

**Okanagan Indian Band**

**Senk'lip News**



*"Ensuring the Future through Cultural, Social and Economic Development."*

**Community Development Division  
Major Projects Report**

*Submitted by Bob Osborne*

**Capital Projects Update:**

Community Development has received approval and funding for the Round Lake Water System Upgrade and a well is currently being drilled. The amount received for this feasibility study is just over \$67,000.00. Approval has also been received for the Salmon River Water System upgrade feasibility. The proposal for the Bradley Creek/Six Mile water systems upgrade has been forwarded to INAC by Urban Systems for their approval.

The Band has been approved for 20 additional housing units for 2006. Funding for these units will facilitate the building of a 15 unit apartment building in Duck Lake and a 5 unit assisted living complex at the Head of the Lake. The necessary paper work is being prepared to get these projects underway.

**Comprehensive Community Plan:**

Bob Osborne and Allan Louis attended a workshop on February 17th in Vancouver to finalize changes to the CCP Tool Kit along with other participating Bands. The tool kit will be available to other BC First Nations who are preparing to enter the process.

**Fire Hall Equipment/HOL Fire Hall:**

The Community Development Division has forwarded a complete list of necessary equipment for the Fire Department to INAC. During the meeting on December 15th the equipment list was provided to Frank Gelinas again and Frank promised to follow up on the request.

**Health Centre/Administration Building Complex:**

A briefing note is before Council regarding this building project.

**Property and Utility Taxation Information:**

The Final Report has been forwarded to Council for action.

**Ministry of Transportation Discussions on Road Access and Tenure Issues:**

The band has an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation with associated funding to discuss road safety, access and tenure issues. It is hoped that discussions can start early in February.

**Canada Post Civic Addressing:**

The Community Development Division met with Rick Ould of Canada Post and gave him all of the information he needed to proceed with his part of the project. Community Development has been notified that they will be moving ahead with civic addressing during June and July 2006.

**Housing Rent Collections and Evictions:**

Community Development is meeting with the credit bureau collections to lay out the next steps in collecting the rental arrears.

**Phase 17 Housing:**

The Community Development Division has received a Conditional Commitment of Subsidy from Canada Mortgage and Housing for the next phase of housing. The Band has been approved for six housing units.

**Six Mile Creek Dump Closure:**

The final report on the Closure of Six Mile Creek Dump has been forwarded to INAC by Kala Groundwater. It is anticipated that funding will be forthcoming in the next few months so the Band can finalize the closing of the Dump.

**Six Mile Creek Sub-Division:**

INAC has approved this project and added it to the capital project list. Urban Systems has submitted an application for funding to INAC to proceed with the Sub

**CONTENTS**

- Pg. 2: Recreation, Education, Cultural and Social Fund
- Pg. 3/4: Memo Re: Burial Sites on Reserve
- Pg. 5: Social Development Division
- Pg. 6/7: Snc'c'amala?tn School
- Pg. 8: ECE Program  
Okanagan Cultural Program
- Pg. 9: Misc. Postings
- Pg. 10: Okanagan Foster Parents Association  
Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord
- Pg. 11: Misc. Postings
- Pg. 12: Sadies Walk/Misc Postings

Okanagan Indian Band  
12420 Westside Road, Vernon BC, V1T 7Z3

*continued on page 2...*

*continued from page 1...*

Division.

### 911 Emergency Services Project:

The Community Development Division met with the North Okanagan Regional District and is waiting for a draft agreement which will be forwarded to Community Development and then be brought to committee. It will take approximately 3 months for 911 to take affect once the agreement has been signed.

### Renovations:

Community Development has applied for six renovations and is

awaiting inspection of six completed renovations. Money has not been forwarded from INAC for renovations as of yet.

### Meetings with Other Developments:

Community Development has met with the City, Ministry of Transportation and the Regional District regarding upcoming changes to Roads within the City of Vernon. The City is attempting to keep the Band informed on all potential changes and development within the Municipal limits. Regular meetings are scheduled with the City of Vernon's Planning Department regarding Developments within the City's Boundaries. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23rd.

## Recreation, Education, Cultural and Social Fund

### OKIB Policies and Procedures

Approved February 14, 2006 - In effect April 1, 2006

#### Section 7.0.0.0

#### 7.0.0 Purpose:

The purpose of the Recreation, Education, Cultural and Social (RECS) Fund Policy is to establish guidelines for Okanagan Indian Band members to access and to secure funds for recreation, education, culture and social activities.

#### 7.0.1 Funding Sources:

**7.0.1.1** Okanagan Indian Band Council will ensure that the Education program and the Social Development Program budgets an annual contribution to the R.E.C.S. Fund subject to availability of funds.

**7.0.1.2** Okanagan Indian Band Council will contribute funds from revenue on an annual basis to the R.E.C.S. Fund, a maximum of \$5,000.00 per fiscal year.

**7.0.1.3** Okanagan Indian Band Council will ensure that all donations will be automatically contributed to the R.E.C.S. Fund; this will include the SRI Funds.

**7.0.1.4** At the beginning of each fiscal year the finance department and the Social Development Division will develop an annual budget for the R.E.C.S. Fund. All funds received will be divided into two funding categories with 75% of budget to the youth and the children category (ages: 0 to 18 years of age) and 25 % of the budget to the adult category (19 years and older).

#### 7.0.2 Criteria for Application:

The R.E.C.S. Fund will receive applications from the membership

each fiscal year. All "Applications for the R.E.C.S. Fund" must be fully completed with the following information attached:

**7.0.2.1** Only Okanagan Indian Band members can apply for R.E.C.S. Funds. Applicants must live on the Okanagan Indian Reserve or in the Vernon area.

**7.0.2.2** An individual, group or team submission must be of good financial standing with no monies owed to the Okanagan Indian Band. Band members owing money to the Okanagan Indian Band will not be eligible to receive donations.

NOTE: Children are exempt from this clause as they are not responsible for their parents' debts.

**7.0.2.3** A group or team shall be a recognized and established entity by the Okanagan Indian Band for at least two years.

**7.0.2.4** A group or team shall be comprised of a majority of Okanagan Indian Band members. The names of all the individuals in the team or group requesting funding must be provided (both band members and non-band members).

**7.0.2.5** Individual applicants will be limited to one application per year, if the applicant received funding with a team the total allocation to the team will be divided equally among the band members and that portion will be deducted from the eligible donation of \$250.00.

**7.0.2.6** An individual or group will be assessed based on the need of the proposed project and must demonstrate that no other funding sources are available. It is incumbent on the

applicant to demonstrate that he/she does not qualify for other funding.

**7.0.2.7** An individual, group or team making application shall demonstrate on a financial statement their request from the R.E.C.S. Fund does not exceed 50% of the total project cost.

**7.0.2.8** Children or student sports teams may make application and are eligible for equipment and/or registration fees; however the amount of the contribution will be limited to 50% of the cost of equipment and/or registrations. Additionally, children may apply to the National Child Benefit fund for additional support. The NCB program is an income based program, applicants must demonstrate need. Eligibility is subject to 7.0.2.5.

**7.0.2.9** Children and students from low income and one parent families may be eligible for 100% cost of recreation equipment. Family must demonstrate low income as per Income Assistance; Unemployment Insurance Benefits or minimum wage employment with no other sources of income.

**7.0.2.10** Contributions for tuition or registration for training and/or workshops for individual applicants will be limited to a 50% donation, to a maximum of \$250.00.

#### 7.0.3.0 Procedure for R.E.C.S. Funding

**7.0.3.1** Graduation bursaries will be paid out in June of each year; the number of High School and Post Secondary graduates will be divided equally between the budget amount of \$6000.00. The Education

Department will be responsible for providing a list of graduate students no later than the 1st of May each year.

**7.0.3.2** R.E.C.S. Funding will be divided into a children and youth category (age 0-18) and an adult category (19 years and older).

**7.0.3.3** The applications are determined on a first come first serve basis and subject to 7.0.2.5.

**7.0.3.4** The application form must be filled out fully and include required information and financial documentation.

**7.0.3.5** Supporting documentation to verify the expenses incurred for the activity must be attached (include documentation of activity, poster and registration).

**7.0.3.6** A Financial Statement must accompany application.

**7.0.3.7** A cheque will be made out to individuals on the following conditions:

- ~ Applications are approved.
- ~ Receipts are provided within thirty days of the activity if receipts are not received further funding will not be provided.

**7.0.3.8** Applications are under the authority of the Social Development Division Manager and the Finance Department subject to the availability of funds.

**7.0.3.9** The Finance Department will monitor the budget and the annual expenditures. The Social Development Division Manager will provide a quarterly financial statement to Chief and Council.

**The following is a memorandum, dated March 2, 2006, from the Bands legal counsel regarding burial sites on reserve. This subject is under review for bylaw development and will be an item in the next Band meeting. Any comments on this subject are appreciated.**

**DONOVAN & COMPANY MEMORANDUM TO:** Chief and Council, Okanagan Indian Band  
**FROM:** Sophia Nishimoto  
**DATE:** March 2, 2006  
**RE:** Burial Sites on Reserve

## I. INTRODUCTION

I have been asked to provide a legal opinion on the following questions relating to burial sites on-reserve:

1. Who has legal custody of a deceased member's remains?
2. Who has legal control of burial sites located on locatee/certificate-of-possession lands ("locatee lands")?

The answers to these questions depend in large part on the extent to which federal or provincial laws apply to these issues.

In general, the federal government has exclusive jurisdiction to pass laws relating to "Indians and Lands reserved for the Indians" pursuant to s.91(24) of the Constitution Act. Provincial laws of general application (i.e. that do not affect Indian rights, status or capacities) apply to Indians and Indian reserves as long as they do not conflict with federal laws on the same subject matter. Where provincial laws of general application do affect Indian rights, status or capacities, s.88<sup>1</sup> of the Indian Act makes these laws applicable to Indians as long as they do not conflict with federal laws on the same subject matter.<sup>2</sup> The applicability of such provincial laws to matters relating to reserve lands is less clear as s.88 of the Indian Act only refers to Indians and not to lands reserved for Indians.<sup>3</sup> However, courts in British Columbia have held that provincial laws that impact upon the Indian right to the possession and use of reserve lands do not apply as they fall outside the scope of s.88 of the Indian Act.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the overriding principle to keep in mind when considering the applicability of provincial laws to

burials and cemetery plots on-reserve is that, if there are federal laws (including Band by-laws) governing the situation, provincial laws that conflict with the federal laws will not apply.

It is my understanding that the Okanagan Indian Band does not currently have any written policy or by-law in place relating to burials on-reserve.

## II. WHO HAS LEGAL CUSTODY OF THE DECEASED'S REMAINS?

There is nothing in the Indian Act or any other federal legislation governing the custody of the remains of a deceased Band member. Section 42 of the Indian Act provides that "all jurisdiction and authority in relation to matters and causes testamentary" is vested exclusively in the Minister of Indian Affairs to be exercised subject to and in accordance with regulations approved by the Governor in Council. However, neither the estate administration section of the Indian Act nor the Indian Estates Regulation contains a provision specifically relating to the custody of a Band member's remains. As such, insofar as this issue does not involve an interest in reserve land, provincial legislation will likely apply.

Section 5 of the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, SBC 2004, c.35 gives control over the disposition of a deceased's remains to the following persons, in order of priority:

- a. the personal representative named in the will of the deceased;
- b. where there is no will:
  1. the spouse of the deceased<sup>5</sup>;
  2. an adult child of the deceased;
  3. an adult grandchild of the deceased;
  4. a parent of the deceased;
  5. an adult sibling of the deceased;
  6. an adult nephew or niece of the deceased;
  7. an adult kin of the deceased<sup>6</sup>;
  8. a government appointed administrator<sup>7</sup>; and
  9. an adult person having a personal or kinship relationship with the deceased other than

those referred to above.

Any person claiming that he or she should be given the sole right to control the disposition of a deceased's human remains may apply to the Supreme Court of British Columbia for an order regarding that right.<sup>8</sup> When hearing such an application, the Supreme Court must have regard to the rights of all persons having an interest and, without limitation, give consideration to:

1. the feelings of those related to, or associated with, the deceased, giving particular regard to the spouse of the deceased;
2. the rules, practice and beliefs respecting disposition of human remains followed or held by people of the religious faith of the deceased;
3. any reasonable directions given by the deceased respecting the disposition of his or her human remains; and
4. whether the dispute that is the subject of the application involves family hostility or a capricious change of mind respecting the disposition of the human remains.<sup>9</sup>

If a Supreme Court makes an order in favour of the applicant seeking control, that person is deemed to be at the top of the priority list.<sup>10</sup>

## III. WHO HAS LEGAL CONTROL OF BURIAL SITES ON LOCATEE LANDS?

This issue relates to control over the disposition of the remains of a deceased Band member and, in particular, where the deceased may be interred or buried. There is nothing in the Indian Act or any other federal legislation directly governing this issue.

Section 18(2) of the Indian Act provides that the Minister of Indian Affairs may authorize the use of lands in a reserve for the purpose of "Indian burial grounds", and may take any lands in a reserve required for this purpose. This section suggests that the Minister's approval is required to use reserve lands, including locatee lands, as burial grounds. There are no regulations, however, relating to the control and management of Indian burial grounds.<sup>11</sup>

In contrast, there are a number of

provincial enactments that regulate all aspects of the disposal of human remains, including the following restrictions:

- a person must not dispose of human remains at any place in British Columbia other than by interment in or on land against which there is a certificate of public interest registered (licensed cemetery)<sup>12</sup>, or in or on crown land that is reserved for interment purposes;<sup>13</sup>
- with the approval of the director<sup>14</sup>, human remains may be disposed of at the place where the person dies if the person dies at a remote location in British Columbia, and it is impossible or impracticable to remove the remains of the person from that location to a cemetery, mausoleum or crematorium;<sup>15</sup>
- a written preference by a deceased person respecting the disposition of his or her human remains is binding on the person who, under section 5, has the right to control the disposition of those remains if the preference is stated in a will or funeral services contract, and compliance with the preference would not be unreasonable or impracticable or cause hardship;<sup>16</sup>
- an operator of a cemetery must not dispose of human remains unless the operator is authorized to do so under the Vital Statistics Act (burial permit)<sup>17</sup>, and the operator has received authorization from the person who, under section 5, has the right to control the disposition of the human remains;<sup>18</sup>
- a container to enclose human remains must meet the following requirements:
  - o it must have sufficient strength to contain and move human remains;
  - o it must be capable of being closed so that the public is not able to see the human remains;
  - o it must be constructed so that it does not leak or otherwise cause a hazard to any person's health; and
  - o it must be rigid;<sup>19</sup>
- an operator of a cemetery must not exhume or disinter human remains from the cemetery until the operator receives a written request to do so from the person who, under section 5, has the

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right to control the disposition of the remains, the director's approval, and, if applicable, the medical health officer's permission;<sup>20</sup>

- the director's approval for exhumation or disinterment is not required if human remains are to be disinterred from one lot and interred in another lot in the same cemetery;<sup>21</sup>
- human remains must be transported in vehicles meeting certain requirements;<sup>22</sup> and
- exhumed or disinterred human remains must be sealed in a container that prevents any seepage of fluids or escape of gases or offensive odours.<sup>23</sup>

Thus, the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act and Regulation controls all aspects of the burial of human remains including what lands may be used for burial purposes.<sup>24</sup> The question is whether these provincial laws apply to burial sites on-reserve including those on locatee lands. If they apply, locatees would need to obtain a permit from provincial authorities to establish family cemetery plots on their lands, and to exhume or disinter human remains.

In my opinion, insofar as these provincial regulations relate to the possession and use of reserve lands, they do not apply to the burial of human remains on-reserve. Provincial authorities do not have any regulatory authority, in my view, over the use of Band lands or locatee lands for burial purposes.

On the other hand, provincial laws relating to health and safety issues (e.g. transportation and coffin requirements) would likely apply, as these laws do not relate to the use of reserve lands, and there are no federal laws applicable to these issues.

#### IV. POWERS OF THE BAND COUNCIL

It is clear that the Minister of Indian Affairs has jurisdiction over the regulation of burial grounds on-reserve. As set out above, s.18(2) of the Indian Act suggests that authority is required from the Minister of Indian Affairs to use reserve lands for the purpose of "Indian burial grounds". As there are, however, no federal laws relating to the control and man-

agement of on-reserve burial plots and provincial laws do not apply, there appears to exist a regulatory gap, especially with respect to burial sites on locatee lands.

With respect to cemeteries on Band land, there is no doubt regarding the Band Council's power to manage them and to regulate how burials, exhumations and disinterment are to take place. For family cemetery plots on locatee lands, however, it is my opinion that, in the absence of a by-law on the subject matter, the Band Council does not have regulatory authority over them. It would therefore appear that locatees have control of burials on their lands, subject to any order of the Minister of Indian Affairs.

Section 81 of the Indian Act provides that the Band Council may make by-laws for the following purposes, among others:

- to provide for the health of residents on the reserve and to prevent the spreading of contagious and infectious diseases (s.81(a));
- the dividing of the reserve or a portion thereof into zones and the prohibition of the construction or maintenance of any class of buildings or the carrying on of any class of business, trade or calling in any zone (s.81(g));
- with respect to any matter arising out of or ancillary to the exercise of powers under this section (s.81(q)); and
- the imposition on summary conviction of a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding thirty days, or both, for violation of a by-law made under this section (s.81(r)).

In my opinion, a by-law regulating the disposition of human remains on-reserve, including the use of locatee lands for burial purposes, could be enacted pursuant the above-noted subsections of s.81 of the Indian Act.

The development of a Band interment by-law requires careful consideration of the following issues:

- Health and safety. The improper transportation and disposition of human remains could be hazardous to the health and safety of the membership. Regulations prohibiting or restricting poten-

tially hazardous activities would be required.

- Environmental concerns. The use of reserve lands for burial grounds under s.18(2) Indian Act triggers an assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.<sup>25</sup> Similarly, the certification and licensing of provincial cemeteries requires an assessment of the suitability of the proposed interment site under provincial legislation.<sup>26</sup> This highlights the importance of an environmental assessment of proposed cemetery plots, including those on locatee lands, to ensure the security of burial sites against erosion and other environmental concerns.
- Land use planning. Under provincial laws, it is contemplated that once a cemetery is certified as such, it will be a place of interment in perpetuity.<sup>27</sup> This is necessary to ensure the security of burial sites against development and land use changes. Burial sites on locatee lands may require similar protection in the event of a transfer or sale of the lands to a non-family member.

If an interment by-law is passed by Band Council, a copy must be sent to the Minister of Indian Affairs within four days after it is made. The by-law will come into force forty days after a copy is sent to the Minister, unless it is disallowed by the Minister before then.<sup>28</sup>

#### V. CONCLUSION

In summary, provincial laws relating to who has control of the disposition of human remains indicates that, in the absence of a will, the deceased's spouse and adult children have priority of control.

With respect to burial sites on locatee lands, it appears that locatees currently have control of cemetery plots on their land, subject to any order that may be made by the Minister of Indian Affairs. While the Indian Act suggests that the Minister's authority is required to establish burial grounds on-reserve, there is currently no regulation specifically imposing this or any other requirement with respect to burials on locatee lands.

Provincial laws relating to coffin requirements, restrictions with

respect to transportation of human remains, and other health-related regulations would appear to apply to all on-reserve burials.

The uncertainty over what laws do or do not apply to burial sites on-reserve can be resolved by developing and implementing an interment by-law which reflects the community's values and long-term goals.

<sup>1</sup> Section 88 of the Indian Act provides that, subject to the terms of any treaty and any other Act of Parliament, all laws of general application from time to time in force in any provinces are applicable to and in respect of Indians in the province, except to the extent that those laws are inconsistent with this Act or any order, rule, regulation or by-law made thereunder, and except to the extent that those laws make provision for any matter for which provision is made under this Act.

<sup>2</sup> Dick v. R., [1985] 2 S.C.R. 309.

<sup>3</sup> In Derrickson v. Derrickson (1985), 26 D.L.R. (4th) 175 at 184 (S.C.C.), the Supreme Court of Canada did not have to decide whether s.88 of the Indian Act made applicable provisions of the provincial Family Relations Act to the division of an interest in reserve land because the Court found that, even if the provincial legislation were to be incorporated by s.88, the provincial laws were inconsistent with the Indian Act and, thus, did not apply to the possession of lands on-reserve.

<sup>4</sup> Surrey v. Peach Arch Ent. Ltd. (1970), 74 W.W.R. 380 (B.C.C.A.); Matsqui Indian Band v. Bird (1992), [1993] 3 C.N.L.R. 80 (B.C.S.C.); Paul v. British Columbia (Forest Appeals Commission), [2001] 7 W.W.R. 105, 2001 BCCA 4111 (B.C.C.A.).

<sup>5</sup> "Spouse" includes a person who has lived and cohabited with the deceased in a marriage-like relationship for a period of at least 2 years immediately before the deceased's death.

<sup>6</sup> As determined in accordance with intestacy provisions (ss. 89 and 90) of the Estate Administration Act, RSBC 1996, c.122.

<sup>7</sup> The minister under the Employment and Assistance Act or the official administrator under the Estate Administration Act.

<sup>8</sup> Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.5(4).

<sup>9</sup> Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.5(5).

<sup>10</sup> Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.5(6).

<sup>11</sup> The Canada Parks Act and National Parks Cemetery Regulations govern the control and management of cemeteries in the National Parks of Canada.

<sup>12</sup> An operator of a place of interment must obtain a certificate of public interest, which is registered against title to the land, and a licence to operate the place of interment (Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Regulation, ss.17-18). A certificate of public interest will not be issued unless the physical characteristics of the land make it suited to be a place of interment in perpetuity (Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.24(3)).

<sup>13</sup> Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.4.

<sup>14</sup> A director under the Business Practices and Consumer Protection Act (Cremation,

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continued from page 4...

Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.1).

**15** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Regulation, s.7.

**16** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.6.

**17** Section 22 of the Vital Statistics Act, RSBC 1996, c.479, prohibits any person from burying or otherwise disposing of a body of a person who dies in British Columbia unless a burial permit in respect of the deceased has been obtained from a vital statistics registrar.

**18** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.8.

**19** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.11; Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Regulation, s.9.

**20** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.16(2).

**21** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.16(5).

**22** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Regulation, s.5.

**23** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Regulation, s.6.

**24** An application for a certificate of public interest must include, among other things, a site report by a professional engineer or geoscientist that includes a description of the site and the drainage of the site in respect to adjoining property and the soil conditions and underlying rock formations of the site, and an assessment of and recommendation about the suitability of the site for use as a burial site (Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Regulation, s.17).

**25** Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, ss.2, 5, 59; Inclusion List Regulations, ss.3 and 56.

**26** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Regulation, s.17.

**27** Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act, s.24(3).

**28** Indian Act, s.82.

## Social Development Division

**Manager, Social Development Division:** Donna M. Good Water MSW

**Director, Sn c'c'mala'tn Day Care:** Lorraine Ladan

**Director, Education:** Kevin Ned

Way'. The Social Development Division takes this opportunity to say "Limlimt" to Wally Louis for the twenty-one years of dedication and service to the community as the Drug and Alcohol Worker. Over the years Wally has provided support services to many community members experiencing hardship in their lives. In this role, Wally maintained a non-judgmental approach and loyalty to the membership and to the Health Program. We wish Wally the best in his retirement and future endeavors!

In the Health/Social Development Department, Laurie Peters will be joining the team as the Family Preservation Worker. Laurie will be working with the Social Program to assist clients. Welcome aboard Laurie.

Administratively, the Social Development Division Structure is under review, and more changes are pending. In this regard, the goal of the Social Development Division is to meet community needs and to set standards for service and service delivery. The standards will enhance administrative accountability that is transparent to the community. Transparency will ensure that the community members are aware of the services and know what service to expect from the service providers. Therefore, as means to develop capacity in the Social Development Division, some of the past administrative processes will be maintained while other processes are being added and/or changed.

A recent change in the Social/Health Department has been to the title of the Home and Community Care Coordinator, which is now the Home and Community Care Supervisor. This position is held by Ramona Louis. Another change is to the title Snc'c'amala'tn Day Care Manager, which is now the Snc'c'amala'tn Day Care Director. This position is held by Lorraine Ladan. Other changes pending are the addition and the amendment of policies. The policies include: Catering, Retirement, Criminal Record Checks and the amendment of the Volunteer Policy. In February the Recreation, Education, Cultural and Social (RECS) Fund policy was completed and approved by Chief and Council effective April 1, 2006. This policy is included in this Senk'lip addition (see page 2).

In closing, the Social Development Division is establishing a new path to work collaboratively to meet the needs of the community members. In this regard, it is imperative that our division has the capacity that is necessary to effectively and to efficiently administer services. It is my hope that the Elders and the community members will offer their support to assist us in achieving our goals. Positive Support creates wholesome healthy communities. *Limlimt, Donna M. Good Water*

## OKIB Important Notice

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) will no longer fund surveys of Individual Land Holdings.

INAC will not process for registration any transactions on Locatee lands unless the property has been surveyed and has a new legal description.

Any transactions forwarded to INAC before April 1, 2006 will be accepted with the old legal description.

Any transactions forwarded after April 1, 2006 without a new survey showing the new legal description will not be processed for registration.

INAC will not hold the transaction documents and is intending to have the documents returned to the Okanagan Band.

Chief and Council of the Okanagan Band have strongly objected to the Departments position to no longer fund surveys for Individual Land Holdings.

INAC was requested to provide funding for all surveys on Okanagan Indian Band Reserve lands but has denied the Band's request.

The Okanagan Band Chief and Council are opposed to the Departments change in policy regarding the payment of surveys for Individual Land Holdings on Reserves of the Band.

All Locatees (individual land holders) intending to divide their property now must pay a Canada Land Surveyor to provide new legal descriptions in order for INAC to register a transaction.

Any concerns with the position of INAC on this matter can be forwarded directly to Sheryl Yoner, Manager, Lands, 600-1138 Melville Street, Vancouver BC, V6E 4S3.

## Eagle Rock Aggregates



The staff at Eagle Rock Aggregates is proud of two of our "Rock" Stars who have recently completed courses to develop new skills:

Already an accomplished equipment operator, Mr. Robert P. Marchand (left) aced his Air Brake endorsement exam on March 3rd. After Bob gets his Class 1 drivers license he will be qualified to operate all of our loaders, excavator, trucks and transfer trailer. Congratulations Bob on getting no less than 100% on your exam!

Mr. Ryan Lawrence (right) graduated from a Business Administration course in the Aboriginal BEST Program, also on March 3rd. Ryan is the youngest employee at Eagle Rock Aggregates with the whole world at his feet. Ryan is a brilliant young man and we hope that someday he will apply his business skills right here at home managing operations at ERA.

# Snc'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre

Phone: (250) 545-3800 Fax: (250) 545-4553

## Snc'c'amala?tn News

Lorraine Ladan, Director

### Okanagan Book Launch

The Aboriginal Success By 6 ® Committee recently completed a book project. A book illustrating numbers, animals and colours has been developed by Eric Mitchell who was contracted for the project. The book was done in Okanagan and Shuswap as a resource to use with young children and their families and teachers to help learn the Okanagan/Shuswap languages. A CD was made to go with every book with assistance from Elders so that the proper pronunciation can be learned and practiced.

The launch of both books will be on Wednesday, April 5th.

The Shuswap book will be introduced at the People Place in Vernon at 11:00 am at the birthday party for the Aboriginal Infant Development Program through the Vernon Friendship Centre. Everyone is invited to stay for lunch.

The Okanagan book launch will take place at Head of the Lake Hall at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 5th. Pizza will be served. One hundred books in each language will be distributed (one book per family with children ages 0 – 6)

Please plan to attend and learn about this exciting language resource. The Success By 6 ® Committee hopes to undertake a second project for children with a legend in storybook form.

Success By 6 ® is a community-building initiative that has a common vision: to ensure all children receive the nurturing and care they need in their first six years, and are ready to learn and

succeed as they enter school. Success By 6 ® funds programs for children and families that include outreach, literacy, nutrition, children's play, parenting and family skills development based on individual community needs.

### Snc'c'amala?tn Closures

The entire centre will be closed on Good Friday, April 14th and will also be closed for Easter Monday, April 17th.

### skimxist Room - Infant/Toddler

Ramona Wilson - Infant/Toddler Room Supervisor

Barb Marchand - Infant/Toddler Room Assistant

Lisa Abe - Infant/Toddler Room Assistant

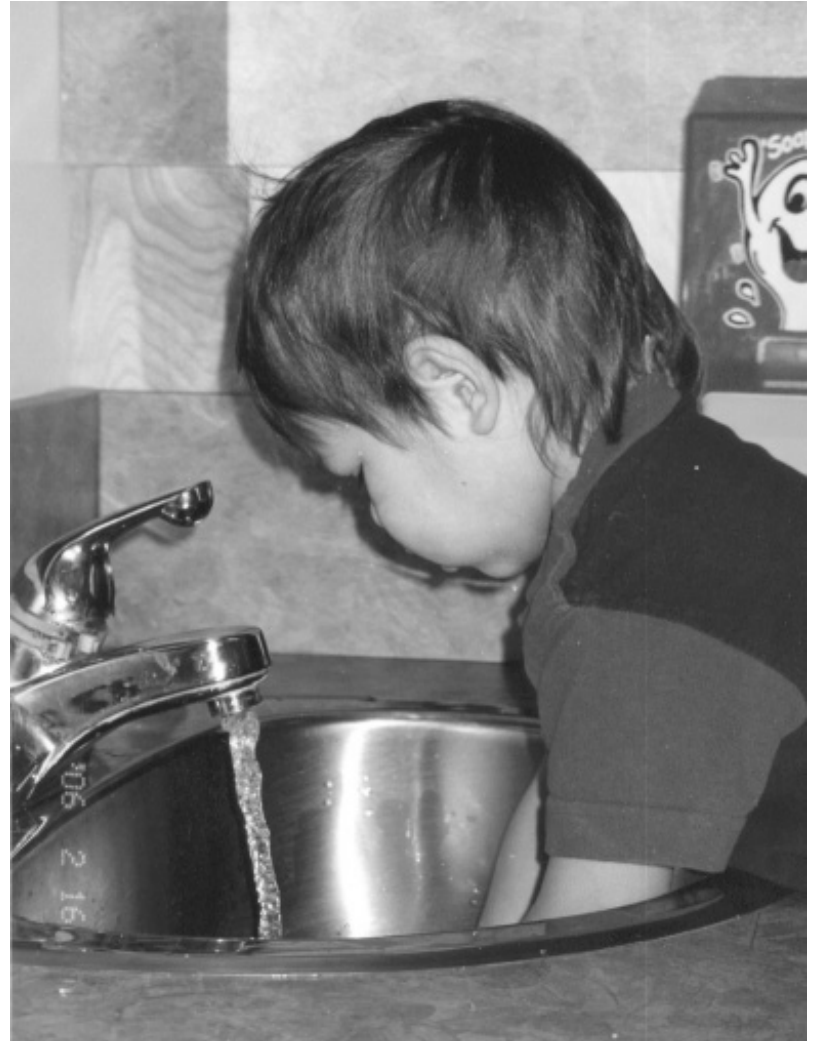
Rae Cohen - Infant/Toddler Room Assistant

Nancy Eustache - Infant/Toddler Room Assistant

Sam Louis - Infant/Toddler Room Assistant

Happy 2nd Birthday on April 5th to Hunter. Welcome to Cara Marchand-Wilson. We welcome Lisa Abe and Sam Louis to our staff and say good-bye to Courtney, Da'ud, Shelby, and Raven. Raven has graduated to the next room.

We are enjoying our time outdoors and Pwalxken and Hydaya are finally exploring our playground. Our days are busy: Qui'umqen can ride the tricycle forwards and backwards and Nathan still likes the black truck: Jayce hides buried treasures in the sandbox and digs them up again with Hunter: Kenzie likes to pretend that



Nahko washing his hands in the Infant/Toddler Room.

our fish in the tank bit her finger, she says "fish bite me". Nahko sings loudly with our small drums and Waterbird enjoys taking turns with our Xylophone; Deagan is very dramatic and quick on his feet, he likes to climb; Taylor leads our singing and she knows many songs and stories; Da'ud is very helpful and he often brings toys to the babies; Cheveyo has been crawling and walking along the furni-

### mhuya Room - 3/5 year old Daycare

Josie Ferguson - 3-5 Supervisor

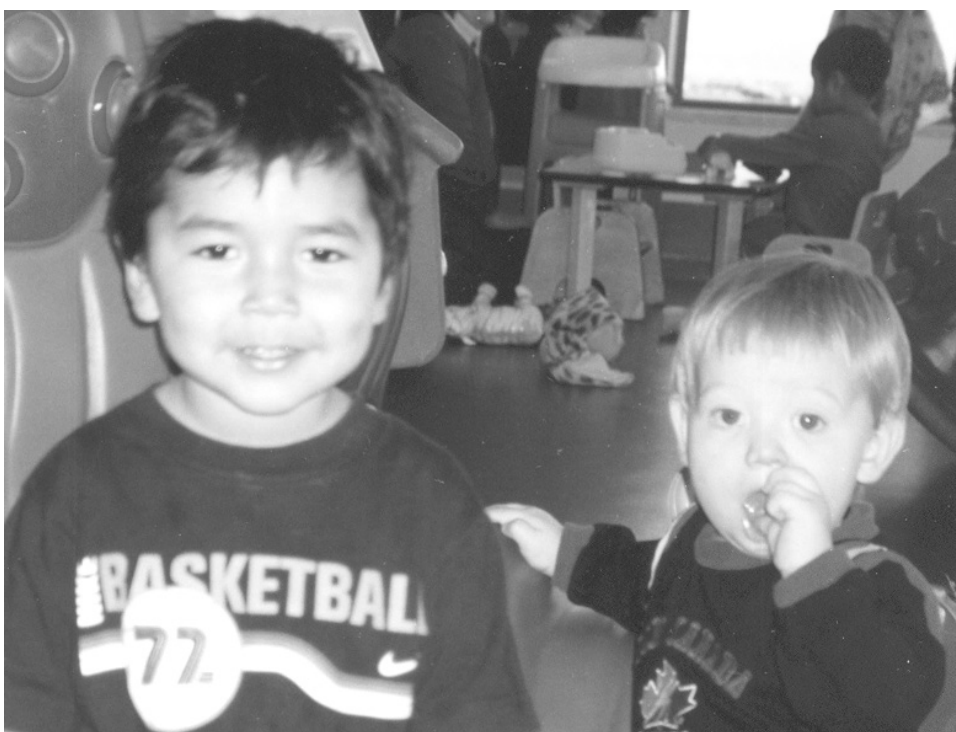
Vanessa Antoine - Head Start Coordinator

Wi from the Mhuya Room. What a busy month this has been for us. Now that the weather is warming up we try to spend lots of time outside. It's a lot of fun, except for the mud. As much as the children would love to get down and dirty in the mud, the teachers have to say no. Splash pants and gumboots sure make it easier to play outside.

This month we have done some different themes. The first one was weather, and then we did St. Patrick's Day art. Next we will be learning about dinosaurs. We are going to have tons of fun. Our monthly trip to the Vernon Library was enjoyed by all.

On February 28th we had Amanda Hogberg, an E.C.E practicum student, start in our classroom. She comes in Monday - Thursday to play with the children and learn how a program operates.

We had the Tishenko family come in from the Infant room with their baby lamb. Our children thought that was awesome!!! Thank you.



Jayce and Deagan in the Infant/Toddler Room.

Vanessa Antoine, Josie Ferguson, Maria Volansky and Luda Chirkoff

**Spəpl'ina Room - Preschool**

Susan Nelson - Preschool Supervisor  
 Donna Lewis - Preschool Assistant  
 Nancy Eustache - Special Needs Worker

Wi from the Spəplina Room. Everyone seems to have enjoyed their spring break and is happy to be back at school. We are enjoying the beautiful spring weather and learning about baby animals. Prior to Spring Break we were learning about St. Patrick's Day, the senses and our bodies. We are reviewing colours, shapes and numbers 1 to 10.

There are three birthdays in March. Happy Birthday to Jacob, Taylor and Shirley Paul. We are continuing our buddy reading on Fridays with the Kindergarten children to promote literacy and group socialization skills. We are hoping to go on a field trip to the Vernon SPCA at the end of March. So please watch for the notices in your child's backpack to be coming home soon. Hope everyone has an enjoyable spring celebrating the newness.

Susan, Donna and Nancy

**Pqəl'qin Room - Kindergarten**

Tanya Saddleman-Joe - Kindergarten Teacher  
 Trish Johnson - Kindergarten Assistant

Wi from the Pqəl'qin Room. March has been fun in the Kindergarten room. It was a month of learning new things and celebrating. We wrapped up our heart health unit with learn-

ing about healthy eating and the four food groups. We discussed "Spring" and how the month of March is a windy month, perfect for flying kites. Our focus in the last week of March will be birds. This will be a great opportunity for some fun science and art activities.

March has also been a busy month in the Kindergarten room for me. I spent the first two weeks assessing and observing the children and then writing their 2nd term report cards. Thanks to Trish and Donna for their extra help during this time. I'd also like to thank Wally Louis for coming into our classroom to speak to the children about the importance of living life 'Smoke-Free' as part of our heart health unit. The children learned that smoking and second hand smoke is not good for their hearts or lungs. Wally also shared the effects of tobacco on our teeth, fingers and bodies in general over time.

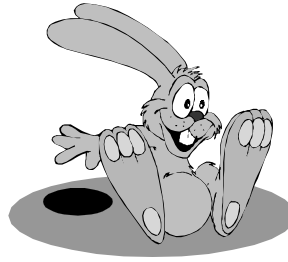
Congratulations to Vanessa Clough and Colton Goodwater-Paul for completing their 1st home reading sheet and having read a total of 30 books, way to go, keep reading! Congratulations to Reid Lawrence and Lilah Jack for completing

**Snc'c'amala?tn Early Childhood Education Centre**

Proudly announces our

**5th annual Hop-A-Thon**

Friday, April 21st, 2006  
 10:00am hopping begins



Our children here at the Centre will be out collecting donations for Muscular Dystrophy.

Your support is deeply appreciated.

Donation cans for this great cause will be at the Band buildings. Limlimpt (Thank you)

Call Joan Vedan (Hop Coordinator) for more info @ 545-3800

their 2nd home reading sheets and having read a total of 60 books this year, great reading!

Tanya Saddleman-Joe and Trish Johnson

**Secretary/Receptionist**

Joan Vedan

Wi, Spring is just around the corner, sunflowers, lilacs, and of course the sun. Our schools 5TH Annual HOP A THON is FRIDAY, APRIL 21st at 10:00 am (See below). I would like to invite our centres families and Elders to come on down and watch the babies and children bounce and laugh in their bunny ears. It's going to be a hip hopping good time!!

**Okanagan (ukanaqín) Language by Joan Vedan**

<p>1 naqs</p> <p><b>1</b></p>	<p>2 asíl</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p>3 ká?† lís</p> <p><b>3</b></p>
<p>4 mus</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p>5 cilkst</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p>6 doc um kust</p> <p><b>6</b></p>
<p>7 síspélk</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p>8 tim†</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>9 xaxanoot</p> <p><b>9</b></p>

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM to be offered in SPALLUMCHEEN

Are you interested in working with young children to help them build their skills?

Classes will take place from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm beginning September 2006. You must have successfully completed Grade 12.

Students who have completed the 10.5 month program can begin working in a daycare centre. Upon completion of 500 hours or work, they can then apply for an ECE License.

Download our full calendar or application forms from the Native Education Centre website (see right) and apply or register directly online or contact:

Deanna Leon-Cook, ECE Program Director  
SPALLUMCHEEN INDIAN BAND  
Splatsin Child Care Society  
splatsin@telus.net  
(250) 838-6404 ext. 1



## NATIVE EDUCATION CENTRE

### Certificates & Diplomas:

- Adult Basic Education
- Applied Business Technology
- Digital Filmmaking
- Elder Care
- Family Counselling
- Early Childhood Education
- Justice Studies
- Land Stewardship
- Tourism Management

For further information visit  
[www.necvancouver.org](http://www.necvancouver.org)  
or call Admissions at  
604-873-3761 ext. 328

## Okanagan Cultural Program

### -Learning the Art of Beadwork with Mona-

Just a few words to say thank you all for participating in this winter's Beading Program. You are all an inspiration for me to continue to share my knowledge that I have learned from my ancestors and other mentors of the universe, including yourselves. Just to let you know, we will continue to meet Wednesday evenings to: socialize, while learning the art of beadwork and to discuss and plan field trips regarding our traditional ways (root-digging, berry picking, basket making, etc.)

Spring has arrived! Sknirm (buttercups), smukaxen (sunflowers), sqwinqwinm (potatoes) are popping up from mother earth.

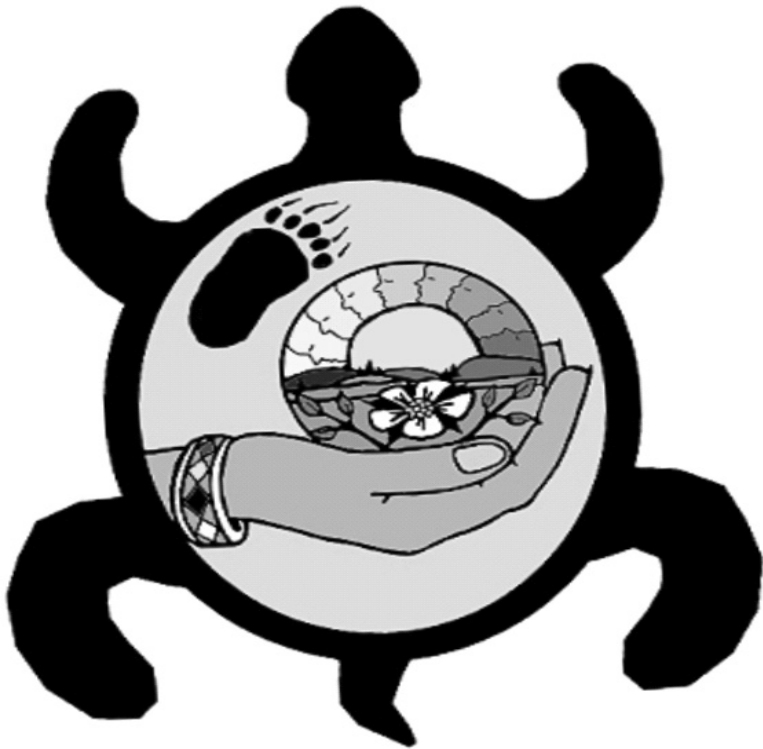
At Snc'c'amala?tn, we will also be going out on field trips to show the children these beautiful traditional plants. Some of these are edible! And of course we encourage all parents, grandparents and relatives to participate. Limlimpt.



Marie, Zena and Gail with the Instructor, Mona.

**Okanagan Nation Transition/Emergency House**

**A SAFE HOUSE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**



**"Our Women Are Our Strength"**

IF YOU ARE IN CRISIS AND NEED HELP PLEASE CALL:  
**(250) 493-4902**  
 ANY TIME OF THE DAY OR NIGHT.

**Accepting Expression of Interest for Catering**

The Okanagan Indian Band adopted a Rotation List for Caterers for Community Dinners.

If you are interested, applications are available at the Health Department.

*The Application must include the following information:*

- ~ Completed and Signed Application
- ~ Food Safe Certificate
- ~ Sample Menu for Luncheons and Dinners

**Note:** A set rate applies for luncheons (\$7.00) and Suppers (\$10.00/plate) and contractors are expected to adhere to the Band Catering Policy upon Policy Approval by Chief and Council.

**Return Packages to the Attention of:**

Donna M. Good Water  
 Social Development Division Manager  
 Health Department and  
 Okanagan Indian Band Office

**Closing Date:** April 30th, 2006



**Okanagan Indian Band  
 Employment Opportunity**

**Territorial Stewardship Division**

The following position is available:  
**On Call Labourers**

*As per exemption under Section 19 of the Human Rights Act, preference will be given to Aboriginal applicants.*

**General Summary:**

Labourers are expected to provide their own equipment (i.e.: gloves, rain gear and proper footwear).

**Qualifications, Skills and Abilities:**

- ~ Able to work outdoors in variable weather conditions;
- ~ Work in physically challenging conditions;
- ~ Work under indirect supervision;
- ~ Ability to work as part of a team;
- ~ Available to work flexible work hours;
- ~ Current BC Drivers license an asset;
- ~ Experience in working outdoors is an asset;
- ~ Preference given to Okanagan Band Members.

**Deadline for Applications:** On-going

**Potential start-date:** To be determined

**Interested candidates should forward a resume to:**

Jenny Louis, Executive Assistant  
 Territorial Stewardship Division – Okanagan Indian Band  
 Phone: 250-542-7132 Fax: 250-542-0541  
 Email: okibnrd@okanagan.org

*Only those who are screened for an interview will be contacted.*

**Senk'lip Newsletter Mail-out List**

Please fill out the form and return to the address below or by e-mail to receive your newsletter by mail.

First Name	Last Name	
Mailing Address		
City/Town	Province	Postal Code

**Mailing Information:**  
 Okanagan Indian Band  
 12420 Westside Road  
 Vernon BC V1T 7Z3  
 Email: holly.brewer@okanagan.org

Hello, my name is Sheila Ridden. I have just been hired as the "new" Coordinator of Aboriginal Service in the Kelowna and Vernon areas. I work for the Okanagan Foster Parent Association. I will be working with MCFD to recruit, support and train Aboriginal families that are interested in becoming foster parents. I will also be looking at barriers that Aboriginal people face when trying to go through the process of becoming a foster parent.

I have worked at the Ki-low-na Friendship Society for 4 1/2 years and have lived in the Okanagan for 5 years. I grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. I was a foster child until I was adopted at the age of 10. I have been married for 12 years and have 5 children. I have been a restricted foster parent for 7 years.

I look forward to working in your community.

All my relations, Sheila Ridden

**"It takes a whole community  
to raise a child!"**

**"Become a Foster Parent"**

## Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord

*Submitted by Dan Odenbach*

The Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord recently wrapped up their second round of 'One Day for Our Children' Gatherings across the B.C. Interior.

These gatherings were held in Creston, Williams Lake, Cache Creek, Kamloops and Westbank. The first 'One Day for Our Children' gatherings, held in October and November, featured an overview of the regionalization of family services and how the APFA is working to generate community participation in this landmark process.

The APFA Board of Directors believe communities know best how to take care of their children and are working towards making that happen.

The second round of gatherings in March focused on moving towards setting up Community Tables in each of the five locations. The Okanagan Table will eventually be the voice in how programs will be developed in this area.

"I'm glad we had good participation here in the Okanagan. We know there is still much work ahead of us and we will be coming back to the community to discuss this important issue in the future," said APFA Transition Coordinator Eliza Terbasket.

The Okanagan gathering, at Sensisysten House of Learning in Westbank, had participation from Osoyoos to the North Okanagan. Those in attendance were asked whether the table should consist of 10, 12 or 14 members and who did they think should be at the table. While there was no agreement as to what exactly the next steps should be, several themes were recommended.

*These themes include:*

- ~ There needs to be a process for identifying members of the 'Community Circle.' Perhaps an elders group could make final call on who sits in circle.
- ~ Rotating one-year memberships and locations for Community Tables.
- ~ Need resources to create sub-tables which would recommend reps to the community table.
- ~ Honoraria needed for table members who are not service providers.
- ~ There needs to be criteria for membership. For example; members must have a healthy lifestyle.

Gatherings in the Okanagan and Kamloops generated no concrete next steps to forming their Community Table. In Creston, Williams Lake and Cache Creek there was agreement on what would work best in their area.

"This is a long process and we want communities to decide what's right in their area," said Terbasket.

## Okanagan Foster Parents Association

**SHEILA RIDDEN**

**Coordinator of Aboriginal Services**

**Tel: (250) 707 1760 Fax: (250) 707 1746**

**#34- 2005 Boucherie Rd Westbank, BC. V4T 1R4**

### The Approval Process To Become a Foster Parent:

#### Attend an Information Session

- Great time to ask questions
- If at this time you would like to become a foster parent, then you can sign up to do the Pre-Service training

#### 6 Weeks Pre-Service Training

- No cost
- Application package can be acquired at this time; package includes reference and criminal record check
- This training is good for up to two years if you decide that this is not the time you would like to start the process of becoming a foster parent

#### Home Study

- 4-6 visits with a Social Worker

After all this is done, you are ready for a placement.

**NOTE: Within 2 years of being approved to be a foster parent you have to take the "Foster Parent Education Program"**

*Any time during this process you need support, I am here to help!  
Thank you Sheila Ridden*

## Support Group

Starting on April 06  
Time from 7:30- 9:00 PM  
At the Health Building  
Coffee available

### ***Time and start date tentative***

For further information contact Gary at the Health Building or phone 545-5094.

**CPRA VERNON PRO RODEO**  
 (Held at Louis Estates Rodeo Grounds)  
**May 6th & 7th, 2006**  
**Starts 1:00 pm**  
**Saturday & Sunday**

Concession On Site

50/50 Draws Both Days

**Announcer Al Parsons**

**Ladies Barrels**  
**Tie Down Roping**  
**Steer Wrestling**  
**Bull Riding**  
**Bare Back**  
**Saddle Bronc**  
**Team Roping**

**the Cowboys Choice**  
 ON SITE

Admission  
 General \$12.00  
 Seniors \$10.00  
 Students \$10.00  
 (Kids 6 & under Free)

Stock Contractor:  
**G+ RODEO**

**Sneakers** **Saturday May 6th**  
 SPORTS BAR  
 Cover Charge Applies  
 IN THE VILLAGE GREEN HOTEL  
**WESTERN NIGHT**

**Clowning Around**  
**Dennis Halstead**

email: vernonprorodeo@hotmail.com  
**For Information 1-250-542-4527 VERNONPRORODEO.COM**

**Mini Pow Wow**

Tuesday, April 18th, 2006

6:00pm - 7:30pm

Alexis Park Gym



**Students, Parents, Staff:**

Please join the Inter School Aboriginal Dancers and the FITS (Fulton Inter-Tribal Singers) as they get ready for our Second Annual Spring Pow Wow.

*All students and families are welcome.*

*Refreshments and Door Prizes*

**For more information or to volunteer, please contact:**

Mollie Bono at 545-7289

**2006 Spring Pow Wow**

Wednesday, April 19th, 2006

Clarence Fulton Secondary School



This evening gathering is to celebrate the completion of the Inter-School Aboriginal Dance Program and to acknowledge the hard work of students, volunteers, resource people, staff and parents. We appreciate your support. Limlimpt.

**6:00pm:** Tobacco Awareness Contest and Awards Refreshments

**6:30pm:** Grand Entry  
 Welcome and Prayer  
 Introduction to categories of dance

**DANCING**

*Introduction and recognition of:*

- ~ Fulton Inter-Tribal Singers (FITS)
- ~ Hoop Dancers
- ~ Dancers from Alexis Park, West Vernon, Harwood and Mission Hill
- ~ Resource people, volunteers and staff

**HONOUR SONG**

**8:30pm:** Closing

Please join us at this FREE event sponsored by the Aboriginal Student Support Program - School District #22 (Vernon). For more information please contact:

**Mollie Bono at 545-7289, Cathy Gottfriedsen at 545-1348, Kym Howay at 549-6971**

Contact Cathy and pre-register your Drum Group to receive a subsidy.

**www.okib.ca**

Current News - Job Postings  
 Band Member Only Area  
 Message Forum

Instructions for login and passwords for the members only area can be viewed on the website or by e-mail.

e-mail: holly.brewer@okanagan.org for instructions.



**Charles Alexander Eastman (Ohiyesa)  
Santee Sioux**

It was our belief that the love of possessions is a weakness to be overcome. Its appeal is to the material part, and if allowed its way, it will in time disturb one's spiritual balance. Therefore, children must early learn the beauty of generosity. They are taught to give what they prize most, that they may taste the happiness of giving.

If a child is inclined to be grasping, or to cling to any of his or her little possessions, legends are related about the contempt and disgrace falling upon the ungenerous and mean person...

The Indians in their simplicity literally give away all that they have to relatives, to guests of other tribes or clans, but above all to the poor and the aged, from whom they can hope for no return.

**Chief Dan George**

A man cannot be moved by a child's sorrow will only be remembered with scorn.

**Chief Dan George**

Where no one intrudes many can live in harmony.

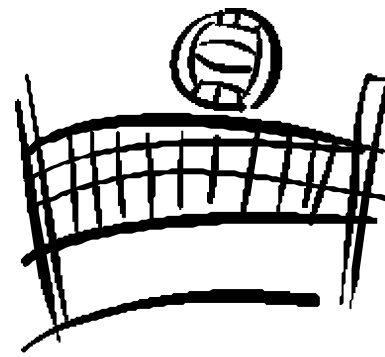
**Aboriginal Girls Provincial  
Volleyball Team**

The Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Association and Volleyball BC are creating a girls provincial volleyball team to represent our province at the North American Indigenous Games in Denver this coming July.

Girls aged 13-19 and are BC residents are eligible to try out for the team.

For more information [www.volleyballbc.ca](http://www.volleyballbc.ca) (click on Team BC then Aboriginal Sport Excellence).

Or contact Marty Donatelli at [donatellim@camosun.bc.ca](mailto:donatellim@camosun.bc.ca).



**10th Annual Sadie's Walk  
April 14th - Good Friday**

**Purpose:**

Sadie's Walk is a 7 kilometer walk in memory of Sadie and the promotion of Diabetes Prevention. The walk is from New Horizons to Parker Cove. Everyone is welcome, even if you can not participate in the walk, you are welcome to participate in other activities throughout the day.

**Proposed Itinerary**

- 9:00AM:** Sign up and prize tickets at New Horizons Building at Six Mile
- 10:00AM:** 7 kilometer walk begins at New Horizons, Six Mile to Parker/Bonneau Memorial Hall at Parker Cove
- 12:00PM:** Lunch served at Parker/Bonneau Memorial Hall
- 2:30PM:** Song by Linda Williams, Balloon Release
- 3:00PM:** Power Point presentation on 10th Annual Sadie's Walk
- 3:45PM:** Prize Draws
- 4:00PM:** Entertainment - TBA
- 5:00PM:** Supper - Provided by Parker/Bonneau Family
- 6:00PM:** Air Bands - Contact DJ Bonneau
- 8:00PM:** Open Games - Contact Cal or Mildred 542-5714



*Everyone is welcome!  
All children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.*

*Water and oranges will also be available on route.*

Transportation will be available throughout the walk for those who get tired or need a ride after the walk to pick up their vehicle at Six Mile.

**Senk'lip Submissions**

The deadline for submissions to the Senk'lip Newsletter will be the 15th of every month. Please submit all articles or other material you would like posted on or before this date. All material can be forwarded to me at the training center (next to the health building), at the Band Office, e-mailed to me at [holly.brewer@okanagan.org](mailto:holly.brewer@okanagan.org) or mailed to:



**Okanagan Indian Band  
12420 Westside Road  
Vernon, BC V1T 7Z3**

*Senk'lip News*

**Editor**  
Holly Brewer

**Chief**  
Fabian Alexis

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Reynolds Bonneau  
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Tim Isaac  
Peggy Joe  
Allan Louis  
Raymond Marchand  
Emery Robins  
Jon Spotted Eagle