

Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Newsletter

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) is mandated to advance the treaty goal of establishing good relations among all people of Saskatchewan. The Office of the Treaty Commissioner continues to work with First Nation's, provincial school systems, and other educational institutions to raise the awareness and understanding of treaties and First Nations people.

A Monthly Newsletter

also available on our website at www.otc.ca

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BILL'S HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE



OTC congratulates former Treaty Commissioner Bill McKnight on receiving his Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. Dr. McKnight's family hosted a reception at the Holiday Inn on June 4th. Dr. McKnight's friends and colleagues joined the family as we celebrated Dr. McKnight's many accomplishments. Congratulations Dr. McKnight!

Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Canada - Corporate First Nations Relations for Mutual Benefits luncheons. One in May and one in June so far.



Topic of "First Nation Treaty Education & Corporate Culture" as the company was looking at ways to engage Aboriginal people for employment with their company but wanted to gain a better understanding of First Nations history to current issues first – a reconciliation strategy.

Community Learning Commons – Treaty Commissioner George E. Lafond and representatives of READ Saskatoon, YMCA Childcare, Saskatchewan Intercultural Association and Canadian Paralegic Association, along with Kinsmen project leaders met to begin identifying shared values and begin learning how they can work together in a committed partnership in building Commons. Leaders from the collaborating organizations have voiced an interest in participating as well.

Keynote at CUISR – Treaty Commissioner George E. Lafond presented a keynote address at a Community –University Institute for Social Research conference at the U of S entitled Quality of Life Symposium: Towards Sustainable Community Futures, on May 15-16, 2014. Treaty Commissioner presented on the importance of treaties as a foundation of quality of life for all of us.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network, or the Network, was established in 2012 through a mission of addressing gaps that existed for First Nations in the area of economic development.

The Network strategic plan was developed in the early part of 2014, where priority areas were identified while support and Network successfully members identified as Succession Planning and workshops being planned Duty to Consult, Mining



moving forward. In 2013, with the encouragement of many partners, the accomplished several workshops that important: Land Management Regimes, Community Planning. The current are in the areas of Land Management, and energy efficiency.

In addition to the workshops youth are being encouraged to participate in economic development at the community and local level, through business and entrepreneurship. The Youth Engagement Initiative offers a one-day learning experience where speakers provide a “where you have come from” presentation in relation to treaties and a contextual review of the Indigenous contributions that have been made throughout history and currently. Youth are also provided with talks from other youth who are in business and first-hand talk from businesses who are currently working with other First Nations or who are majority owned by First Nations.



One Arrow Youth Business Program participants in the Networks Youth Engagement Initiative. May 12, 2014

Lastly, the Network is hosting its 3rd annual forum, Developing Diverse Economic Opportunities, from September 15 – 17, 2014 where a superb agenda has been developed to include speakers who will discuss approached to business, using a community to corporate theme with diverse opportunities to participate in economic development.

Joe Taylor is the Business Club Coordinator at the Almighty voice Education Centre at the One Arrow First Nation. The principal, Dennis Perillat, is a strong supporter and advocate for the youth of the Business Club where a pilot project was held in partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council. The club began in February 2014 and will run until December 2014. There are many goals and objectives; learning about financial literacy, teaching some basic small business best practices, encouraging the students to explore business opportunities and building business plans to support these ideas, are but a few of the elements of this project. All of the above are taught in a positive and learning environment. We have been very fortunate to have had presentations from Kendell Netmaker of Neechie Gear, Mike Scott of “Sober is Sexi”, and had the opportunity to visit aboriginal owned and managed companies. They spent a day at that the Office of the Treaty Commissioner where Milton Tootoosis gave a tremendous presentation on the history of treaties, and the history of aboriginal entrepreneurial success.

Speakers Bureau continues to be requested on a continuous and consistent basis for presentations, discussions Speakers Bureau made a January to May 2014. The was 2156. We also are have had significant impacts individuals we support with More College, the Aboriginal and St. Vital Schools have



and workshops on Treaties. total of 40 presentations from total number of people we reached informed of other outcomes that on the communities and Treaty resources. The St. Thomas Students' Centre and the Mosquito had significant impacts and made some very big steps towards

bettering relations and reconciliation.



The St. Thomas More College at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) held a reconciliation event in March, which led to their decision for the STM College to officially raise the Treaty 6 flag in April. Our executive director and one of our speakers facilitated this event to support the college's staff and faculty in their endeavors towards reconciliation and knowing their role in the Treaty relationship.

Through our partnership with the Aboriginal Students' Centre at the U of S, we were again invited to Aboriginal Achievement Week to present, discuss and portray the importance of Language

to Culture. We were also invited and tasked with the opportunity to display the largest Treaty display to ever be on U of S campus. It was set up throughout North Concourse by Place Riel and we had 1000's of visitors both students and staff. We also took the opportunity to record our newest vignette with the USSU President Max Fineday.



In March we supported the students and staff of the Mosquito and St. Vital schools in teaching treaties and good relations. The treaty education and awareness led the students to negotiate a treaty to align with better relations between the schools. On May 20th, which was also the Mosquito Treaty Day, the students, principals, directors and church officials as well as the Treaty Commissioner signed the Joining Nations Treaty.

OTC
SPEAKERS
BUREAU
CORNER



EDUCATION KEY FOR PRIVATE

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Saskatoon, Treaty Six Territory – The OTC and the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network (SFNEDN) hosted the Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Canada Ltd in May for two six hour Workshop/Strategy sessions dubbed Treaties 101 and Treaties 102. The request came from the corporation to the SFNEDN in efforts to boost the company’s readiness as it prepares to compete for First Nations human resources. “The business community is facing a serious labour skills shortage, especially in the manufacturing sector” said Milton Tootoosis,

“The business community is facing a serious labour skills shortage, especially in the manufacturing sector” said Milton Tootoosis, Director of Livelihood for the OTC. “As part of the strategy to integrate more First Nations into mainstream business, we believe it is imperative that the senior management teams be introduced to First Nations culture, history, the Treaties and Policies as a first step.

Director of Livelihood for the OTC. “As part of the strategy to integrate more First Nations into mainstream business, we believe it is imperative that the senior management teams be introduced to First Nations culture, history, the Treaties and policies as a first step” he added. “The participants were quite surprised, in fact some were shocked, to learn what just



happened over the past hundred plus years since settlers arrived” add Tootoosis. A quick survey of the participants confirmed that their education did not include this side of Canada’s story. The Treaties 102 section was an abbreviated description of the developments over that past three decades. Treaties 102 was an effort to educate the participants about the more positive developments in Indian country. There was focus on the institutional developments, entrepreneurial success and an overview of some the country’s leading “Nation Rebuilders”, a term coin-phrased by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. The participants were very pleased to hear that due to good strong leadership and effective governance some First Nations are in the process of creating better educational and economic outcomes for their citizens. There was also a summary presented of some of the country’s leading corporate champions such as Syncrude Canada, Cameco, the City of Saskatoon and K + S Potash and their commitment to aboriginal

procurement policy. There was specific emphasis made by Tootoosis that there is an urgent need for more corporations to step into that small circle of champions if we, as a society, are to create more responsible economic opportunities. The demographic shift, or “labour market tsunami” as some have called it, is an opportunity to do the right thing now or pay the costs of the status quo later. It is evident that Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems Canada Ltd. has taken a major step forward as it commits itself and works hard at positioning itself as a company that is not only here in Treaty Six territory for profit, but here to benefit First Nations people by creating excellent career opportunities. Strategy development talks between the company, the OTC and SFNEDN are ongoing.

First Nations Winter Games is an opportunity for communities to support the young people who are stretching their physical and psychological limits to bring home a medal for their tribal council. Reflecting the spirit of Treaties 4 and 6, the Saskatoon Tribal Council male midget team worked together merged a strong team spirit to bring the gold medal home. Congratulations to the team and fans who filled the stands at Art Hauser Arena with good noise.



L to r – Peter Prebble (Writer) The Commissioners Harry Lafond (OTC), Dr. Marcia McKenzie (OTC), Willard Metzger (Mennonite Church of Canada), missing Maria Campbell (Author), Mark Bigland-Pritchard (Presenter)

CLIMATE CHANGE CITIZEN'S HEARING (Saskatchewan)

April 27, 2014 - Report released to the public

Commissioners: Maria Campbell, Harry Lafond, Marcia McKenzie and Willard Metzger

Excerpt “Rose Richardson (Metis Elder from Green Lake) reported that extreme storms, never seen before in her area, are affecting ecosystems. Large forest areas have blown down with increases of plow winds, damaging the nesting and breeding grounds of animals and destroying many plants that rely on an upper canopy to survive. This includes damage to some small plants used in traditional medicine.

Recommendation 10: “Climate change cannot be addressed without full cooperation and leadership of local, provincial, First Nations, Metis and national governments. Citizens urgently need their elected representatives at each level of government to work together to establish good climate policy...



Photo Credit: Dawn Deguire (Saskatoon Tribal Council)

CHIEF MISTAWASIS TREATY 6 MEDAL REPATRIATED - May 9, 2014 – Mistawasis F. N. Treaty Day



Photo Credit: Dawn Deguire (Saskatoon Tribal Council)

Chief Darrel Watson presented the repatriated Treaty 6 Medal that once belonged to Chief Mistawasis to the members of Mistawasis F.N. during the opening ceremonies of their annual treaty day.



Virginia Pechawis

This event is of special significance to the Crees who signed Treaty 6 at Fort Carlton for “Ahtahkakoop and Mistawasis were the most influential chiefs in the Fort Carlton District.” (D. Christensen. Ahtahkakoop. P. 219). Given the opportunity, the spirit of Mistawasis’ leadership can continue its work through the stories that can be told with his medal.

ELBOW, SASK. UNVEILS JOE FAFARD HARMONY AND PEACE SCULPTURE - May 17, 2014

Rich in the stories of indigenous peoples trekking through the valleys of the Saskatchewan and Qu’Appelle Rivers, the people of Elbow gathered to honour their history and the need for peace and harmony. The OTC was invited to tell the Treaty 6 story. Elder Edward Baldhead was offered cloth and tobacco to pray with his pipe and ask for blessing on the two teepees erected in the community park. The teepees form an ideal backdrop to the sculpture that captures the spirit of Treaty 6.



Center: Elder Edward Baldhead



Dean and Elizabeth Price
Residents of Elbow

CONGRATULATIONS BILL!!!

The Honourable William (Bill) McKnight PC

The Honourable William (Bill) McKnight, P.C., was born and raised in Wartime, Saskatchewan. He is fundamentally a farmer, entrepreneur, and a servant of the public. His prairie roots shaped him and his values. His lifetime of work is a reflection of these roots and values. Mr. McKnight was in public life from 1979 to 1993 serving as a Member of Parliament for Kindersley-Lloydminster. He served as minister in seven federal ministries: Labour, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Western Economic Diversification, National Defence (during the first Gulf War), Agriculture, and Energy, Mines and Resources. Some of his accomplishments during this time included: representing Canada at First Ministers' conferences, NATO, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and UN proceedings; negotiating the Husky Oil Bi-Provincial Upgrader and the \$6-billion Hibernia Offshore Oil Project; serving as the first minister of the Department of Western Economic Diversification; and negotiating land claims settlements in the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Saskatchewan.

Mr. McKnight's values and roots are reflected most profoundly in what he considers the touchstone accomplishment of his career – the 1992 Saskatchewan Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement. Currently 2.5 million acres of land have been identified which will greatly enhance the economic opportunities for First Nations in Saskatchewan. Through it, an old obligation was fulfilled. It helped to move Saskatchewan from a dark period in its relations with First Nations to one where they were given the opportunity to transform their own futures. This is a reflection of Mr. McKnight's core values – seize the opportunities that present themselves, or provide opportunities for others so they can seize their own futures.

As the Treaty Commissioner for the Province of Saskatchewan from 2007 to 2012, Mr. McKnight was appointed and mandated by Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to assist with Treaty implementation. As Commissioner, he oversaw the curriculum addition of a resource guide for teachers of kindergarten through Grade 12 to teach about treaties in all Saskatchewan schools. Since leaving public life in 1993, Mr. McKnight has been active in the private sector. He is founding board member and current chair of the Golden Opportunities Fund and director of several public and private companies. Mr. McKnight is the honorary Chief of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, a reflection of the high regard and respect accorded him by the Aboriginal Community.

Mr. McKnight resides in Saskatoon with his wife, Bev. They have two children, Rob and Torrie.

CALENDAR

Tansi, Boozhoo, Aneen! My name is Lyndon J. Linklater and I am very proud to be a member of the OTC Speakers' Bureau. Just a bit about myself: I was appointed to the Speakers' Bureau in 2000 and I really enjoy the work we do.

April 10, 2014 Conflict Resolution Peace Building Workshop I learned a very interesting thing about myself at this conference. OTC was asked to give a perspective on what they do in terms of Conflict Resolution and Peace Building. One of the "weapons" I use in my presentations is storytelling. I use this to educate and to enlighten people about Treaty. I told the participants about how OTC was successful in addressing the outstanding land issues when the TLE agreement was made..., I talked about the Speakers' Bureau and about how teaching Treaties in the classroom is now compulsory in all Saskatchewan schools and different personal stories I use to accentuate Treaty. I also explained about how the different departments at OTC all work together to educate and bring awareness about our Treaties to the Saskatchewan public. I talked for about 45 minutes and answered questions from the audience. When I finished, the moderator thanked me and called me a Peace Builder! I never thought about the work we do in this context but the more I thought about it, I realized how very true it is! It reminded me about the idea one of my OTC colleagues (Jennifer Heimbecker) shared with me a few years ago. She used the analogy of the work we do as being "Treaty Warriors". So, in closing, I would like to combine the ideas I learned from the Conference and OTC and "invent" the notion of being a "Disciple of Treaty"! Eckosi!



GEORGE E. LAFOND

Treaty Commissioner
of Saskatchewan



HARRY LAFOND

Executive Director



JENNIFER HEIMBECKER

Speakers Bureau and Special
Projects Coordinator



MILTON TOOTOOSIS

Director of Livelihood/Economic
Independence



APRIL ROBERTS

Economic Development
Coordinator

JULY 18

Join OTC in celebrating Nelson Mandela

International Day

JULY 31, AUGUST 1, 7 & 8

OTC Summer Day Camps

AUGUST 14-16

Be sure to visit the OTC Pavilion at FOLKFEST

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16

The 3rd Annual Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development forum. Forum registration contact: April Roberts

E aroberts@otc.ca T (306) 667-5661 F (306) 667-5654

Golf tournament registration contact: receptionist@otc.ca

T (306) 244-2100

twitter.com/SFNEDN

facebook.com/groups/ecdevnetwork
www.sfnedn.com

OCTOBER 15-17

The 2nd Indigenous Economic Partnership Summit in Lloydminster – Oct. 15-17, 2014... Contact reception@otc.ca or (306) 244-2100

