells of an education policy gone wrong,” said Duncan. “Going forward our government will continue to work with all willing partners to strengthen education outcomes.”

Duncan said his department would be paying an expert panel to recommend an Aboriginal artist, or artists to create the window.

The price for the project, however, is still unknown, but it would be installed sometime next year, said Duncan.

“We don’t know the size of the expert panel yet, we don’t know what they are going to recommend,” said Duncan.

Duncan said the window was his idea after “a lot of conversations” he had with people in the “Aboriginal community” since Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s apology to residential school survivors on June 11, 2008.

The government also created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to travel the country and gather the stories of residential school survivors.

Part of the history of residential schools, however, may never be known.

Between 1954 and 1956, Indian Affairs set up “Document Destruction Teams” that pulped accident reports, inspector reports and principals’ diaries.

The teams also destroyed monthly and yearly reports by school and department officials in targeted purges, according to a 2006 study into missing residential school files.

Duncan said Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo and Mary Simon, president of Inuit organization Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, supported the stained glass project.

Duncan said that another panel created to study First Nations education would be issuing their report in December of January. He also that Prime Minister Stephen Harper would be meeting with First Nations leaders next year.

Deja Vu - Re-run for "New Prosperity" Mine Proposal News Release. November 7, 2011

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, Canada – November 7, 2011) The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs stands in solidarity and shares the anger and exasperation of the Tsilhqot'in Nation to the announcement of the failed Prosperity Mine proposal will yet be reviewed by another Panel Review.

"Taseko's New Prosperity Mine proposal is the slick re-packaging of a dead proposal. Taseko has simply applied more mortician's make-up to their already failed Prosperity Mine project proposal," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. "The so-called 'New Prosperity' project will still kill Teztan Biny and contaminate all adjacent watersheds."

Grand Chief Phillip stated, "Nothing has changed with the proposal but the opposition continues to increase, throughout British Columbia and Canada. The federal Cabinet should have seen the significant and irreversible impacts of this project and totally reject its development. What a waste of time, money and goodwill."

"The Union of BC Indian Chiefs will continue to stand in unity and solidarity with any and all First Nations defending their sacred lands, Indigenous Title, Rights and Treaty Rights" concluded Grand Chief Phillip.

Media inquiries: Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs Phone: (250) 490-5314

Residential school survivors outraged over Duncan's 'genocide' statement

<http://aptn.ca/pages/news/2011/10/28/residential-school-survivors-outraged-over-duncans-genocide-statement/>

28. Oct, 2011

By Taryn Della
APTN National News

HALIFAX—Residential school survivors expressed outrage Thursday over a statement made by Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan who said the Indian residential school system was not an act of “genocide,” but a case “of education policy gone wrong.”

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was holding one of its national events in Halifax when news of the minister's statement hit.

“Well it was a cultural genocide whether Canada wants to believe it or not, it happened,” said Georgina Doucette, an Eskasoni elder.

Duncan made the statement Thursday morning during an announcement Ottawa that the Conservative government would be commissioning a stained glass piece of artwork in honour of residential school survivors to be installed on Parliament Hill.

Recent academic research has shown that residential schools fit the UN definition of genocide.

A TRC official said he wasn't surprised by Duncan's statement.

“To hear that there's an opinion by the federal government that is different from ours, it is not a surprise,” said Wendall Nicholas. “It's a disappointment and I believe that it's time that the government truly recognizes that there is an obligation that they understand that they live with and they carry just as we do.”

Residential school survivor Ronald Momogeeshick said he wondered whether the minister would have a different opinion if it was his children that were taken away from him.

“How about if I come over to your house, take your kids, sodomize them, shape their minds,” said Momogeeshick.

One residential school survivor, who did not want to give their name, said the minister should resign.

“If this man does not do his homework and look at the very meaning of genocide, he had better step down from his position and let someone who knows what genocide means in that position,” said the residential school survivor. “He is no help to us if that is his attitude and that's his meaning of what was done to us.”

tdella@aptn.ca

2011 BC ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARDS ANNOUNCED

VANCOUVER – The third annual British Columbia Aboriginal Business Awards were announced today by the Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation and Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation. The honourees will be celebrated at a gala ceremony on December 1, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver.

“I’d like to thank the jury for their dedicated work in choosing such worthy recipients of this year’s awards,” said Polak. “Aboriginal business plays a vital role in generating on-the-ground jobs within communities across the province. I know that the people we honour this year will inspire budding entrepreneurs to follow their own dreams and build on the contribution of Aboriginal business to the B.C. economy.”

“From trades, construction and development to retail, lodging, restaurants and catering, the BC Aboriginal Business Awards showcase the Aboriginal business community and its accomplishments,” added Mitchell. “On behalf of the BC Achievement Foundation, I would like to extend my congratulations to these deserving enterprises.

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards were launched in 2008 to honour and celebrate business excellence. Seven award recipients, one from each category, have been selected. In addition, a further group of eleven Aboriginal businesses are noted for their outstanding achievement.

Members of the jury panel include Chief Harold Leighton of Metlakatla First Nation in Prince Rupert and CEO of Metlakatla Development Corporation, a past recipient; Tim Low, entrepreneur, former economic development officer and currently director of Citizen Services, Service Canada in Vancouver; and Janice Rose, Vice-Chair, Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada and Principal Consultant of JM Rose & Associates in Ladysmith. The jury panel evaluated submissions based on the entrants’ viability, sustainability and competitiveness.

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards are presented by the BC Achievement Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and generously supported by New Relationship Trust, BC Hydro, Teck, Encana and Spectra Energy.

The BC Aboriginal Awards are presented by the BC Achievement Foundation, an independent foundation established and endowed in 2003 by the Province of British Columbia to celebrate community services, the arts, humanities and enterprise.

THE 2011 ABORIGINAL BUSINESS AWARD RECIPIENTS **Young Female Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year:**

Recipient: Lara Yanik, Vernon

Outstanding Achievement: Erica Ryan-Gagné, Skidegate

 Young Male Aboriginal Entrepreneur of the Year:

Recipient: Brady Erixon, Kamloops

- **Business of the Year - one to two person enterprise:**

Recipient: Knotty By Nature, Victoria

Outstanding Achievement: Cedar Root Gallery, Vancouver; Halfyard Designs, Richmond

- **Business of the Year - two to ten person enterprise:**

Recipient: 3 Rivers Contracting, Glen Vowell

Outstanding Achievement: Bravo Restaurant & Lounge, Chilliwack; Salishan Catering, Vancouver

- **Business of the Year - ten or more person enterprise:**

Recipient: CSC Electric Ltd., Kamloops

Outstanding Achievement: EM Salon & Spa, Port Alberni; Himwitsa Enterprises, Tofino

- **Community-Owned Business of the Year:**

Recipient: Tshesht Market, Port Alberni

Outstanding Achievement: Duz Cho Construction Ltd., Chetwynd; Quaaout Lodge & Talking Rock Golf Course, Chase

- **Joint Venture Business of the Year:**

Recipient: Takaya Developments Ltd., North Vancouver

Outstanding Achievement: Black Diamond Dene LP, Fort Nelson; TFN Construction/Matcon Civil Joint Venture, Tsawwassen

Information and tickets to the 3rd annual BC Aboriginal Business Awards' Gala in Vancouver, can be found at www.bcachievement.com <<http://www.bcachievement.com>> or by calling 604-261-9777/i-866-882-6088.

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Information from www.seniors.gc.ca

Elder Abuse: What it is and who can help

One in five Canadians believes they know of a senior who might be experiencing some form of abuse. Seniors from all walks of life are vulnerable to elder abuse and it is happening in communities across Canada.

Outlined here is basic information on how seniors and Canadians can spot elder abuse as well as information on how to help stop it.

What is elder abuse?

Elder abuse is any action by someone in a relationship of trust that results in harm or distress to an older person. Neglect is a lack of action by that person in a relationship of trust with the same result. Commonly recognized types of elder abuse include physical, psychological and financial. Often, more than one type of abuse occurs at the same time. Abuse can be a single incident or a repeated pattern of behaviour.

Financial abuse is the most commonly reported type of elder abuse.

Why does elder abuse happen?

Elder abuse often occurs because of the abuser's power and control over an older person. In some situations, the abuse may also result from addiction issues (drugs, alcohol or gambling), mental health problems, a cycle of family violence or ageism. Abuse can happen when the aggressor wants to intimidate, isolate, dominate or control another person.

Who abuses seniors?

Older adults affected by abuse often know and trust the person mistreating them. Elder abuse can be caused by a family member, a friend, someone who provides assistance with basic needs or services, or health care providers in institutional settings. In many situations of elder abuse, the abuser is dependent on the older adult for money, food or shelter.

Who is affected by elder abuse?

Most older people who experience abuse are able to make decisions for themselves. Abuse can happen to anyone, in any family or relationship. It can happen to people of all backgrounds, ages, religions, races, cultures and ethnic origins.

Why are some older adults reluctant to talk about elder abuse? Older adults may feel ashamed or embarrassed to tell anyone they are being abused by someone they trust. They may fear retaliation or punishment, or they may have concerns about having to move from their home or community. They may also feel a sense of family loyalty. Often, older adults may not be aware of people and resources that can help.

Who can help? It is important that the older person have access to information to make informed decisions and be aware of available help. This may include support and assistance from family members or friends, health care providers, social services, police, legal professionals and/or members of faith communities. No one ever deserves to be abused or neglected.

What are indicators of elder abuse and neglect? Elder abuse and neglect can be very difficult to detect. The following signs and symptoms may indicate that an older adult is being victimized or neglected:

- fear, anxiety, depression or passiveness in relation to a family member, friend or care provider;
- unexplained physical injuries;
- dehydration, poor nutrition or poor hygiene;
- improper use of medication;
- confusion about new legal documents, such as a new will or a new mortgage;
- sudden drop in cash flow or financial holdings; and
- reluctance to speak about the situation.

Raising awareness among seniors about their right to live safely and securely is seen as the most important issue for governments when it comes to elder abuse, with 9 in 10 Canadians (90.5 percent) rating it as a high priority.*

* Results of a survey of 3,001 Canadians, including 718 seniors aged 65 and older, conducted between May 21 and June 6, 2008; *Enviroics*.

Physical abuse of seniors

Physical abuse of seniors includes actions that injure or risk injuring an older person or cause them physical pain and may include:

- striking;
- hitting;
- pushing;
- shaking;
- burning;
- shoving;
- inappropriate physical and chemical restraints; or
- harm created by over or under medicating.

Psychological abuse of seniors

Psychological abuse of seniors includes actions that decrease their sense of self-worth and dignity, and may include:

- insults;
- threats;
- intimidation;
- humiliation;
- harassment;
- treating them like a child; or
- isolating them from family, friends or regular activities.

Financial abuse of seniors

Financial abuse includes actions that decrease the financial worth of an older person without benefit to that person and may include:

- misusing or stealing a senior's assets, property or money;
- cashing an elderly person's cheques without authorization;
- forging an elderly person's signature;
- unduly pressuring seniors to make or change a will, or to sign legal documents that they do not fully understand; and
 - sharing an older person's home without paying a fair share of the expenses when requested.

Neglect of seniors

Neglect includes inactions that may result in harm to an older person and may include a caregiver or family member not providing appropriate:

- water or food;
- shelter;
- clothing;
- medication or medical attention; and
- assistance with basic necessities.

Seniors most vulnerable to neglect include those who are socially isolated, and those with serious health conditions.

Abuse happens when one person hurts or mistreats another. Remember:

- Seniors are entitled to respect.
- Seniors have every right to live in safety and security.
- There is no excuse for abuse.

96 percent of Canadians think most of the abuse experienced by older adults is hidden or goes undetected.*

*Results of a survey of 3,001 Canadians, including 718 seniors aged 65 and older, conducted between May 21 and June 6, 2008; *Enviroics*.

Federal activities on elder abuse

Federal initiatives on elder abuse complement and build upon efforts by the provinces and territories as well as by national, regional and local organizations to address the abuse of older adults.

The New Horizons for Seniors Program is designed to help ensure that seniors benefit from, and contribute to, the quality of life in their communities through social participation and active living. The program was expanded in 2007 to include elder abuse awareness activities. The Elder Abuse Awareness component of the New Horizons for Seniors Program helps non-profit organizations develop national or regional education and awareness activities to reduce the incidence of abuse of seniors.

The Family Violence Initiative (FVI), a partnership of 15 federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations, is coordinated by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The FVI promotes public awareness of the risk factors of family violence and the need for public involvement in responding to it. It also strengthens criminal justice, health and housing systems responses, as well as supporting data collection, research and evaluation efforts to identify effective interventions.

Elder Abuse

It's Time To Face The Reality

To find out more on what the Government of Canada is doing for seniors visit www.seniors.gc.ca or call:

- 1 800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)
- TTY: 1-800-926-9105

This document is available on demand in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, audio cassette, CD, DAISY, and computer diskette. Call 1 800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232) to request your copy. If you have a hearing or speech impairment and use a teletypewriter (TTY), call 1-800-926-9105.

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Information from www.seniors.gc.ca

Good deed quickly repaid on highway MENOMONIE, Wis.

A Canadian man who had just helped a motorist change a tire in western Wisconsin had his good deed quickly repaid when, just minutes later, that same motorist helped to save his life.

According to the Wisconsin State Patrol, Victor Giesbrecht, of Winnipeg, was driving Saturday evening on Interstate 94, about 15 kilometres east of Menomonie, when he stopped to help a motorist change a tire.

Patrol Sgt. Michael Newton said that after driving off, Giesbrecht was stricken by a heart attack within a few kilometres.

His wife, Ann, helped bring their pickup truck to a stop, called 911 and waved her arms for help.

At about the same time, the motorists they had just helped pulled up.

The Star Tribune reported Monday that one of them, Lisa Meier, of Eau Claire, performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on him until emergency personnel arrived.

A state trooper and two Dunn County deputies took over and used an automated external defibrillator, or AED, to help Giesbrecht regain a pulse and resume breathing.

A medical helicopter took Giesbrecht to Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire. He was in serious condition Monday.

Newton said if Giesbrecht hadn't helped with the tire change, his initial rescuer may have remained stranded for too long to play a life-saving role.

"If he had been a few more miles down the road and had his heart attack, it could have been a different outcome," Newton said. "It's an interesting turn of fate."

He said Giesbrecht had suffered another heart attack about a year earlier.

Newton added that Dunn County having an AED on hand "was the tipping point" in saving Giesbrecht's life.

"Without that defibrillator, I don't know that the outcome would've been the same," he said.

From www.msn.com

QUOTE

“Instead of being a time of unusual behaviour, Christmas is perhaps the only time in the year when people can obey their natural impulses and express their true sentiments without feeling self-conscious and, perhaps, foolish. Christmas, in short, is about the only chance a man has to be himself.”

~Francis C. Farley

Residential school survivor cases suspended by B.C. Supreme Court

Calgary law firm told not to contact abuse claimants

By KIM PEMBERTON, Vancouver Sun - November 7, 2011

B.C. Supreme Court has suspended dozens of residential school survivor compensation cases being handled by a Calgary law firm and has scheduled a hearing for Thursday in Vancouver to look into the issue.

Blott & Company has been ordered not to contact any of its residential school abuse claimants or take any further steps on their behalf with the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) without further order of the court.

The IAP is an out-of-court alternative dispute resolution body aimed at resolving claims of abuse suffered at residential schools.

The court also imposed a ban on materials filed in support of the application, brought by Crawford Class Action Services.

The cases before the IAP deal with sexual and physical abuses suffered by survivors of Indian Residential Schools throughout Canada.

Since the formal compensation process began in September 2007, more than 10,000 hearings have been held across Canada.

Chief IAP adjudicator Daniel Ish said of the 10,000 hearings approximately 90 per cent have resulted in claims being awarded.

The average claim is \$105,000, with a maximum compensation rate set at \$440,000.

Claimants are allowed to give their evidence in private before an IAP adjudicator because of the sensitive nature of the testimony and a fear many claimants would not step forward if they had to do so in open court, Ish explained.

As part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the federal government pays lawyers 15 per cent of the compensation awarded to clients, and lawyers are allowed to request another 15 per cent maximum from the claimant's compensation package.

Ish said typically the average legal fee is in the 20-per-cent range, of which three-quarters is paid by the government and the rest from the awarded compensation.

Chief Robert Joseph, executive director of the Indian Residential School Survivors Society, a North Vancouver group assisting claimants across the country, said the upcoming hearing sends a message to lawyers that someone is "looking out for them."

A representative from Blott & Company could not be reached for comment.

kpemberton@vancouver.sun.com

CHIEF CLARENCE LOUIE RECEIVES 2011 INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Vancouver – Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation is pleased to announce that Chief Clarence Louie is the recipient of the 2011 BC Aboriginal Business Award for Individual Achievement.

Chief Louie will be honoured on December 1, 2011 together with the juried competition award recipients at the 2011 BC Aboriginal Business Awards. The Gala Presentation Ceremony at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver will showcase the achievements of the Aboriginal business community in the province.

“Chief Clarence Louie is a leader with a vision”, said Mitchell. “He has dedicated his life to building economic self-sufficiency for the Osoyoos Indian Band by creating employment opportunities for present and future generations. He is a contemporary example of success through hard work and determination”.

The Individual Achievement Award honours a person who has made a significant impact in the Aboriginal business community and in so doing, serves as an inspiration to us all.

Chief Louie was elected Chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band in 1985 at the age of 25. Under his leadership, the Band has built a multi-faceted development corporation that owns and manages nine businesses, including Nk'Mip Gas and Convenience Store, Nk'Mip Construction, Oliver Ready-Mix Ltd., Nk'Mip Daycare, Nk'Mip RV Park, Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre, Sonora Dunes Golf Course, Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort and Spa, Nk'Mip Cellars, the first Aboriginal winery in North America and most recently, the Senkulmen Business Park.

Previous Individual Achievement Award recipients are entrepreneurs, Dorothy Grant, Angelique Merasty Levac and Dolly Watts McRae and Aboriginal business champion, John Harper.

The BC Aboriginal Business Awards are presented by the BC Achievement Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, and generously supported by New Relationship Trust, BC Hydro, Teck, Encana and Spectra Energy.

The BC Achievement Foundation is an independent foundation established and endowed by the Province of British Columbia in 2003 to celebrate excellence in community service, the arts, humanities and enterprise.

For information on the BC Aboriginal Business Awards and Gala Presentation dinner tickets, visit our website at www.bcachievement.com or call 604 261-9777 or toll free 1-866-882-6088.

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Contact: Nora Newlands Executive Director BC Achievement Foundation 604-618-6949

QUOTE

**“Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself...”**

~Norman Wesley Brooks, "Let Every Day Be Christmas," 1976

Substance abuse biggest concern among first nations

By Gerry Bellett, Vancouver Sun November 9, 2011

Article from www.vancouver.sun.com

An overwhelming number of aboriginal people polled in a national survey reported alcohol and drug abuse to be the biggest problem facing their community - well ahead of concerns about lack of adequate housing and unemployment.

And this week a coalition of the Assembly of First Nations, the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation and Health Canada announced a national framework, Honouring Our Strengths, to combat substance abuse among Canada's first nations people. Carol Hopkins, executive director of the National Native Addictions Partnership Foundation, said Tuesday that the framework will be built upon firstnations cultural values.

Speaking at the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse National Conference, Issues of Substance, in Vancouver, Hopkins said the poll, conducted between 2008 and 2010, showed almost 83 per cent of respondents believed substance abuse to be the main barrier to community wellness.

"They put that ahead of unemployment and housing, which are also major issues," said Hopkins.

Across the country there are 58 firstnations treatment centres, more than 550 community based prevention programs and about 1,000 treatment counsellors and community based workers dealing with substance-abuse problems.

But, Hopkins said, this national program didn't always take into account the part culture could play in treatment.

"We haven't always fully understood or fully appreciated the role culture has to play. Its use has been intermittent across the national program," she said. Treatment programs had tended to focus on the individual, she said, whereas a culturally based program focuses on families and communities.

"It doesn't mean we leave aside attention to individuals, but it certainly means that when we are working with individuals it's always in the context of family and community."

She said aboriginal culture had been affected significantly by "colonization and oppression, such things as residential schools, the reserve system and the Indian Act."

"All of these things impacted our understanding of culture. Because of this disconnect, native people have struggled to understand how to address the issues we're facing in our communities and how we relate off-reserve," she said.

gbellett@vancouver.sun.com

QUOTE

"Christmas! The very word brings joy to our hearts. No matter how we may dread the rush, the long Christmas lists for gifts and cards to be bought and given - when Christmas Day comes there is still the same warm feeling we had as children, the same warmth that enfolds our hearts and our homes."

~Joan Winmill Brown



Snuneymuxw First Nation



**VANCOUVER ISLAND
UNIVERSITY**

NEWS RELEASE

**Snuneymuxw First Nation and Vancouver Island University
to co-host major treaty conference**

Nov. 10, 2011

Vancouver Island University (VIU) and the Snuneymuxw First Nation are pleased to announce they will co-host a major conference on the pre-Confederation treaties made by the British Crown and First Nations on Vancouver Island from 1850 to 1854. The conference will be held at VIU in Nanaimo on May 10 and 11, 2012, and is expected to attract more than 200 participants from across Canada.

The theme for the conference is *“The Pre-Confederation Treaties of Vancouver Island – Fulfilling Treaty Promises and Living in Treaty Relationships.”* In exploring this theme, the conference will combine two overlapping streams:

- 1) First Nation visions for a treaty relationship in the 21st century founded on these pre-Confederation treaties; and
- 2) current and future academic research about these living treaties.

The conference will also include a public education and information program in Nanaimo. The basic aim of this program will be to inform the public about the pre-Confederation treaties, and to have a dialogue on what the treaties mean for all of us today.

For more information about this exciting conference and other activities associated with it, contact:

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Cost to redress native residential school abuse set to pass \$5-billion

By Bill Curry

OTTAWA— From Saturday's Globe and Mail

Published Friday, Nov. 18, 2011 8:27PM EST Last updated Saturday, Nov. 19, 2011 10:03AM EST

Twenty nine thousand. That's Ottawa's latest estimate of how many people will ultimately come forward with compensation cases for physical and sexual abuse suffered at Canada's native residential schools.

The volume is more than twice what was expected, meaning the final cost of Canada's 2006 out-of-court settlement with former students is on pace to exceed \$5-billion – well beyond the original \$3.2-billion budget set five years ago.

The settlement awarded at least some money to all living former students, but also included an option for additional compensation for physical and sexual abuse via an Independent Assessment Process. It was estimated that 12,500 former students would apply.

Now the latest estimates forecast at least 29,000 IAP claimants will come forward, and the vast majority of claims so far have been validated by independent adjudicators. The sheer volume of successful cases supports those who say violent abuse was rampant, not isolated.

“I think the message is that sexual abuse was prevalent in these institutions,” said Charlene Belleau, who manages the Assembly of First Nations residential schools unit. Ms. Belleau, a former B.C. chief, said she expects the final numbers will be even higher as the Sept. 19, 2012 deadline approaches.

With IAP settlements averaging just over \$120,000 including legal fees, a rough estimate suggests Ottawa could be on the hook for well over \$2-billion in additional costs tied to compensating former students.

The government is asking Parliament to approve an additional \$179.1-million to cover extra payments, but that's just the start.

“Departmental officials are currently in the process of determining the new estimated costs based on the increased application levels,” said Michelle Yao, a spokesperson for Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan. “We remain committed to concluding agreements for the survivors and their families of the Indian residential schools system.”

Ms. Yao declined to speculate on how high the total cost of the settlement will climb. A department official said final numbers won't be known until after the application deadline, but did provide the latest estimate for total applicants and the average compensation amount.

However, Dan Ish, the chief adjudicator for the IAP, provided his own rough calculations as to the total IAP compensation cost – not counting legal fees – based on multiplying the latest number of claimants and the average payout.

“My best guess is that it will likely be over \$2-billion but less than three. A lot of money obviously,” he said in an interview.

Residential schools were originally created as part of religious missionary work and started receiving federal support in 1874. They were then run as joint ventures by Ottawa and the churches as part of a policy to assimilate natives. Nearly all of the remaining schools were closed in the mid-1970s.

The original 2006 agreement broke down costs into six sections, totalling about \$3.2-billion. That included \$1.9-billion for a Common Experience Payment that went to all former students based on the number of years they attended the school. This payment is meant as compensation to students for being removed from their homes and for having their languages and culture diminished.

The second largest section was the IAP, which allows former students to tell their story in a private hearing – sometimes with the alleged abuser present. Government-appointed adjudicators listen to the stories of abuse and approve compensation, using a matrix that increases the payment based on the severity of the physical or sexual abuse and the severity of the long-term emotional impact on the former student.

The remainder of the deal included \$125-million for Aboriginal Healing Foundation programs, \$100-million for the payment of plaintiffs' legal fees, and \$60-million toward a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Settlement update

Common Experience Payment (to all former students based on years of attendance)

Original budget: \$1.9-billion

Spent to date: \$1.6-billion

Original estimate of qualifying students: 80,000

Latest number of applicants: 102,000

Average compensation: \$20,625

Deadline for applications: Sept. 19, 2011 (Sept. 19, 2012 for special circumstances.)

Independent Assessment Process (additional compensation to victims of physical and sexual abuse)

Original budget: \$960-million

Spent to date: \$1.1-billion

Original estimate of applications: 12,500

Latest estimate of applications: 29,000

Average compensation to date (including legal fees): \$120,347

Deadline for IAP applications: Sept. 19, 2012

Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

QUOTE

**“I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”**

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Residential school commission struggling to complete its mission

By Jason Fekete, Postmedia News November 21, 2011

Teachers and students at the Red Deer Industrial Institute, a residential school for First Nations children. The federal commission examining the destructive legacy of the schools is running short of money and resources, according to a new report.

OTTAWA — The troubled federal commission on aboriginal residential schools is facing a series of new problems and may be unable to fulfil its mandate due to a lack of government funding and other obstacles, says a new report.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada — an independent federal agency tasked with promoting healing, and collecting and telling stories of abuse in Indian residential schools — is facing funding constraints and bureaucratic headaches that threaten to keep it from completing its goals, according to the commission's new 2010-11 performance report.

The commission was created following the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement of 2007 among the federal government, a number of churches and aboriginal groups. But the five-year, \$60-million agency has faced repeated problems since its inception, including the resignations of the three original commissioners, which delayed its work.

The new analysis submitted to the federal government says the commission now needs more cash to complete its mission, is struggling to access necessary historical records and appears unable to create a national research centre that's a key component of its mandate.

"There is a risk that goals . . . stated in the mandate of the Commission could be frustrated," commission chairman Justice Murray Sinclair said in the report.

"It now seems likely that the Commission's budget will not allow the Commission to fund the creation of a National Research Centre."

The report also highlights the ongoing struggles of a commission that's meant to be independent but was created as a federal government institution. As such, it's regularly encountering bureaucratic delays in hiring staff, compiling records and completing its larger mandate.

"There is a continuing friction inherent in the notion that the Government of Canada is a defendant and party to the Settlement Agreement and the Commission is a Government of Canada institution," the report says.

"The requirement to create an entire federal department, subject to and accountable for the complete range of federal government statutes, regulations, policies, directives and guidelines, with a very limited staffing complement and with significant budget limitations, has posed considerable challenges."

Sinclair and Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan were unavailable for comment on Monday, although the government said it's committed to having the commission complete its mandate.

"We will continue to work with the (commission) and aboriginals across Canada towards healing and reconciliation," said Aboriginal Affairs department spokeswoman Genevieve Guibert.

The commission, which has been travelling across Canada, is tasked with promoting healing and explaining the history of how 150,000 native children were taken from their families and placed in government-funded, church-run schools. The more than 130 residential schools, some of which date back to the 1840s, were designed to "kill the Indian in the child," according to the commission's website.

Problems identified in the report include the commission being forced to foot the costs of copying, scanning, digitizing and reproducing documents — many of them from the federal government — when it doesn't have the budget to do so. The Government of Canada and various churches are obliged under the agreement to compile all relevant documents, but not necessarily reproduce them.

Moreover, the government signed the settlement agreement on behalf of all federal departments but is refusing to offer the commission a single point of contact for obtaining records. Instead, the commission is forced to weave its way through the bureaucracy and access necessary records on its own from individual departments.

The commission says it's also facing restrictions on how it uses archived material from some churches and is being instructed, for example, on how to caption photos it plans to use in its reports.

The struggles to access the information and secure required funding leave the national research centre in doubt, it notes. Opposition MPs are worried about the commission's future considering the Conservatives are searching for five- to 10-per-cent cuts across the federal government.

"It sounds like they are being a little shortchanged," said NDP aboriginal affairs critic Linda Duncan. "It's one thing (for the government) to create the commission, it's another to give it your full support."

Earlier this month, the Conservative government announced it was seeking almost \$180 million in additional spending for new awards to claimants resulting from the court-ordered residential schools settlement agreement for serious and sexual abuse.

The government originally budgeted \$960 million for the independent assessment process, but more cash is needed to keep up with the abuse claims, according to officials.

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B-CUZ Calendar Project

Does your company want to support the Aboriginal youth community on the Downtown Eastside? Would you like a stylish new gift to give to your customers this holiday season? How about combining the two and collaborating with the Paul Martin Aboriginal Initiative's Youth Entrepreneurial Program, and students at Britannia Secondary in partnership with the Ch'nook Scholars program to purchase calendars for your customers?

The Paul Martin Aboriginal Initiative's Youth Entrepreneurial Program is designed to help Aboriginal youth build their way into the business industry, by creating a small business. In our case, we have created a calendar of scenes that reflect the lives of Vancouver's Aboriginal youth.

To learn more about the project, view the calendar and place orders, please visit our website at www.b-cuz.net.

Best wishes,

Lloyd Humchitt, B-CUZ Calendars

For Immediate Release November 25, 2011

2011 BC FIRST NATIONS' ART RECIPIENTS HONOURED

VANCOUVER – Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Minister Mary Polak and Keith Mitchell, chair of the BC Achievement Foundation, honoured six award recipients today at the presentation ceremony for the fifth annual BC Creative Achievement Awards for First Nations' Art.

"B.C. First Nations artists play a significant role in the creative life of British Columbia and are acclaimed both nationally and internationally," said Polak. "These awards highlight the artistry and talent of each recipient and recognize that their creativity enriches our lives, our communities and our province."

Mitchell added, "Each artist has a unique way of transforming natural materials into carefully crafted objects of art. The beauty of the past is at the centre of every piece, whether traditional or contemporary. I congratulate the 2011 award recipients for their outstanding achievements."

Five juried award recipients received \$5,000 and the seal of the British Columbia Creative Achievement Award for First Nations' Art. Below are their names:

Sonny Assu, Kwakwaka'wakw, Vancouver, B.C.
Stan Bevan, Tsimshian/Tahltan/Tlingit, Terrace, B.C.
Vera Edmonds, Lil'wat, Mt. Currie, B.C.
Shawn Hunt, Heiltsuk, Sechelt, B.C.
Jay Simeon, Haida, Vancouver, B.C.

The BC Creative Lifetime Achievement Award for First Nations' Art was presented to Primrose Adams, a Haida artist from Massett, B.C. Adams is descended from a long line of famed weavers and has made a profound impact on First Nations' culture for her lifelong contributions to the art of spruce root basket weaving.

The award ceremony and luncheon was presented with the generous sponsorship of Polygon Homes Ltd.

Dr. Robert Belton, Associate Professor of Art History at UBC Okanagan and a director of the BC Achievement Foundation, chaired an independent jury panel that selected the 2011 award recipients. The jurors included Reg Davidson, internationally acclaimed Haida artist and past recipient; Brenda Crabtree, Aboriginal Program Manager, Emily Carr University of Art + Design; Bill McLennan, Curator, Pacific Northwest, UBC Museum of Anthropology; and Cathi Charles Wherry, Art Program Manager, First People's Heritage, Language and Culture Council.

The British Columbia Achievement Foundation was established and endowed by the Province of British Columbia in 2003 to celebrate excellence and achievement in the arts, humanities, enterprise and community service. For information on British Columbia Achievement Foundation, visit www.bcachievement.com <<http://www.bcachievement.com>> .

Contact

Nora Newlands
Executive Director
BC Achievement Foundation
604-618-6949 or info@bcachievement.com

November 25, 2011

National Chief calls for Immediate Action for Attawapiskat: transformative change for all First Nations

(Ottawa, ON) – Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo today issued the following statement on the emergency situation at Attawapiskat First Nation: “I stand in full support of Chief Theresa Spence along with all First Nation leaders. She has pointed out that “lives are at risk”. Her call is urgent and it is a call to action for all Canadians and Canadian governments. She emphasizes the immediate needs of her peoples and is calling for relief. I am pleased that the Canadian Red Cross has stepped forward. Canada is a generous country helping people in need the world over, I hope and expect that this same generosity will emerge for these urgent issues that exist within our own country. We should all be shocked and appalled as I am and we must all answer this call.”

“Tragically Attawapiskat is not an isolated situation”, continued National Chief Atleo. “I have seen these same deplorable and heart wrenching situations throughout many remote and northern communities. This is why First Nations leaders are calling on the Federal government and others to work with us now on transformative change. Such action must include long-term planning and transforming our fiscal relationship to ensure sustainability and stability. We are talking about the most basic needs here. We must come together as families supporting one another and find the way forward. Through respect, kindness and most importantly commitment to a new way forward, we can and must turn these situations around.”

At Attawapiskat, people are currently living in tents and temporary shelters without any running water and electricity. The winter temperatures are getting dangerously low as health and safety concerns are setting in. These third world living conditions should not exist in Canada. “We simply cannot afford to lose another generation. Our burgeoning First Nation youth population has tremendous potential. We owe it to them to provide them every opportunity to realize their potential,” concluded National Chief Atleo.

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada. Follow AFN and National Chief Atleo on Twitter @AFN_Updates, @AFN_Comms and @NCAtleo.

Contact information:

Jenna Young, AFN Communications Officer 613-241-6789, ext 401 or cell: 613-314-8157 or jyoung@afn.ca

Alain Garon, AFN Bilingual Communications Officer 613-241-6789, ext 382 or cell: 613-292-0857 or agaron@afn.ca

QUOTE

**“Wouldn't life be worth living
Wouldn't dreams be coming true
If we kept the Christmas spirit
All the whole year through?”
~Author Unknown**



19th ANNUAL NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS TICKET ORDER FORM

Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Vancouver, British Columbia,
Friday, February 24th, 2012

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) was established to encourage and celebrate excellence in the Aboriginal community. The Awards recognize the outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, in diverse fields. Produced by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) and broadcast nationally, these Awards have become a Canadian institution.

The Foundation is a Canadian charitable education organization dedicated to raising funds to deliver programs that provide the tools necessary for Aboriginal peoples, especially youth to achieve their full potential. To date the Foundation has awarded more than \$42.7-million in scholarships and bursaries to more than 11,500 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students nationwide.

PLATINUM LEVEL \$9,500.00

- 10 Tickets (orchestra or dress circle seating*) to the NAAA ceremony including access to the exclusive post gala reception
- One half page colour ad and name in the gala program
- Recognition in NAAF's Annual Report and website

GOLD LEVEL \$4,500.00

- 6 tickets (dress circle or mezzanine seating*) to the NAAA ceremony and post gala reception
- A quarter page colour ad and name in the gala program
- Recognition in NAAF's Annual Report and website

SILVER LEVEL \$1,995.00

- 8 tickets (balcony seating*) to the NAAA ceremony and post gala reception
- Recognition in NAAF's Annual Report and website
- Name to appear in gala program

INDIVIDUAL TICKET(S) \$345.00 each

(\$310.50 : 10% Discount on individual tickets if purchased before Dec. 16th 2011 at 5:00 p.m.)

- Individual tickets to NAAA Ceremony and post gala reception
- Name to appear in gala program

A charitable tax receipt of up to \$250.00 will be issued for each ticket.

BUY A TICKET FOR AN ABORIGINAL STUDENT

- A charitable tax receipt of \$345.00 will be issued for each ticket donated
- Donor name to appear in the Foundation's Annual Report and in the Gala programme

PLEASE PHONE, FAX OR MAIL THIS FORM TO:

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Ticket Sales Office
215 Spadina Ave., Suite 450, Toronto, ON M5T 2C7
Tel: 416-987-0250 Toll Free: 1-800-329-9780 x 228
Fax: 416-977-1764 Website: naaf.ca Email: ticketsales@naaf.ca

TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:

http://www.naaf.ca/ticket_sales

*Seating assignment based on best available seat at time of purchase.

CHARITABLE NUMBER 11883 4696 RR0001, all tickets are non-refundable.

(Please print clearly) Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Chief Other (specify) _____

First name: _____ Last name: _____

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City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Cheque enclosed Visa Mastercard American Express

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Cardholder name: _____ Signature: _____

Options:

- Please invoice me I require wheelchair accessible seating

	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Platinum Level	_____ x \$9,500.00	– \$ _____
Gold Level	_____ x \$4,500.00	– \$ _____
Silver Level	_____ x \$1,995.00	– \$ _____
Individual Ticket (before Dec. 16, 2011)	_____ x \$310.50	– \$ _____
Individual Ticket (after Dec. 16, 2011)	_____ x \$345.00	– \$ _____
Buy a ticket for an Aboriginal Student	_____ x \$345.00	– \$ _____
Please accept this charitable donation of		\$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed		\$ _____

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SILENT NIGHT

**Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace**

**Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour is born
Christ, the Saviour is born**

**Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth**

SAGITTARIUS - The Happy-Go-Lucky One (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Good-natured optimist. Doesn't want to grow up (Peter Pan Syndrome). Indulges self. Boastful. Likes luxuries and gambling. Social and outgoing. Doesn't like responsibilities. Often fantasizes. Impatient. Fun to be around. Having lots of friends. Flirtatious. Doesn't like rules. Sometimes hypocritical. Dislikes being confined - tight spaces or even tight clothes. Doesn't like being doubted. Beautiful inside and out.

**Annual Elders Gathering Grand Entry Photos are on:
www.bcelders.com each year (except unfortunately for 2011)**

ANNUAL BC ELDERS GATHERING INFO CORNER

**The 36th Annual BC Elders Gathering is to be hosted by
Sto:lo Nation and Tsawwassen First Nation,
In Abbotsford at the TRADEX Centre (as is 2011)
July 10-12, 2012.**

**Roger Andrew and Audrey Kelly
From Shx'wohamel First Nation
Were crowned the King and Queen**