

Status Indians Becoming Extinct

Mi'kmaq author and Ryerson University Professor Pamela Palmater says Status Indians could be extinct within the next 75 years, mainly as a result of Bill C-31.

She says the lands set aside by First Nations will likely be transferred to provincial control as birth rates of children entitled to full status under C-31 rules fall, Band membership declines, adults die off and reservations lose their population base.

\$20M for FNLMA

INAC and Chiefs with the FN Lands Advisory Board and FN Land Management Resource Centre October 19 signed a MOU regarding a new funding formula to attract more First Nations into the First Nations Land Management Regime. The formula is tied to Budget 2011, which reallocates up to \$20 million for the initiative over two years.

The Chiefs who signed the MOU were Robert Louie and Austin Bear.

INAC, CMHC & FNIHB Slammed by AG

Canada's Auditor General October 20 slammed INAC, CMHC and FNIHB before the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for not making satisfactory progress on improvements to on-reserve programs.

He (John Wiersema) said that the education gap is widening; the shortage of adequate housing is becoming more acute; mould is still a serious problem; and all departments are adding yet even more onerous reporting requirements on First Nations.

Bonuses Tied to Cuts

INAC executives stand to earn bonuses of between 6 to 20% of their annual salaries depending on how deep they can cut their budgets in the run-up to the 2012 federal budget. *[Ouch!]*

Combating Substance Abuse

A customized substance-abuse program developed by the Alexis Nakota Nation and the University of Alberta was permanently implemented two weeks ago in Grades 3-8 at Alexis and Hobbema.

The program has four main components: knowledge of substances and their harmful effects; substance abuse-resistance training, which teaches kids how to say no to drugs and alcohol; self-management, which teaches kids how to deal with their fear and anxiety when saying no; and social skills that focus on how to make positive choices.

The program is known as *Nimi Icinohabi*, or 'Life Skills Training.'

Eviction Bylaw to Control Violence

Samson Cree Nation is set to follow the lead of both Enoch Cree Nation and Onion Lake Cree Nation in putting in place an eviction bylaw. Like the eviction bylaw of these two Nations, Samson's will be aimed at taking back their community by either getting help for or getting rid of troubled reservation residents.

Samson's decision to adopt an eviction bylaw is in response to two recent shootings on their reservation – one in July and one in September.

Court to Hear Child Welfare Complaint

The federal court has agreed to hear a complaint early in 2012 against INAC regarding its alleged discrimination in underfunding on-reserve child welfare services.

The complaint was first brought before the Canadian Human Rights Commission in 2007 but was eventually dismissed in 2010. It was brought forward by the AFN and the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada.