

'First Nation Hackers' & Potash

The Ottawa Citizen reported October 29 that an overseas group masquerading as a First Nations organization hacked into Finance and Treasury Board files this past summer and swiped classified federal data on Saskatchewan's potash industry. The "spear-phishing" attacks used servers in China but the Chinese government denied involvement.

The Horsemen and the IRSS

The RCMP October 28 presented a research report to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission. The report covers over 100 years and is the first full assessment of RCMP involvement in the Indian Residential School System (IRSS). Survivors will know that the Mounties helped Indian Agents forcibly scoop up kids while threatening parents with jail time. They also regularly tracked down and captured runaways.

Wildlife Migrating

A recent survey done by provincial wildlife officials has found that moose, elk and bear this year moved on to the four File Hills Reservations (Little Black Bear, Star Blanket, Okanese and Peepeekisis) in record, double-digit numbers. Locals also reported signs of cougar, wild hog, and what may be wolverine.

Hobbema Rebuilding Community Spirit

The Edmonton Journal reports that volunteers this past July started a free soup and bannock program at the Hobbema community centre for any and all members of their Nation. The idea was to rebuild a sense of community in the wake of the much-publicized drug wars which had plagued their Reservation over the past few years. And it seems this very simple approach is working. About 100 Hobbema members now fill the hall with food, prayers, hugs, smiles and laughter every Wednesday afternoon.

Daywalker Longest Serving Chief

With yet another acclamation three weeks ago, Marie-Anne Daywalker-Pelletier is set to begin her thirty-first consecutive year as Chief of the Okanese First Nation.

Wallace Fox Proposes FN Party

Onion Lake Chief Wallace Fox November 2nd called on all First Nation people to get out and vote November 7 in order to help make elected officials more accountable for First Nations rights and interests. He also said that now may be the time for First Nations to consider forming their own party and taking control over at least 11 of the province's 58 ridings.

Ottawa Watch

Here's what's been going on in Ottawa this past week. The *Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples* has been examining the federal government's constitutional, Treaty, political and legal responsibilities for First Nations people. The *Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development* has been focused on Treaty-making in British Columbia. And the *Standing Committee on Public Accounts* has been looking further into the Auditor-General's criticism of on-Reserve program successes.

FHQ News Brief

FHQ News Brief began publication July 27, 2011. Its purpose is two-fold: to save Chiefs the trouble of having to mine the media on their own to find the latest news of greatest interest to them; and, to highlight for the Chiefs, their Councils and staffs interesting and do-able policy and program ideas. FHQ News Brief is published and distributed by ETC to First Nation people and organizations across Canada at the firm's own cost.