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# Métis Housing offers new initiatives and new programs

By Dale Ladouceur

Last year Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, on behalf of Métis Nation of Alberta Citizens, signed a 10-year, \$500 million Métis Nation Housing Accord. The signing of this Accord will allow for Métis Nation Governments from Ontario, west to design and deliver housing services to their Citizens.

Because of this signing, the MNA's housing branch, Métis Capital Housing Corporation, has designed four new programs to support Métis families and students in need of rental supports, home repairs as well as a down payment assistance program.

As of October 15th Métis, Nation of Alberta Citizens can apply for:

**Down Payment Assistance Program**, providing up to 5% down payment to a maximum amount of \$20,000.00 per approved applicant.

**Home Repair Program**, providing a maximum of \$20,000.00 per approved applicant.

**Rental Supplement Program**, paying up to \$5400.00 per year, for a maximum of 24 months. MCHC will also pay applicant's security deposit to a maximum of \$850.00 per application.

**Rental Supplement Program for Students**, paying up to \$2400.00 per year, per approved applicant. MCHC will also pay applicant's security deposit to a maximum of \$850.00 per application.

"These are very significant programs for a lot of our families out there," enthuses Denise Fayant, Director of Housing for Calgary and southern Alberta.

"First of all, both of the Rental Supplement Programs will be a big stress release with helping our Métis students and citizens get extra support so they can maintain their current housing situation. A lot of our students and families are struggling with not only finding a place to live but with food and other necessities."

"Being a homeowner myself," Fayant continues, "and being in the same place for 17 years, things start to go. So that extra money would definitely assist a lot of our Métis homeowners out there in achieving a safer more secure home."

The person tasked with leading the design and details of these exciting new programs is the Director of Métis Capital Housing's newest department: *Strategic Initiatives*. Corrine Card has years of experience working in the housing industry and has spearheaded many pivotal housing projects and programs.

Launching four major housing programs simultaneously, however, is not for the faint of heart. There can be difficult adjustments and unforeseen challenges in the first few weeks when launching any initiative, let alone four. I spoke with Corrine Card in mid October.

*Q. How have things progressed since the announcement of the four new housing initiatives?*

A. There is much to do yet. I am getting lots of calls and many questions from people who heard the launch announcement.

*Q. We know these programs are designed to respond to the housing needs of Métis families and students, how much interest has there been so far?*

A. Oh my goodness, there has been so much interest: lots of questions, lots of excitement. We are hoping these programs can help many Métis citizens.



Corrine Card, Director of Strategic Initiatives meets with an applicant to discuss the new Metis Capital housing programs that are now available.

*Q. What is the most important message you want to get out to those interested in applying for one of these new housing programs?*

A. If these programs are not working for you, share your challenges with us. We are always looking for feedback on what our citizens needs are. Share what those needs are because if you don't, they may go unaddressed. The reality is we can't help everyone but we are going to continue to try, with these programs and future programming.

*Q. Will there be other programs launched from Strategic Initiatives in the future?*

A. Yes, absolutely. We are always looking for ideas for programming and I have other programming that I'm interested in researching further.

Regarding need, as new information becomes available to us, this will help us develop future programming to address that need.

If you have questions on these or any other programs Métis Housing offers, please check our new website at [www.metishousing.ca](http://www.metishousing.ca) which provides more details on programs & services. You can also call toll free: 1-877-458-8684.

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# Justin Trudeau is re-elected Prime Minister of Canada

amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton) – Canadians voted in the 43rd federal election on October 21 and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau won with a minority government. The Liberals won 157 seats, the Conservatives won 121, New Democrats won 24 seats, Bloc Quebecois won 32 seats, Green Party won 3 seats and there was 1 Independent seat that was won by Jody Wilson-Raybould in Vancouver Granville. In the province of Alberta, all but one seat were won by the Conservatives.

Assembly of First Nations Alberta Regional Chief Marlene Poitras issued the following statement on the results:

“I congratulate all parties, candidates and leaders on their efforts during this election campaign and, more importantly, everyone who made their voices heard at the ballot box, especially Indigenous voters. Voting allows us to elect individuals who we feel will best support honouring historic and recent promises made to First Nations.

“As Alberta Regional Chief, I am committed to working with all levels of government in promoting better partnership between them and First Nations. First Nations have a relationship with Canada’s Crown – its government – not with an individual politician or party. This is why I will continue to work with whoever is in power to advance the priorities of Treaty Six, Seven, and Eight Chiefs in my region, at their direction, and advocate on issues that matter to them.

“When this election started, we asked First Nations in Alberta what they would like to see a government focus on in the next four years. Those that responded told us they, like many across the country, want to see a government take bold steps in reversing the path toward the climate disaster we’re headed for. They also want to see Canada uphold, honour, and implement the Treaties they signed with sovereign First Nations; take meaningful action on closing the gap between First Nations and Canadians; support nation-building and First Nations’ economic sovereignty; implement the United Nations

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; realize the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action; and compensate First Nations children discriminated against in the child welfare system. I will work hard with my colleagues at the Assembly of First Nations to ensure these remain top government priorities.

“I am hopeful that the election of a hung parliament will encourage more dialogue and collaboration across party lines. As I often say, we are stronger when we work together to address the issues we all collectively face. In a world that continues to be plagued by division and polarization, I hope newly elected and re-elected Members of Parliament can work on fostering a more unified and collaborative approach to politics.

“To all Indigenous candidates that ran in this campaign, I commend you for your courage and dedication to pursue a better future for our people, and for Canadians. When democracy better reflects the voices and perspectives of society, we can succeed in creating a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow.”

AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde congratulated re-elected Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and said that he looks forward to working with the new government and all parties to advance First Nations priorities as set

out in the *Honouring Promises* agenda to build a stronger, better Canada for everyone.

“I congratulate Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Liberal party on their victory,” said AFN National Chief Bellegarde. “I look forward to meeting in the near future to advance a positive agenda for all Canadians. Over the last four years we have seen remarkable progress on First Nations issues, but progress does not equal parity.”

“We will work with all parties to address the climate crisis, safety and security for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, to lift up First Nations children and families, and to strengthen the country as a whole. First Nation priorities are Canadian priorities. I look forward to working with every Member of Parliament.”

In *Honouring Promises: 2019 Federal Election Priorities for First Nations and Canada* the AFN sets out a forward looking agenda beginning with a call for action on the global priority of climate change and preserving the natural world. It shows how to build a stronger Canada through healthy and educated First Nations citizens living in safe and secure communities, and fully participating in the economy in ways that strengthen the national economy and sustain the environment.

“There is agreement among a majority of Parliamentarians to move forward on some key priorities, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, a First Ministers Meeting on First Nations Priorities, and fully implementing legislation to strengthen Indigenous languages and protect First Nations children,” said National Chief Bellegarde. “I lift up all First Nations citizens who voted in this election and congratulate all the Indigenous candidates. We will keep pushing forward for action, for reconciliation and for results.”

For more information on First Nation priorities and *Honouring Promises*, visit [afn.ca](http://afn.ca).



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*The Assembly of First Nations is the national  
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# Western separation is a bad idea

Submitted by Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations of Alberta

(Treaty 8 Territory) - In the aftermath of the recent federal election, the talk of Alberta separating from Canada rises again and the likes of McGovern and Downing are doing stump speeches to convince Albertans and Saskatchewanians to join in their bad idea of separation of the western provinces from the rest of Canada (i.e. WEXIT). In the *National Post*, Tristin Hopper, wrote an opinion piece in which he writes "a quick guide to why a sovereign Alberta is a really, really bad plan in almost every way."

We as the Chiefs of Treaty No. 8 see it in the same light - that it is a bad idea. As Chiefs, with our united voices, and on behalf of our 22 Member Nations, with clear conscience declare we are strongly opposed to the idea of separation from Canada.

Our Nations have lived on and cared for our homelands since time immemorial. We believe our inherent rights, jurisdiction and authority flow from the Creator and our deep connection to our lands and waters. In 1899, our Nations made Treaty (Treaty No. 8) with the Crown on a Nation-to-Nation basis. As part of our Treaty, we agreed to establish a relationship of sharing of our homelands (territories), including all lands in what is now Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and North West Territories.

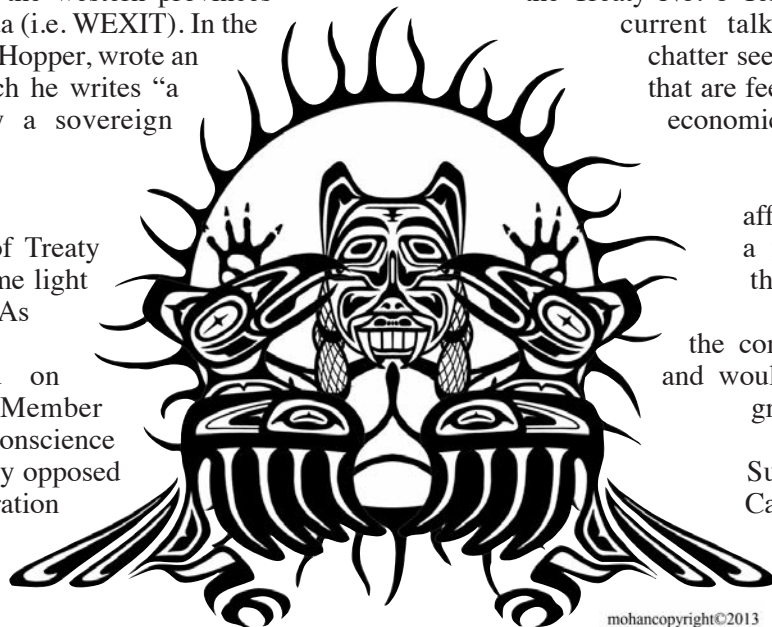
We continue to exist as sovereign Nations with the right to exercise our inherent laws and jurisdiction over our lands.

The separation of Alberta and Saskatchewan would impose an international border through the heart of the Treaty No. 8 Territory. As before, the current talks and social media chatter seem to be led by people that are feeling the effects of the economic slump which appears is not improving.

The economy affects everyone, not just a few. We believe that the silent majority of Albertans know the complexity of secession and would rather remain in a great country.

We also know that the Supreme Court of Canada has been clear that provinces cannot unilaterally declare independence from the rest

of Canada. There are many other complex processes that one cannot truly fathom until it is taken apart step by step to really see how costly secession will be for the people. On top of that, the process will have to include many years of negotiations with the federal government and with the Treaty Nations of western Canada. Legally, and in all cases, the Crown is obligated to honour and respect our Treaty and inherent rights as recognized and affirmed by the



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# Cobiness and Desmoulin on exhibit at Bearclaw: Nov. 16 – 27

“The Flowing Lines Between Generations” is a recurring theme in the stunning exhibition of new works by artists Ernest Cobiness and Jessica Desmoulin on exhibit at Bearclaw Gallery in Edmonton from November 16 to 27. Art lovers are in for a rare treat if they visit the gallery on opening day – November 16 – because the artists will be in attendance from 1 to 4 pm.

Ernest Cobiness (Wahbi-Benaise) is from the Elk Clan of the Anishinaabe Nation. He started painting as a child and was mentored by his father, the great Eddy Cobiness, founder of the Canadian “Native Group of Seven.” Ernest has painted his whole life. He is also an activist and he loves hunting, fishing, camping and attending ceremonies and gatherings. The flowing lines between the generations are of the utmost importance to him as he straddles the line between his father’s style and imagery and his own.

Ernest explains, “I was raised in Buffalo Point First Nation in Southeastern Manitoba. I am the father of 5 children and the grandfather of 10. I am the son of the late Eddy Cobiness, Founder of the Canadian “Native Group of Seven.” I never went to art school because my father was my teacher and mentor. When my father passed, my mother asked me if I could carry on this legacy. I honour my father in my work but truly have my own style. I hope one day my children and their children might continue.”

Ernest works with different media but mainly acrylics. After his father’s passing, he started practicing different line paintings of his father’s style and he combined it with his own realistic paintings. “I came up with the artwork you see today,” he notes, “kind of like the new generation style of the flowing art of Cobiness.”

Ernest is working hard to maintain the artist recognition cultivated by his father over the years. He says, “My goal in absorbing this wisdom is that I want my people to see the beauty of ourselves and our

culture with pride and dignity. I strive to succeed at this profession not only for my parents’ approval but to be a role model for my children, their children, other young artists and my people.”

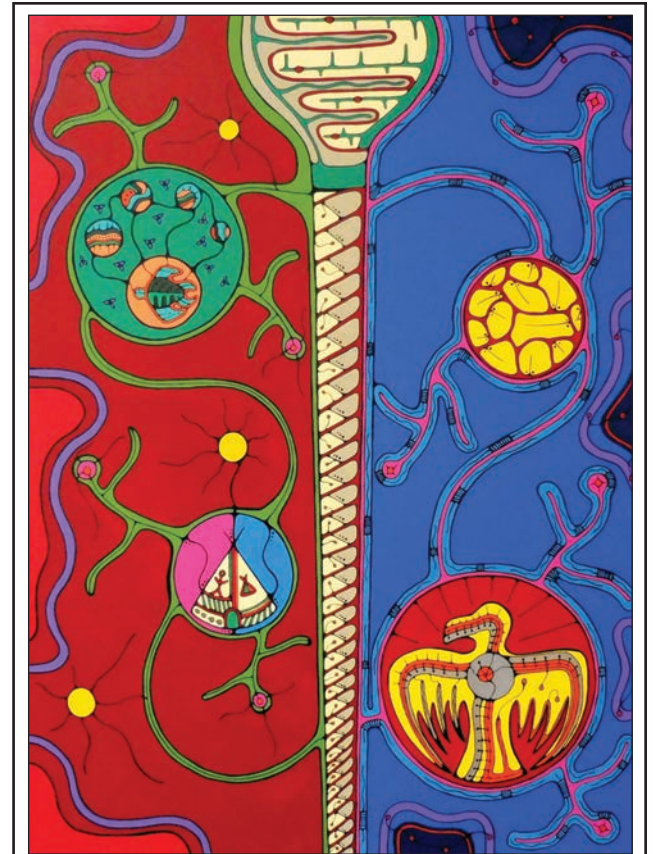
Honouring the generations is also important to Jessica Desmoulin. She was born in Saskatoon in 1978, of Ojibway lineage from the Pic River First Nation in Ontario. As a child she lived throughout Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and now resides in Edmonton.

As a young adult, and after the birth of her second child, Jessica developed an illness that left her unable to work outside the home. During this time, she took the opportunity to approach her art seriously and began to paint on canvas.

Not knowing the work of the early Ojibway Woodland artists such as Norval Morrisseau, Carl Ray and Roy Thomas, Jessica developed symbols in her work that mirrored the visual language created by these artists. Coincidentally, lines of communication, division circles and x-ray imagery began to emerge in her paintings. She feels these symbols were always inside of her, passed down from her ancestor.

“When I first began to paint, my work centered around images that came to me intuitively,” explains Jessica. “I grew up thousands of miles away from the traditions of my people, the Ojibway. One day someone pointed out the division circles in my work, the lines of communication, the outlined images that were seen in Woodland art. They made me aware that these were ancient images in the Ojibway culture. I had no idea. I was later told that what occurred was ‘Blood Memories,’ the genetic ties to the teachings of my ancestor.”

“The Flowing Lines Between Generations” will be on exhibit at Bearclaw Gallery in Edmonton from November 16 to 27. The gallery is conveniently located in the Oliver Arts District at 10403 124 Street. Check out their website at [Bearclawgallery.com](http://Bearclawgallery.com).



Pathway Home by Jessica Desmoulin



Buffalos by Ernest Cobiness



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# Indigenous veterans remembered

By Glenn Miller

The Last Post Fund's mission is to ensure no veteran is denied a dignified funeral and burial, in addition to a military gravestone due to insufficient funds at their time of death.

At the start of 2019, the Last Post Fund introduced the Indigenous Veterans Initiative, an initiative that is consistent with the Canadian government's efforts towards advancing reconciliation and renewing the relationship with Indigenous peoples based on the recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership. This initiative has two components: to provide grave markers to Indigenous veterans deceased for over 5 years and lying in unmarked graves, and to add traditional names of Indigenous veterans to existing military grave markers. Veteran's families also have the option of asking for a culturally relevant symbol for the headstones.

Indigenous Program Coordinator, Maria Trujillo has started to reach out to First Nations communities throughout Canada to inform them of the Initiative and to identify local researchers that may be interested in helping to find the unmarked graves of veterans in their communities. Researchers are provided with a list of possible veterans from their community and with an honorarium in recognition of their work.

The Initiative is working with a list obtained from amateur historian Yann Castelnot. Last year, Castelnot was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers for gathering and researching the names of over 18,000 Indigenous veterans that served in the Canadian Armed Forces in WW1, WW2, and the Korean War.

According to this list there are 771 Indigenous

Veterans from First Nations throughout Alberta that participated in WW1, WW2, and Korea. So far, the Indigenous Veterans Initiative has been in contact with the Blackfoot Nation to help find unmarked graves there.

Warrant Officer retired Glenn Miller from Lethbridge, Alberta is a veteran and military historian. He is but one of a recent number of both military veterans and civilian volunteers who joined the Alberta branch of the Last Post Fund. Miller has over the past decade, been researching Indigenous veterans from Treaty 7 and was invited to be a guest speaker for the Kainai Remembrance Day service the last two years. He was also a speaker at the Calgary Military Museums event marking November 8 as Aboriginal Veterans Day. Miller has learned that the Blood Tribe contributed the largest number of warriors from Alberta nations in both WW1 and WW2 according to Department of Indian Affairs files.

In British Columbia, where 1155 Indigenous veterans were identified according to this list, Trujillo has been in contact with various First Nation throughout BC, and is working with researchers from the Squamish Nation, and First Nations in the Nicola Valley.

In Saskatchewan, Trujillo hopes to find more researchers to help find the unmarked graves of the 3060 Indigenous veterans listed as having served, with over half of those listed as Métis veterans.

Nineteen Indigenous veterans from First Nations in the North Western Territories are listed as having served. According to the Last Post Fund, they cannot



verify the accuracy of the list so there may be more. The initiative will also provide tombstones for Rangers lying in unmarked graves. The Fund does not have a list with the number of Rangers that served, for this reason they hope to collaborate closely with First Nations communities throughout the North Western Territories.

Of the 18,000 plus names brought to the attention of the Last Post Fund through Castelnot's list, currently a total of 530 Indigenous veterans throughout Canada are being researched through the Indigenous veterans Initiative with the help of ten researchers.

If you think that a family member or a member of your community may qualify for this program, or if you would like to contribute to the community research effort, please contact Maria Trujillo, Indigenous Program Coordinator at 1-800-465-7113 extension 222, email: mtrujillo@lastpost.ca.

## Province introduces Clare's Law to combat domestic violence

(Alberta) - No one should ever face abuse from their intimate partner. But tragically, Alberta's domestic violence rates are unacceptably high – the third highest in Canada. That's why the government introduced important legislation to help individuals by empowering them with information about potentially dangerous partners.

"We campaigned on a promise to take domestic

violence in Alberta seriously," remarked Alberta Premier Jason Kenney. "This legislation will be a critical new tool to help those at risk of experiencing domestic violence or facing abuse already by ensuring they have access to information about the violent history of their partners. This is a first step, not the last. We are proud to be keeping our promise to protect vulnerable people in our province."

"Our government believes it is crucial for people to have access to this kind of information, particularly when lives are at stake," added Minister of Community and Social Services Rajan Sawhney. "This law will allow people to make the best choices for their safety and be informed about the potential risks of a relationship."

If passed, the *Disclosure to Protect*

*Against Domestic Violence (Clare's Law) Act* would implement new measures to empower at-risk individuals which can help prevent domestic violence before it ever takes place.

The proposed bill would help those at risk by giving them new tools to find out if an intimate partner has a violent or abusive past.


"This law will be an important tool in breaking the cycle of domestic violence here in Alberta," noted Andrea Silverstone, spokesperson for Sagesse Domestic Violence Prevention Society. "It gives people a greater chance of safety from violence by providing access to resources and supports they might not know about."

"With this law, we're being given access to information that could have direct impacts on our lives," added Dianne Denovan, a survivor of domestic violence. "It's empowering and gives us the freedom and knowledge to make our own choices about our own safety."

The proposed act would also grant new powers to police so they can take a proactive approach to preventing domestic violence. Police would be able to disclose relevant information about past violent or criminal behaviours to people at risk.

"Safety is paramount. This law could save lives – it could make a world of difference for so many vulnerable people," concluded Kristin Raworth, a survivor of domestic violence. "Those people have a

*Continued on page 11*




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# Crusader claims Canada is shirking responsibility

By Terry Lusty

The delivery of Indigenous child welfare continues to be one of the most shameful and discriminatory issues in Canada.

An ardent advocate for Indigenous children's rights and leading authority on child welfare, Dr. Cindy Blackstock recently addressed a standing-room only audience at the University of Alberta (UA) in Edmonton.

The November 6th presentation entitled, "Bill C - 92: the good, the bad, the unknown," is but one portion of the ongoing movement designed to address the Truth and Reconciliation's 94 'Calls to Action,' contained in their Final Report of 2015. As such, the matter of Indigenous child welfare was designated as one of the main priorities.

Sharing the podium with Blackstock was PhD candidate Hadley Friedland who helped create and lead the Indigenous Law Research Unit at the University of Victoria. She moved to the Faculty of Law at the UA in 2016 where she is currently an associate professor with special interests in such areas as Indigenous law, criminal justice, family and child welfare law, and therapeutic jurisprudence.

As a co-presenter with Blackstock, Friedland set the stage by addressing some technical areas and pointed out that Bill C - 92, an Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families, will come into force in its entirety on January 1, 2020. The Act acknowledges that, "Indigenous peoples have the inherent right to jurisdiction (authority) over their own child and family services."

Friedland explained about national standards and considerations that are intended to serve "the best interests of the child."

She further touched on prevention provisions and socioeconomic conditions which state that the apprehension of children cannot be based on, "his or her socioeconomic condition, including poverty..."

Friedland also addressed protection and out of home care, and jurisdiction in terms of powers and limits which, in part, state that Indigenous Child and Family Service (CFS) laws are subject to the application of the Charter (Human Rights s. 19) and the Canadian Human Rights Act: s. 22 (1).

In almost all instances, a primary consideration is that matters be in the best interests of the child - a clause that is constant and repeated often.

In the areas of national strategies and jurisdictions, these inclusions are also scheduled to take effect as of January 1st, 2020.

Blackstock is of Gitksan ancestry (B.C.); she has over 30 years of law experience and is well-known for crusading for the rights of Indigenous children as well as for her dynamic, eloquent advocacy before all levels of government and the public-at-large. She also has decades of dedicated work experience in the area of child and family welfare for which she has amassed an incredible 50 plus awards and accolades.

Blackstock's address at the UA was passionate, highly engaging and informative as she articulated a number of strengths and weaknesses that prevail in the system. In the process, she charged the federal government with continuing its pattern of neglect pertaining to shirking its responsibilities to Indigenous populations and stated that, "they have failed to respond to numerous reports throughout the decades," while adding that this has gone on for, "at

least 112 years!"

There are so many areas of government inadequacy that point to their practicing inequality, she stated. Just a few examples are child welfare, diabetes and cardiac care, water advisories, and many more.

"Canada is willfully and wrongfully discriminating," she alleges.

Through successive governments, she stated, they continue to tell us how to raise our children. And, when it comes down to issues requiring financial considerations, they continue to dance around their responsibilities while putting people and communities at risk.

Canada's response to financial needs, she said, is "we'll deal with the money later."

The federal government still hasn't resolved the amount of compensation and payments to the victims of the discrimination that are still in limbo because the Tribunal process has dragged its feet.

To add insult to injury, issues such as their expectations for us to cover our own legal costs when taking them to task, especially through the courts, is an ongoing struggle and a classic example of the Indigenous community being victims of their (government) neglect.

Fortunately, she adds, "our lawyers have worked pro-bono for the kids."

Until such time as the jurisdictional issue is resolved, they refuse to recognize First Nation law.

"We have to stop normalizing racial discrimination," she charges. "For 153 years they have done it... and then they expect us to be thankful!"

She questions why they fail and why, "there's never been an independent evaluation of the department."

As well, she says, "there are no transition plans in



Dr. Cindy Blackstock and Hadley Friedland charge that Canada has willfully discriminated against Indigenous children and their families for over a century.

this Act, no regulations in this Act, no court rules. So there's not going to be any more clarity by January 1st," the date the Act is meant to take effect.

And, what about the children?

"If they (government) can create equality for millions of non-Indigenous kids in this country, they can darn-well do it for First Nation kids!" she exclaimed.

As for the province, they need to work more closely with Indigenous communities and "pony up" on the funding end of it all.

Speaking of money, Blackstock explained, "for every dollar spent eliminating discrimination against children, the government will be 18 dollars richer."

When later interviewed privately and questioned about what she perceives to be the top priority she'd like to see addressed by government, Blackstock replied: it's the inequalities that First Nation children face that lead to them being robbed of their cultures, families and nations.

A second question asked was what she'd like to see in terms of reaction from the public. To this, she answered, "that Canadians no longer tolerate the discrimination that's happening to First Nation children and that they rise up and demand of their government that this be the last generation that has to suffer."

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# Enoch Cree and NorQuest form a new partnership

NorQuest College and Enoch Cree Nation are formalizing a partnership to drive economic and community development by reimagining opportunities in healthcare and education.

NorQuest College signed a Memorandum of Understanding on November 12 focused on education and healthcare innovation with Enoch Cree Nation. The MOU aims to develop training and learning opportunities including workshops, non-credit programming, dual-credit high school programs, and customized academic upgrading opportunities that meet the identified needs of the community. Additionally, the Enoch Cree Nation cultural department will lead Cree language and cultural learning opportunities.

This important partnership between NorQuest and Enoch Cree Nation will transform lives and communities and aligns with the college's goal of enhanced community presence. The MOU will establish the framework to achieve strategic goals shared between both partners.

"Enoch Cree Nation is excited to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with NorQuest College to explore future educational opportunities,"

said Chief Billy Morin. "Establishing a meaningful relationship with NorQuest College will provide our members with quality education which will eventually lead to better outcomes for the Nation. Furthermore, this relationship is symbolic of the Treaty right to education."

"Chief Morin and his council have an ambitious vision to create a hub of healthcare innovation, educational opportunities, and economic development for both Indigenous communities and urban Indigenous peoples in the greater Edmonton region," says Dr. Jodi Abbott, President and CEO of NorQuest College.

"NorQuest is honoured to work with them as equal partners in realizing this vision."

NorQuest is proud to continue its commitment to realizing the principles and objectives within the college's Indigenization Strategy, Wahkôhtowin,



Enoch Cree Nation and NorQuest College representatives sign MOU.

which aims to make education for Indigenous people accessible and culturally sensitive.

"There is already great cooperation between NorQuest College and Enoch Cree Nation. This MOU provides a solid foundation," says April Stone, Business Development Officer, Indigenous Partnerships, NorQuest College.

"The partnership will certainly open more doors for Indigenous youth and the community. Education from NorQuest College is accessible, and in the future we can help provide Indigenous people with paths to careers they had not considered possible."

## Western separation *cont. from p 4*

Constitution Act, 1982 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The biggest issue of all that the people that are thinking and talking of separation must come to grips with is the fact that Alberta is a landlocked province. And that has a very high impact on what exactly it means for a land locked country that will have to deal with several countries to export and import goods and services let alone the huge effects that reality will have on the economy into the future. One good example is separation does not guarantee that the neighboring provinces of British Columbia or Saskatchewan will allow the freedom to build

adequate pipelines to the coast to access shipment of fossil fuels to world markets.

The Treaty 8 First Nations of Canada indeed understand the frustration as we have for centuries gone through much frustrations. In the bigger picture of things, there are many factors to consider such as the technology shift, Alberta's quota limitations and the nature of the royalty system that was built in Alberta.

A report analyzed the business economics of the five companies: Suncor Energy, Canadian Natural Resources Limited, Cenovus Energy, Imperial Oil and Husky Energy, who together produce 80 percent of bitumen. The aggregate gross profit for these companies in 2017 was \$46.6 billion. Despite the vast

amount of dollars generated in the Oil and Gas industry, Alberta continuously rewards the shareholders by cutting corporate taxes, hoping that their investors won't do business elsewhere. Alberta is a competitive market for capital, however that money leaves this country. The shareholders are the only beneficiaries of this industry. Husky Energy saw a \$233-million benefit from Alberta's tax benefit, yet the company is still choosing to lay off employees. Treaty 8 holds the 3rd largest resource of bitumen in the world. Perhaps Albertan's should work together with us on a strategic approach to change the way Alberta Government does business whereby everyone benefits from this industry.

We reiterate, any process of separation which may take place without maintaining the true spirit and intent of our Treaty and without the consent of our Member Nations would be contrary to constitutional and international law. It would also directly violate the basis on which we agreed, pursuant to Treaty No. 8, to share the lands.

We strongly believe that the issues and problems can be resolved through open and accountable processes that garners real solution-focused problem-solving approaches that will help all Canadians to get out of the slumping economy of the day. All things seem to go through cycles of good and bad times, it is not the first time, nor will it be the last, just one thing remains: CANADA is still the greatest COUNTRY in the world. Let's not give that up because of feelings of alienation or a down-turn in economy.

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# Why some Indigenous people chose to go to war for Canada

By Breanna Mroczek, University of Alberta

(Folio.ca) - For many of the more than 7,000 Indigenous people in Canada who served in the First World War, Second World War and Korean War, enlisting in the military was a chance to escape colonial constraints and reclaim their warrior heritage, according to two University of Alberta researchers.

"Each Indigenous group has their own unique stories of the war and unique interactions with local officials. And individuals had their own unique reasons for signing up," said post-doctoral researcher Will Pratt, who studies how the First World War affected the 29 men from the Treaty 7 region in southern Alberta who served in the conflict. "I'm trying to disentangle them from the national narrative."

According to Pratt, the Department of Indian Affairs and militia were uncertain about whether they were actively going to recruit Indigenous soldiers for the Great War - at first, the official policy was that they would not.

Some individuals - like Albert Mountain Horse of the Kainai (Blood) First Nation, who is regarded as one of the earliest First Nations people to enlist - managed to sign up and head overseas despite government discouragement. Albert died of his wounds in 1915.

*Each Indigenous group has their own unique stories of the war and unique interactions with local officials.*

There were several motivations for First Nations peoples from Treaty 6, 7 and 8 lands to enlist in war, often tied to existing ideas of warrior culture. For graduates of restrictive residential schools, enlisting in the First World War was an opportunity to escape the doldrums of reserve life and embark on travel and adventure, Pratt said.

"It's a complex situation," he explained. "In one sense you might think that this was part of internalizing Eurocentric values, and that they were signing up out of British patriotism or allegiance to the British Empire. But in some of the memoir literature from Indigenous soldiers, you can see that there are Indigenous notions of being a warrior and Indigenous ideals."

James Dempsey, associate professor in the Faculty of Native Studies, said going to war was one way of gaining status in their community as warriors.

"Once moved onto reserves, most avenues for males to gain status were eliminated. Intertribal warfare was not allowed, horse raiding was a crime, so they didn't have these outlets," Dempsey said.

"Then the war comes along. They didn't necessarily know what they were getting into, but they get to go to war."

Dempsey agrees that interviews with veterans

provide evidence to suggest some men enlisted to "escape the boredom of reserve life." A third motivation, he thinks, is loyalty to the British Empire.

"For Indigenous people in [what is now called Alberta], there was a relationship with the Crown through the treaties, and while it wasn't always the best, I think that was one of the reasons for many of these people to enlist."

Mike Mountain Horse, who served in the First World War and then became a police officer, did many speaking engagements across Canada. Records show he told audiences he fought in the war as a means of revenge against Germany for killing his brother Albert during the same war.

"These revenge cycles that happened around warfare are much like what happened generations before," Pratt noted. "Mountain Horse spoke of Indigenous ceremonial prayer and small sacrifices made to the creator by his fellow soldiers during the conflict. There are accounts of incorporating Indigenous regalia—soldiers in military uniform with elk tooth necklaces. There's value in military exploits that is in keeping with the warrior values you see in Plains Indigenous cultures."

Traditional and Euro-Canadian concepts were often amalgamated during the wars, and Indigenous soldiers often deployed Indigenous ideas alongside notions of British military imperialism in their understanding of the war. Mountain Horse had a traditional story robe created to record the stories of his military service. In pre-colonial days, a story robe was a way to demonstrate feats of bravery and risk.

"War robes were worn to display achievements," Dempsey said. "Here was a way to proclaim your warrior status to others visually. The robes would be worn for special occasions to show off your status within your community. A lot of it is about status. Even to this day, during the grand opening or parade at the beginning of powwows, they always invite, and try to have, a veteran to carry one of the flags. There's



Mike Mountain Horse (bottom row, right) poses with fellow Blood Tribe recruits in the 191st Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Fort Macleod, Alberta, in 1916. In speaking engagements, Mountain Horse mentioned that he enlisted in the First World War to avenge the death of his brother Albert. (Photo: Glenbow Archives, NA-2164-1)

that community view of veterans being warriors."

Mountain Horse's robe had visuals of him overtaking machine guns and depictions of modern artillery, with illustrations of spiked helmets to indicate the German soldiers.

The federal government established National Aboriginal Veterans Day on Nov. 8, 1994 to honour the thousands of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people who served in the world wars, the Korean War and later conflicts.

The day is often marked by remembrance of Indigenous soldiers killed in the wars, but also acknowledges that veterans' benefits and rights were unevenly distributed to the survivors.

In 1995, the first wreaths to honour Indigenous veterans were laid at the National War Memorial.

"As a kid going to Remembrance Day celebrations, there would only be two or three wreaths," Dempsey recalled. "But now there is recognition of different groups, including Aboriginals, and the military has been recognizing that too."

*This article was originally published in Folio.ca, newspaper of the University of Alberta.*



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## Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project

### Public Comments Invited

**October 25, 2019** — The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is holding a public comment period as part of the environmental assessment process for the proposed Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project, located in northern Alberta.

The Agency invites the public and Indigenous groups to comment on the potential environmental assessment conditions for the project. These potential conditions would become legally binding on the proponent if the Minister of Environment and Climate Change ultimately issues a decision statement indicating the project may proceed.

Written comments in either official language will be accepted **until November 24, 2019**.

Comments can be submitted online by visiting the project home page on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number 65505). All comments received will be published online as part of the project file.

To view the potential environmental assessment conditions, visit the Agency's website at [canada.ca/iaac](http://canada.ca/iaac). Printed copies are available upon request. More information on the project, the review process and alternative means of submitting comments is also available online.

Follow us on Twitter: @IAAC\_AEIC #FrontierMine

#### The Proposed Project

The Frontier Oil Sands Mine Project, proposed by Teck Resources Limited includes the construction, operation and reclamation of an oil sands surface mine with a production capacity of about 260,000 barrels per day of bitumen. The project is located in northeastern Alberta, approximately 110 kilometres north of Fort McMurray. The project is a truck and shovel mine which includes two open pits, an ore preparation plant, a bitumen processing plant, tailings preparation and management facilities, cogeneration facilities, support utilities, disposal and storage areas, river water intake, a fish habitat compensation lake, bridge, roads, airfield and camp. The estimated project area is over 24,000 hectares. If the project is approved, the proposed project would operate for 41 years.

For more information on the Agency's privacy policies, consult the Privacy Notice on its website at [canada.ca/iaac](http://canada.ca/iaac).



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# Indigenous human rights recognized in B.C. law with new legislation

VICTORIA - Legislation introduced on Oct. 24, 2019, creates a path forward to recognize and uphold the human rights of Indigenous peoples in B.C.

"Today's legislation is a crucial step towards true and lasting reconciliation," said Premier John Horgan. "With this new law, Indigenous peoples will be part of the decisions that affect them, their families and their territories. Together with Indigenous peoples, we're going to build a better future with good jobs and opportunities for people, strong environmental protections and healthy communities that include everyone."

If passed, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act will make British Columbia the first province to bring the internationally recognized standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) into provincial law.

"B.C. has made significant progress on reconciliation together with Indigenous peoples already, and we'll continue to work together to build an even stronger, more inclusive and more just B.C. that will create a better future for everyone," said Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

"The legislation will create a path forward that upholds the human rights of Indigenous peoples, while creating more transparency and predictability in the work we do together. This is about ending discrimination and conflict in our province, and instead ensuring more economic justice and fairness."

Developed in collaboration with the First Nations Leadership Council at the direction of First Nations, this legislation creates a framework for reconciliation in B.C., in keeping with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"First Nations across B.C., Canada and the world are watching the introduction of this historic legislation. We are showing how the maturity and wisdom of our current leadership in this province, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, can be a beacon for hope during these uncertain times," said Regional Chief Terry Teegee, BC Assembly of First Nations.

"I applaud Premier Horgan and his cabinet for their bravery and perse-vergence in moving this forward.

Implementing the UN Declaration is a non-partisan move, and we have been waiting 12 long years for this. Businesses and investors will benefit from this as it creates certainty and predictability for projects in this province - British Columbians will benefit from job creation and First Nations will benefit by having a seat at the table. Mussi Cho to all British Columbians. We are finally moving forward together."

Cheryl Casimer, First Nations Summit political executive, said, "The provincial government has a long history of denying the very existence and rights of Indigenous peoples. We are pleased that this changes today, and the Province of British Columbia is working with us in turning the page in our collective history and embarking on a new era and path for building a respectful and modern government-to-government relationship - a relationship built on recognition, respect, co-operation and partnership with a goal to improve the lives of our citizens and bring reconciliation to the forefront of society."

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, said, "Today is a good day. Without a doubt, this unifying bill represents an incredible step forward in Crown-Indigenous relations in the Province of British Columbia. We are incredibly proud of how far we've come together, and we eagerly anticipate next steps. This landmark bill is not only aspirational but includes tangible and practical tools for implementation. We hold up our hands to our ancestors and past leaders for paving the way for this critical work, and we look to our grandchildren, who will enjoy a more certain future."

Over time as laws are modified or built, they will be aligned with the UN Declaration. Additional elements of the bill include: a requirement to develop an action plan to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples; annual public reporting to monitor progress; discretion for new

decision-making agreements between the Province and Indigenous governments where decisions directly affect Indigenous peoples and mechanisms exist in applicable legislation - with clear processes, administrative fairness and transparency; and recognition for additional forms of Indigenous governments in agreement-making, such as multiple Nations working together as a collective, or hereditary governments - as determined and recognized by the citizens of the Nation.

To support self-determination and self-government, the act will enable the Province to recognize other forms of Indigenous governments in addition to federal Indian Act bands, treaty Nations and incorporated bodies and societies. This also provides more clarity for businesses and communities about who to engage when working with Indigenous partners.

In 2017, every cabinet minister in the provincial government was tasked with a mandate to implement the UN Declaration and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. A commitment to adopting the UN Declaration in B.C. is a component of the Confidence and Supply Agreement with the BC Green Party caucus.

"British Columbia is leading the way and we urge the Government of Canada to do the same," said AFN National Chief Bellegarde. "Implementing the UN Declaration through legislation is a positive step for peace, progress and prosperity. This will ensure First Nations rights are respected and implemented. This will create greater economic stability and prosperity, because it's clear that ignoring First Nations rights is the cause of instability and uncertainty. I congratulate Premier Horgan for showing leadership and honouring his commitment to embrace the UN Declaration, and I congratulate Regional Chief Teegee, the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, the First Nations Summit and First Nations leaders throughout BC for their hard work and advocacy in making this new Bill a reality. This is the start of new movement forward and we urge other governments to follow the leadership shown by BC."

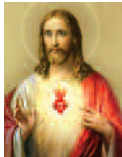


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# Elder Ekti's journey from NLC to international acclaim

When Elder Ekti (Margaret) Cardinal arrives for her *OnCourse with NLC* podcast interview, she is bubbling with energy. It is a beautiful fall day and she has just made the drive from her home near Jousard to the Northern Lakes College campus in Slave Lake. Moments after stepping into the building, she has a heartwarming reunion with a former colleague. A longtime instructor in the Aboriginal Arts program, Ekti taught in that capacity with the Northern Lakes College for 23 years.

Known as Margaret when she worked at the College, today she goes by Ekti, which means "over there" in Cree, "the true one" in Norwegian, and "she rides her horse along the ridge" in Sioux. *Ekote* in formal Cree, she chose this new name because 'Margaret' reminds her of the ten years she spent at boarding school, a time she wants to leave behind.

Ekti requests that we start the podcast recording with a tribute to her most important teachers, her parents. Her mother taught her tent- and tipi-making. Her father taught her doll-making and imparted cultural teachings. "They really lived their teachings. They were the knowledge keepers," she comments. It is evident through her heartfelt words that she holds her parents in high regard.

Ekti learned to make tipis in 1975 when her parents were commissioned to make 40 tipis and a moose hide tipi. She, her three sisters, and parents made the 41 tipis in three months, working many hours.

"My mother said you cannot call yourself a tipi-maker until you've made at least four tipis. She said that you had to make enough in order to learn from your mistakes," laughs Ekti. Ekti documented all of the steps of the tipi-making process during that time, and still uses the same process today in her tipi-making sessions.

In 2006, Ekti was invited to participate in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C. She was one of 156 Albertans selected to represent Alberta's culture and history at the Alberta at the Smithsonian pavilion. She brought her tipis, tents, and dolls.

Today, Ekti runs her own business, *Kamahmahkos*, providing cultural sessions and teachings to a variety of groups. She particularly enjoys teaching baby and small child moccasin-making sessions to young mothers in local communities. "There is a lot of history, protocol, and folklore that goes along with the making of the moccasins," she explains. She also facilitates workshops at the annual *Knowing our Spirits Conference*, including sessions called *Turtle in my Tipi* and *Buffalo Travels*. Ekti has even branched into film, with a role in Season 4 of the acclaimed *Outlander* series.

Ekti also teaches Conversational Cree through the College's Continuing Education & Corporate Training department, often to professionals who want to expand their cultural understanding. She wants to do



Elder Ekti (Margaret) Cardinal

her part to ensure the Cree language continues and to share its poetry with all. As she explains, "The Cree word for pencil, *masinahikanatik*, means 'writing stick.' I always tell people that Cree is like a collection of tiny sonnets, full of descriptive words and images. When you speak Cree, you are speaking in sonnets."

To hear these and other stories, listen to the *OnCourse with NLC* podcast episode featuring Ekti, which airs in early 2020. You will find the podcast on both the App Store and Google Play.

## Clare's Law *cont. from p 6*

right to know what the risks are."

The act was modelled after Clare's Law in the United Kingdom, named after a young woman killed by an ex-boyfriend with a history of domestic violence.

From 2008 to 2017, there were 166 deaths in Alberta due to domestic and family violence, according to the Family Violence Death Review Committee. Half of all young women and girls who were victims of domestic violence homicide in Canada were murdered by someone with a prior conviction.

November is Family Violence Prevention Month – a reminder for all of us to show our commitment to the prevention of family violence, and make sure everyone knows where to turn when at risk of, or experiencing, family violence.

"It takes a community to work together to prevent and put an end to abuse," stated Minister Sawhney. "This month, we also want to remind people of what supports are available to end family violence and

build healthier relationships. There are always places to turn when you're in need."

This year's digital campaign focuses on a wide range of year-round supports and services available to victims of family violence.


The Family Violence Info Line (310-1818), is a helpline available 24 hours a day in over 170 languages. Emergency shelters provide a safe location to stay for people fleeing violent or abusive situations.

Safer Spaces Certificates are available for victims of domestic or family violence needing to get out of a tenancy agreement. The Alberta SPCA pet safekeeping program provides refuge for pets of victims of family violence. Legal supports are also available.

The public is encouraged to wear purple during the month of November to show

support for family violence prevention, and to use the hashtags #WhereToTurn and #GoPurpleAB when sharing stories on social media. People are also encouraged to share information on supports for victims of family violence throughout the year to help raise awareness and put an end to abuse.

More information on Family Violence Prevention Month including fact sheets and events taking place across the province can be found at [alberta.ca/EndFamilyViolence](http://alberta.ca/EndFamilyViolence).



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- Academic Upgrading
- Adult Basic Education

**BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES**

- Business Administration
- Business Administration – Accounting
- Computer Network Specialist Certificate **NEW!**
- Human Resource Management
- Office Administration



**HEALTH CAREERS**

- Advanced Care Paramedic
- Advanced Care Paramedic Upgrading
- Health Care Aide
- Health Care Aide Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)
- Health Care Aide Employed Student Tutored Education Program (eSTEP)
- Practical Nurse
- Primary Care Paramedic
- Primary Care Paramedic Upgrading

**HUMAN SERVICE CAREERS**

- Addictions Counselling Diploma
- Early Learning and Child Care
- Early Learning and Child Care Diploma
- Educational Assistant Certificate
- Social Work Diploma

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**RESOURCE TECHNOLOGY**

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- Oilfield Operator Training
- Power Engineering 3rd Class
- Power Engineering 4th Class
- Power Engineering 4th Class Lab Certification
- Power Engineering 5th Class
- Survey Theory & Calculations

**TRADES**

- Carpenter Apprenticeship
- Electrician Apprenticeship
- Pre-Employment Carpenter
- Pre-Employment Electrician
- Pre-Employment Heavy Equipment Technician
- Pre-Employment Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
- Pre-Employment Mobile Crane – Crane & Hoisting Operator
- Pre-Employment Welder
- Welder Apprenticeship

**UNIVERSITY STUDIES**

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- University of Calgary Community-Based Bachelor of Education **NEW!**
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